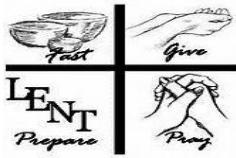


3^d Sunday of Lent, March 8th, 2015



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are only four weeks from Easter and three weeks from Holy Week. How is Lent going so far? Wherever we are in our Lenten and spiritual journey, now is the time to open ourselves to the grace of the season.

There are some practical things to consider. Lent is a beautiful time to attend daily Mass. We have Mass Tuesday through Saturday morning at 8am.

Additionally, there are many Mass times offered throughout the metro area, morning, noon, and evening. Hearing the readings and receiving Holy Communion is very helpful in turning away from sin and turning to God!

Another way to enter into Lent is to go to Confession. This is clearly a way for us to turn away from sin and to turn back to God. We have Confessions at Saint Nicholas Tuesday through Saturday. Please see our website for the times, www.stncc.net.

Even if you work during the week, Saturday morning Mass at 8am, followed by Confessions, is a fantastic way to enter into the season of Lent.

Cultivating a spirit of repentance and prayer through the Liturgy leads to a fuller engagement of the season. We are more readily disposed to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit when we are rooted in the Eucharist and when we ourselves have received God's mercy.

Currently we are working through the GROW survey results, the survey that many of you filled out. One area that came up in the discussion is evangelization. How do we evangelize? One simple way is to invite. We can't force the Gospel on anyone, but we can invite them to join us for daily and Sunday Mass. I'd like to see a few more people in the pews, and much of that depends on your ability to evangelize and to invite!!

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sun, March 8...Doughnut Sunday with Rome slide show, DTS 6-9pm

Mon, March 9....

Tues, March 10.. Fatima Group 8:30am, Choir Practice 7pm

Wed, March 11...Religious Ed.

Thurs, March 12...RCIA at 7pm @ HC

Fri, March 13.....Stations of Cross 6:30pm, Cursillo 7pm

Sat, March 14.....Rosary in Chapel, Women's Lenten Morning
Reflection 7am, Prayer for Unborn in Mpls. 8am

Sun, March 15...Middle School Night

Liturgy of the Hours (Morning Prayer): Everyone is Welcome - Tuesday - Friday at 7:20am & Sat at 7:35am in the church.

Please consider signing up for Automatic Withdrawal for your Sunday giving. It's easy to sign up and will automatically be withdrawn from your account one time a month. Forms are in the back of church, on the parish website; www.stncc.net or by calling the parish office at 952-461-2403.

St. Nicholas apparel items and accessories are available to order online. Please visit the parish website (stncc.net) and follow the link provided or visit <https://ssastores.com/store/st-nicholas-catholic-church-elko-new-market-mn/>
Please note all ordering, payment, shipping and returns are handled through SSA Stores and not the parish office.

Doughnut Sunday schedule: March 8th, April 12th, May 10th and June 14th.
Doughnuts are served after both Sunday masses. Everyone is welcome!!

TODAY -All are invited to a presentation on our Rome Pilgrimage, after the 8am & 10am Masses.

Would your child like to put their very own envelope into the collection basket each week? Now they can! We have a box of children's envelopes located in the back of church, which your child can use each week to write on, the good deed they did that week, a message to God or if they want to reach into their pockets and give a little something. Any amount that is collected will be listed in the bulletin each week. A great way to encourage participation and stewardship is by making an offering of prayer.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wed. April 1st – Confessions 4:30-5:30pm
Penance Service 7pm

Holy Thursday April 2nd – Morning Prayer 8am

Confessions 11am–12pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm

Good Friday April 3rd– Morning Prayer 8am

Confessions 11am –12pm

Veneration of the Cross 3pm,

Stations of the Cross 7pm

Holy Saturday April 4th– Morning Prayer 8:00am,

Easter Vigil 8:30pm (NO 5pm mass)

Easter April 5th – Mass 8am & 10am

Global Solidarity Sunday: Next Weekend

Next weekend is Global Solidarity Sunday in our archdiocese. The theme is "For God so loved the world..." that He sent Jesus to share the good news to the poor and disenfranchised, indeed to all. We have the opportunity to stand with those who are the most vulnerable throughout the world next weekend as we are invited to offer gifts by contributing to a special collection for four global initiatives designated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Please be as generous as you are able and support your brothers and sisters overseas.

