



**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time—February 11, 2018**  
**SAINT MARY’S & SAINT ELIZABETH’S CATHOLIC CHURCHES**

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



*“A leper came to Him and kneeling down begged Him and said, ‘If you wish, you can make me clean.’”*

In Palestine, during the lifetime of Jesus, diseases, such as leprosy, were believed to be the consequence of sin. Jesus challenged this entrenched belief; He brought a new way of thinking about God’s love and mercy. God does not deliver diseases as a consequence of sin. Rather, God is a healer who forgives sin. The healings of Jesus teach us about a God who cares for us and loves us. Jesus not only cured people, a work of mercy, but He also brought them back into the community by healing their isolation and shame. The followers of Jesus Christ are called to do the same. Like the lepers of old, there are still some “untouchables” among us today: the unpopular child at school; the school bully; the alcohol or drug addict; the difficult neighbor; etc. Yet, how many times do we avoid them, thus failing to be compassionate like Jesus? Many times, our Lord has offered His healing grace to us in the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance. In a spirit of gratitude, we are called to extend this same spirit of healing to others.

**It was a Day of Great Grace**



Thank you to everyone who made our first women’s spiritual retreat a great success. To all those who helped with the set-up, the resources, the meal, and the clean-up, know that I am most grateful. Those visiting from other parishes were grateful for our hospitality, so thank you for welcoming them as if you were welcoming Christ.

The retreat was such a great success that in addition to the men’s retreat next year, we will also have another women’s retreat. This request came from the women themselves. So, we will see you again next year, as we continue to grow closer to the Lord by way of the profound blessing of a spiritual retreat.

**Please be Considerate**

I was told by a former parishioner, living in another state, that the flowers she placed in the vases attached to her family’s headstones at Saint Mary’s Cemetery were removed some time this winter. Due to ice or snow that gathered in these vases, the flowers must have adhered to them and when pulled out of the vases, they also destroyed a plastic lining inside the vases. These liners were destroyed and they have to be replaced, an unnecessary expense. If you know who was responsible for this, please let me know, because I would like to encourage them to pay for this expense.

This said, maybe we should also address decorations around headstones that are not in vases. I believe that there are too many of them cropping up in our cemetery, which makes it look cluttered and unkempt, and in addition, they make it difficult for those who mow and weed-whack around them; it adds a lot of time onto this task. Next spring, I ask that unless your memorials are in vases attached to the headstone, please do not place them on or near the gravesite. I will ask our cemetery groundskeepers not to mow any grave site that has such memorials in place. This is only fair to them and it keeps our cemetery looking dignified and orderly. Thank you for your understanding.



**Thank you Knights** —Thank you to everyone who made the KC Super bowl Breakfast a great success. To all those who helped with butchering, making sausage, preparing and serving the meal and the clean up crew thank you for all your help. Grand Knight Mike Madler

**A Point to Ponder**

*You should never let adversity get you down . . . except on your knees.*

## MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

**Monday, February 12**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, February 13**

**7:30 AM SM —Communion Service**

**6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00 PM SE—+Father Mike Millard by Father Gary Benz**

**Wednesday, February 14— Ash Wednesday**

**2:00 PM SM— +Irene Benz by Joletta Peters**

**5:30 PM SM— +Mary Ficek by Donna & Lonie Rohr**

**7:30 PM SE – Pro Populo**

**Thursday, February 15**

**7:30AM SM— +Jan Byrd by Dennis Dorner**

**Friday, February 16**

**7:30AM SM— +Ann Schulz by Robert & Cely Stagl**

**12PM-3PM SM— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday, February 17**

**8:30 AM SM – Dennis Dorner Family by a friend**

**5:00 PM SM - +Dominic & +Mary Urlacher by Father Gary Benz**

**Sunday, February 18**

**8:30AM SE +Steve & +Bertha Anton by Duane & Kathy Schwab**

**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, Eugenia Stagl, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Bi-ju's mom)

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Ken Stagl, 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**—While preaching about forgiveness of one's enemies, a priest asked for a show of hands, "Who is willing to forgive their enemies?" Everyone raised their hand except the eldest parishioner, a man who was 102 years old. "Mr. Jones," asked the priest, "How come you are not willing to forgive your enemies." Mr. Jones briefly explained, "Its easy. I've outlived every one of them."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*\*Black & Indian Mission Collection February 17 & 18, 2018**

- ◆ **Ash Wednesday—SM 2PM & 5:30PM; SE 7:30PM**
- ◆ An informational webinar will be held on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. CST for those young adults interested in signing up for **World Youth Day 2019** in Panama, Jan. 21-28, 2019. Sign up online at <https://bismarckdiocese.com/wyd> or contact Carrie Davis at [cdavis@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:cdavis@bismarckdiocese.com). Please register by Feb. 23 .
- ◆ **SE February Church Cleaners** Cindy Martin, Debbie Herold, and Mary Urlacher
- ◆ **SE Coffee & Rolls** Sunday February 18 after the 8:30AM Mass

### St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments February 17 & 18

| MINISTRY              | Saturday 5 PM       | Sunday 10:30AM       |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Lector                | Richard Wandler     | Kris Ehlis           |
| Mass Servers          | Katie S./Molly W.   | Kayla E. & Leah E.   |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Cely & Robert Stagl | Betty & Larry Heick  |
| Gifts                 | Marc Wolf Family    | Elliott Ehlis Family |
| Rosary Leader         | Richard Wandler     | Susan Schmitt        |
| Greeters              | Leonard & Kathy G.  | Helen Koppinger      |
| Homebound Minister    | David & Vivian H.   | David & Vivian H.    |

