



Lenten Regulations for Fasting and Abstinence

The Church teaches that Catholics in good health are to observe the following practices during Lent unless for some serious reason they are unable to do so:

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.

During Lent please feel free to take advantage of any and all of the following offerings:

Extended times for Individual Confessions:

Saturdays, 3:15-4:20 PM at St. Mary

Sunday, 7:15-7:50 AM at St. Henry



Lenten Penance Service:

Sunday, March 26, 6:30-8PM (Several priests will be available to hear individual confessions)

Stations of the Cross, with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament:

Fridays of Lent at 7:00 PM

Saturday morning daily Mass:

For those unable to attend Daily Mass during the week due to work or other responsibilities, an additional morning Mass will be added on Saturdays at 9:00 AM. (Please note that this does not suffice for your weekend obligation.)

Dispensation from abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17, 2017



Please note that Archbishop Hebda has granted to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as well as any visitors or travelers who may be physically present within the territory of this Archdiocese, a dispensation from the obligation of abstinence from meat on Friday, March 17, 2017 (St. Patrick's Day). Those taking advantage of the dispensation, however, are exhorted to undertake a work of charity, an exercise of piety or an act of comparable penance on some other occasion during the Second Week of Lent (March 12-18).



Lenten Study: Interior Freedom by Jacques Philippe - We have had a great response to our book study. If you missed the first week, but would like to join us, you can easily jump in and catch up.

Interior Freedom leads one to discover that even in the most unfavorable outward circumstances we possess within ourselves a space of freedom that nobody can take away, because God is its source and guarantee. Without this discovery we will always be restricted in some way and will never taste true happiness.

Author Jacques Philippe develops a simple but important theme: we gain possession of our interior freedom in exact proportion to our growth in faith, hope, and love. He explains that the dynamism between these three theological virtues is the heart of the spiritual life, and he underlines the key role of the virtue of hope in our inner growth. Written in a simple and inviting style, Interior Freedom seeks to liberate the heart and mind to live the true freedom to which God calls each one.

Where and Time? Mondays 8:30AM (Church of Immaculate Conception - Marysburg) and 6:30PM (St. Mary - Le Center)

Dates? March 13, 20, & 27, April 3 & 10

How to sign up? Contact Fr. James or the parish office to sign up as soon as you are able. A fee of \$10 to cover the cost of the book will be charged.

ENCOUNTER LENT WITH CRS RICE BOWL
Join our faith community— and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl in our church entrances, and don't forget to download the CRS Rice Bowl app! May these 40 days better prepare us to encounter ourselves, our neighbors and our God. Learn more at crsricebowl.org/families.



DON'T GIVE UP chocolate FOR LENT Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Lent Ever, a FREE email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. You'll get ...

SHORT INSPIRATIONAL VIDEOS

PRACTICAL TIPS

STUDY GUIDE (FOR GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS)

Based on Matthew Kelly's latest book, Resisting Happiness, this year's program will help you identify what stands between you and happiness . . . And what to do about it. Are you ready for your best Lent ever?

TO SIGN UP, VISIT
BestLentEver.com

FORMED.org Have you signed up yet for this dynamic online platform called FORMED which our parish has subscribed to? When you sign up for an account, you will have FREE 24/7 access to the best Catholic content on any device, including your computer, smartphone or tablet. **How do I get FORMED?** Go to www.FORMED.org. Scroll down to the section marked "For Individuals" and input our unique parish code: **3675db**. Set up a username and password. Now you are all set to use all the great programs on FORMED anytime simply by logging in.

Churches of St. Mary & St. Henry

165 N. Waterville Ave., Le Center, MN 56057

Phone: 507-357-6633 Phone/Fax: 507-357-4838

www.stmarysthenry.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 12, 2017

Mass Schedule

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday | 4:30 PM (St. Mary) |
| Sunday | 8:00 AM (St. Henry) |
| | 10:00 AM (St. Mary) |
| | 12:00 PM (St. Mary, in Spanish) |
| Monday | No Mass |
| Tuesday | 5:00 PM |
| Wednesday to Friday | 9:00 AM |

Sacrament of Reconciliation

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| Saturday | 3:15-4:20 PM (St. Mary) |
| Sunday | 7:15-7:50 AM (St. Henry) |

Or by appointment (contact Fr. Shofner)

Our **Eucharistic Adoration** chapel is open for individuals to come for 5 minutes or an hour and be with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Our chapel hours are: Tuesday 9:00 AM to Thursday 9:00 AM (closes during daily Mass and Funeral Masses).