Food Shelf Weekends!

We are excited to announce that our parish will now be holding food drives the last full weekend of every month. Food can be brought to Mass and deposited in the bins in the back of Church. All donations will be going to the Scott County Food Shelf. Mark your calendar and thanks in advance for your donations!

Spring clothing collection for Joseph's Coat – please bring your donations to the church basement and place by the coat rack, for pick up on Tuesday, March 24th. Thank you!

LENT 2015 - Save the date and join us for these special events to help us enter into this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Saturday, March 14 - Women's Morning of Reflection 7am-11am at St. Nicholas.

Friday, March 27 - Stations, Soup and Speaker night. Stations of the Cross will be followed by Soup Supper and a speaker.

If you would like to help with planning any of these events please contact Jean Moeller or Kathy Chlan.

Due to lack of attendance last year at Soup Suppers, there will only be two dates offered this Lenten season.

The dates are as follows:

Friday, March 6th, following 6:30pm Stations of the Cross and on Friday, March 27th, following 6:30pm Stations of the Cross, Soup Supper and a Speaker.

KEEPING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH ALIVE AND ACTIVE. You are invited to join St Wenceslaus in New Prague as they welcome John Crudele, well known speaker, author and coach who connects with his audience in a very personal and profound way. The fee is only \$5.00 to help with costs. You are welcome to come for all or just stay for the speaker. Please RSVP by April 19th to Kevin Kubat at Kevin.kubat@npcatholic.org or 952-758-0477 for the light supper, speaker and teen and family mass at 6pm or if you would like a block of seats reserved.

2015 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

"Be Imitators of Christ"

The CSA goal for St. Nicholas is \$18,555

Donations to date: \$2,420

If you have not made your contribution to the 2015 Catholic Services Appeal, please consider doing so next weekend. We will conduct the in-pew pledging process at Mass one last time to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

One pledge can make a difference, especially when combined with all the other pledges made throughout our local Church. And, when our parish reaches its goal, 25% of all funds received will be returned for use to support ministries in

our parish. Please prayerfully consider providing your financial support to the Catholic Services Appeal. You can and will make a difference.

It is important to know that contributions to the Catholic Services Appeal will be used for the benefit of designated ministries of the Appeal. Please visit the CSA Foundation website at csafspm.org for more information.

Thank you to everyone who has responded so quickly to the parish needs, through prayer, treasure and talent! God Bless You!

All these projects are complete!

We still need continued financial support for these projects.

Sidewalk replacement - \$2,236.50

Replacement of flat roofs over basement bathrooms & south basement entrance - \$11,250.00

Mold removal in parish basement - \$1,755.00

Mold removal in school building - \$600.00

Leaf guards for gutters on rectory - \$620.00

Additional Mold Removal (not in original bid) - \$1,952.00

Air Quality Tests (not included in original bid)- \$568.00

Total cost of current needed repairs: 18,981.50

Donations to date – Thank You! **13,718.00**

Balance **5,263.50**

We are also in the process of identifying and prioritizing a number of other projects (solving our water problems is a big one). If you are able to contribute to the parish for these expenses, you can make your donation two different ways. In your current Sunday envelopes, on the left side of the envelope it reads Capital Improvement and Endowment Fund Offering. Simply circle Capital Improvement and then list the dollar amount you would like to contribute to the projects. You may also stop in the parish office and leave your donation with Lisa. As the donations begin to come in, the dollar amounts will be listed in the bulletin. If you have any questions please contact the parish office at 952-461-2403

Thank you from the Parish Leadership.

ENDOWMENT DONATION OPPORTUNITY

Please consider a donation to our Parish Endowment Fund.

The Endowment is set up so we cannot spend the principle, only the interest earned can be spent as the Parish sees fit.

