

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—July 22, 2018

SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



16th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. - Mk 6:31b-32

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

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

More and more, the secular culture finds that the Church actually has a lot of wisdom to offer to modern man. Take for example meditation. In our fast-paced world, with constant noise and frantic activity, many people are realizing the need for retreat or meditation centers, oases of peace and quiet, for the renewal of mind, body, and spirit. Even better, many of these people seeking this renewal find their way to Catholic retreat centers, where graces are waiting for them in Eucharistic chapels or at daily Mass in the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Maybe we should get away for a day or two, to spend time alone with the

Lord. If Jesus thought this was necessary for Him and His apostles, why would He not believe it is necessary for us as well? A retreat from the world for a time may be the best medicine for our troubled souls.

Away at summer camp

Please welcome Father Boniface Muggli OSB to our parishes this weekend, as I am away, serving as chaplain at Trinity Youth Camp near Garrison. Thank Fr. Boniface for his offering of the Holy Mass for our parishioners and the Sacrament of Penance as well. The Lord's mercy and charity come to us in these two beautiful sacraments and we are grateful to priests for offering them in the name of Jesus Christ, our High Priest.



Water and sun . . . a great combination!

To our youth, grades 6-12 (including those who have just graduated) know that you are welcome to join us at Raging Rivers Waterpark of Mandan on Friday, August 3rd. We will leave that day after 7:30 morning Mass at Saint Mary's and should return by 8:00 or 8:30 pm that evening. The parishes will provide for lunch and supper, as well as the admission costs for the waterpark, so all you need to bring is some spending money for snacks or soda. Make sure you contact Kris Ehliis to get the necessary parental release forms and code of conduct forms signed before you get on the bus.



God bless all who support our youth fund-raising events, which makes these youth activities possible. I myself look forward to the waterslides and relaxing on a tube on the lazy river of Raging Rivers Waterpark. But, someone told me, "Aren't you afraid of melting when water hits you?" I'm not sure what this means; maybe the water temperature there is a little too high?

God bless your hard work and efforts

Thank you to the Lefor Knights of Columbus for their generous gift of the proceeds from the last Steak & Burger night for our youth, for future youth activities. This gift was for \$1,000 and we are grateful for such an amazing offering. May God reward you for your concern for our youth.

Thank You!

Thank you as well for a great KC picnic this past Sunday. Everyone who came had an awesome time, with great food, wonderful company, and lots of games and activities. I myself enjoyed the dodgeball and kept close tabs on who threw the dodgeballs at me. I see more demanding penances for them in the confessional! Again, thanks KC men for all you do for our parishes; may God reward you.



KC #9675 News

KC Council #9675 Family of the Month— Sorenson Family

KC Council #9675 Knight of the Month—Ervin Binstock

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, July 23

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, July 24

7:30 AM SM –Saint Mary’s Foundation

6:00 PM SE Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE +Keith Herold by Rose Krebs

Wednesday, July 25

7:00 PM SM– Special Intention of Ken & Martina Stagl

Thursday, July 26

7:30 AM SM– +Weir family members by a friend

Friday, July 27

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

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

Saturday, July 28

8:30 AM SM—Marge Koffler by a friend

5:00 PM SM—+Butch Yates by family

Sunday, July 29

8:30AM SE—+Paul Schiwal by Diane & Jeff Krauter

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, 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, 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

A prayer: “Dear Jesus, I have been so kind to people today. I have not yet lost my temper; I didn’t curse or get angry; and I have not gossiped about anyone. But, now . . . it’s time to get out of bed. Help me the rest of the day Jesus. Amen.”

Thank you to my gardening angels

Thank you to Marcia Krance of Saint Elizabeth’s Parish for offering to drive from Lefor each day while I was gone to water the flowers around Saint Mary’s Church. Thank you as well to Molly Rayhorn for offering to weed around the church for me. May God bless you both for your kindness and the generous offering of your time.

St. Benedict’s Health Center Memorial Mass to prayerfully remember in a special way the residents who have died within the months of February, March, April, May and June will be held on Thursday, July 26 at 2:00 p.m.

