

Local Mass and Reconciliation Times

Burnsville Mary Mother

Mass: Sat. 4pm, Sun. 8:30am, 11am Confession: Wed. 4:30pm,

Burnsville Risen Savior

Mass: Sat. 5pm, Sun. 9am, 11am, 1pm (Spanish), Confession: Sat 3:30-4pm

Eagan St. John Neumann

Mass: Sat. 5pm, Sun. 8am, 10am, Noon, 5:30pm, Confession: Mon.-Fri. 11:15 - Noon, Wed. 6 - 6:30pm, Sa

Eagan St. Thomas Becket

Mass: Sat. 5pn Sun. 9am, 11am Confession: 4-4:30pm

Farmington **St. Michael**

Mass: Sat. 4:30pm, Sun. 8am, 10:30am Confession: Wed. 9am, Sat 3:00-4:00pm

Lakeville **All Saints**

Mass: Sat. 5pm, Sun. 7:30am, 9am, 11am, 5:30pm, Confession: Sat. 8:30-9:30am, Sun. 4:30 - 5pm

Rosemount **St. Joseph**

Mass: Sat. 5pm, Sun. 7am, 8:30am, 10:30am, Confession: Sat. 3:30pm **Unlimited Printing**

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Since 1965

Dear Area Parishioners,

Vatican 2 was supposed to bring the Church up to date, increase focus on heavenly things, increase understanding and participation, help the laity grow more in spiritual riches and help us gain new spiritual energy.

Vatican 2 convened in 1962 and in Pope John XXIII's words he said "Throw open the windows of the church and let the fresh air of the spirit blow through."

Do you believe that has happened?

Has the fresh air of the Holy Spirit blown into our Churches of today, 2024? If so, how?

Don't get me wrong, I love our Church where I attend at Saint Joseph in Rosemount. Outside of my living room at home, there is no where I'd rather be than at Church. It is where Jesus resides fully, his body, blood, soul, and divinity resides in our worship space in the tabernacle, not in the center but still on the altar. There is none more a beautiful place then inside the worship space of any Catholic Church.

What has saddened me is where we are currently today, where for every 1 new Catholic that comes into the Church, 6 Catholics are leaving the Church.

Priests, Seminarians, Catholic Marriages, Infant and Adult Baptisms were on a continual rise from 1930 all the way to 1965. Then in 1965, they all began to plummet south.

Is it just a coincidence that our Catholic Church has been in constant decline starting in 1965?

One Church historian has written, "the history of the period after the 2nd Vatican Council can now be written. The Church was betrayed by a generation of Church leaders who ignored the wisdom of the Council and took the occasion of the confusion of the Sixties and Seventies to indulge their own egos, posing outwardly as champions of social justice while secretly enriching themselves, betraying their oaths of chastity, and looking the other way."

I love going to Mass, daily Mass at Saint Joseph, Mary Mother, and All Saints. It is the best way to begin a day. However, what I never knew until recently is how much the Mass we celebrate in our local community today has been changed by the results of the 2nd Vatican Council.

How the Traditional Latin Mass was mostly eliminated after Vatican 2 and replaced with the new Mass, called the Novus Ordo is something that is not discussed and talked about.

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NUMBER OF CATHOLICS	44.86	70.412	+57%	ORDINATIONS	805	518	-59% relative -36% about to
NFANT BAPTISMS	1.09	615,119	-64% relative -44% absolute	PRIESTS	59,192	36,580	-61% relative -38% absolute
ADULT BAPTISMS	84,534	39,660	-70% relative -53% absolute	SISTERS	160,931	44,117	-83% relative -73% absolute
/EDDINGS	426,309	143,082	-79% relative -66% absolute	% ATTENDING MASS WEEKLY	54.9%	21.1%	-62%

Why is it not more common knowledge to know the history of how this happened?

Completely changing the liturgy after having the Traditional Latin Mass promulgated by Pope Pius V in 1570 to the "new order" Novus Ordo Mass by Pope Paul VI in 1969, you would think that most of us Catholics would know how this change happened, yet it is my experience that the average Catholic, and even daily Mass goer's have no idea, no idea at all why and especially how this all went down in the 1960's.

I will leave it up to you, if you desire, to investigate the how and why the change happened, yet you will have to dig a bit.

What is interesting though, with all the stats that show sharp decline in the Catholic Church on important, eternal things since 1965, there has been tremendous increase of people in love with their Catholic Faith being attracted to the Mass that was the only type of Mass, prior to Vatican 2, the Traditional Latin Mass.

Jeff Dahlberg, one of thousands who have found the beauty of attending the Traditional Latin Mass and has now become on fire for his Catholic Faith says the following,

"Almost everyone from the celebrant down to the congregation, behave with reverence and solemnity. The sense of the sacred is overwhelming. It made me imagine what it must have been like in old St. Paul's in London before the Protestants and modernists took over. The Mass was night-and-day different from and superior to anything I'd ever attended before.

Why are people attracted to the Traditional Latin Mass?

"Everything about the Mass – the Latin language, the vestments, the rubrics, the celebrant's orientation – points to God. The Mass is not about you; it's about God. Every prayer, gesture, and ritual action comes from Our Lord himself, the apostles, or other saints throughout the centuries.

All of the subtractions and changes that Father Annibale Bugnini and his committee, including 6 Protestants, made to the Mass in the 1960's eliminated its sacral character and supernatural effects. The vernacular language, stripped down vestments, reversed table, Protestant hymns, and Communion in the hand make the Mass look like less of what it is – Christ's sacrifice on Cavalry – and more like an ordinary social event.

Because the traditional Mass emphasizes reverence, it attracts people who want reverence. People who attend the Novus Ordo can still be devout and serious, and priests can celebrate the New Mass reverently, but it's a lot harder. A regular Novus Ordo Mass-goer who is serious about his faith is more likely to rub shoulders with those who are not and encounter people who are casual about what they believe and how they act, and the New Mass encourages rather than discourages those tendencies.

Simply put, a more reverent liturgy helps the average pewsitter become a saint, and it's easier to do this surrounded by like-minded people focused on their salvation instead of on the things of this world.

The traditional Mass is not your grandparents' Latin Mass. Elderly people who tell us youngsters that in the old days, the priest rushed through the Mass, that it was almost always a Low Mass and nothing special, wouldn't recognize how much care and effort most celebrants and choirs put into their Latin Masses now. A sung High Mass is the norm, and the choir more often than not knows how to sing Gregorian chant. The priest at the altar is usually devout, and he says the Mass slowly and with great reverence."

These are just a few of the reasons younger people have returned to the liturgy their forbears rejected.

As I ponder the facts of the huge declines since 1965 with our Catholic Faith, it is hard to ignore and say that changing the Mass so dramatically from Latin to

Continued on page 22



Eagan, Farmington, Lakeville, and Rosemount

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"The Most Precious Things Come in Small Packages..." by Fr. James M. Pe

by Fr. James M. Perkl Pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church

Why do you think people say, "The most precious things come in small packages?" Is it not because precious things like diamonds and gold are very small but are the most expensive to purchase? This coming Lent, within every parish of our Archdiocese, the Archbishop is calling us all to meet in Small Groups. It's here, within the intimacy of a smaller gathering, the precious gifts of faith, hope and love may be shared and explored within a setting where friendships may grow and our conversations grow even deeper in Christ.

As we know from our own experience, friendships that are watered by faith, hope and love are far more valuable than gold or diamonds, for the former can not be purchased, they can only be received first from God to be shared.