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Christopher Shofner, fr.chris@hotmail.com
After Hours Emergencies: 612-227-7985

Associate Pastor: Fr. James Adams, padrejfa@frontier.com

Trustees St. Mary: Clarence Mager 357-4338 Pete Plut 357-6222

Trustees St. Henry: Dan Germscheid 357-4923 Jim Selly 357-4898

Coordinator of Faith Formation: Jean Boothby
jeanrb@frontier.com

Secretary/Receptionist: Gloria Wolf
gloriagw@frontier.com

Accounting/Bookkeeping: Tara Robinson
tarar@frontier.com

Maintenance: Joe Holicky
jholicky1@frontier.com

Music Ministry: Terri McMillen
mcmillen752@gmail.com

Office Hours - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Friday

Bulletin Deadline - articles need to be submitted to Gloria by noon on Wednesday.

For use of meeting rooms or Social Hall - contact Gloria



Jesus Carrying the Cross
by Matthew James Collins

“My trust
is in you,
O Lord;
I say, ‘You
are my
God.’”

-Psalm 31:15

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Monday, March 13

Tuesday, March 14

9:00 AM Opening of Adoration
5:00 PM Mass Gordon McCabe†

Wednesday, March 15

9:00 AM Mass Judy Connelly†

Thursday, March 16

8:55 AM Closing of Adoration
9:00 AM Mass Lucille Emmers†

Friday, March 17

9:00 AM Mass Bonnie Wieland†
11:00 AM CHC Mass Rev. Ambrose J. Mahon†

Saturday, March 18

9:00 AM Mass Clem, Celia, & Bill Schmidt†††
3:15 Confessions
4:30 PM Mass Ralph Hoey†

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, March 19

7:15 AM Confessions
8:00 AM Mass (St. Henry) Gregory & Evabell Kramer††
10:00 AM Mass Living and Deceased of Emil Chlan family†
12:00 PM Mass (in Spanish) For the Parish

This Week in the Parish

Monday, March 13

6:30 PM Lenten Book Study
6:30-8:00 PM Choir Practice

Tuesday, March 14

Communion Calls - Kathy S.
1:00 PM Mission Sewing
PM Social Hall in use

Wednesday, March 15

5:15-6:30 PM Faith Formation Early Session
6:45-8:00 PM Faith Formation Late Session
8:15 PM Faith Formation Board Meeting

Thursday, March 16

Horizon Place - Lillian H.
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM St. Henry Irish Stew
5:00-6:00 PM Hispanic Choir Practice
7:00 PM Hispanic Bible Study

Friday, March 17

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
PM Social Hall in use

Saturday, March 18

AM-PM Social Hall in use

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT, March 19

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 10AM Mass

Readings for next Sunday, March 19, 2017

Exodus 17:3-7 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I received a really nice surprise this past Monday morning when I woke up. After going through my morning routine, I decided to check my Facebook page. A college friend had posted a long message about his friends who have become pastors or ministers (he listed about 2 dozen of them), and proceeded to thank them for their service. He said that, despite the sacrifices and challenges they encounter in their ministries and the behavior of some who give the ministry a bad name, he acknowledged that the vast majority truly love God and care for the people they serve. My friend saw within those in active ministry what attracts so many to that calling in the first place.

It's not often that pastors receive this kind of spontaneous encouragement (perhaps we all could use more of that, no matter what work we do!), but it was nice to hear. As I reflected on that message throughout the day, I thought about all the various vocations that faithful men and women enter into every day. How many of us recognize the dignity and worth of the calling to which we have been called? How many of us recognize the grace at work within us even in the most mundane or frustrating of moments? Whether it's as a priest or nun, a married couple, or a single person, our Lord works within each of us to make Himself known to the world.

