

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time —June 17, 2018

SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



11th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"To what shall we compare the kingdom of God? It is like a mustard seed ... once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants." - Mk 4:30a, 31a, 32

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

"It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown on the ground, is the smallest of all seeds on the earth. But, once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants."

When people are asked to take part in a ministry of the Church, such as teaching CCD, lecturing at Mass, or offering instrumental or vocal music at Mass, they often decline the offer with the standard reason: "I'm not talented enough". By that criterion, no one is qualified! We have to be convinced that if Jesus can take a tiny mustard seed and turn it into a great plant, then He can take my tiny talent and turn it into something great for the Kingdom of God. The words of Saint Paul come to mind, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (II Corinthians 12:10).

God bless our fathers

On this Father's Day weekend, we offer our love and prayers to our fathers, in gratitude for their great care, love, and concern for their families. May God bless our fathers and help them to imitate the holiness of their patron, Saint Joseph, the foster father of Jesus.

As a small way to show our great gratitude, we have a gift for our fathers, which will be handed out in the vestibule of church after the Masses this weekend. Please join us for fellowship after each Mass, when we offer "doughnuts for dad" and cookies for everyone else. Again, Happy Father's Day to the men we are blessed to call *father*.



God bless you for your service

After over a decade of faithful service to our parishes as secretary/business manager, Bonnie Jung has decided its time for retirement, allowing for more "grandma time" with the grandchildren. Thank you Bonnie for your dedication to our parishioners, especially the kindness offered to all who came to your office door. Indeed, they felt like they were being welcomed as if it were Christ being welcomed. May God reward you.

With Bonnie's retirement, we are accepting applications for the position of secretary/business manager for Saint Mary's and Saint Elizabeth's parishes. It involves thirty hours of work each week, Monday through Friday. Health benefits are provided and the salary is negotiable. Please drop off or mail your applications to the Saint Mary's parish office before June 23rd.



The sign says, "Vacancy"

As you know, the funds and the work assignments were not in order to welcome two nuns from India, so the convent prepared for them in the school building has sat empty for over a year. Bishop Kagan has agreed to my request to rent out this room on weekends (Friday at 5:00 p.m. to Sunday at 5:00 p.m.). This space includes a bedroom, a kitchen, a sitting room, and bathrooms/showers nearby. We will be charging a modest fee of \$45 each night (\$90 for two days) and it is open any time of year: holidays; hunting seasons; the national holiday of Fr. Gary's birthday; etc. Please contact the parish office if you wish to reserve this room. You can use it if you want to get away just for a day, perhaps for a strudel baking day for the pastor. I did mention that this apartment has a stove, right?

A point to ponder

The world is full of problem children and most of them are twenty one years of age or older.

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, June 18

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, June 19

**7:30 AM SM –Living & Deceased Thorstenson family members
by Reenie Thorstenson**

6:00 PM SE Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE +Richard Nicklos by Dorothy Nicklos

Wednesday, June 20

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

7:00 PM SM– +Wilfred Fitterer by Ruth Fitterer

Thursday, June 21

**7:30 AM SM– Family of Dean & Mary Fitterer by Dean & Mary
Fitterer**

Friday, June 22

7:30 AM SM– Intentions for Gordon Schmitt by friends

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

Saturday, June 23

8:30 AM SM– +Zachary Binstock by Thorstenson family

5:00 PM SM— +Irene Benz by Larry & Betty Heick

Sunday, June 24

8:30AM SE +Vi Martin by Darrell & Dorita Kuhn

10:30AM SM-Pro Populo

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

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, 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, 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

The choir had just finished choir practice. A lady praying at church came and greeted Ray, a choir member, and asked, "Do you like to sing at home as well?" "Yes," Ray responded, "I use my voice to kill time." The lady responded, "Well, you certainly have a fine weapon."

I can hear the bells

The church bells will soon be refurbished at Saint Mary's Church. Before this occurs, the old components have to come down from the bell tower and the new ones have to go up. This is a laborious process, involving heavy objects, hoisted up and down by ropes. If you can assist with this project, come to the church on Tuesday, June 19th at 9:00 a.m. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SE church cleaning June 26 after Mass.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments June 23 & 24, 2018

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Connie Jalbert	Susan Schmitt
Mass Servers	Braden R./Zack J.	Matthew B./Brock E.
Eucharistic Ministers	Bonnie J./Toni J.	Betty H./Larry H.
Gifts	Jim Krebs	Kent & Angie M.
Rosary Leader	Maureen Gardner	Richard Wandler
Greeters	Vickie Herberholz	Helen Koppinger
Homebound Minister	Toni Jung	Toni Jung

Collection Report St. Mary's June 9 & 10, 2018

Adult		Youth
\$ 1576.00	Envelopes	\$ 20.00
\$ 102.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 1698.00	Total	\$
\$ 18, 155.00	God's Share Total	\$28,759.00 God's Share Goal

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments June 24, 2018

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

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's June 10, 2018

Adult		Youth
\$ 320.00	Envelopes	\$ 3.00
\$ 31.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 354.00	Total	\$
\$ 593.00	Month	\$
\$ 3, 822.00	God's Share Total	\$6,970 God's Share Goal

Difficult Moral Issues, “Isn’t Natural Family Planning (NFP) just another form of birth control?”