How was the invitation extended in your parish in these weeks before Lent? Here at Mary, Mother of the Church, it was when Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew along with James and his brother John that the invitation was also extended to all of us.

On that Third Week in Ordinary Time, if you were in Church that weekend, you not only heard the call of Jesus being extended to the brothers . . . but you may have experienced the call yourself to follow Jesus in this way. The invitation to join a Small Group, is really the way of Jesus . . . for it was from this initial group of Twelve, that the Church was born from that Upper Room!

Regarding those "precious gifts," we may remember that in those small gatherings of the Upper Room, it was where Jesus first washed feet, the Mass given and the Holy Spirit came. And once the Fire of the Holy Spirit fell upon each one, it was in this New Light that the precious gifts of each of the Apostles and Disciples could be seen. And in those smaller gatherings, the call of each one could be more easily discerned, and so sent into fuller service . . . bringing God's Love, Light and Joy to the world!

While we consider the Archbishop's invitation to belong to a Small Group this coming Lent, perhaps now would be a good time to remember the prayer the Archbishop taught us to pray in his Pastoral Letter, "You Will Be My Witnesses, Gathered and Sent from the Upper Room."



READY and **WILLING** to move? I am **ABLE** to handle the rest!

When we pray the prayer, be aware that we are inviting the Holy Spirit to move our hearts to say, "Yes," as the brothers in the Gospel did say yes, in response to Jesus' own invitation to follow Him.

So, let us pray,

Holy Spirit,

Renew your wonders in our time,

As though in a New Pentecost,

And grant that this Archdiocese,

United in prayer around Mary,

The mother of Jesus,

And guided by St. Peter,

May spread the Kingdom

Of the Divine Savior,

A Kingdom of truth,

Justice,

Of Love,

And of Peace.

Amen.

St. Paul, our great missionary patron, Pray for us!

- Aside from Mass, when do you gather with others to Praise God?
- Where is the place you have room to share from your personal experience your awareness of God and how you may or may not have responded?
- When do you receive the teaching of Jesus to help form your mind and heart?
- When do you find the time to discuss Jesus' teaching, and how it relates to your life, work, and study?
- When do you pray for and with others with prayers of intercession or pray for healing if that is needed?

As is known around the world and in every culture, "The most precious things come in small packages."

Is Jesus calling you into His Small Group, that the most precious gifts he has placed in you and in those closest to you may be discovered?

This Lent, say "Yes" with Mary and "Come and See" how the questions

we have asked may be answered within Small Groups soon meeting in every parish and neighborhood of our Archdiocese!

> Fr. Jim Perkl Pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church



New Christian book from Father and Daughter of St. Joseph, Rosemount



With their debut novel, Dann Hurlbert and his daughter Kennedy, parishioners of Saint Joseph Church in Rosemount, capture the emotional highs and lows of a teenage girl dealing with loss, love, and the social pressures teens face-especially when transferring to a new school. The novel touches on some of those difficult real-life issues, but Suddenly Rural Girl is also loaded with laugh-out-loud characters and gorgeous northern Minnesota beauty.

"A couple years ago, Kennedy asked me if we could write a book," Dann

said. "Of course we can. So, we started reading and researching."

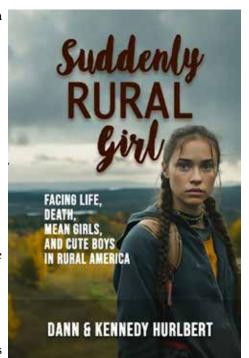
They both enjoyed the quirky characters Jenny B. Jones wove throughout her YA books, and Dann gravitated towards the magnificent landscapes William Kent Kreuger describes in his Minnesota novels.

"We both love lakes, and northern Minnesota, and laughing, too," added Kennedy.

From there, Suddenly Rural Girl began to take shape. The two found reference images for characters and locations and stuck them on an enormous corkboard in their spare bedroom, and then began to map out an outline–eventually doing much of their writing in local coffee shops.

The story also weaves in their Christian faith.

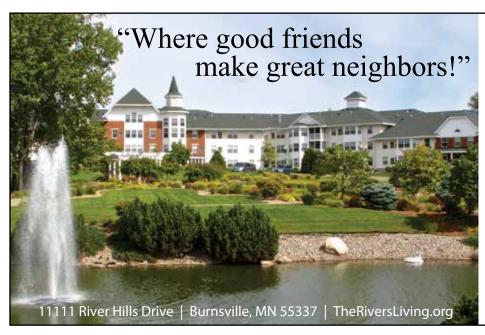
"Christianity has often been at odds with social norms," Dann said. "Society's pressures and traditional religious beliefs often create tension, and teenagers are in the thick of it. Our protagonist, Dak, comes face-to-face with some of these modern social issues, too. But our goal was to reinforce positivity, joy, diversity, and faith, so we kept the book uplifting and hope-filled."



The combination makes it an excellent YA read

with cross-over into Contemporary Christian audiences. Dann's an educator, so the novel also has a companion study guide that is packed with questions for classrooms and theme based discussion prompts for book groups.

Suddenly Rural Girl is available from Kirk House Publishers and at https://dannhurlbert.com/suddenly-rural-girl;



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Perpetual Eucharistic

Before covid, our Archdiocese had 44 Chapels of Perpetual Adoration. That number has declined. It is well past time to return to Perpetual Adoration of Our Lord. Where God is adored 24/7 the devil flees.

Before I speak about Eucharistic Adoration, I'd like to share this true story with you. It is The Miracle of Lanciano, about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

In the year 700, a priest was celebrating Holy Mass. He had been suffering from reoccurring doubts concerning the mystery of Transubstantiation – the changing of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

After he spoke the solemn words of Consecration the host was suddenly changed into a circle of flesh and the wine transformed into blood.

Many verifications of this miracle have been performed over the past 1200 years, the most convincing one in 1970. The flesh was identified as muscular tissue of the heart wall, with no trace of any preservatives. Both the flesh and the blood were found to be of the same blood type, AB. This Eucharistic Miracle remains today in the Church of St. Francis in Lanciano, Italy. Amazingly, when most recently tested, the blood still has all the properties of freshly shed blood and the heart muscle tissue has properties indicating living tissue undergoing extreme agitation and distress!

Miracles like this – approved by the Church – are happening even in our day; books and videos document them. Epiphany parish houses the full set of display posters of the approved Vatican Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit for loan to parishes. It was put together by a computer whiz teenage boy in Italy, Carlo Acutis Salzano who is now "Blessed Carlo Acutis," himself an inspiration to our young people to put their faith and love into action for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Victor Warkulwiz, is one of two missionary priests who started

Adoration programs in parishes all over the United States. His secretary Pat shared with me how her own parish was struggling. They were half a million dollars in debt, had shrunk to 900 families, their school was on the



verge of closing. After establishment of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, their parish grew from 900 to 3,000 families, they paid off the half million dollar debt, they have 1 million in the bank and are in the process of purchasing a public school down the block for their expansion project.

In San Diego – the woman who had volunteered to be the head coordinator for Adoration met the priest at the airport who was going to give the homily to start their Eucharistic Adoration program. She was very nervous about the outcome. The priest gave the homilies and when leaving, told her many graces and blessings would come to her and her parish, maybe not right away but "don't get discouraged". Two weeks later she called the priest to say the first great blessing had come. She

said, "I won the 27 million dollar lottery! Our pastor was going to do a fundraiser to build our Adoration Chapel and I told him, you don't need to do the fundraiser!"

