

# Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—July 29, 2018

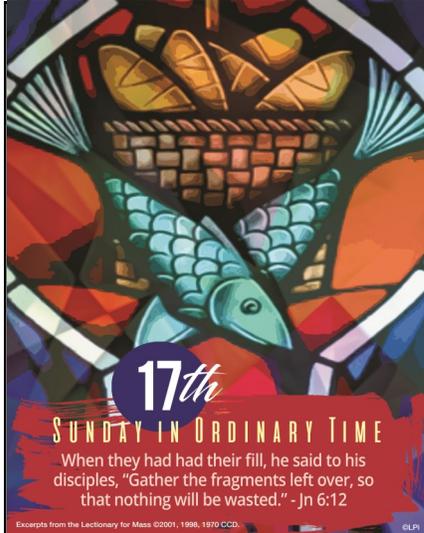
SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



## *“He withdrew to the mountain alone.”*

It used to be that life was a lot quieter. Modern technology has its benefits, yet it has also taken a toll on our spiritual well-being. With text messaging, Facebook, cell phones, personal computers, I-pads and so much more, we have filled our lives with constant noise and activity. Our “down time” is just as busy as our work time and sadly, we listen to our technological devices more than we do to God or our family members. If this goes unchecked, we can easily drift away from the Lord and from the people dear to us. What do we do? We heed the words of today’s Gospel; we need to find a deserted place where we can be alone with God. Where is this place? It could be a prayer corner in our home. It could be a walk down a quiet country road. It could be our parish church, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We need to find this deserted place, where all the technological devices are shut off and where peace and quiet reign supreme. Here we stop all busyness and activity and listen for some time, allowing our Father in heaven to speak to us. If this deserted place is not part of our

lives as Christians, we can easily become burnt out, and then we are of no service to anyone. Taking time with the Lord is not a selfish act; it is a good deed for our soul and for those whom God has called us to love and serve in this life.

## **Some Last Hurrahs for Summer Fun**



In the month of August, we have some fun-filled activities lined up for our parish youth. First, for the youth in grades 7-12 (including recent graduates), we will be going to Raging Rivers Water Slides on Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will leave immediately after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Mary’s and after an early lunch, we will head to the water slides. We will spend about four hours there, have supper at Pizza Ranch, and arrive home at about 8:30 p.m. All meals and the entrance fees to the water slides will be covered by our youth fund.

For the youth in grades 1-6, we will be touring the Enchanted Highway on **Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**, with a tour of Assumption Abbey as well. We will leave that day after the **8:30 a.m. Mass** at Saint Mary’s. You will have to bring a sack lunch, so that we can enjoy lunch outdoors on the beautiful grounds of Assumption Abbey. But we will provide for ice cream later that day at Dairy Queen, or a snack of pickled pigs feet, if you so choose.

Please remember we need you to sign up asap so that we can plan accordingly. Please call Kris Ehlis at 701-290-0720 to sign up and to get the necessary parental release forms. We will see you at these great events in August, a last hurrah for summer fun before school starts. I hope they finished the new sculpture of me along the Enchanted Highway. You may confuse it for a Greek or Roman god, which is understandable.

## **A Pro-life Thought: The Pill Kills**

This past week, the Church celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of *Humanae Vitae*, which upheld the Church’s teaching about the moral, spiritual, and physical dangers of artificial means of contraception.

Many Catholic couples would quit using the pill immediately if they realized that it can be an abortifacient; it causes abortions. To prevent pregnancies, the pill causes the thinning of the lining of the uterus, so a new life cannot implant. In essence, it is a form of early abortion. If women knew that in using the pill they were aborting their children, they would come off of it at once and seek out the moral and life-affirming alternative of Natural Family Planning (NFP).

**MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**Monday, July 30**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, July 31**

**7:30 AM SM –Saint Mary’s Foundation**

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

**7:00 PM SE—SE Christian Mothers**

**Wednesday, August 1**

**7:00 PM SM-+Luella Emmil by St. Pius Verein**

**Thursday, August 2**

**7:30 AM SM- +Schwartzbauer Family by David & Patty Flohr**

**Friday, August 3**

**7:30 AM SM– SM Altar Guild**

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

**Saturday, August 4**

**8:30 AM SM–+Peter & +Mary Ficek by Lonnie & Donna Rohr**

**5:00 PM SM—+Laura Grundhauser by JP Grundhauser & family**

**Sunday, August 5**

**8:30AM SE-+Paul Schiwal by David & Eva Rohr**

**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 Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, “They could not find a babysitter.”

