

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time — July 1, 2018

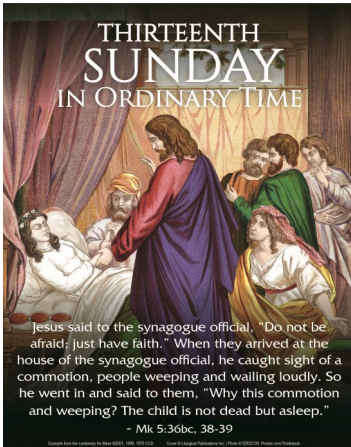
SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



“Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”

At a public debate on religion, an atheist smugly stated that if Jesus had the power of God, then instead of curing some blind people, why didn't He just abolish blindness? If He could cure some people of physical maladies, then why did He not just rid the world of all sickness and disease? Why didn't Jesus do this? Maybe the answer is in today's Gospel. Jesus wants us personally involved in our healings, physical or spiritual. He wants us to cling to Him in faith, because if the world had no trials, sorrows, or disappointments, we might not place our trust in Him. The storms of life often drive us upon the rocks, but with faith in the Lord, we can be redirected into the desired haven.

More than a thrift store

As you know, our thrift store at Saint Mary's, *The Rabbit Hole*, is up and running and has been a welcome addition to our community. Thank you to the manager, Vivian Hernandez, and her volunteers for all of their hard work and efforts. Thank you as well to everyone who was involved in the painting and organizing efforts to get the Rabbit Hole ready for business. May God reward you for your efforts.



We want to expand the scope of the Rabbit Hole by adding some extra elements, that will make it a welcoming place to gather as a community. First, every Wednesday, starting July 3rd, Faye Schiwal will be selling her world famous baked goods (caramel rolls, cinnamon rolls, bars, etc.) at 10:00 a.m. You can go the Faith & Family room, sit for a spell, and enjoy these baked goods over a cup of coffee with your family and friends. For those who like to make jellies and other canned goods in the good old summertime, you are welcome to set up a time and date with Vivian to sell your products in the Rabbit Hole as well. Note that all proceeds raised remain with you; the Rabbit Hole is only the venue for these sales. If there is anyone else out there that wants to engage in similar ventures, please call Vivian with your ideas. A Friday Fleischkuekle day for the pastor was one excellent proposal being thrown around. Let's keep building upon such great ideas!

Again, stop by the Rabbit Hole sometime and look at the great inventory. I should add that it is now the religious goods store for our parish as well, so if you need rosaries, religious images, crucifixes, etc. we have many devotional items to chose from. We will see you at the Rabbit Hole; more than your grandma's thrift store.

Help wanted

As you may or may not know, on the Fridays of the summertime, the Knights of Columbus of Lefor at their KC Hall have amazing Steak & Burger meals, with other side dishes as well. Come and enjoy a great meal and have your steak as you like it.



The Knights of Columbus have generously offered to donate the proceeds of one of these meals to our parish youth for summer youth activities with one condition (a worthy one at that): the youth have to work at a KC Steak & Burger Dinner, on Friday, July 13th. To all youth, namely those who did not assist with the Italian Meal in February, we want you to assist at this KC meal if you want to come on the summer youth trip towards the end of July. Saint Paul told the community at Thessalonica that “If you don't work, you don't eat.” I have my own version for those youth who need to participate in one fundraising event: “You don't work at the KC meal, you don't ride the carnival rides at the State Fair/Go down the slides at the Raging Rivers Waterslides Park/Cheer on the Burning Hills Singers at the Medora Musical. I may not be as profound as Saint Paul, but you get the point.

I will see you at the KC Steak & Burger Meals and if you see a hard-working priest delivering steaks or washing dishes, don't forget to tip him!

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, July 2

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, July 3

7:30 AM SM —+Alphonse Wandler by Richard Stagl

6:00 PM SE Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—Saint Elizabeth Christian Mothers

Wednesday, July 4



7:00 PM SM— Rosary &

Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

7:00 PM SM— +Carla Rohan by Diane Kovash

Thursday, July 5

7:30 AM SM— +Eugenia Stagl by Richard Stagl

Friday, July 6

7:30 AM SM— +Ardell Kovar by SM Altar Guild

12-3:00 PM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, July 7 NOTE MASS TIMES!!!

8:30 AM SM— +John Sticka by Thorstenson Family

**4:00 PM SE—Living & Deceased Saint Elizabeth School Alumni
by Lefor Alumni Association**

7:00 PM SM—+Irene Benz by Jerry & Cheryl Mellmer

Sunday, July 8

10:30AM SM-Pro Populo

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Chuck Brusich, Stephanie Geerts, Nate Hernandez, Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzanne 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, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

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

Our Deceased Loved Ones + Darwin Schaefer, +James Gatzke, +Ed Koppinger, +Eleanor Keck, +Ardelle Kovar, +Eugenia Stagl, +Nick Lenhardt, +Mike Urlacher, +Keith Herold, +Carla Rohan, +Alvin Rotering, +Jeanne Kovar, +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher, +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs, +Victor Roller, +John Herold, + Viola Martin

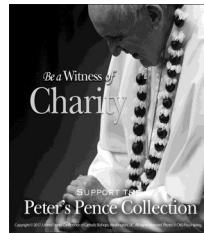
On the Lighter Side, Fourth of July Humor

Teacher: "Tommy, where did they sign the Declaration of Independence?"

