



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—January 28, 2018
SAINT MARY’S & SAINT ELIZABETH’S CATHOLIC CHURCHES



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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON

“The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority.”

The Jesus Christ Christians have created in our day is sadly not the Jesus Christ of the Gospels. Our Jesus today seems to live by the mantra, “Who am I to judge” and doesn’t care what we say or do, because everyone is going to heaven anyways. But, this is not the Jesus of today’s Gospel. He amazed the people by teaching with conviction and authority; even the unclean spirits listened to Him! This is a Jesus who demands holiness and conversion of life . . . today! Don’t try to recreate Jesus in your mind as a “pushover”, so you can justify sins and ways of living which deep down we know are contrary to His divine teaching. Rediscover the real Jesus, whose call to conversion demands sacrifice and a radical new way of living, but with it comes an abundance of graces and blessings.

Pro-life in Word Alone is Not Enough

This past week, the pro-life movement remembered the sad anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision, which legalized abortion in our nation. Many speakers decried the destruction of innocent children and the long-term devastation to their mothers and fathers. While it is good to vocalize the tragedy of abortion, it is not enough. Pro-life Catholics also have to support women in crisis pregnancies, so that they don’t feel pressured to have recourse to abortion. As you minister to these women, be available to them, because they need your love and support in this crisis mode; respond positively, because your reaction sets the tone for her decision-making; be honest, because frank and open communication helps guide her decision; and offer to help in specific needs which will accompany the pregnancy and delivery. Again, pro-life words are great, but pro-life actions are even better.

Retreat from the World for a Day

This Monday, January 29th, is your last day to sign up for the *Women’s Spiritual Retreat*, to be held at Saint Mary’s Church in New England, on **Saturday, February 3rd** (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 pm.). You may do so by calling the Saint Mary’s Parish Office at 701-579-4312. Invite family and friends and know that non-Catholics are welcome as well. Come and enjoy a day of graces, with a great retreat speaker (Sister Thomas Welder), the Holy Mass, and the company of other women who want to draw closer to the Lord. Don’t worry about leaving your husbands and kids for a day: there are always peanut butter and a microwave oven to sustain them. God bless you and we will see you on February 3rd! [PS We need 10-12 women to bring a dozen muffins for our morning break. Please call Fr. Gary at 701-509-9504 if you can do so. Thank you!].

The Grand Opening!

The women’s retreat will be the day when we inaugurate the new Faith & Family Center at Saint Mary’s, the former Memorabilia Room and Religious Goods Store. Come and see the new intimate dining room and the spacious living room created by David and Vivian Hernandez. These rooms are very beautiful and are at your disposal. If you want to use them for birthdays, holiday celebrations, graduation receptions, National Honor Your Priest Day, etc., you are welcome to do so. Please contact Bonnie in the parish office to schedule for usage of these rooms and know that our diocese does require a small fee for insurance purposes.

Note the Change of Time

On **Sunday February 11th**, we will switch our Sunday Mass schedule to accommodate a Parish Valentines Day Party at Saint Elizabeth’s Church of Lefor. So, that day, the 8:30 a.m. Mass will be at Saint Mary’s and the 10:30 a.m. Mass will be at Saint Elizabeth’s. Thank you for your understanding.

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, January 29

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, January 30

7:30 AM SM —+Laura Grundhauser by Victor & Dianne Binstock

Wednesday, January 31

7:00 PM SM– Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

7:00 PM SM– +Tom Stagl by Richard Stagl

Thursday, February 1

7:30AM SM– Bev Braun by Ruth Fitterer

Friday, February 2

7:30AM SM– SM Altar Guild

12PM-3PM SM– Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

6:00PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE— SE Christian Mothers