**FT Development Director**

St. Paul’s Catholic Newman Center (on the NDSU campus) in Fargo, ND is accepting applications for a FT Development Director. This position requires previous experience in fund development and the ability to work in an extremely fast, results driven environment. Extensive knowledge and experience with major and planned giving experience is a must. Ideal candidate should be familiar with Raiser’s Edge NXT software. Please [click on this link](#) to apply through our talent partner, Sagency. Apply immediately, position open until filled. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. <https://sagencytalent.com/opportunities/#/jobs/55>

**St. Mary’s Liturgical Assignments August 4 & 5, 2018**

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Diane Binstock	Kris Ehlis
Mass Servers	Katie S. & Molly W.	Paige E. & Addison F.
Eucharistic Ministers	Leonard G./Toni J.	Dianne B./Richard W.
Gifts	Philip & Clem Urlacher	Gregg & Melanie F.
Rosary Leader	Jim Krebs	Maureen Gardner
Greeters	Nicholas D./Eileen L.	Jake Wolf
Homebound Minister	Toni Jung	Toni Jung

**Collection Report St. Mary’s July 21 & 22, 2018**

Adult		Youth
\$ 771.00	Envelopes	\$ 21.00
\$ 75.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 876.00	Total	\$
\$ 5922.77	Monthly Total	\$

**St. Elizabeth’s Liturgical Assignments August 5, 2018**

Lector	
Mass Servers	
Eucharistic Ministers	
Gifts	
Greeters	
Ushers	

**Collection Report St. Elizabeth’s July 22, 2018**

Adult		Youth
\$ 145.00	Envelopes	\$ 3.00
\$ 89.30	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 237.30	Total	\$
\$ 2589.00	Monthly Total	\$

## **Difficult Moral Issues, “Is gambling immoral?”**

On the issue of gambling, it is impossible for me, a Catholic priest, to take a firm stand against it. Do you how much I love BINGO? Do you know how many thousands of raffle tickets I have bought and sold? At parish church fairs, I play the pull tabs and games of 21 as well. If I were to take a stand against gambling, I’m not a very credible voice. Yet, there are some moral and theological perspectives to keep in mind when gambling so that it does not become a sinful activity, causing great harm to individuals and families.

The Catholic Church does not consider gambling to be intrinsically evil. In fact, if properly controlled, gambling can have positive aspects. For one, it can be a form of legitimate recreation. Who doesn’t like taking part in a spirited game of BINGO or a great game of poker with friends? Gambling can be a way to relax and enjoy the company of family and friends, important realities often lost in our busy hectic world.

Second, gambling can generate funds for acceptable causes. Catholic charities, schools, parishes, seminaries, youth organizations, and spiritual/fraternal organizations have used moderate forms of gambling to raise much needed funds for their work in the life of the Church. Many souls have benefitted in countless ways from the work of these organizations and entities and without the funds generated from gambling, this work may have been hampered or neglected.

Third, gambling can enhance local economies and provide jobs and benefits for people in financial need. A case in point are the reservation casinos across our state. They provide significant funds for the great needs of the reservations and have provided many work opportunities (with good pay and benefits) for countless individuals and their families. Indeed, gambling can have many positive aspects and it is not a great moral evil unto itself. Yet, there are aspects of gambling which must be condemned for their inherent sinful nature.

First, gambling is evil when money or possessions are wagered at such a rate as to take away from the needs of one’s family. Tragically, many bank accounts, homes, businesses, and farms have been lost in our state due to the addiction of gambling. There should be reasonable and enforceable safeguards in our state’s laws to avoid such abuses in gambling, but there are not. Reasonable limits on amounts that can be wagered and restrictions on gambling credit would have saved many families and individuals from financial ruin. When children are denied basic needs because of a parent’s gambling addiction or when a senior citizen loses a lifetime of savings because of gambling, you would assume that fellow Christians would speak out more forcefully for restrictions on gambling, but sadly, most remain silent. The attitude is, “That’s your problem or addiction”, so they turn a blind eye to the crisis. So much for love of one’s neighbor!

Second, in a related manner, gambling should not get in the way of an individual’s duty to meet the needs of the Church and society. I am reminded of a man who intended to go to the casino after Sunday Mass. He had a fifty-dollar bill for the collection basket and a fifty-dollar bill for the casino slot machine in the other hand. On his walk to church, he tripped and fell and one of the fifty-dollar bills fell into the municipal curbside sewer drain. The man exclaimed, “Sorry, Lord, there went your fifty-dollar bill.” How sad when people have wads of money to blow at the casino but then have such tight fists when it comes to the Sunday tithe, to the needs of the poor, or to other social and civic needs. People often take big purses and big wallets to the casino, accompanied by little hearts.

Lastly, gambling should not be the end-all and the be-all of meeting the budgetary needs of state and local governments. Gambling is often a cruel regressive tax, taking a far greater toll on those of limited and/or fixed incomes. State and local governing bodies may include gambling in their budgets as they pursue means of revenue, but more equitable tax policies, pro-business incentives, and reducing government spending have proven far more effective in balancing budgets and promoting economic growth. Gambling is a quick and easy way to fix budgetary concerns when government officials are too lazy to invest the time and effort into more sound and just policies.

With these principles in mind, enjoy that game of BINGO at the Seniors Center; poker night with the guys; or some limited time at the slot machines. But, if you or others are being greatly hurt by the addiction of gambling, then you must speak out against this social ill or seek help. When cash, chips, dice, slot machines, or cards have a hold on your heart, then you are in grave danger of losing our Lord, for they are false gods that compete with Him. Find joy and happiness in the one true God. Your heart and pocketbook will be much fuller!

### **A Point to Ponder**

*If you are dog-tired at the end of the day, it could be because you growled all day.*