See how much God wants Adoration? He provided the funds to build the Chapel!

In 1988, Fr. Bernard Reiser, said yes to Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at our parish, Church of the Epiphany in Coon Rapids MN. He became a strong supporter and wanted to share the many blessings. Daily Mass attendance increased to over 250, confessional lines are longer than ever,

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The following are excerpts from the talk Peggy Powell of Epiphany Parish in Coon Rapids MN gives to parish groups interested in beginning Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

the number of people returning to the Faith and seeking instruction in the Catholic Faith has increased every year. He attributed all these blessings as fruits of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

Perpetual Adoration Brings Conversions

One Sunday our pastor gave a homily about a woman in great suffering – going from to church to church – trying to find an open door. She found our Adoration chapel and as she spent time in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord, her life was transformed and all her pain and suffering disappeared. One day I met her coming out of the RCIA class and asked her if she was the person from the homily. She said "Yes." We became great friends and we were blessed to be the Godparents for her and her children as they came into the Catholic Church. She also became an hourly coordinator for our Adoration Chapel.

A non-catholic young mother placed her children in Epiphany Catholic School. Our teachers take the students to the Adoration Chapel each week for a visit with Jesus. One of the little boys went home and told his mother "Mom, there is this special room you can go to in our church and guess what, Jesus is there! He's in a super beautiful gold thing and it's really HIM!" So she went to find this special room her son described and these are her words:

"I sat there alone and pondered - 'Wow, what a belief, what a mystery, what craziness to think this might really be Him!' And then it hit me, I mean really hit me. I got on my knees and started to cry because I had realized

something critical and overwhelming; I don't have to understand it, or wrap my head around it, or continue contemplating it, I just need to let go and believe the miracle. That's exactly what faith is all about. Then suddenly, it didn't sound crazy because miracles happen every single day. Why couldn't this one? And so I asked myself one last time, is being a Catholic truly for me? A resounding 'YES' poured over me!"

She went back home and told her son "Hey buddy, last night I found the room you were talking about and I met Jesus for the first time. You were right, it is super beautiful." And she joined the RCIA class, became Catholic and now has an early morning Holy Hour.

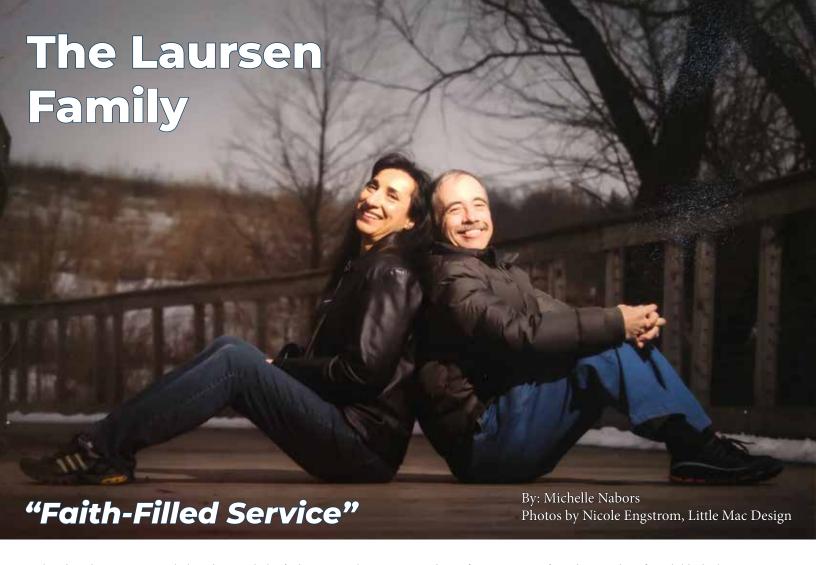
I would like to close with this thought:

Eucharistic Adoration is a bit of heaven on earth because Jesus is continuously adored by the faithful here on earth as He is continuously adored by the angels and saints in heaven. There is no greater joy than to invite people to love our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament. He is waiting for each of us. You will witness graces and blessings that God will bestow upon your family, your parish, your community, and the entire world.

For assistance in starting Perpetual Adoration or to schedule the Vatican Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit, contact Peggy Powell 612-202-3403 or email jesuswetrustinyou@q.com







Paul and Ruth Laursen actively live their Catholic faith, generously giving their gifts and time toward faith-filled service. With their two adopted children grown and their marriage and family life transitioned to an empty

nesters phase, they find joy and growth in faith through "praying to do God's will and being open to doing it." This has led to "daily prayer together, weekly mass, and listening to various Catholic speakers on radio and in videos," such as Fr. Richard Simon (AKA, Fr. Know-it-all, on Relevant Radio), Fr. Mike Schmitz (Daily Bible in a Year and Catechism in a Year), and Fr. Chad Ripperger. They "have many religious statues and pictures" in the house and remember "to call on Guardian Angels and the saints for protection and help." The Laursens also enjoy "going to movies and watching movies at home, camping, visiting friends and family, and religious events and pilgrimages." They describe their motto as "Jesus, I trust in You, St. Joseph and Mary intercede for us, St. Michael protect us!"

The Laursens appreciate the opportunities to venerate traveling relics, like St. Jude and St. Therese of Lisieux

recently in the area, and also taking pilgrimages. Both the St. Joan of Arc chapel in Milwaukee and the Our Lady of Champion Shrine in Wisconsin are special destinations. At the St. Joan of Arc chapel is the stone upon which it is believed St. Joan of Arc kissed and prayed before battle. When the Laursens are in Wisconsin they try to visit the Our Lady of Champion Shrine and have made the pilgrimage 7 times. It is a special place for them and is the only approved Marian apparition site in the United States.

Ruth's appreciation for these uniquely Catholic things came after her conversion. Ruth describes herself as a "catechism drop-out" after her 3rd

grade confirmation. Yet, after adopting their first child, she began going to daily mass. It was there that she met Roger Schroers who was "very devoted to St. Faustina and Divine Mercy." Eventually Ruth and Roger "started Divine

Mercy Tapes" where they would "go around the metro area and audio tape Catholic priests and speakers." It was through this experience that Ruth "learned about the richness and fullness of our Catholic faith" and discovered "apparitions, Eucharistic miracles, Incorruptibles, and those with the stigmata."

Now, Ruth is involved in icon reproduction for Father Jim Perkl, who writes icons for the Missions. Ruth and Paul met Father Jim Perkl when Paul went to him in 2021 to ask him if he had an icon with St. Joseph that could be used for the Knights of Columbus. Father Perkl had the Holy Family Icon already written but the effects of the pandemic caused challenges in reproducing the icon. When Ruth learned of this she thought "it would be easy" to help with the reproductions. Since then, she has discovered just how much goes into writing and reproducing icons, from

"figuring out how they were made, getting the wood, colors, etc.," she learned much and began reproducing for Father Perkl. She has also attended three icon writing classes "to help see what Father Perkl experiences when he writes an icon." These intensive week-long classes are "very spiritual and prayerful experiences." The first icon she wrote was the "Virgin of Tenderness" and was at an icon class at All Saints Catholic Church. She has enjoyed working with icons. Two of Fr. Perkl's icons that are reproduced for the Mission field are the Holy Family icon and the Adam and Eve icon. The Holy Family icon helps to teach the Rosary and the Adam and Eve icon helps to teach the Divine Mercy Chaplet, both of which Ruth and Paul pray daily and are happy to see these



devotions spread to others.

