



First Sunday of Lent—February 18, 2018

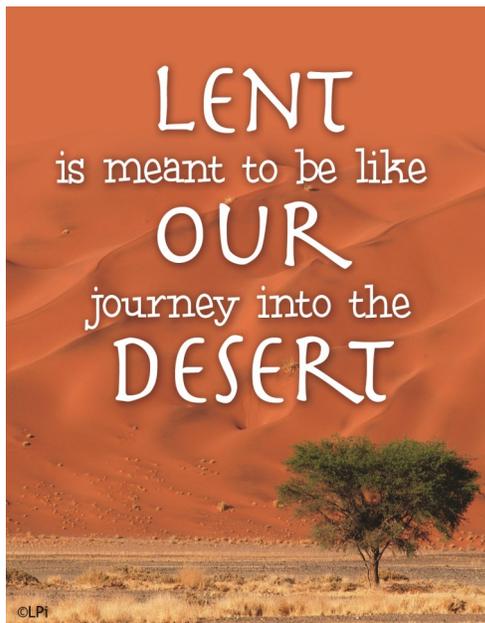
SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Phone: 701-579-4312

FATHER GARY BENZ-PASTOR

frgarybenz@yahoo.com; Cell Phone 701-509-9504; Rectory 701-579-4874

VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



“He remained in the desert for forty days . . .” Unlike the other seasons in the liturgical year, many Catholics have an aversion to Lent. Perhaps they do not like the rigors of Lent or even the nature of Lent . . . the forty days “desert” experience. The heaviness of Lent merely adds a burden onto the “deserts” we are already experiencing in life: sickness, grief, emotional and mental fatigue, trying to make ends meet, the grind of daily work, etc. We need a release from our burdens, a sense of peace, and in the minds of many, the heaviness of Lent does not allow for this. While this may be the common perception of Lent, this is not the true spirit of Lent.

Our Gospel reminds us that in Jesus’ forty days in the desert, God the Father sustained His beloved Son in His severe trials and temptations at the hands of Satan. In fact, even angels ministered to Him, offering Him comfort, consolation, and peace. Our journey through Lent and life in general has this same theme: God our loving Father will bring us through the burdens, the desert experiences, of life. We must always be convinced that God loves us; that He

will give us a strength which is not our own; and that He will guide us through life’s joys and sorrows. In what ways are you going through a desert at this time in your life? Reaffirm your faith in Jesus’ presence in your life and believe that your life is in His loving hands.

Want a More Fruitful Lent?



Do you truly want to grow closer to the Lord this Lent? Consider the following ways to do so in the life of our parish: 1) Attend daily Mass in your parish, especially on Tuesday evenings at Saint Elizabeth’s Parish and Wednesday evenings at Saint Mary’s Parish, when the Holy Mass is followed by the Stations of the Cross. 2) Attend Lectio Divina, a prayerful approach to reading Scripture, every Saturday morning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass. 3) Attend the

Lenten adult faith formation sessions after each Saturday evening Mass at Saint Mary’s. A light luncheon will precede the sessions. 4) Join in Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays at Saint Mary’s, which is offered from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Please join in the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction at 3:00 p.m. as well. 5) Go to Confession at least once during Lent. The Lenten Penance Service will be offered and dates will be forthcoming as soon as our guest priest can decide upon a date that works best for his schedule. 6) Make cheese buttons on a Friday during Lent and invite the priest over. He would say “Alleluia”, but can’t during Lent, so know that by his smile he is still overjoyed.

Take Lent seriously, as an opportunity to grow in your faith and in your love for the Lord. In our lives, if we make strides in our careers and other endeavors, but don’t grow in our faith, we are missing out on what life should be. In the words of Saint Paul, *“For me, life is Christ.”* Make that your motto to live by as well during the holy season of Lent and in every day that the Lord grants to us.

A Point to Ponder—*The smaller we are, the more room we have for God.*

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, February 19

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, February 20

7:30 AM SM —Denise Patharoff by Richard Stagl

6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—+Paul Schiwal by Richard & Pearl Jorgenson

Wednesday, February 21

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

7:00 PM SM— +Jeanne Kovar by Robert & Cely Stagl

Thursday, February 22

7:30AM SM— +Tom Stagl by Robert & Cely Stagl

Friday, February 23

7:30AM SM— +Jerry Stagl by Robert & Cely Stagl

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

Saturday, February 24

8:30 AM SM – Father Gary Benz by Victor & Dianne Binstock

5:00 PM SM - +Kyle Binstock, +Joe & +Ida Binstock, +James & +Inez Hanson by Ervin & Diane Binstock

Sunday, February 25

8:30AM SE +Paul Schiwal by Terrance & Eileen Roth

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 Roterling +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—A priest preached a very short homily. He explained, "My dog got into my office and ate up some of my homily notes." At the close of the Mass, a visitor approached the priest and said, "If your dog ever has puppies, can my pastor have one?"

