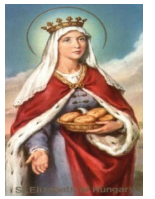




Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 12, 2018



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

**19th SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die." - Jn 6:48-50

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

***"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will live forever."***

Evangelical Christians will often challenge Catholics with the question, "Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?" As Catholics, we are not used to this language when discussing our faith and we feel at a loss as how to respond. One need not get into a lengthy theological discourse but simply reply that we have a relationship with Jesus which is deep and profound. We accept Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior every time we receive Him in the Holy Eucharist, the living Bread from heaven. Like the Christians of the apostolic Church, we have come to know and love Jesus in the breaking of the Bread (cf. Luke 24:35).

It is the equivalent of Sunday

A reminder that this coming week, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. It is a holy day of obligation, not a holy day of option. We are asked by holy Mother Church to treat this solemnity as a Sunday . . . we must come to worship our Lord. But, don't come out of mere obligation. Come to honor the Mother of our Savior, whose Assumption to the glory of heaven is the promise of where we hope to follow. If we live lives of holiness like Mary, we will also join her in the glory of the Kingdom. Our Lady, assumed into the glory of heaven . . . pray for us!



Welcome on board!



After an extended process, our parishes have hired a new business manager-secretary, Julie Dinius of rural New England. When you make your next stop at the parish office, please greet her and make her feel welcome to our parishes. Every week, her office hours will vary somewhat, so please note the hours posted on her door or give her a call to see if she is in before you make your way down to the office. She is not Catholic, but is open to learning about our traditions to serve you when you come to the office, with Mass intentions, requests for Catholic resources, ordering things from Hurley's (a Catholic religious goods store), or making plans for Church holidays (the Solemnity of the Assumption, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the sacred feast of Father Gary's birthday, etc.). God bless Julie and we are grateful for her important ministry for our parishes.

A great time was had by all

Thank you to all of the youth who came to Raging Rivers Waterpark last Friday. It was very hot day (100 degrees!) which made the waterslides and the cold water even more inviting. It looked like everyone had a great time and you deserved it, for all of your hard work at the Italian meal and the Steak & Burger night. Pat yourself on the back for a job well done! Thank you to our chaperones and in a special way to Kris Ehlis for lining up the whole affair. It was a lot of work and we are grateful for her efforts. I look forward to our next event, sometime in the late fall or early winter. I think raking the leaves around Fr. Gary's yard sounds like tons of fun! See you there!

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, August 13

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, August 14

7:30 AM SM— +Eugenia Stagl by a friend

6:00 PM SE Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**7:00 PM SE—SE Living & Deceased Members of
KC Council #5477**

Wednesday, August 15 – SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

7:30AM SM— +Mike Urlacher by Angie Urlacher & Family

5:00 PM SE - +Father Patrick Moore by KC Council #5477

7:00 PM SM— Pro Populo

Thursday, August 16

**7:30 AM SM-Living & Deceased Family members of +Frank &
+Seraphina Schmitt by a friend**

Friday, August 17

7:30 AM SM— +Luella Emmil by family

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

Saturday, August 18

8:30 AM SM—+Andrew Dosch by Larry Tinjum

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

Sunday, August 19

8:30AM SE—+Rose Lefor by Bob Lefor

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

A point to ponder

The person who knows little soon repeats it.

A sad sight to see

People have asked about the sad state of the lawn around Saint Mary's Church. Well, it was a tragic unfolding of events: the sprinkler system pump went out; most of the sprinkler heads were broken or malfunctioning; and the company to fix these issues forgot about us and put us off for three weeks. Guess which three weeks? During the hot dry days, which burned up the lawn and caused a proliferation of weeds. It's not the green carpet we long for. I have had people tell me to do this or that to revive it and I say, "Great ideas. When can you implement them?" I already put in six or seven hours each week on the church property in my "spare time", watering the flowers, weeding, sweeping, and picking up trash. I'm not taking on reviving the lawn as well. I guess we have three options: let it be, the eyesore it is; hope for parish volunteers to come forth to lead the effort; or hope for a donation so as to bring in lawn experts from Dickinson. I await your response.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments August 18 & 19, 2018

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Lori Fitterer	David Hernandez
Mass Servers	Maddie R./Molly R.	Matthew B./Brock E.
Eucharistic Ministers	Bonnie J./Richard W.	Kent M./Martina S.
Gifts	Richard Wandler	Ruth Fitterer
Rosary Leader	Maureen Gardner	Susan Schmitt
Greeters	Leonard & Kathy G.	Helen Koppinger
Homebound Minister	David & Vivian H.	David & Vivian H.