### Collection Report St. Mary's February 3 & 4

| Adult      |             | Youth     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|
| \$ 1623.00 | Envelopes   | \$ 25.73  |
| \$ 118.00  | Loose Plate | \$        |
| \$ 1766.72 | Total       | \$25.73   |
| \$ 1766.73 | Month       | \$        |
| \$ 7608.18 | To Date     | \$ 122.18 |

### St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments February 18

|                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Lector                | Dustin Kuhn       |
| Mass Servers          | Elizabeth Kaufman |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Darrell & Dorita  |
| Gifts                 | Curt & Michele    |
| Greeters              | Greg & Marsha     |
| Ushers                | Elvin & Lenny     |

### Collection Report St. Elizabeth's February 4

| Adult     |             | Youth   |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| \$ 270.00 | Envelopes   | \$ 5.00 |
| \$ 20.00  | Loose Plate | \$      |
| \$ 295.00 | Total       | \$5.00  |
| \$ 295.00 | Month       | \$ 5.00 |
| \$2307.00 | To Date     | \$55.00 |

**A Short Pause** — I will be taking a short break from the series on *Catholic Devotions*, so that I can offer a short series on the *Traditions of Lent*, to allow us to enter more fully into the spiritual depths of the Lenten season. Within a few weeks, we will return to our former faith-formation series. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Traditions of Lent, Meatless Fridays**

Perhaps the discipline of Lent that seems to most typify this season of penance is the abstinence from meat on Fridays. In the past, this Catholic custom brought a healthy dose of scorn and derision upon Catholics, who were labeled by their Protestant neighbors as “Minnow Munchers” or “Fish Eaters”. It used to be that we embraced these jabs as badges of honor, for we were proud of making sacrifices during Lent. It allowed us to be “counter-cultural” in a culture of indulgence. Yet, how times have changed and how lax we Catholics have become.

If you want to hear a form of wailing and grinding of teeth, bring up the topic of meatless Fridays during the season of Lent to Catholics. The thought of giving up their juicy hamburger for a tuna sandwich is akin to talking about the end of the world! Some even go one step further and tap into that great American tradition of conspiracy theories: the medieval popes mandated meatless Fridays so as to enrich the fishing industry, which when taxed by the Vatican, would then fill the papal coffers. Those corrupt medieval popes . . . they were always up to no good! Well, before we enter into the time-honored pastime of pope-bashing, we should be assured that this conspiracy theory has all the trappings of some disgruntled Catholic who just wants steak on the Fridays of Lent.

First, already as early as 90 A.D (nb, almost 1,000 years before the medieval period), the popes of the Church decreed that no meat could be eaten during Lent. But, we are not just talking about the Fridays of Lent, but every day of Lent. In fact, this was actually the minimum of what was required during Lent. It was also strongly encouraged to embrace the further discipline of abstaining from all animal products: milk, cream, cheese, butter, etc. In fact, this tradition was the norm until the nineteenth century for many Christians of central and eastern Europe and many still observe this tradition. When we compare our meatless Fridays to their total abstinence from all animal products during Lent, we have to admit that our sacrifice is pretty minimal.

Second, the idea of popes in cahoots with the fishing industry is quite amusing. The reality is that red meat was expensive for most Catholics in times past; it was a luxury indulged upon by those of great wealth and status. But, even the upper crust of society was called upon to do penance during Lent and to avoid all sumptuousness, including succulent cuts of red meat upon one’s table. Instead, one was asked to eat fish during Lent, which was more common and much cheaper in price, because it was so readily available in the seas, rivers, and stream of Europe. Eating fish was indeed a sign of simplicity and self-denial . . . important themes of Lent.

Lastly, the eating of fish on the Fridays of Lent was not a business ruse by the medieval popes, but really an act of charity and mercy. As mentioned above, it was strongly encouraged to abstain from all animal products during Lent, but if one’s health or the physical demands of work did not allow for this, then one could allow fish into the Lenten diet. Thank God, because before the advent of “delicious” tofu, where would Catholics have procured protein during the Lenten season?

The next time a disgruntled Catholic complains about the meatless Fridays of Lent, offer them a little lesson on the history of abstinence during Lent. But more importantly, remind them to offer it up. Compared to the sacrifices of Catholics of old and compared to the Sacrifice of Jesus on Mount Calvary, our Lenten sacrifices are pretty insignificant.

### **What to do for Lent?**

Do you want some Lenten resolutions to spiritually challenge you during this sacred season? Consider the following.

Adults: 1) Fast with one full meal (no snacks) one day each week.

2) Abstain from meat an extra day of the week.

3) Give up all desserts.

4) Give up all unnecessary shopping.

5) Shut off your car radio.

6) Pray a Rosary daily.

7) Spend one hour in Eucharistic Adoration each week.

8) Attend daily Mass.

9) Visit a nursing home with your children.

10) Say a kind word to everyone you meet.

11) Pay a compliment to your spouse or children each day.

12) Give to a worthy charity.

13) Invite the priest over on Fridays for a fish fry. He never gave up wine for Lent, so remember that zinfandel goes well with fish.



For kids: 1) Do chores without complaining.

2) Give up your tablet or cell phone at least one day each week.

3) Make a friend outside of your “crowd”.

4) Watch no tv at least on the Fridays of Lent.

5) Choose a favorite toy or video game and set it aside for all of Lent.

6) Do an extra labor during Lent. When the weather warms, have you considered washing the salt off of the pastor’s vehicle? God would be most pleased!