Current balance \$ 96,000

Accumulated Interest \$ 46,000

BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets one Tuesday a month @ 7:15pm at Deb Streefland's home. If you are interested in joining us, please call Deb Streefland at 952-652-2349. **2015 Schedule; March 17, April 14 and May 12.**

CHOIR

The St. Nicholas choir practices Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30pm. No previous choir or vocal training required to join. Our music ministry is one of the most vital to the Liturgy and one that brings its members many rewards for their time and talents shared. If you are interested but have questions, please contact Deb Carlson at 952-884-8251/debc@stncc.net

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

"The purpose of the Holy Hour is to encourage deep personal encounter with Christ. The holy and glorious God is constantly inviting us to come to Him, to hold converse with Him, to ask for such things as we need and to experience what a blessing there is in fellowship with Him." ---Archbishop Fulton J Sheen

MORE ADORERS ARE NEEDED FOR HOLY HOURS WITH JESUS.

PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING WITH AN HOUR.

Adorers are needed especially for the following hours: **Sunday:** 1 pm (1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays), **Tuesday:** 7 pm, 9 pm, **Wednesday:** 10 am, **Friday:** 1 am, 2 am, 3 am, 7 pm (2 Fridays a month), **Saturday:** 1 pm (on 2nd, 3rd Saturdays of the month). To sign up as an Adorer or for more information on Adoration, please contact Dan and Lynne Soderlund at (507) 645-6012 or at lynsod@yahoo.com

MOTHER'S GROUP

We are reading Catholic books and meeting once a month for spiritual discussion, to pray, and reflect on the Gospel to enrich and support our vocation as wives and mothers. Location and times may vary. Please contact Genie Stern and join us! 651-491-1447.

PRO-LIFE

We invite you to the chapel for the Pro-Life Rosary, every Saturday at 9am.

Mass Intentions – (* indicates a change in mass time)

Sat	7	5:00 pm	Debbie Thomas+
Sun	8	8:00 am	Len & Joan Britten+
Sun	8	10:00 am	For the Parish
Tues	10	8:00 am	PJ Siedow
Wed	11	8:00 am	Bill Tissek+
Thurs	12	8:00 am	Ginny Picka+
Fri	13	8:00 am	Robert Saleck+
Sat	14	8:00 am	Bob Devine+
Sat	14	5:00 pm	Joe Gallagher+
Sun	15	8:00 am	Paul & Therese Leon+
Sun	15	10:00 am	For the Parish



Daily Scriptures

Monday:	2 Kings 5:1-15b	Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Daniel 3:25,34-43	Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9	Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jeremiah 7:23-28	Luke 11:14-23
Friday:	Hosea 14:2-10	Mark 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hosea 6:1-6	Luke 18:9-14
Sunday:	2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23/Ephesians 2:4-10/John 3:14-21	

Liturgical Stewardship March 14 & 15

March 14 @ 5pm	Lector:	Robyn Dietz
	Ministers	Mary Kay Forland-H, Chuck Mathews-Ch-H
	Ushers	Doug Serie, Dave DeGonda
March 15 @ 8am	Lector:	Kendra Caduff
	Ministers	Mike Cole-H, Joyce Anderson-Ch-H
	Ushers	Scott Steele, Gary Vosejka
March 15 @ 10am	Lector:	Emelia Fredrickson
	Ministers	Dennis Anderson-H, Denise Anderson-Ch-H
	Ushers:	Richard Hanke, Dennis Anderson

SUNDAY GIVING: March 1 / Week 35 in Fiscal Year

Budget Weekly Sunday Giving:	\$ 6,276
Budget Year-to-Date Sunday Giving:	\$219,660
Actual Collection Received	\$ 3,456
Fuel	\$ 110
Bread & Wine	\$ 20
Flowers	\$ 50
Children's Envelopes	\$ 32
Collection Received Year-to-Date:	\$ 211,829
	- \$ 7,831
Capital Improvement \$595	

Please show your appreciation by supporting those advertisers who help make our bulletin possible. This week we thank...

END ZONE
SPORTS BAR AND GRILL
952-461-4441
10491 260th St. East, Elko

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Check out the RE website at www.lnmvire.net

Classes held at the Catholic Education Center (home of Holy Cross School) **6:30 – 7:45 PM**

Weekly CLASS night on Wednesday, March 11th

Weekly CLASS night on Wednesday, March 18th

Lent: Practice the three pillars of Lent – Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Use your Lenten Calendars to help you stay on track. If you need a copy please go the www.lnmvire.net website for a copy.