Paul has continued to remain involved in the Knights of Columbus for 25 years and currently serves as the LifeForward Director and Special Projects and Creative Ideas Director of the Lakeville KC Council. Paul feels his involvement allows him to positively impact his local community. One project he is especially proud of is the 10 Commandments project which is outside All Saints parish in Lakeville. As the head of the three-year project, Paul worked to help have the 10 Commandments Monument created and installed.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has called the Knights of Columbus to be "Knights of the Eucharist." Paul, along with others, is working on a Fifth Degree/Principle,

Eucharist. Eucharist, as the Fifth Degree/Principle, would be the completion and fulfillment of the other Four current Knights of Columbus Degrees/Principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. With the Fifth Degree/Principle, Eucharist, we would then be "more and more Knights of the Eucharist; as Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has called Knights to be. Through the current Eucharistic Miracle under investigation at St. Thomas Church in Connecticut (which was also Blessed Father McGivney's last parish), Blessed Fr. McGivney could be confirming Eucharist as the Fifth Degree/Principle, since the Eucharist is at the heart of all missionary activity. Paul and Ruth begin their missionary work each week with the Eucharist at Sunday mass.

As the LifeForward Director for the Lakeville KC Council, Paul along with the Knights are actively working to fund a new ultrasound machine for Pregnancy Choices, a pregnancy resource center in Apple Valley. Through an ultrasound, the woman has the opportunity to connect with her unborn child, witnessing the child's heartbeat and life within her. The Knights seek community support to help fund the new ultrasound machine. Together,



we can ensure that the women who come to Pregnancy Choices can receive support and the chance to see their unborn child. Contributions of cash or check should note "Knights' Ultrasound Project" on the designation line. Online contributions can be given here: www.donors. mypregnancychoices.com/ultrasound. For Paul, projects such as these bring great life and support to the local community, uplifting community members and making a dramatic impact on others' lives.

Ruth started the St. Michael Project in 2016. Through this project, Ruth and Paul distribute blessed St. Michael medals to Law Enforcement, EMTs, Fire Fighters, Military personnel and miscellaneous individuals, recognizing that these men and women are "not only in a physical battle but also in a spiritual battle." With St. Michael the Archangel

as the patron saint of police, the medals are offered for protection: "Like Saint Michael the Archangel, who protects and serves the kingdom of God, the police officers also serve and protect those in the communities around them." The medals, which are blessed by Archbishop Hebda, are given to the departments at no cost to them. They have given out over 32,000 medals to over 350 departments across the U.S.

The Laursens encourage others to "pray together daily to do God's will." Through daily practices like "prayer before meals, praying for the dead, making use of the sacraments (especially Holy Communion and confession), sacramentals (holy water, blessed salt, blessed medals, scapulars), learning and knowing the faith (including saints, apparitions, Eucharistic miracles) praying the rosary, and reading three pages of the Bible daily, the Laursens have grown in their faith and found themselves replenished and strengthened so that they can go and serve in their local community. They say "this life is short and eternity is forever - aim for heaven and do your best to get there!"



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Ken & Karen Titcomb, Matthew & Jennifer Nightingale
All Saints Parishioners

Sunday Mass Readings

We have introduced a new format for each Sunday's Mass readings. Each Sunday, you will see the location of each reading, a short summary, along with the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs that go with each Sunday.

Spending a few minutes before each weekends Mass you attend by reading and looking up the Scriptures and Catechism paragraphs attached can help you bring the Mass into greater focus.

February 18: First Sunday of Lent

READINGS:

Genesis 9:8-15 God's covenant with Noah when Noah was delivered from the flood.

Psalm 25 Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1 Peter 3:18-22 The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ.

Mark 1:12-1 5 Following a fast of forty days and being put to test, the public ministry of Jesus begins.

CATECHISM:

1440-1449 The Sacrament of Penance: God's deed in and through the Church.

538-540 Temptations of Jesus.

845-848 Church as ark. No salvation apart from that is manifest in the Church.

1078-1082 The Father source of the covenant of blessing.

1219-1220 Noah's ark: baptismal image.

1226-1228 Baptism in the Church.

February 25: Second Sunday of Lent

READINGS:

Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 10-13, 15-18 Ready even to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham is our father in faith.

Psalm 116 I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Romans 8:31-34 It is Jesus who died and was raised for us all.

Mark 9:2-10 In his transfiguration, Jesus is revealed as God's Son.

CATECHISM:

101-104 Christ, unique word of Scripture

131-133 Scripture in life of Church

1810-1821 Virtue and grace. Virtues of faith and hope. Abraham's hope.

2570-2572 Abraham's faith does not weaken.

March 3: Third Sunday of Lent

READINGS:

Exodus 20:1-17 "In those days, God delivered all these commandments."

Psalm 19 Lord, you have the words of everlasting life

1 Corinthians 1:22-25 "Signs," "wisdom,"" and the cross.

John 2:13-25 Jesus is the sign of the power and wisdom of God the Father.

CATECHISM:

272 Mystery of God's apparent powerlessness.

583-586 Jesus and the temple

2056-2063 The Decalogue

1961-1964 The Old Law

2112-2114 Confronting "idolatry."

1179-1181, 1186 The purpose of church buildings.

March 10: Fourth Sunday of Lent

READINGS:

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 191-23 Judah's infidelity led to the exile from which God, in mercy, led them home.

Psalm 137 Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you.

Ephesians 2:4-10 Despite transgressions, God, rich in mercy, offers saving grace.

John 3:14-21 Jesus to Nicodemus: "The Son of Man must be lifted up; God so loved the world..."

CATECHISM:

218-221 God is love. God takes the initiative in universal love – in Christ.

309-314 Providence and scandal of evil

456-458 God gives his Son for us.

845-848, 1257-1261 Necessity of baptism

March 17: Fifth Sunday of Lent

READINGS:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 The new covenant, "I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Psalm 51 Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Hebrews 5:7-9 Through suffering, Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation.

John 12:20-33 The grain of wheat must die to produce much fruit.

CATECHISM:

599-605 Christ's death and God's saving plan

434 Resurrection glorifies the name of the Savior God.

606-609 Christ offered himself to the Father, even on the cross.



March 24: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

PROCESSION:

Mark 11:1-10 Entrance to Jerusalem

READINGS:

Isaiah 50:4-7 I gave back to those who beat me. The Lord is my help. I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Psalm 22 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Philippians 2:6-11 Christ humbled himself, obedient even to death on a cross. God greatly exalted him.

Mark 14:1-15 The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CATECHISM:

449 Divine title "Lord"

571-572 "He was crucified under Pontius Pilate": the Paschal mystery is the heart of the Good News.

595-598 The trial of Jesus. Jews not collectively responsible for the death of Jesus, but rather all sinners.

2099-2100 Offering sacrifice to God

557-560 Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.



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MARCH 31: The Resurrection of the Lord. The Mass of Easter Day

READINGS:

Acts 10:34, 37-43 Peter preaches. In the Holy Spirit, Jesus brought goodness and healing. They put him to death, but God raised him. We who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead are witnesses.

Psalm 118 This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Colossians 3:1-4 Raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is.

John 20:1-9 Mary went to the tomb and found it empty. Peter and John then came and saw the burial cloths, for Christ had to rise from the dead.