Saturday, February 3

8:30 AM SM —+Laura Grundhauser by a friend

5:00 PM SM - +Jeanne Kovar by Richard Stagl

Sunday, February 4

8:30AM SE +Paul Schiwal by John & Ruth Haas

10:30AM SM-Pro Populo

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz,, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Shari Obritsch, Charlotte Krebs, Eugenia Stagl, Bart Rohan, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents: Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Archie Jalbert, Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Mike Urlacher, Leona Gordon, Ardelle Kovar, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnella Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

Our Deceased Loved Ones + Keith Herold, +Carla Rohan+Alvin Rotering +Jeanne Kovar +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs +Victor Roller +John Herold, + Viola Martin + Viola Neprash +Maggie Schoch, +Rose Lefor, + Mary Ficek + June Stockert +Adeline Bogner +Vern Honeymann

On the Lighter Side

Why did the Norwegian climb onto the roof of the bar?
He heard that drinks were on the house.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ **Trinity Mardis Gras January 27 & 28**

◆ **KC Super Bowl Breakfast Sunday Feb. 4th serving from 8AM—12:30PM**

◆ **Lefor Steak & Shrimp Supper Saturday February 10 serving starts at 5:30PM**

◆ **SE Valentine Meal**—A Valentine meal will be served at the K of C Hall, Feb. 11 following the 10:30am Mass. It is a free will offering, with games & fellowship to follow. We ask you to bring one (wrapped) white elephant gift per family. Please RSVP the number of attending by February 8. Please call Tina Lefor @260-3472 or Trish Kaufman @260-5928.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments February 3 & 4

MINISTRY	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Kathy Gartner	Ann Wandler
Mass Servers	Maddie R./Molly R.	Matthew B./Brock E.
Eucharistic Ministers	Leonard G./Martina S.	Dianne B./Mary F.
Gifts	Leonard & Kathy G.	Kent & Angie M.
Rosary Leader	Kathy Gartner	Ann Wandler
Greeters	Nicholas D & Eileen L.	Jake Wolf
Homebound Minister	Reenie T.	Reenie T.

Collection Report St. Mary's January 21 & 22

Adult		Youth
\$ 737.00	Envelopes	\$ 16.00
\$ 56.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 809.00	Total	\$
\$	Month	\$

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments February 4

Lector	Deran
Mass Servers	Bailey
Eucharistic Ministers	Tish & Dorita
Gifts	Cindy S. & Jessica S.
Greeters	Gregg & Marsha
Ushers	Elvin & Lenny

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's January 21

Adult		Youth
\$ 605.00	Envelopes	\$ 10.00
\$ 93.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 708.00	Total	\$
\$	Month	\$

The Catholic Devotional Life, *Devotion to One's Guardian Angel*

When you tell fellow Catholics that you believe in your Guardian Angel, you may be met with incredulity and even ridicule. Who believes in Guardian Angels anymore! Perhaps this understanding stems from how Guardian Angels are depicted in Catholic art: protecting little children. These children are adorable, with rosy cheeks, and their Guardian Angels have angelic smiles (of course) and flowing golden hair. So, most Catholics assume that Guardian Angels are for kids, not for mature adults. But, this understanding has no basis in Sacred Scripture and in the lives of the saints.

The belief that every person has been assigned a Guardian Angel to protect them from harm (both temporal and spiritual) is clearly stated in the Bible. Psalm 90: 11-12 states, "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." In welcoming the little children to Himself, Jesus said, "See that you do not look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matthew 18:10). The belief in the Guardian Angels is yet another reminder of the loving care of our Father in heaven. Knowing the trials of life on earth, He assigned to each one of us a Guardian Angel to help us through them. To doubt the protection of the Guardian Angels would sadly suggest that God is aloof from our cares and concerns, which is so contrary to His abundant mercy and charity.