I was in one of our classrooms not too long ago and asked the youth how many of them have ever considered a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Surprisingly (or perhaps, not surprisingly), about half raised their hands. Others acknowledged that they had either never considered it or had reservations about the lifestyle of a priest or nun. As I always try to mention, though, keep the option open until you've actively discerned the path that God has called you to. If it's as a priest or nun, praise be to God! If it's as a married person, praise be to God! If it's as a single person, praise be to God!

My vocation story is not an exciting one – that is, I didn't have a vision of Jesus or hear the voice of God speak to me. In fact, there were many doubts and questions along the way, and my desire when I was younger was to get married and have children. But being open to God's will was the key to being led down the path to the priesthood one step at a time. That openness means putting aside our own desires and considering the possibility of what God may want to do with our life, despite our fears, doubts or feelings of inadequacy. Having the courage to walk the path He has laid out, though, is nothing more than trusting that God will make up for what we lack.

I am certain that Our Lord is calling some of our young people to the priesthood or religious life. But will they respond? Very often young people feel awkward asking questions or don't know how to pursue a vocation (some may feel that friends or family will make fun of them or not support them). Parents have a very important role in opening up the conversation with their sons and daughters and supporting them in whatever path they discern God has chosen for them. Sometimes the invitation is all that's needed to make a true calling blossom. I encourage you to look around and see that God may be calling that young man or woman you see at church on Sunday – don't be afraid to make the invitation to consider the priesthood or religious life. Fr. Adams or I would be more than happy to help them further discern their call, whether to that life or not. Most importantly, pray for an increase in vocations – to priesthood and religious life, to holy married life, and to holy single life.

God bless,
Fr. Chris Shofner
Fr.Chris@hotmail.com

 **Coffee Fellowship**
Please join us after the 9AM Mass on Wednesday, March 15
for refreshments and visiting.

FAITH FORMATION

Totus Tuus Summer Program - July 16th-22nd, 2017

This Catholic Youth program is dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness, and worship. Four college students will join us in a week of teaching the faith and inspiring the young through the Eucharist, Marian devotion, catechetical instruction, vocational discernment, and FUN!

Grades 1-6 will meet Monday through Friday from 9:00am - 2:30pm
Grades 7-12 will meet Sunday through Thursday from 7:30pm–9:45pm
More information and registration forms may be found in this week's bulletin or at the church and office entrances.

We will be looking for parishioner volunteers to host the team that is coming to implement this program. Two men and two women will need to be housed separately in 2 homes that have **no** children under the age of 18. These host families will provide sleeping arrangements, a morning continental breakfast, and possibly snacks. Teams will arrive Saturday afternoon and depart the following Saturday morning. Other families may host the team for supper Sunday – Tuesday evenings between sessions. We will also need volunteers to: help serve beverages, snacks, and lunch; assist in the classrooms; assist with a potluck Weds. evening; and donate snacks and drinks. Please contact Jean if you are interested.

VBS: All Things Bright and Beautiful – Preschool Summer Program
Sunday, July 30 – Thursday, Aug. 3 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. (Snacks will be served.)

Children ages 3 years old - entering Kindergarten will celebrate God's creations during this fun-filled week of Bible stories, music, games, and activities. Registration forms may be found in this week's bulletin or at the church and office entrances. Parishioner volunteers are needed for set up the week prior; preparing and serving snack; and activity leaders and assistants. Please contact Jean if you are interested.

"O Lord, O Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world! Your praise reaches up to the heavens." Psalms 8:1

Jean R. Boothby
Faith Formation Coordinator
jeanrb@frontier.com
[941-962-5168](tel:941-962-5168)

MEALS ON WHEELS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER

1 week open: **May 8-12th - We filled the April dates, but now have these May dates to cover. We appreciate all who participate in this Corporal Act of Mercy!**

If you are able to serve or have questions about what is involved in volunteering for Meals On Wheels, please contact Tara in the Parish Office.