CATECHISM:

651-655 Saving power of Christ's Resurrection.

648-650 Trinitarian work of the Resurrection.

1262-1269 Effects of baptism. Forgiveness of sins. "New creature." Incorporation into Church.

by Paul Senz Catholic Answers

On Ash Wednesday, to kick off the penitential season of Lent in preparation for Easter, many of us go to Mass and receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of death and of the fleeting nature of worldly things. When we receive the ashes, we are told by the minister, "Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return" or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel."

But the ashes are more than a personal reminder; they are an outward sign as well. It's not as if we can see our own foreheads, so is it meant to be a sign for others?

Hang on—didn't Jesus tell us not to be ostentatious about our sacrifices and penances? In the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matt. 6:16-18).

Doesn't Ash Wednesday contradict this? By wearing ashes, and especially by *sporting* them and *exhibiting* them, aren't we going against our Lord's command?

Well, the main point we need to recognize here is that Jesus is talking about our intentions. In other words: don't fast and make sacrifice in order to show off. Do we wear the ashes for God's glory or for ours? Jesus is employing hyperbole here to help make his point. He exaggerates, seeming to say we should never fast in a way that others can see, but in reality, what he is doing is reacting to those who make a show of their penance.

As Tim Staples points out, Jesus uses hyperbole at least thirteen times during the Sermon on the Mount, where this passage is found. It is apparently a favorite tool in his rhetorical toolbox! Other examples include "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away" (5:29); "If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away" (5:30); and "When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret" (6:6).





The wearing of ashes is a common penitential practice throughout the Old Testament. One example is found in the writings of the prophet Jeremiah: "Thus says the Lord . . . O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation; for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us" (6:22-26). Ashes and other penitential practices can do great good for our souls, helping us keep in mind death and the transience of the world.

The potential problem comes in our interior disposition with regard to the wearing of ashes. Is it a penitential sign, reminding us and others of death and of the fleeting nature of worldly things? Or do we treat it as a sign of our piety, a way to *show others* that we are so devout?

We must be frank and honest with ourselves. As we've seen, there is no guideline for the wearing of ashes, but we must be careful not to be "exhibitionist" about it, drawing attention to *ourselves* and our *piety*. On the other hand, we must not go looking for a convenient excuse not to wear our faith on our sleeve. In other words, if we want to wash off the ashes right away—or avoid getting them in the first place—why do we want to? Is it because we don't want to seem ostentatious or exhibitionist? Or is it because we really don't want people to know that we are Catholic, or to challenge our faith? Is it because we don't want to draw attention to ourselves over Jesus, or is it because we don't want to draw attention to the Catholic faith and the *memento mori*?

All of these powerful reminders of death and of the fleeting nature of worldly things are front and center on Ash Wednesday, and our wearing of the ashes can be a reminder of this to those we encounter—particularly if it sparks a conversation.

And why is it that we keep death before our eyes like this? The other option for the minister when administering the ashes informs us on this: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel." That is the point of these ashes. And if others see us wearing them, it can be a reminder to them as well.



Knights of Columbus ProLife Essay Walk for Life Winners

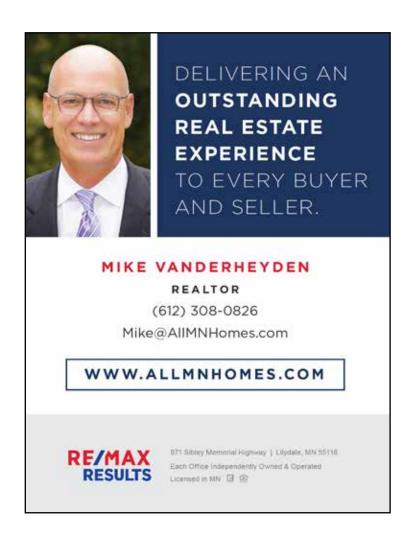
The Knights of Columbus Walk For Life want to thank all of the students and teachers who were involved in the 2024 Pro Life Essay Contest.

The students were asked to answer the questions of how they would respond to a friend they found out was pregnant and also the boyfriend. In addition, they were asked to put themselves into the role of the parents and how they would, as parents respond to their daughter and to the boy.

Congratulations to Maddie Thomas winning the contest and receiving \$200, Allison Westphal and Shanelle Assah each winning \$100.

We also want to thank the Respect Life team of Saint Joseph in Rosemount for carefully reading each essay and collectively deciding our winners.











Knights of Columbus'

Maddie Thomas

1st Place

For Dianne, I would like for her to choose to let this beautiful baby live and grow. Something that I would talk to her about and say is "I truly understand how hard and challenging this time is for you. I just really want you to know that there are so many resources and support available to you to help you make the best decision for you and your baby". I will also make sure that she knows that she is not alone in this and that I'm always here for support or just a shoulder to lean your head on. Next, I want to talk to her about her faith. I will challenge her to try to go to mass every Sunday if she hasn't yet. After I talk to Dianne about her faith I want to tell her one of my favorite scriptures Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart". Something that this scripture means to me is that every life has a purpose, when I'm down and sad and don't feel like I'm enough this scripture is always here to help me know that I was created for a reason and that I have a vocation waiting for me. Lastly, I want to tell Dianne how lucky she is to be able to have children, being there are so many women here that are trying so hard to have a baby and they just can't so rather than killing the baby and if you don't want to take care of the baby I could help her find a family that would love this baby unconditionally.

When I get the opportunity to speak to Jack about getting Dianne pregnant I will ask him how he feels about this. I will ask if he wants her to have the baby or not, even though it is not his choice his opinion still matters. If Jack says "No I made a horrible mistake I'm too young to be raising a child right now and I have sports and other things I need to be focusing on" In response I will ask him "Are you thankful to be here today?" he replies with yes and I begin to say "so you know that your parents had the option as well to abort you but instead, they didn't and they choose to raise a wonderful person like you and a follower of Jesus." Hopefully, by this time, Jack will understand what I'm trying to say to him and he will consider my idea. Something very important I

also would like to tell Jack is that it's not this baby's fault that his mother and father decided to have unprotected sex, so why punish this baby by killing him when he caused no harm in the first place? I also want to hope he is okay so I will say "This is a huge situation you are both facing, and you need to be supportive, communicate openly, and consider different options, you and Dianne are just as nervous about this big chapter so stay in it together." Lastly, I wanted to tell him that I told Dianne that if he needed anything to never be afraid to call out for help because I'm always here, I have ears and a mouth for a reason. On top of that, I will also tell Jack about the scripture and how much it means to me.

If I was Jack and Dianne's parents I would of course be a little upset that they did not wait until marriage but I would be very understanding of this situation, I will give many different ideas and be sure to let them know frequently that I am here for the both of them. Lastly, I want them to know that they do not have to stay together even if they have the baby, if they certainly cannot get along, as long as they try to be parents it's better than not giving the baby a chance at all.

As Jack's parents, I will talk to him about the situation to make sure he is doing okay. If I know if they are getting an abortion or not I will be sure to tell him that getting an abortion is not an option over here. As much as I don't want to make big decisions like this, I know that God would tell me to not allow it. I will also make sure that he tells Dianne that and if he doesn't I will be sure to.

As Dianne's parents I would talk to her about how great of a mother she will be and I will congratulate her, the last thing a teenage girl wants right now is negativity in her life so I will try to be as honest and positive as possible. After she knows that she will be a great mother I will also say to her "Remember, sweetie, you're strong, capable, and loved, and never let anyone tell you differently. We are here for you, and Jack."