Even the great saints believed and trusted in the loving protection of their Guardian Angels. Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, a holy Cistercian monk and Doctor of the Church, reminded his confreres, "Always remember that you are in the presence of your Guardian Angel. In whatever place you may be, in whatever secret recesses you may hide, think of your Guardian Angel. Never do in the presence of your Angel what you would not do in my presence." Saint Gemma Galgani, the young Italian mystic and stigmatist, embraced her vocation as a suffering soul and endured great physical sufferings. Afflicted daily with great trials, she found solace and strength in the divine assistance of her Guardian Angel. To remind Saint Gemma that her sufferings were benefitting sinners, her Guardian Angel told her, "Look at what Jesus suffered for men. Consider each of His wounds. It is love that opened them all. See how terrible sin is, since to expiate it, so much pain was necessary." He assured her that in her sufferings, she was continuing the work that Jesus had begun on His Holy Cross. In the past century, Saint Padre Pio also had a tender devotion to his Guardian Angel and called upon him in the midst of trials. One day, while asleep in his cell (i.e. his monastic room), Saint Padre Pio awoke with a jolt, when the Evil One viciously attacked him, pummeling him with one blow after another. Saint Padre Pio prayed to his Guardian Angel, who appeared on the top of the headboard of his bed. While the Evil One continued attacking him, Saint Padre Pio saw the mouth of his Guardian Angel moving, but no sound came forth. Finally, when the Evil One's attack came to an end, Saint Padre Pio angrily asked his Guardian Angel, "Why didn't you help me!" His Guardian Angel responded, "I did; I was praying to God on your behalf. Without these prayers, the attack would have continued." Indeed, if we look into the lives of the saints, you will find a devotion to their Guardian Angels. Perhaps, this is one of the essential keys to their holiness and ultimately to their being raised to the glory of heaven. The great saints treasured these heavenly associates and now they join them before the throne of God, forever praising His divine majesty and glory.

As Catholics, it is important that we remember our Guardian Angels daily and call upon their heavenly aid. Consider the following ways to do so: 1) When you awake, greet your Guardian Angel and beg him to accompany and protect you throughout the day. 2) Before you pray, put yourself in the presence of your Guardian Angel and beg him to enlighten you. 3) Before you leave on a journey, ask your Guardian Angel to come along and protect you. One common way to do so is to always recite the *Angel of God* prayer as you leave the driveway in your vehicle. 4) Throughout the day, you may recite a short prayer such as, "O Blessed Angel, I love you and wish to love you more and more." 5) Before going to bed, thank your Guardian Angel for protecting you this day and for his assistance throughout the night. 6) Your birthday is an excellent time to remember your Guardian Angel and to thank him for protecting you throughout the year. Make sure you say a prayer to him on that special day, right before you invite the priest over for your birthday party. Your Guardian Angel would be most pleased if you gave the priest the leftover birthday cake. 7) When you approach the Holy Eucharist, invite your Guardian Angel to help you adore Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament and to banish all distractions from your mind and heart.

I pray that all Catholics will renew their daily devotion to their Guardian Angel. Such a devotion is not just for children, but for all who consider themselves to be children of God. Jesus did say, "Unless you become like children, you cannot enter the Kingdom of God" (Matthew 18:3). Childlike trust in one's Guardian Angel is actually something deeper; it is childlike trust in our Lord, who when He left this earth, promised to never leave us orphaned. Our Guardian Angels are yet another sign of Jesus' remaining true to His promise.

Knights of Columbus #9675

2017 Family of the Year—Gregg & Melanie Fitterer Family
2017 Knight of the Year —Peter Dvorak

2018

January Family of the Month—David and Vivian Hernandez Family
January Knight of the Month —David Hernandez



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Dear members of St. Mary's Catholic Church:

The Domestic & Rape Crisis Center staff takes this opportunity to thank you for your donation. Thanks to your generous donation, we are able to provide shelter & basic necessities to the families that we serve. We are looking forward to the new year & hopefully moving into our new facility. We are thankful for everything we receive & we greatly appreciate your support.

A Point to Ponder—*You cannot live your life looking at yourself from someone else's point of view.*