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

| March 4-5, 2017 | St. Mary | St. Henry |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Weekly Budget | \$ 3950.00 | \$ 825.00 |
| Weekly Offering | \$ 3630.85 | \$ 765.00 |
| Plate | \$ 288.00 | \$ 73.25 |
| TOTAL | \$ 3918.85 | \$ 838.25 |
| Diff. from budget | -\$ 31.15 | +\$ 13.25 |
| Building fund | \$ 1,853.00 | |
| Building fund Campaign: | | |
| Pledges: | \$ 258,684.13 | |
| Collected: | \$ 205,224.49 | |

Building loan balance as of February 28, 2017: \$ 29,067.88

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday, March 18, 4:30 PM

Altar Server Carter Sladek
Eucharistic Minister Beth McCabe
Barb Tiede
Lector Barb Kavan
Usher Tim Blaschko
Dick Bradshaw
Paul McCabe
Harold Wondra

Sunday, March 19, 8:00 AM

Altar Server Brendan Germscheid
Eucharistic Minister Sharon Riebel
Lector Patti Germscheid
Ron Germscheid

Sunday, March 19, 10:00 AM

Altar Server Allie Hertaus
Olivia Shouler
Sophie Shouler
Eucharistic Minister Peggy Cooney
Patti Gruetzmacher
Sharon Miller
Tim Traxler
Lector Brian Hoffman
Usher Phil Campbell
Paul Factor
Brad O'Keefe
Brendan O'Keefe

Please contact Gloria gloriagw@frontier.com (or call the parish office) by Monday, March 19 with dates that you are unable to serve for the May 1-August 31, 2017 ministry schedule. Keep in mind Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, & July 4.

It would be very helpful to all when trying to trade or find subs if we had correct contact information on the schedule. **Please check your phone number and email address on the current schedule and if it isn't the best way to reach you, contact us with a number and email address that is** and we will make that change for the next schedule. Thank you!

ST. MARY'S CCW EVENTS



Mark your calendars!

**Spring Hot Dish
and Salad Luncheon
Thursday, March 30
from 11:00 AM—12:30 PM.
Adults \$7, Children \$1.**

We will again be having a craft and bake sale, so please be thinking about what you can make for the sale.



2017 Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

This March we are joining with other faith communities, as well as food shelves, businesses and organizations across Minnesota in the movement to end hunger. For 35 years the March Campaign has, with your help, restocked local food shelves. Please bring nonperishable food or monetary donations to worship service during the month of March so together we can strive to #ENDHUNGER.

Did you know hunger is still a problem in Minnesota?

- 1 in 10 Minnesota families experiences food insecurity.
- In 2015 there were over 3.2 million food shelf visits in Minnesota, half of which were made by children and seniors.
- Last year the March Campaign raised more than 5.2 million pounds of food and \$7.9 million for food shelves around the state.
- 100% of contributions go towards hunger relief.
- Your local food shelf can make each dollar donated stretch further through their access to low-cost products.

“You must actively help the hungry and feed the oppressed. Then your light will dispel the darkness . . .”-Isaiah 58:10

ST. MARY-ST. HENRY PRO-LIFE TEAM

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” -Ephesians 2:10

Since God prepared good works for each of us to do in advance, just think of all of the good work that isn’t being done because the children’s lives are being taken away from them through abortion!

“Therefore, my dear, brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” -1 Corinthians 15:58

The next Pro-Life Meeting will take place on Monday, March 13 at the home of Bob and Monika Rivers.

An Invitation to Parishioners!

ICU Mobile Twin Cities is a ministry of Alpha Women’s Center, which operates a mobile clinic from a state-of-the-art RV providing free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds to any woman in need. You can help support this service by gathering a group of friends and sponsoring a table.

Spring Banquet

Thursday, April 27 at 6PM
The Ridges At Sand Creek

21775 Ridges Drive, Jordan, MN

\$35 Per Person or \$250 For a Table of 8

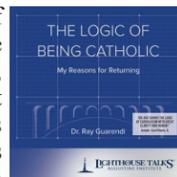
Call Anne Fredrickson at 651-894-2882 for Tickets

Ashlee Rickert, Keynote Speaker, will take you on a journey to her most vulnerable moments as a parent of a child with special needs, and reveal how trusting in God’s plan and purpose allowed her to experience true and unshakable joy. In addition, the banquet will include a catered meal in an elegant setting. All proceeds go towards supporting Alpha Women’s Center’s life-saving ministry. If you are interested in attending, forms are available in the parish office. Deadline to register is April 1, 2017.