While pondering one of our *Difficult Moral Issues* from a prior parish bulletin, that issue being the Church’s opposition to artificial means of birth control, one of our parishioners had a valid question: “Isn’t NFP just another form of birth control?” This is a question many Catholics have on their minds and to address it, I offer some insights from one of the Church’s greatest moral theologians, Janet Smith. She has addressed this issue in many of her public lectures and in her writings as well. The following excerpt is from her book that she co-authored with Christopher Kaczor. This book is entitled, *Life Issues, Medical Choices*. Question #26 in her book [pages 80-83] is among a collection of moral questions. What follows is the entirety of her response to this moral question.

Briefly described, Natural Family Planning (NFP) works with the knowledge that women ovulate only once per cycle, that the egg lives in a woman’s body for only twenty-four hours, and that cervical mucus can keep sperm alive for up to five days. Methods of NFP (not the old “rhythm method”) help a woman identify the various signs of fertility, such as the appearance of fertile mucus, a rise in the body temperature, and physical changes in her cervix (not all methods use every sign). Generally from seven to ten days of abstinence, each cycle, are required for those intending to avoid pregnancy. NFP methods also help to identify the maximum fertility for those trying to achieve pregnancy.

Some people think that NFP and contraception are identical, since couples using both are intending to have sexual intercourse without getting pregnant. This intention itself is not immoral; indeed, the Church does not teach that spouses must have as many children as their bodies and finances will bear. The Church also teaches that sexual intercourse is meant to advance marital union as well as bring forth children, and spouses who have good reasons for limiting their family size may use natural means of family limitation. Pope Saint John Paul II spoke of “responsible parenthood” in which a couple uses practical wisdom, prayer, and a spirit of generosity in determining how many children they should have (*Familiaris Consortio*, 35).

Some Catholics believe that the Church permits the use of NFP only for reasons that verge on the truly desperate, such as a situation where a pregnancy would threaten a woman’s life or a family is living in dire poverty. Magisterial documents, however, state that spouses may have physical, psychological, economic, or social reasons for needing to limit family size, using different adjectives to describe these reasons. One can have “just” reasons, “worthy” reasons, “defensible” reasons, “serious” reasons, and “weighty” reasons. In short, the Magisterium teaches that spouses must have unselfish reasons for using NFP and limiting their family size.

What is intrinsically immoral is the deliberate violation of one’s fertility in order to manage family size. Contracepting couples make themselves infertile; NFP couples work with an infertility that is natural. Contraception treats fertility as a defect; NFP treats fertility as a gift to be treasured though perhaps not always opened. Contracepting couples do not give fully of themselves in the act of sexual intercourse; couples using NFP give all that they have to give during the times of infertility. Contraception is similar to telling a lie to get what ones wants, whereas NFP is more akin to remaining silent when something should not be spoken.

Couples refrain from having sexual intercourse for all sorts of reasons, including such trivial ones as the desire to watch a tv show or the presence of a headache. An unselfish effort to manage family size seems like a more justifiable reason to abstain than these other reasons. For it is not wrong to limit family size if a couple is not being selfish. And they are doing nothing wrong by confining their spousal intercourse to the infertile periods, since there is nothing wrong in having intercourse during the infertile period.

Modern methods of NFP have enormous benefits. For instance, they cost nothing. The fact that they are chemical-free and have no bad side effects should make them particularly appealing to many people who prefer all things organic. And they are nearly as effective as the birth control pill.

Perhaps, most importantly, many people who have switched from contraception to NFP report that their marital relationship has been enhanced as a result. In fact, the vast majority of couples who use NFP have contracepted at one time, and nearly all of them testify that their sex lives have improved once they abandoned contraception and embraced NFP. Most couples initially fear that the abstinence will be detrimental to intimacy, but after time, they find an increase in intimacy.

The wives in NFP marriage speak of feeling very respected by their husbands, who value their health. These women feel valued for much more than their sexual availability. Husbands speak of greater sexual self-mastery, greater love for their wives, greater appreciation of fertility, and increased self-esteem. Both husbands and wives acknowledge that they communicate better and experience truer intimacy. Undoubtedly, these and other reasons explain why couples using NFP almost never divorce. Thus, in spite of or even because of periodic abstinence, NFP is overall beneficial for relationships.

God bless our newly married couple

We offer our prayers and best wishes to *Jason and Christy (Herner) Wandler*, who were married last Saturday at Saint Mary’s Church. May the gift of divine love they received in the holy Sacrament of Marriage continue to grow in depth and beauty all the days of their married life. God bless you and be assured of our steadfast prayers on your behalf.

PILGRIMAGE -Msgr. Patrick Schumacher invites you on an inspiring & enriching Pilgrimage to Ireland! Sept. 18-28, 2019 with travel from Bismarck. For more information, visit www.travel.lillume.com/trc/znb or call 701-225-3972.