In conclusion I will remind them both that I will love this unconditionally and be the best aunt of that I can.





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ProLife Essay Winners



Allison Westphal

If I had the opportunity to talk to Dianne in private I would say I know this is a scary situation you are in right now but every child deserves a chance at life. Life is for God to give and God to take, not for people to take. Life is a very precious gift from God and we all need to respect it. If you have an abortion you will live with that guilt forever. I will be a very supportive friend and I will help you take care of the baby. Mother Teresa said "Abortion kills twice. It kills the body of the baby and it kills the conscience of the mother. Abortion is profoundly anti-woman. Three-quarters of the victims are women: half the babies and all the mothers." She should talk to her parents and hopefully they will be supportive. " So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27)

If I had the opportunity to talk to Jack in private I would say he should take responsibility for the baby. He should be supportive of Dianne during her pregnancy and when the baby is born. A baby is an amazing gift from God and he should recognize that. He should know that the baby responsibilities aren't just for Dianne, they are for Jack too. "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them" (Psalm 127:3-5)

If I were Dianne's parents and I just found out about her pregnancy, I would be supportive and help Dianne out through her pregnancy and help and support after the baby comes into the world. I will always be there for her and she should never be afraid to talk to me and ask for help or advice. Abortion is not the right way to go. If you don't want to take care of this baby there are options, you could put it up for adoption, a family member could take the baby into their home. I will give you some money for support. We will get through this together with God leading the way. "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4)

If I were Jack's parents and just found out that he got a girl pregnant I would tell him that he needs to take responsibility for the baby. He needs to support her through her pregnancy and after the baby is born. Life is a human right and should not be taken away. Jack would be a horrible person if he abandoned Dianne. There is no more precious gift than life. "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them." (Psalm 139:13-16)

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Knights of Columbus'



ProLife Essay Winners

Shanelle Assah

3rd Place

If I was alone with Dianne and had the opportunity to talk to her I would first reassure her and let her know that there are plenty of people that are willing to support her and guide her to making the correct decision. Making sure Dianne is calm and reassured will help her keep a level head when making such an important, life changing decision. After making sure she knows that she is loved and supported by all I would encourage her to talk to her parents. Dianne's parents should know the whole of the situationship so they can offer their full support to Dianne. I would then inform Dianne of her three main choices concerning her situation: to terminate the pregnancy and have an abortion, to give birth and give the baby up for adoption, or to give birth and raise her child I would advise Dianne that committing abortion is equal to killing a child of God with human dignity would not be the right choice because God would want you to raise this child so he could have another follower to help spread his word. I would make sure to stress the importance of keeping the baby growing in her womb alive, and how God will help her every step of the journey. At that moment the baby would be alive in her womb and terminating the pregnancy would be murder. I would tell her that adoption through the Church is available and that if she and her family couldn't raise the child that there are many infertile Catholic or even Protestant families who would love to have a child. Adoption can be a beautiful thing by helping out families who cannot have children of their own. Dianne giving her baby through the Church would also insure that the baby grows up following the ways of Christ and eventually getting baptized. Lastly, I would let Dianne know that she could also raise the child herself with the help of her parents. Though it might seem hard at first, with the help of Jack and her family the baby would grow up with a loving support system under God's influence if Dianne decided to keep her child.

All children are a gift of life and any gift from God should be loved and cherished.

After reassuring Jack I would ask him similar questions that I asked Dianne and ask him to talk to Dianne about what she and her family said to make sure both their families come to a consensus. If everyone in both families come together to raise this child then the baby will have a village to rely on. I would also tell Jack that he is now the father of a growing child and that it is his job to reassure Dianne and help her come to a positive decision about her pregnancy. It is crucial for both of them to know that getting an abortion would be the deliberate ending of an innocent life and that everyone deserves a chance to live.

If I were Dianne's parents and I found out the news I would immediately comfort her and help lead her to coming to a final decision. I would let her know that she is loved and can rely on me to provide her with everything she needs to support this baby. If Dianne decided to give the child up for adoption I would help with the paperwork and help find the perfect faithful family to receive the child. If she and Jack had decided to abort the baby I would let her know all the negative effects of having an abortion like how it is destroying God's given human dignity, how it ends a human's life, and the negative effects on mental health. Through a talk with Dianne and Jack I hope to attempt to help them decide to raise the child and think about their actions next time so they don't lose their teenage years to worldly pleasures.

If I were Jack's parents I would do about the same as I did to Dianne and reassure him. I would also let Jack know that he now has the role of a father to play and he'll have to take some time to support his family, but that I would help support too. I would let the kids know that they have absolutely made the right decision if they keep the baby, and that God will be happy with their decision.





Quiz: Stations of the Cross Trivia

1. You are in a Catholic Church. Where would you normally expect to find the pictures of the Stations of the Cross?

- a. Around the altar
- b. In the Garden
- c. In the crypt
- d. Around the walls of the church

2. The first station is called "Jesus is condemned to death". Who imposes the death sentence on Jesus?

- a. Caiaphas
- b. Judas
- c. Caesar
- d. Pilate

3. At the second Station Jesus receives something. What is it that He receives?

- a. The cross
- b. A scourging
- c. An apology
- d. A drink of vinegar

4. The third station is "Jesus falls the first time". Which of the following statements do Catholics most identify with this event?

- a. It was an unusually hot day.
- b. All human beings fall or weaken in life, but must stand up again with God's help.
- c. Jesus had actually been tripped.
- d. The cross was growing heavier under the weight of Satan.

5. Who does Jesus meet at the fourth Station?

- a. His Blessed Mother
- b. Peter
- c. Judas
- d. John

6. At the fifth station someone eventually helps Jesus with His physical burden and carries His cross. Who was this person who shared Jesus's cross?

- a. A soldier
- b. Judas
- c. Simon of Cyrene
- d. Simon of Crete

7. What is the sixth station of the cross?

- a. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
- b. The crowd jeer at the soldiers.
- c. The soldiers jeer at Jesus.
- d. Jesus exclaims "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"

8. The seventh station involves Jesus falling for a second time. Which of the following is not a reason normally given for this happening?

- a. The goodwill of the soldiers letting Him rest
- b. The recent scourging of Jesus at the pillar
- c. The excessive barbarity of the soldiers
- d. The recent crowning of Jesus with thorns

9. Jesus now (the eighth station of the Cross) meets people mourning for Him. Who are these people?

- a. His Blessed Mother, brothers and sisters
- b. John the Baptist and his supporters
- c. Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus and his family
- d. Women of Jerusalem

10. The ninth station is called "Jesus falls the third time". Did a miracle occur at this point involving the veil of the Temple being torn right down the middle?

- a. Yes
- b. No

11. The tenth station is "Jesus is stripped of His garments". Do the Gospels record the soldiers throwing these garments to the crowd?

- a. Yes
- b. No

12. The eleventh station describes how the soldiers placed Jesus on the cross. What most barbaric of means was used to attach His hands to the cross?

- a. Nails
- b. Excessively tight rope
- c. Clamps
- d. Two soldiers holding them viciously

13. The twelfth station is "Jesus dies on the cross". Which of the following words are recorded in the Bible as spoken by Jesus just before He died?

- a. "Remember Me"
- b. "I shall return"
- c. "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit"
- d. "Remember My promises"

14. The thirteenth station is "Jesus is taken down from the cross". Who went to Pilate and obtained permission to take Jesus's body and bury it?