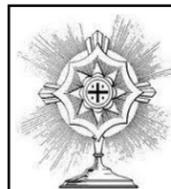
LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA CD OF THE WEEK

“The Logic of Being Catholic: My Reasons for Returning” by Dr. Ray Guarendi

Dr. Ray Guarendi shares his story of how logic led him home to the Catholic Church. He found out that, contrary to his Protestant misunderstandings, the Church is coherent and never contradicts herself. Dr. Ray explains how the answers to his objections to Catholicism were both Biblical and believed by the earliest Christians. Explore the logic that led him to the fullness of truth.



“This may be the most convincing talk I’ve ever heard about the truths of the Catholic faith” ~ Emmi – Arcata, CA



Jesus is infinitely DESERVING OF OUR UNCEASING THANKSGIVING and adoration for all He has done for our salvation.

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor, glory and praise.” (Rev 5:12)

Everyone is invited to stop in at anytime and talk with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. Prayerfully consider whether the Lord is calling you to spend an hour with Him each week.

Any hour is open for an additional adoror. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for an hour, please contact Gloria 357-6939 or Joyce 357-4410.

Catholic Services Appeal puts faith into action for ‘least of these’

If you have not yet given your gift in support of the 17 Collective Ministries of this Archdiocese to the Catholic Services Appeal, please prayerfully consider God’s gifts in your life and consider making a pledge.

Every gift is important; we can see in the example of the poor widow that, while only able to give two small coins, she gives what she can. Jesus’ response to this is, “I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest” (Lk 21:1-4). If we have faith, God can do great things with the little we are able to give. Just think of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves; with just the two fish and five loaves, Jesus fed over 5,000 people. What could God do with your gift?

Please prayerfully consider your gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. Thank you for your continued generosity! For more information, visit the CSAF’s website at www.csafspm.org. For your convenience we have placed in the church entrances a CSAF flyer and envelope. Again this year, if we reach our goal, we will receive back 25% of all funds collected.

Our parish goals this year:
St. Mary \$ 12,117 St. Henry \$ 2,382

Current total contributions:
St. Mary \$ 7,507 (62%) St. Henry \$ 1,940 (81.4%)



YOUTH ACTIVITIES



What is the Dead Theologians Society? It is a Catholic apostolate for high school age teens and college age young adults. Through the Saints of yesterday, the Dead Theologians Society inspires the youth of today to become the saints of tomorrow. Its motto is, “Dead to the World, alive in Christ!” This is inspired by Romans 6:11 where St. Paul tells us to be dead to sin but alive in Christ Jesus. We start with a game/sport/fun. Then we have a teaching on a saint that is related to a teen’s life. Next we eat a meal. Finally we close with night prayer and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Thank you to those who have shown interest and have helped out by either providing a meal or offering time in adoration during the evening. Anyone else that wants to help, let me know. We really want to get people to come and pray in adoration during the evening so that we can bear as much fruit as God wants. God bless you all--Fr James Adams

8-12th graders, join us TODAY, March 12 from 6-9 PM. Please note will be meeting at Nativity Church in Cleveland this month.

St. Mary-St. Henry Youth Group meets Wednesday, April 5 from 7:00-8:15PM at the home of Randy & Stacy Hunt.



This group meets monthly on a Wednesday evening to foster friendship and faith in a fun and Christ-like atmosphere. We play games, enjoy one another’s company, pray, and talk about how our faith intersects our life. Snacks are provided.



Youth in Grades 8-12: Recently, you received information for the **Steubenville Conference** to take place in July. I regret to inform you that the conference sold out before we had a chance to register our youth. I apologize for the circumstances.

I encourage you to take advantage of our exciting opportunity to celebrate the faith this summer known as **TOTUS TUUS**. A group of four college-age Catholics are coming to our parish **July 15-22** and will present the faith in a unique way, with energetic presentations, fun games, prayer and worship. It’s a bit like Vacation Bible School for older youth. This is a phenomenal program that only a handful of parishes in our Archdiocese are able to take advantage of each year. We are blessed to have this opportunity this year. Please consider attending.

