SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma — March 18, 2018

Dear parishioners,

I hope that your Lent is going well and that your Lenten penances are leading you closer to God. As I stated in my homily last Sunday, God is love, and he can't be anything else but loving. Sometimes, when we feel guilt for our sins that is God's way of leading us to repentance so that we can be with him in heaven forever. If you haven't gotten your confession in yet, don't wait! Easter is quickly approaching and we want our souls to be as clean as possible so we can triumphantly celebrate the Paschal feast!

You might have noticed that the statues are shrouded today. If you didn't…well…I can refer you to a great optometrist. Today is the 5th Sunday of Lent, and it's this Sunday when the statues and crosses are covered in anticipation of Good Friday. Why do we do that? Well, the rubric in the Roman Missal states: "The practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed, if the episcopal conference decides. The crosses are to be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's passion on Good Friday. Images are to remain covered until the beginning of the Easter vigil."

We use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

The veils also focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images.

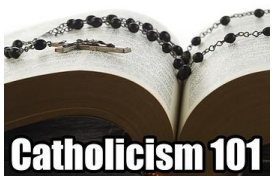
And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

I hope these last two weeks of Lent are profitable for you and yours, and know that you're in my daily prayers! God bless!

In Christ,

Fr. Carson



Please join us for **Catholicism 101** class and discussion, **Wednesday, March 21st in the McGurk Room** from 6:30-8pm. We will be talking about Lent, Penance and Mortification. Please contact Chris Beck at (580) 382-6022 for more information or if you'd like to bring a snack to share.

✝✝✝ Masses For The Week

MONDAY, MARCH 19. 2018
8:00am †Ron Cremers/Grace Nalepa

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018
12:10pm †Stefan Hercyk/Jim & Mary Smith

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018
12:10pm †Sharon Glowacki/Dean & Maria Tate (***Chapel***)

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018
9:30am †Lawrence Penny/Ken & Susan Horinek
(St. Francis of Assisi, Newkirk, OK)
4:00pm †Ron Frick/Marsha Horinek Greer
(Via Christi Village Chapel)

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018
7:00am Spec. Int. Nichole Hughley/Reba Bush
12:10pm Spec. Int. Kendal & Kabeth Roggow/Dick & Mary Catherine Detten

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018
9:00am †People of the Parish
5:00pm †Kay Gray/Michel Gray

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018 – PALM SUNDAY
8:00am †Mildred Steichen/Her Family
9:30am †MASS (St. *Francis Church, Newkirk)*
11:00am †Ben Hein/Oklahoma State Council Knights of Columbus
1:00pm People of the Parish (*Spanish Mass*)
7:00pm †Barbara Mushalko/Fred & Eileen Spellman

Please Pray For those who need prayers: Mary Brown, Jeanette Vassar, Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Maggie Hahn, Dave & Fran Baur, Don Schiltz, Ester Scobee, Jeanne Glaser, Anna Lynn Durr, John Coffman, Patsy Hastings, Marie Bayha, Brooks Ditmore Mary McFarland, Vickie Johnston, Vince Mattione, Reed Alward, Bennie Westerman, Kenneth Jackson, Keith Behara, Cathy McMillan, Shari Beck, Sr. Vickie Dianne Bass, Eileen Spellman, Candy Bowlin, Ginger Younger, Dawn Oscarson, Darrel Neely, Lisa Sloan, Mary Kassen, Keith Goss, Linda Courtney, Karla Rojas, Maribelle Rojas, Vincent Farruggia, Patricia Evans, Kalem Marchesoni, Karen Larimer, George F. Brown, Eva Boberg, Jeanne Specht, Chris Bulling, Sid Kothe, Joe Lechtenberg, Martha Begwin, Genevieve Black, Lucille Fleming, Edmund Young, Carol Wilson, Travis Beekman, Holly Kerr, Rachel Stephenson-Spellman, Robert Brown, Wanda Taglialatela, Genevia Kitchen, Andy Chaney, Larry & Brenda Hudson, Carl Pouland, Palka Wladyslaw, Linda Gray, Connie Smith, Melissa Smith, Christy Vice, Melissa Swords, Pake Clinesmith, Teresa Epperson, Benita Vap, Tommy Gray, Sue Rozell, Ted Thomas, Elaine Gray Calahan, Danna Depperschmidt, Todd Hatchett, Mike Majoros, Gae Meyers, Mary Scott, Carol Johnson, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Mike Cofer, Dawsyn Kirkes, Ramona Coutre, Kathe Jo Johnson, Lois Frisch, Denver Gearhart, Joe Schieber, Sr. Mary Kelly, RSM, Terry Stewart, Judy Waters, Anthony Hull, Dan Marino, Janice Loftis, Mike Gray, Lynda Howard, Joel Rivera, Marian Jeter, Bill Bridges, Jaycee Colclasure, Shelly Behar, Keaton Barroń

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the souls of Loretta Willoughby and for David Hume, grandfather of John Blancuzzi. May God grant them eternal peace.