- a. An undertaker of the time
- b. Joseph the Foster Father of Jesus
- c. Joseph of Arimathea
- d. Saint John the disciple

15. What is the fourteenth station?

- a. Jesus's body is anointed.
- b. The soldiers pierce the side of Jesus.
- c. Jesus rises from the dead.
- d. Jesus's body is laid in the sepulchre.

16. A fifteenth station is sometimes shown. Which station is this?

- a. The descent of the Holy Spirit
- b. The Ascension
- c. The Resurrection
- d. The Assumption

17. The Catholic Church particularly encourages meditation on the Stations of the Cross at a certain time of year. What time of year is it?

- a. Christmas
- b. Every Sunday
- c. Pentecost
- d. Lent

18. Are the stations of the cross ever an obligation for Catholics to attend or perform?

- a. They must be venerated once a year.
- b. They must be venerated once on Good Friday.
- c. They must be venerated once during the pre-Easter period.
- d. No.

19. According to Catholic tradition, where was St Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus, throughout the events of the crucifixion?

- a. He had been executed.
- b. He was there the whole time, but nobody
- c. The local police had arrested him.
- d. He had died much earlier.

20. Where was Saint John the Baptist while all these events leading to the crucifixion were going on in Jerusalem?

- He was leading an army of supporters into Jerusalem to protest peacefully.
- b. He was praying in a cell for a miracle.
- c. He was arguing with the soldiers all the way to Calvary.
- d. He had been executed by order of Herod at an earlier time.

What Does It Mean To Be A Knight?

Below are two stories from our Knights from Farmington and Rosemount. Men, as you read, please consider joining a council where you live, you will not regret it.

A FRATERNITY OF CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN

The thing that attracted me to the Knights of Columbus was the phrase "a fraternity of Catholic gentlemen". I have not met a fellow Knight or upcoming candidate who is not ready and willing to step up and serve his parish. By doing so we serve our local communities and contribute to serving mankind on a worldwide basis. Whether it is Coats for Kids, Special Olympics, Wheelchair Program, the Knights are making a difference in our world today.

VIVAT JESUS!

Al Keuler

former Grand Knight and current Knight at St. Michaels, Farmington

I joined the Knights of Columbus, joined to be part of a great organization! I am a past Grand with the Knights! Just being able to see all the great work the Knights do in and outside the church! I feel God wanted me here to help others the way the Knights do! In 2024 I am getting back active in the council after taking time away! Originally, I joined the Knights with my father in law Lonnie! This is where my heart has found a calling of helping those in need! I can say many great things about the Knights!

God Bless,

Bruce Doeden

Rosemount Chapter





IN SERVICE TO ALL







Local Events

Knights of Columbus

2/16 - Fish Fry, Saint Michael in Farmington

2/18 - Pancake Breakfast, Mary Mother in Burnsville

2/23 - Fish Fry, St. Joseph, Rosemount

2/24 - Spaghetti and Bingo at Saint Michaels in Farmington

3/8 - Fish Fry at Saint Michaels in Farmington

3/9 - Holy Hour 3:30pm and Bingo 7pm Saint Joseph, Rosemount

3/10 - Pancake Breakfast at Saint Michaels, Farmington

3/15 - Fish Fry at Saint Joseph Rosemount

3/17 - Omelet Breakfast at All Saints in Lakeville

4/7 - Pancake Breakfast at Saint Michael in Farmington

4/10 - Knights of Columbus Walk For Life Speaker: Molly Sanborn, the Cheeseball Chick at St. Joseph Rosemount (more info on back cover)

4/14 - Omelet Breakfast at All Saints in Lakeville

4/20 & 4/21 - Cinnamon Roll Sale after all Masses at Mary Mother, of the Church in Burnsville

4/27 - Bingo Games, Mary Mother, Burnsville



Lakeville Council 8367:

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Farmington Council 2400:

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Burnsville Council 6374:

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Rosemount Council 5569:

More information: www.kc5569.mnknights.org

A Knightly Call to Cherish Life

by Lynesha Caron Executive Director of Pregnancy Choices

Supporting Pregnancy Choices in the Season of Love

As we celebrate the season of love, it's easy to reflect on the profound significance of new life and the vital role each of us can play in safeguarding it. In the wake of 2023 MN legislative changes that expanded abortion access, the need for compassionate support for expectant mothers and their families has never been more important. Ultrasound technology serves as a powerful ally in providing a visual narrative of the early stages of fetal development. By offering women the opportunity to witness the presence of a heartbeat and other signs of human form, ultrasound scans can provide an impactful and emotional experience that prompts deep reflection and consideration. These visual insights into the beginnings of life foster a connection between the mother and her unborn child, potentially leading to a life-affirming decision.

Recognizing the escalating need for early intervention, Pregnancy Choices requires a new ultrasound machine. However, with a funding gap of \$181,000 resulting from the state's removal of the Positive Alternatives to Abortion Grant (PAG), Pregnancy Choices with the support of our faithful Knights Councils, are reaching out

to our community for support. Every person's contribution becomes a beacon of hope for women facing unexpected pregnancies. To express our heartfelt gratitude, everyone who contributes will be personally invited to a blessing ceremony and tour at Pregnancy Choices later this year. It will be an opportunity to witness the impact of your support firsthand.

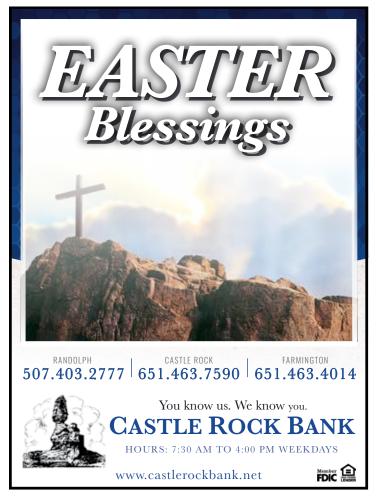
This Valentine's Day, let us extend the spirit of love beyond romantic gestures. Join our Knights Councils in supporting Pregnancy Choices, and together, let's celebrate the beauty of new life, ensuring that every expectant mother and her family receive the care and support they deserve. We invite everyone to participate in this life-affirming endeavor! If you'd like to contribute via check or cash, please note "Knights' Ultrasound Project" on the designation

line. You can also give directly online here: www.donors.mypregnancychoices.com/ultrasound. Your contribution is not just a donation; it's a declaration of love for life.



Lynesha Caron Executive Director Pregnancy Choices, Apple Valley





The Ancient Secret of Worship That the Modern Church Has Forgotten!

by Emily Berns

A lot has been made about the ad orientem "to the east" posture of the priest during the Mass as opposed to the versus populum "toward the people" posture. Why is the ad orientem posture so much more reverent, and why should it be used? Why is it so maligned and being done away with in so many churches? The fact that it has been discarded in favor of what is seen as a more inclusive approach to encourage more lay participation in the Mass shows a blatant disregard for or ignorance of the proper reason for the ad orientem posture and fails to recognize the real reason for the Mass itself, i.e., the worship of God.