Grades 7-12 will meet 7:30-9:45 pm each evening, Sunday-Thursday, July 16-20. Opportunities are also available for high school youth to assist with the day program that focuses on our grade-school youth. More information and registration forms can be found at the parish entrances. Any questions, please contact Jean Boothby at the parish office.

Loyola Catholic School, Mankato

Enrollment information for the 2017-18 school year is available for Preschool to Grade 12. For details, visit the LCS website at <http://www.loyolacatholicschool.org/> and click on “Re-Enrollment Information for 2017-18” on the right side of the page. Questions? Please call 507-388-0600.

Open House for Preschool to Grade 12: Tuesday, March 14, 5:30-7:30 pm each night. 145 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato. *Kindergarten Roundup* will take place on Tuesday, March 14 from 6:00-7:30 pm during the Open House. *Family Tours and Student Shadow Days* can be scheduled at your convenience.



March 25/26 is Global Solidarity Sunday weekend in the archdiocese with the theme: “...I was blind and now I see” (Jn 9:25). This is an opportunity to reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters around the world, letting our light shine for those who still hunger and thirst for God’s mercy, love and healing. On this Sunday, a special collection will be taken for four global priorities of the U.S. Catholic Bishops: Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, as well as humanitarian activities of Catholic Relief Services. Please be as generous as you are able and support your brothers and sisters overseas. For your convenience we have attached a contribution envelope to this weekend’s bulletin. These envelopes can also be found in the church entrances. Please place your donation in the envelope and drop in the collection basket or bring into the parish office. Thank you.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land November 6-17, 2017

~ Visit the holy sites and walk where Jesus walked ~

With Roy Schoeman, popular speaker, writer, and guest on EWTN

Fr. Patrick Barnes (St. Nicholas, Elko Market)

Fr. Chris Shofner (St. Mary & St. Henry, Nativity & Immaculate Conception)

\$3620.00 per person/double occupancy + taxes/surcharges, meals and personal expenses

For more information, contact Tekton Ministries, 9924 Cedar Ridge Drive, Carmel, IN 46032

Phone: 317-574-4191 or Toll-free: 866-905-3787

Email: pilgrimage@tektonministries.org

Register online at: www.tektonministries.org

In the Heart of Mercy Lenten Retreat

When: March 19, 2017, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: Notre Dame Center, 1910 Graham Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116

What: A retreat day for single women ages 18-40 with Sister Janet Mallak, SSND. For more information or to download a flyer, please visit: http://bit.ly/Heart_of_Mercy_St_Paul

RSVP: Please RSVP by March 13, 2107 to S. Stephanie Spandl at sspandl@ssnd.org or 651-278-4498.

"God's Love, Our Response"

A Quiet Day of Prayer and Reflection

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 Offered by Jackie Cesario

Holy Spirit Retreat Center in Janesville, MN

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

\$50.00 includes materials, lunch and snacks

Lunch provided by Frangino's Bistro

For more information or to register

call Jackie at 507-625-2395

Deadline for registration is March 17, 2017

24 Hours for the Lord

Friday, March 24, 12 Noon - Saturday, March 25, 12 Noon

Cathedral of Saint Paul, 239 Selby Ave., St. Paul

Reconciliation will be offered around-the-clock for the faithful. There will also be perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Consider making a pilgrimage to the beautiful Cathedral to receive God's infinite mercy in this awesome sacrament as a wonderful preparation for Easter.

For more details, please visit archSPM.org/24Hours

"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking His mercy." - Pope Francis

Visiting Women's Religious Communities in the Twin Cities Area

When: Saturday, April 1, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

What: Women will have a chance to visit five different religious communities in the Twin Cities area to meet, learn, share meals and pray with Catholic sisters. We will visit local communities of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Visitation Monastery, Franciscan Poor Clares, Sisters of St. Joseph and Benedictine Sisters at St. Paul's Monastery.