Weekly Income Report
March 11, 2018

Weekly Collection	$ 15,063.00

Be sure to have children grab an Egg-citing Easter egg after Mass on Easter Sunday! Please take one egg per child.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

The Week Ahead March 19-25, 2018

Monday	5:30pm	**HOLY HOUR**, Chapel
Tuesday	5:30pm	**CONFESSION/ADORATION**, Church
	7:00pm	**RCIA**, McGurk room
Wednesday	7:00am	**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**, The Perk
	12:00pm	**ST. FRANCIS LUNCHEON & CARD PARTY**, Parish Hall
	6:30pm	**CATHOLISM 101**, McGurk Room
Thursday		
Friday	10:30am	**CONFESSION**, Father's Office
	6:00pm	**POVERTY MEAL**, Parish Hall
	7:00pm	**STATIONS of the CROSS**, Church
Saturday	3:30pm	**CONFESSION**, Church
Sunday		**PALM SUNDAY**
	6:00pm	**CONFESSION**, Church

Palm Sunday-Outdoor procession before the 11:00am Mass

St. Mary's Catholic School *OPEN ENROLLMENT* St. Mary's School is holding their open enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year for Pre-school I (3-year olds) through eighth grade. Registration packets and instructions will be sent home with the students and will also be available in the school office. Anyone interested in receiving a registration packet should contact Leanna Rexford at 765-4387.

Elementary Faith Formation

NO EFF 3/21: Have a safe Spring Break

Bible Verse Challenge begins March 28th. Pick your favorite Bible Verse to share with your class!

Adult Faith Formation

Women's Bible Study & Adult Bible Study:

No Bible Study 3/22 (Spring Break) and 3/29 (Holy Week). Have a safe and blessed break!

CRS Rice Bowls - FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

ENCOUNTER ALEFA We encounter Alefa in Malawi, where seeds are helping her family survive an uncertain climate. How can you care for God's creation this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit web page crsricebowl.org for more information.

The city-wide cleanup is Sunday, April 15th. Please call Rick Steichen at 762-1020, if you are interested in signing up to help by forming your own team or just willing to help out our community and represent St. Mary's Catholic Church.

2018 Annual Catholic Appeal "Do All Things for the Glory of God" Thank you to all those who responded generously by making a pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal, helping our parish work toward its goal and joining with all other parishes in our Archdiocese to provide resources for vital ministries. To date **73 parishioners** have donated $33,609.00 towards our parish goal of $89,000.00 (37.76% of our goal). If you have not taken time to participate, please take a moment to find a Pledge Envelope in your pew, complete it and place it in the collection basket at Mass. Thank you for sharing your blessings with others!

The annual **St. Patrick's Day luncheon and game day** will be hosted by St. Francis Guild of St. Mary's Church on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 in the parish hall beginning at noon until 3:30 pm. A variety of cold and hot salads will be served with breadsticks and take outs are available. Door prizes will be given. For tickets ($10) please call Pat Sipe at 580-762-3223 or Pat Lowe at 5820-767-1197.

There will be no RE this Wednesday. Enjoy your spring break!

We will have an open youth room time this Monday from 2-4PM. All 7-12th grade youth are invited to come hang out and check out our new youth room!

Friday Adoration - Open Time Slot: **We have an open time slot on the Friday Adoration schedule from 3:00-3:30 PM.** Please consider signing up and spending time each week with the Lord in Adoration. If you are concerned that you won't be able to attend every week, don't let that keep you from signing up! A substitute call list is available. Please contact Genesta King at 580-718-0838.

Encounter with God's Call weekend The spring **2018 Encounter with God's Call weekend is April 14-16.** The trip allows young men in 11th grade through recent college graduates to visit a seminary, spend time with the archdiocese's college seminarians, and get questions answered about the possibility of studying to become a priest for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Go online to www.okcvocations.com. Call (405) 721-9351 ***OR*** visit with Fr. Carson for more information!

Grounds clean-up day will be next Saturday, March 24th. Please meet at 8:00am in the parking lot.