Tommy: "I suppose at the bottom of the page."



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today we are taking the **Peter's Pence** Collection, which supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. This collection is taken up by Catholics around the globe and helps the Holy Father reach out to people suffering in our world, especially those enduring the effects of war and violence, natural disasters, and religious persecution. Please be generous.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments July 7 & 8, 2018

MINISTRY	Saturday 7PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Connie Jalbert	Dan Gardner
Mass Servers	Mark S./Will S.	Mark F./John W.
Eucharistic Ministers	Leonard G./Martina S.	David H./Vivian H.
Gifts	Molly Rayhorn	Philip & Clem Urlacher
Rosary Leader	Martina S.	Ann Wandler
Greeters	Nicholas D. & Eileen L.	Jake Wolf
Homebound Minister	Martina S.	Martina S.

Collection Report St. Mary's June 23 & 24, 2018

Adult		Youth
\$	Envelopes	\$
\$	Loose Plate	\$
\$	Total	\$
\$		\$

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments July 7, 2018

Lector	Dorita
Mass Servers	Stetson
Eucharistic Ministers	Fran & Cindy
Gifts	Marsha & Greg
Greeters	Darrell & Dorita
Ushers	Greg & Deran

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's June 24, 2018

Adult		Youth
\$	Envelopes	\$
\$	Loose Plate	\$
\$	Total	\$
\$	Month	\$

Difficult Moral Issues, “*Is it morally permissible to use ‘excess’ embryos for research?*”

With the expansion of in vitro fertilization, an unforeseen problem has surfaced: “spare embryos”. These embryos are left over from attempts at an invitro fertilization; the mother does not intend to gestate them. Since these embryos will die anyway, some argue that they should be used for medical research. At least something good could come out of a bad situation; to allow them to die would be a total loss.

The cells of an embryo are pluripotent, which means that they may have the potential to develop into many different kinds of cells in the human body. Some researchers believe that these pluripotent cells could be helpful in curing or treating many kinds of conditions and diseases, including stroke, spinal cord injury, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, burns, diabetes, and rheumatoid arthritis. With all of these medical benefits, critics of the Church portray her as cruel and callous. Why is the Church against the progress of medicine that could end or alleviate the sufferings of so many?

Certainly, the Church supports scientific research and the development of cures for diseases. Indeed, the first hospitals and universities in the world were Church-sponsored. On the local level, almost three fourths of all the hospitals in North Dakota were founded by religious sisters. The desire to treat and cure diseases has always been consistent with the Christian faith; compassion for the sick has always been the hallmark of the Church’s healing ministry.

This said, simply having goals does not make an action right. During World War II, Nazi doctors experimented on Jewish prisoners with the hope of obtaining information to help others. They reasoned that Hitler wanted the Jews to be eradicated, so why not make a contribution to medicine before they died? The Nazis were not alone in such thinking. In the United States, we have also had a tragic history of failing to recognize the full human rights of other human beings. For example, the United States Public Health Service, from 1932-1972, conducted a study known as the Tuskegee Experiment. Doctors told nearly four hundred African-American men that they were treating them for syphilis. Instead, they left the syphilis untreated so that they could study the progress of the disease. The men did not give their consent; many of them experienced excruciating pain and died painful deaths. The good intention to heal one segment of the population never justifies killing another segment deemed “disposable”. Human life is a precious gift, not a commodity.

Another reason the Church stands firm against using “excess” embryos in medical research is that this research has been a total failure. The use of *adult* stem cells has been the source of promising cures. An adult stem cell is not necessarily taken from an adult; adult stem cells are found in the bodies of infants as well as adults. They have the distinction of *adult* because they are more than embryonic stem cells and can develop into several different kinds of body cells. Essentially, diseased or sick individuals can use healthy adult stem cells from their own bodies to renew or regenerate unhealthy cells. In using compatible cells from their own bodies, the immune system is not affected, unlike procedures using embryonic stem cells. Therefore, there is no subsequent need for immunosuppressive drugs, which themselves bring harmful side effects to the patient. In addition, these stem cells do not exhibit the rapid and uncontrollable growth of embryonic cells that result in tumors. In all regards, adult stem cell research has offered hope and healing to many diseased persons, without the killing of human life, unlike embryonic research. The choice seems obvious which path of medical research to follow, but in a culture which disregards the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception, the Church has her work cut out for her to make known the truth about stem cell research. It will take time and great effort, but Truth always prevails.

Although it is possible that medical researchers may find a moral way to retrieve embryonic cells, they must respect the humanity of the embryo. Our culture cannot pit the strong against the weak, because in the end, both lose when life is a means to an end rather than an end unto itself. When one segment of humanity is deemed “disposable” soon all segments of humanity will be assigned this distinction, with tragic and horrific results.

A Point to Ponder

May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right.