HOLY CROSS:

Today is the last day to buy tickets for the Catholic Schools Raffle sponsored by Catholic United Financial. A huge thank you goes out to all the parishioners who supported Holy Cross Catholic School by purchasing tickets. All the proceeds stay at Holy Cross, providing support for our academic programs. The drawing will be held March 19 at Catholic United Financials headquarters. Good luck to all who entered! We would love to have a big winner from one of our parishes!

YOUTH GROUP:

Dead Theologian Society (DTS) for grades 9-12 is TONIGHT Sunday, March 8th from 6-9pm at the St Nicholas Campus. We still are in need of parents to help provide and serve the meal, please contact Kathy Chlan at kathyc@holycrossschool.net if you are able to help.

Happening in the Area

YOUTH/FAMILY - OPEN GYM NIGHT

Lonsdale Civic Center gym (next to IC Church) on Friday Nights from 8:00-9:30 PM. All ages are welcome.

If there are multiple age levels or interest in different activities we will split the gym so there could be two groups at once. We also have space in our Youth Room for younger children to play floor games. If you have any questions please contact Kate Borgheiinck [507-744-2829](tel:507-744-2829) - kateb@holycrossschool.net

Suicide Prevention in Our Community – Parents and community welcomed and encouraged!

Tuesday, March 10th, 6pm @ the New Prague High School Auditorium, 221 12th Street NE. Featured speaker: Nationally renowned suicide prevention expert Dr. David Reidenberg, Executive Director of SAVE –Suicide Awareness Voices of Education.

Operation Andrew Dinner – Tuesday, March 10, 2015 –

Bishop Lee Piché will be hosting the next Operation Andrew Dinner on Tuesday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at the Archbishop's residence. Operation Andrew, a program sponsored by the Office of Vocations, is an opportunity for men, ages 16 – 35, who are discerning their vocation and would like to learn more about the priesthood and religious life. The dinner event includes time where they can hear vocation testimonials on priesthood and the religious life. It is typical for a Pastor, Religious Brother or Youth Minister to accompany discerning men to this event. Please respond to the Vocation Office before March 6, by calling 651.962.6890 or emailing paty.mcquillan@stthomas.edu if you would like to register to attend.

2015 Archdiocesan Men's Conference – Saturday, March 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join men of all ages and walks of life from around the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis for a morning filled with faith and fellowship. Learn how, with the help of Jesus Christ, you can *conquer sin!* The conference includes: Mass, breakfast, Keynote speaker Fr. Richard Simon (from Relevant Radio's "Father Simon Says"), and more! \$20 per adult; \$10 per student (up to high school senior).

Saturday, March 21, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Doors open at 7 a.m. for Adoration and Confession)

AARC Fieldhouse at the University of St. Thomas

Register online at www.archspm.org. Keywords: Men's Conference. Questions? Call 651-291-4411.

Church of Saint Paul Youth Present Living Stations of the Cross

All are invited to attend the 20th annual **Living Stations of the Cross** on Thursday or Friday, March 19th or 20th at 7:00 p.m., with Benediction on Friday night. There will be a special presentation for youth groups on Wednesday, March 18th at 7:00 p.m. The passionate message of Easter will be conveyed through the teens' dramatic portrayal of the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior and a score of inspirational music. Free will offerings to support this ministry will be gratefully accepted.

In honor of our 20th year, attendees are encouraged to bring donated goods to support teens and young adults experiencing homelessness in Anoka county. Please check for a list of most-needed items at www.hope4youthMN.org/donate-goods.

"SEAMUS HEANEY AND RELIGION" TALK MARCH 22

Dr. Andrew Auge of Loras College will speak on the Irish poet Seamus Heaney and religion, 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, in O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center on the University of St. Thomas' St. Paul campus. Sponsored by the university's Center for Irish Studies and Center for Catholic Studies. Free. Information: (651) 962-5662 or jrogers@stthomas.edu