For more information or to download a flyer, please visit: <http://www.ssnd.org/events/2016/2/visiting-womens-religious-communities>

RSVP: To register, please contact Sister Jill Underdahl at junderdahl@csjstpaul.org or 651-696-2873 by March 27.

The event is free.

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Marriage Banns

Samantha Jo Collins & Wesley Gene Hoelscher

Baptism Classes

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please contact Father Chris at the Parish Office to reserve your spot and to schedule a Baptism class. This 1 1/2 hour-long class is required for the parents and godparents of the child to be baptized.

Please note that due to the Lenten Season the next scheduled date for baptism will take place after Easter on April 30, 2017.

Please Note: A requirement for Baptism is a copy of the child's birth certificate.

Sacramental Information

Baptism - offered once each month (except during Lent). Contact Fr. Chris for baptism in Spanish & English.

Marriage - contact Fr. Chris at least 6 months in advance. All couples must complete a weekend retreat as well as marriage preparation classes with Fr. Chris.

Confirmation - youth are prepared in grades 8 & 9. For adult confirmation - contact Fr. Chris.

Anointing of the Sick - communal anointing for the Parish once each year in the spring. For private anointing, contact Fr. Chris.

Communion calls for ill or homebound - please contact the Parish Center.



New Members Are Encouraged to Join St. Mary's Choir

St. Mary's Choir is now preparing music for Lent and Easter. New members are always welcome to join us at anytime!

- The choir is family friendly with lots of room for your family members to join you in the choir loft during Masses.
- Don't know what to do for Lent? Instead of giving up something. . . why not join the choir and put in a little extra time praising our Lord twice in song?
- Are you between the ages of 12-99? Then this is the choir for you!
- Do you need to read music? - NO!
- Do you need a sense of humor? - It helps! You'll understand why after you've been around us awhile ☺.
- Are you a shower singer? Never sang with a group before, but like singing Karaoke?

Then Give Choir a Try!

You are asked to make as many practices as possible. We try to meet every Sunday at 9:30AM before Mass to practice new pieces. Additional practice times are as follows:

TODAY, Sunday, March 12 6:00-8:00 pm practice
Tuesday, March 28 6:30-8:00 pm practice
Sunday, March 19 6:00-8:00 pm practice
Sunday, April 2 6:00-8:00 pm practice
Tuesday, April 11 6:30-8:00 pm practice

PASTORAL CARE EVENTS

Mayo Clinic Health System Hospice sponsors: Hope

A grief support group for women who have experienced the death of a loved one. The group is led by widows and offers an opportunity to learn about grief, share experiences and find healing and hope from loss. Drop-ins are welcome.

Tuesdays, 5:15 - 6:15 pm, St John the Baptist Catholic Church John Paul II Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 632 S. Broad St., Mankato
For more information, please call 507-385-2989 or 1-800-327-3721, ext. 2989 (toll free).

Counseling Opportunities at Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities has offices in various locations including Faribault and Burnsville for individual, family or couple counseling, with Spanish-speaking counseling in designated areas. They accept most health insurance providers for counseling services.

For those who do not have insurance, there are reduced and sliding fee options.

They provide services to the separated and divorced and have a full range of adoption and post-adoption services including specialized counseling to individuals and families. Their long-distance counseling intake number is 855-297-9262, Counseling Services 651-647-3186, Separated and Divorced 651-647-3126 and for Adoption Services 651-647-3103.

Area Separated or Divorced Educational/Support Group St. Wenceslaus Church Basement, New Prague

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 7- 8:30 PM. Experience good support as you and your loved ones move through this time in your life. All faiths are welcome. For more information call Deacon Bob Wagner, 952-758-3225 or Mary 952-873-6781.

Tuesday, March 21 - "Being Attentive to the Signs of God's Presence"

"Moving Forward"

Hope United Grief Group Spring Retreat for Loss of Spouse/Significant Other

March 31, 2017—April 2, 2017

(Beginning Friday 7PM through Sunday 11AM)

Interdenominational Retreat - St. Teresa Campus, Winona, MN
Main Speakers with breakout sessions with facilitators that have experienced the loss of a spouse. Keynote Speaker: Corrine Kindschy, Widow and Certified Spiritual Director

For more information contact Marlene Hunt 507-381-1177 or marlenehunt53@gmail.com Facebook—Hope United Grief Group

ST. HENRY NEWS

Church Cleaning - Dianne Traxler and Nickie Traxler are scheduled to clean the church by March 19, 2017.