St. Mary’s Liturgical Assignments July 28 & 29, 2018

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Richard Wandler	John Ehlis
Mass Servers	Leonard G./Zack J.	Matthew B./Mark F.
Eucharistic Ministers	Cely S./Robert S.	Betty H./Larry H.
Gifts	Martina Stagl	John Ehlis
Rosary Leader	Richard Wandler	Susan Schmitt
Greeters	Vickie Herberholz	Victor & Lynn Dvorak
Homebound Minister	Toni Jung	Toni Jung

Collection Report St. Mary’s July 14 & 15, 2018

Adult		Youth
\$ 757.00	Envelopes	\$ 28.00
\$ 47.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 832.00	Total	\$
\$ 3198.77	Monthly Total	\$

St. Elizabeth’s Liturgical Assignments July 29, 2018

Lector	Stetson
Mass Servers	Bailey
Eucharistic Ministers	Dorita & Cindy
Gifts	Tina & Deran
Greeters	Darrell & Dorita
Ushers	Greg K. & Deran

Collection Report St. Elizabeth’s July 15, 2018

Adult		Youth
\$ 620.00	Envelopes	\$ 2.00
\$ 87.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 709.00	Total	\$
\$	Monthly Total	\$

Difficult Moral Issues, “*Can a Catholic man have a vasectomy?*”

Whenever a Catholic man tells me that he “got fixed” (i.e. a vasectomy), my response is, “Oh, were you broken?” The talk of getting a vasectomy doesn’t raise eyebrows among many men, but to me it is so offensive. A married Catholic man who gets a vasectomy violates the ideals of creation, married love, and the begetting of children. For men who have had this procedure, we have to remind them what Christ and His Church have to say on this matter. We pray that our witness may lead them to a conversion of heart, so that they in turn may help other men to avoid the path that they took, with its unfortunate consequences.

The Catholic Church teaches that it is reasonable and permissible for married couples to regulate births for legitimate reasons. This is one aspect of responsible fatherhood and motherhood. However, a legitimate intention to regulate births does not justify recourse to morally unacceptable means, such as a vasectomy.

A vasectomy is a medical procedure in which the vas deferens from each testicle is clamped, cut, or sealed so that sperm is prevented from mixing with the semen that is ejaculated from the penis of the male. This form of sterilization is much more permanent than artificial contraception. It pushes the “not right now” of artificial contraception over the line into “not ever” or “not ever again”. What becomes of sex between husband and wife after the sterilization of a vasectomy?

Sex becomes simply biological and for pleasure, rather than self-giving. When married couples decide to become infertile (such as with a vasectomy) they reject many aspects of each other: their fertility; their ability to create and nurture human life; their maternity; and their paternity. They pick and choose, you might say, rejecting all of these beautiful aspects of each other and choosing one thing alone: the satisfaction of their desires. This rejects the deeper innermost qualities of the human person and focuses upon purely physical desires. This attitude can lead to selfish domination in marriage, treating one’s spouse as an object, rather than as one’s beloved. When one demands from marriage but is unwilling to enter into total self-giving, the marriage will suffer. A vasectomy neuters not just sex, but also the love found in marriage.

A vasectomy burdens a married couple in yet another manner: it leads to deep regrets later in the marriage. Normally, the first years of marriage can have many financial stresses: a new mortgage; college loans; lower paying jobs as one enters into the workforce and begins a career; health care costs; etc. It can be overwhelming. Thus, many married couples are reluctant to welcome children into their marriage and if they do, they get nervous after the first couple of kids. How can we afford additional children? They start to doubt in God’s providence and instead feel they have to “plan” better, so that children don’t lead to their financial ruin. Thus, some husbands, in what seems to be a heroic sacrifice for their families, decide to get a vasectomy. But, what happens a number of years later is that all of the financial doom and gloom does not come to pass. Salaries rise with work experience; the mortgage is slowly paid off; and frugality and wise investing led to a sound financial portfolio. Married couples who chose the path to sterilization begin to regret their decision. As they look around at families with multiple children, they lament the vasectomy and wish they could welcome new life into their marriage and family. They have the material resources to care for additional children, but by their own choice, they made the option impossible. If only they could go back and live by the Gospel of Life rather than by the demands of the pocketbook.

The good news is that they can go back; vasectomies can be reversed. The vas deferens can be reconnected and if done within ten years of the vasectomy, the success rate for renewed fertility can be well over sixty percent. A man is not obligated to undergo such a reversal, but the option is available. If this option is rejected, such couples may have recourse to adoption or foster care, allowing life into their marriage through these beautiful choices. In choosing one of these options, married couples who regret the decision for the vasectomy are turning their marriages back to God. They know that when the Lord is in control, the beauty and joy of marriage and family life will be more complete.

In the context of human relationships, marriage is a treasured gift. In sacramental marriage, the love of husband and wife is intended to reflect the love of Christ for His bride, the Church. Such love carries a natural capacity to transmit life while at the same time, it involves offering the totality of self to the beloved. With a vasectomy, we remove both of these aspects, with its accompanying sorrow and regret. So, Catholic husbands, love your wives and respect the integrity of your body as it was designed by your Creator. When God created the world, including man, the Book of Genesis says that “He saw that it was very good.” Let’s leave it at that and be humble enough to presume that we can do better than God!

A point to ponder

All of us admire the truth . . . as long as it agrees with our views.