Ad orientem is a Latin phrase that means "to the east". It describes the practice of Christian prayer and worship in which the priest and the people face the same direction, usually towards the east, where the sun rises. This tradition goes back to the early Church and is based on the symbolism of the east as the place of the Garden of Eden and the coming of Christ. Ad orientem is still used by some Eastern and Western churches, and is most especially known today in the Reformed Ancient Roman Rite/Traditional Latin Mass

Catholics for over a thousand years have faced east during the Mass, which signifies facing Jerusalem, the City of Peace and the symbol of the heavenly City of Peace. It also follows the way of offering worship in the Old Testament, in which the priest offered sacrifices in a specific way in accordance with the directions of God as described in Exodus. In this way, they lead the people in worship, just as priests did in the New Testament and continue to do so today. The new habit of facing the people while celebrating the Mass takes away from this designation of leading the people, and it becomes more like the priest and laity just celebrating a meal together instead of a sacrifice where the priest is the primary celebrant and intercessor for the people. Unfortunately, this realization and history of the way sacrifice was offered has been lost on many priests and bishops, and so, as a result, many of the laity are not educated on it either.

The argument for using the ad orientem posture is also simply logical because our worship is supposed to be directed toward God, and since He is present

in the Tabernacle, the priest, along with the laity, should be facing toward the Tabernacle during worship. Yes, the priest facing toward the people might seem more inclusive and seem to make it easier for the people to participate, but at the end of the day, the Mass is not about the people and their active participation but about their quiet and prayerful participation. When the priest turns to face the people and include them more, he, at the same time, whether he means to or not, also turns his back on the Tabernacle and on God. He is

saying that including the people is more important than directing the worship where it belongs, on God alone.

The Tabernacle of the Holy Eucharist in the sanctuary is a sacred place where the Real Presence of Jesus is reserved for adoration and communion. The Tabernacle is a locked box made of precious materials and is best placed in a prominent and beautiful location in the Church. The Tabernacle is a sign of God's dwelling among His people, as in the Old Testament. The Tabernacle also protects the Eucharist from profanation or abuse.

Jesus told His followers that they would be persecuted because the world first persecuted Him, and sadly, that includes forms of worship



that are truly reverent and directed toward God alone, even by people within the Church Herself. It is our job to stand up to these persecutions and stand for Christ and His Church. Saying Mass ad orientem does not exclude the people but rather invites them to an even richer participation by directing all of their attention to God and prayerfully offering their own sacrifices and intentions to Him in union with the priest. Educating Catholics on this will lead to a richer and fuller understanding of the Faith as well as a stronger Church that partakes in the true fullness of worship.



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Quiz Answers

- 1. d. Around the walls of the church: The Stations are usually numbered and in order. This is so that you can meditate on them as you walk. They may be visited privately, or as part of a public service.
- 2. d. Pilate: [He] was worried by public opinion and about preserving his reputation. He washed his hands publicly to show that he did not want to be involved in these events. He let the crowd decide and they shouted to let Barabbas (a brigand and a thief) free and to crucify Jesus. Pilate imposed the death sentence and was held responsible in years to come for condemning
- **3. a. The cross:** The soldiers performed this task of handing Jesus the cross. The "cross" was to become a metaphor representing "the burdens of
- 4. b. All human beings fall or weaken in life, but must stand up again with God's help: Jesus was to fall three times in this journey. The torment on Him exceeded belief.
- 5. a. His Blessed Mother: Mary His mother was there to His death. The church describes this as a sorrowful meeting and that Mary had now realized that her Son must die in this way. The words Jesus had spoken to her in the Temple must have rung in her heart: "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). On that occasion He had been lost for three days, but Mary found Him doing the work of His Father in Heaven (He was talking with the teachers).
- 6. c. Simon of Cyrene: Simon of Cyrene was apparently a tourist who had come in from the country. He was chosen for this task that could be so rewarding spiritually, but surely also so frightening for him at the time. The Church regards this as a burden that we all must share. We do this "sharing" by prayer and in many other ways.
- 7. a. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus: The imprint of Jesus's face was left on the cloth or towel that Veronica held out to Jesus. The Church teaches that Jesus's imprint is marked on every good work that we do in life.
- 8. a. The goodwill of the soldiers letting Him rest: This journey by Jesus with the cross greatly exceeded all normal punishments. In particular we must remember who it was being done to as well as this person's public good works and that Jesus's fame was making this a huge public spectacle.
- 9. Women of Jerusalem: Saint Luke reported that Jesus said "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children" (Luke 23:27-31).
- 10. b. No: The veil of the Temple was torn down the middle later, at Jesus's death. This and other

events are recorded by the Church as showing God displaying the appropriate wrath at what from page 22 had happened to His Son. However, God saved this wrath until the very end of Jesus's life. During Jesus's carrying of the cross and crucifixion God seemed prepared to let human nature have its

- 11. b. No: Saint John's Gospel records that the soldiers shared Jesus's clothing among themselves (John 19:23-24).
- 12. a. Nails: The stigmata of some saints (appearing on their living bodies) are believed to show these wounds made by the nails, and give visual witness to the Gospel writings.
- 13. c. "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit": The words are cited in Luke 23:44-46. An eclipse and darkness are recorded in the Bible as happening during these events.
- 14. c. Joseph of Arimathea: Mary the Mother of Jesus was still there and is often pictured by artists as holding the body of her Son. However, the Gospels do not speak of this event.
- 15. d. Jesus's body is laid in the sepulchre: The Bible records that the body was wrapped in spices and linen cloth.
- 16. c. The Resurrection: According to the Gospels, Jesus died on Friday and rose again on the third day after dying -- exactly what He had said He would do. This was discovered early on Sunday (Easter) morning. According to John's Gospel (20:1-2) Saint Mary Magdalene, Saint Simon Peter and Saint John were the first to discover the tomb open. Saint Mary Magdalene was the first to see the risen Jesus (John 20:14-18).
- 17. d. Lent: Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, is the commemoration of the crucifixion, and Lent is a period of forty days preceding Easter.
- 18. d. No: Catholics are never bound to attend or perform the stations of the cross. It is an extremely popular devotion and is done out of free choice and love of God.
- 19. d. He had died much earlier: Saint Joseph died earlier in Jesus's life, and records of his life are few. The death seems to have happened before Jesus's public ministry and left Jesus to look after His mother, as this was the custom of the day. Whilst dying on His cross Jesus told Saint John that he (John) was now Mary's son (John 19:25-

This disciple then took over from Jesus as a son to Mary and cared for her. Saint John was the only one of the original twelve disciples to die a natural death.

20. d. He had been executed by order of Herod at an earlier time: Jesus knew of John's beheading (in prison; much earlier) and Matthew says that Jesus tried to withdraw alone to a deserted place on hearing this news, but the crowds followed Him (Matthew 14:13-15).

Since 1962

from page 3

the New Mass has nothing to do with the decline in our Faith. The stats show us otherwise.

So what is genuine Ecumenism? It is the effort to incorporate non Catholics and non Catholic Churches into the Catholic Church. True love does not rest with coexistence but strives for conversion.

Sharing with people that the Catholic Church is the one true Church and has the fullness of the faith, if done with charity, is not prideful or arrogant. We must believe this and proclaim it if we have any chance of helping people grow in their faith in Jesus.

I am witnessing people grow in holiness, faith, and reverence by attending the Traditional Latin Mass. Just maybe the movement back towards the TLM will help reverse the negative trends we are witnessing since 1965.

Whether it be the novus ordo Mass, ad orientem, or the traditional latin Mass, let's all work at drawing people to the Catholic Church and remember what Saint James tells us "let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins." James 5:20

Blessings to you this Holy Lenten Season,

Pete Herold Pete Herold, Publisher



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