Collection Report St. Mary's August 4 & 5, 2018

Adult	Bulletin sent to printer before money counting	Youth
\$ NA	Envelopes	\$ NA
\$	Loose Plate	\$
\$	Total	\$

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments August 12, 2018

Lector	Fran
Mass Servers	Shaylyn
Eucharistic Ministers	Trish & Cindy
Gifts	Darrell & Dorita
Greeters	Michele & Curt
Ushers	Arlen & Dustin

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's August 5, 2018

Adult	Bulletin sent to printer before money counting	Youth
\$ NA	Envelopes	\$ NA
\$	Loose Plate	\$
\$	Total	\$
\$	Monthly Total	\$

Difficult Moral Issues, “Why is the Church against the use of marijuana?”

A few years ago, the state of Colorado passed an unprecedented law allowing for the legal use of marijuana, for recreational purposes. Eighteen other states passed laws allowing for the medical use of marijuana. These laws passed with overwhelming majorities, normally with a 56% margin, and polls show that Catholics voted along with their fellow citizens for the passage of these measures. With the legislation of pot, the question still remains: Is it moral? The answer is: no. State laws may allow for the usage of marijuana, but a Catholic must always follow the divine law, which rejects marijuana usage because of its many ill effects on the well-being of man.

For one, the Church reminds all people that the human body is sacred; it is a tabernacle of Jesus Christ. To use marijuana is a denial of this sacred belief because marijuana inflicts very grave damage on one’s health and life. Marijuana has been linked to cancers; mental impairment; short-term memory loss; bronchial illnesses; motor-skills impairment; and permanent brain damage. Considering all of these facts, it can hardly be considered a “soft drug” with many “benefits”. The human person is made in the image and likeness of God and to denigrate the body through marijuana usage is an affront to the divine plan for our bodies. Marijuana destroys what we were granted in trust to treasure and preserve.

Second, pot smokers normally use marijuana to induce themselves into a state of euphoria, to get “high” and to alter their consciousness. This creates problems when they make choices that may affect others, such as when they get behind the wheel or are caring for children. It is hard for them to act reasonably and others may suffer the consequences. Getting high also places people in grave danger for being victimized, such as when young women and men are sexually violated because they were mentally unable to resist sexual advances. To make matters worse, the advent of social media allows for the widespread transmission of images of them being taken advantage of and they must live constantly with this profound shame. Marijuana usage makes for bad choices, which can destroy one’s reputation, one’s self-esteem, and most tragically, even one’s life. Getting high indeed brings people really low.

Lastly, one must not buy into the push for allowing for the medical usage of marijuana, for it is merely a first step to the real goal . . . *recreational* usage of marijuana. To oppose medical marijuana seems cruel, especially for those who suffer from cancer, debilitating diseases, or chronic pain and believe it is their only hope for the relief of pain, nausea, and muscular spasticity. But, there are alternatives to smoking marijuana for medicinal purposes. In clinical trials, the use of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), that component of marijuana which does show promise in reducing the ill effects of terminal and chronic illnesses, can be isolated and administered by ingestion in the necessary milligrams. By eliminating the need for smoking the marijuana, mental cognition is not impaired and the ill effects of marijuana on the bronchial system are done away with as well. THC therapy seems like a breakthrough for suffering people, but it has met fierce opposition. From whom? The supporters of recreational pot. They know that if you provide an alternative to smoking marijuana for medical purposes, then you are taking away the first step in their ultimate goal of no restrictions on the usage of pot. “Concern” for the sick and the suffering is just a way to mask their real concern: to get high whenever they want. Feigned mercy is just a façade for unbridled indulgence.

With these considerations on the issue of marijuana usage, take a stand as a servant of Jesus Christ and the Church. The reason why many states have passed these marijuana laws is that people of faith have remained silent on this issue. For anyone who has seen someone they love suffer from the terrible effects of pot, you know that we must fight to “clear the haze” about this much-debated drug. A failure to do so is a great failure in Christian charity.

On the lighter side

A new pastor came into town and was eager to bring souls to Christ. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy told him, the pastor thanked him and said, “If you come to church on Sunday, you will hear me give directions on how to get to heaven.” “I don’t think I’ll be there”, replied the boy. “You don’t even know how to get to the post office.”