2018 African Mission Appeal -Bishop David Kagan has announced March 3-4 as the 2018 African Mission Appeal weekend in our diocese. This special appeal gives you the opportunity to join our Mission Team in ministering to our brothers and sisters in Africa by making a generous gift in two weeks. Fr. David Mormon, our missionary, is currently living and working on our behalf in Kisii, Kenya, East Africa. You are also encouraged to follow our missionary in action at: <https://www.facebook.com/BismarckCatholicMission>.

BE (Beginning Experience)

Are you suffering from grief, pain, and loss because you are widowed, separated, or divorced? Its not easy to cope and start over, but to assist you in the healing process, consider a BE (Beginning Experience) retreat to be offered March 23-25, 2018, and November 16-18, 2018 at Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND. The cost is \$125/person and financial assistance is available. For more information, please contact BE0FWND@yahoo.com.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments February 24 & 25

MINISTRY	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Diane Binstock	John Ehlis
Mass Servers	Zack J. & Jim K.	Mark F. & John W.
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary F./Leonard G.	Kent M/Richard W.
Gifts	Molly Rayhorn	John Ehlis Family
Rosary Leader	Martina Stagl	Maureen Gardner
Greeters	Nicholas D & Eileen L.	Jake Wolf

Collection Report St. Mary's February 10 & 11

Adult		Youth
\$ 1522.00	Envelopes	\$ 49.10
\$ 75.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 1646.10	Total	\$
\$ 3923.56	Month	\$ 86.56
\$	To Date	\$

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments February 25

Lector	Elvin
Mass Servers	Stetson
Eucharistic Ministers	Arlene & Fran
Gifts	Elvin & Kathy
Greeters	Greg & Marsha
Ushers	Elvin & Lenny

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's February 11

Adult		Youth
\$ 915.00	Envelopes	\$ 7.00
\$ 17.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 939.00	Total	\$
\$ 1728.00	Month	\$ 41.00
\$	To Date	\$

The Traditions of Lent, *A Holy Hour*

During Lent, a most appropriate spiritual exercise is the Holy Hour, spending one hour with the Lord in devout prayer, whether before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle or the monstrance in Eucharistic Adoration. The importance of the Holy Hour has been part of Catholic Tradition since the very beginning of the Church. Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, mournfully asked His apostles, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40).

A Holy Hour gives us the opportunity to honor our Lord's request and place ourselves before Him. We join our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings with His and "by the mercies of God, present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, who is our spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1).

We may ask, "How do I make a Holy Hour?" A time-honored way is to approach a Holy Hour through prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. 1) *Adoration and confession*: We tend to think of prayer as presenting to God a list of all the things we need. To be sure, God hears our requests and grants or refuses them, according to His divine will. But, Jesus, in teaching us to pray the *Our Father*, does not put our request for "our daily bread" first. Instead, He guides us in confessing and acknowledging who God is in our lives, and adoring Him who loves us so much and gives His very self to us. This acknowledgement teaches us that we are not in control (thanks be to God!) and to trust that God has things under control; everything will work out according to His loving providence. 2) *Thanksgiving and supplication*: In acknowledging our lack of control, we also acknowledge that God knows our needs better than we ourselves do, and that He cares for us and provides for us as our loving Father. We give Him thanks for His goodness and make our requests known to Him in prayer, while simultaneously surrendering to His will for us. In the very act of praying (uttering our words of supplication to God), He is present in us, giving us His grace, and guiding us to accept His response to our requests.

The Holy Hour is given to us by the Church not as a law or a set of rules, but as an opportunity for an open encounter with the living God. The above method for making a Holy Hour is just a suggestion. There are many other ways to celebrate a Holy Hour: praying the Holy Rosary; praying a litany; reading a spiritual work of a saint or doctor of the Church; prayerfully reading the Sacred Scriptures; singing hymns, etc. Indeed, there are countless ways to meet our Lord in prayer. What matters is that your encounter with Him be sincere and prayerful, allowing the distance between you and God to diminish.

Help Wanted

In parish stewardship, a basic principle is that people will become involved if they know that there are pressing needs to address. We have some at Saint Mary's and we ask for your help in meeting these needs: 1) *An individual to chair the Fall Festival effort*. This person will organize the committees and their chairpersons for the various components of the Fall Festival. Other duties include purchasing needed supplies, working with the State Gaming Commission, and working with the prison custodial staff in setting up and taking down the booths, tables, etc. for the Fall Festival.

2) *Persons willing to work on a Buildings & Ground Committee*. This committee will work on initiating and prioritizing projects to improve the physical plant of Saint Mary's.

3) *Youth events fundraising committee*. This committee will brainstorm for ideas for youth activities throughout the year and ways to pay for these activities with fundraisers. Urgent help is needed in the next month, as we plan for an Italian Meal in March.

4) *Priest nourishment committee*. This important effort will ensure the health and well-being of the parish priest, through German meals dropped off at his door. If you like to use low-fat products in baking and cooking, this committee may not be for you.

Please contact Fr. Gary if you are interested in serving on any of these committees. Please help ensure the health and vitality of our parish for years to come.