Prep Day for St. Patrick's Day Irish Stew - Wednesday, March 15th, 1PM at St. Henry Hall. All men who are able to come and help with cutting up vegetables and other preparations are asked to be there. Also, need workers on Thursday starting at 9:30AM. Many hands make for light work, please plan to be there!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day - Thursday, March 16, Irish Stew at the St. Henry Hall. Serving from 11AM-1PM. Sponsored by the St. Henry Catholic Order of Foresters Court #1022



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Fridays During Lent Fish Fry - American Legion Post 108 Le Center Fish Basket Lunch serving from 11AM-1PM for \$6, All You Can Eat Fish Dinner serving from 5PM-7:30PM (or until gone), \$10 adults and children under 12 \$6. Dates serving are March 17, 24, 31, April 7 & 14.

Sunday, March 12, 2017 Men's Breakfast - Enjoy a pre-Saint Patrick's Day Breakfast and bucket raffle from 9-11:30 am, served by the men of the Church of St. Paul, Nicollet. Menu: ham and sausage, scrambled eggs, potatoes, and beverage. Adult \$8, Children ages 6-12 \$3, 5 and under free. Sunday Mass at 8AM. This is a Catholic Order of Foresters Court 812 Matching Grant Fundraiser for Religious Education.

Thursday, March 16, 2017 - Village 55/Plus will meet at Horizon Place, 510 Commerce Drive in LeCenter.

We will be having an antique show-and-tell. Please bring an antique and a story to show and tell about. Bingo, if time permits. Door prizes, lunch and fun for all.

Friday, March 17, 2017 Stephen Hamilton Concert Organist

- at 7:30PM, Our Lady of Good Counsel, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato, MN 507-389-4223. Suggested admission at the door: \$10 General/\$5 Seniors and Students.

Sunday, March 19, 2017 St. Patrick's Day Celebration

-Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Waterville, MN, 4-7PM, Serving Potato Soup and Chili, Wine Tasting and Entertainment, Free-will donation. For more information, contact 507-835-3042

Sunday, March 26, 2017 10th Annual Roman Barten Memorial Breakfast Benefit

- New Prague KC Hall, 411 4th Ave SW, 8AM-1PM. Proceeds to benefit one-year-old Payton Smith. Free Will Donation. Serving pancakes, sausages, and cinnamon rolls. For more information see flyer in church entrances.

Sunday, March 26, 2017 Le Sueur County 4-H Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

- Serving from 8AM-12:30 PM at the 4-H Family Center, Le Center. Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Coffee, Milk, & Orange Juice, Adults \$7, Youth (K-11) \$4, Preschool and Younger - Free. Funds raised for the Le Sueur County 4-H Program.

Friday, March 31, 2017 All You Can Eat Fish Fry

- St. Patrick's Church of Cedar Lake, located 7 miles northeast of New Prague on Hwy 13, 5-8PM, Fish (Deep Fried or Baked Cod Fish), French Fries & Au Gratin Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Beans, Rye Bread & Rolls, Macaroni & Cheese, Bars, & Beverage. Adults \$12, 4-12 years \$5, 3 & Under Free. Take-out meals available.

Monday, April 3 & May 1, 2017 Community Meal

- Join us the First Monday night of the month at 6PM at the United Methodist Church, 87 N Cordova Ave, Le Center. Everyone in the community is invited to share friendship and a meal with us. Transportation will be provided if needed - call 357-4375. Free Will offering will be accepted.

Friday, April 7, 2017 Knights of Columbus Fish Boil

- Church of St. Peter, 1801 West Broadway, St. Peter serving from 5-7:30PM, Boiled Icelandic Pollock, Carrots, Potatoes & Onions, Cherry or Apple Pie. Adults \$13, Youth 6-12 \$5, Preschoolers Free.