



Holy Rosary Catholic Church

O F N O R T H M A N K A T O

525 GRANT AVE., NORTH MANKATO, MN 56003 | 507.387.6501 | F: 507.387.7365

Parish Office

507-387-6501 | Fax: 507-387-7365
Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Emergency Number

320-522-2180

Religious Education Office

507-345-6765

Accounting Office

507-345-6828

Email

hros2@hickorytech.net

Website

holyrosarynorthmankato.com

Holy Rosary Parish Staff

Father Paul van de Crommert, *Pastor*
Cindy Gawrych, *Office Administrator*
Jim Theuninck, *Accounting/Administration*

Ministry for Sick & Homebound/ Support Staff

Lorraine Klaseus | 507-388-4932

Calvary Cemetery

Board Representative

Tom Kiffe

Loyola Catholic School

Adam Bemmels, Pre-K—12 Principal

Loyola School Office

507-388-0600 | Fax: 507-388-3081

Bulletin Article Deadline:

Tuesdays at 12:00 pm Noon

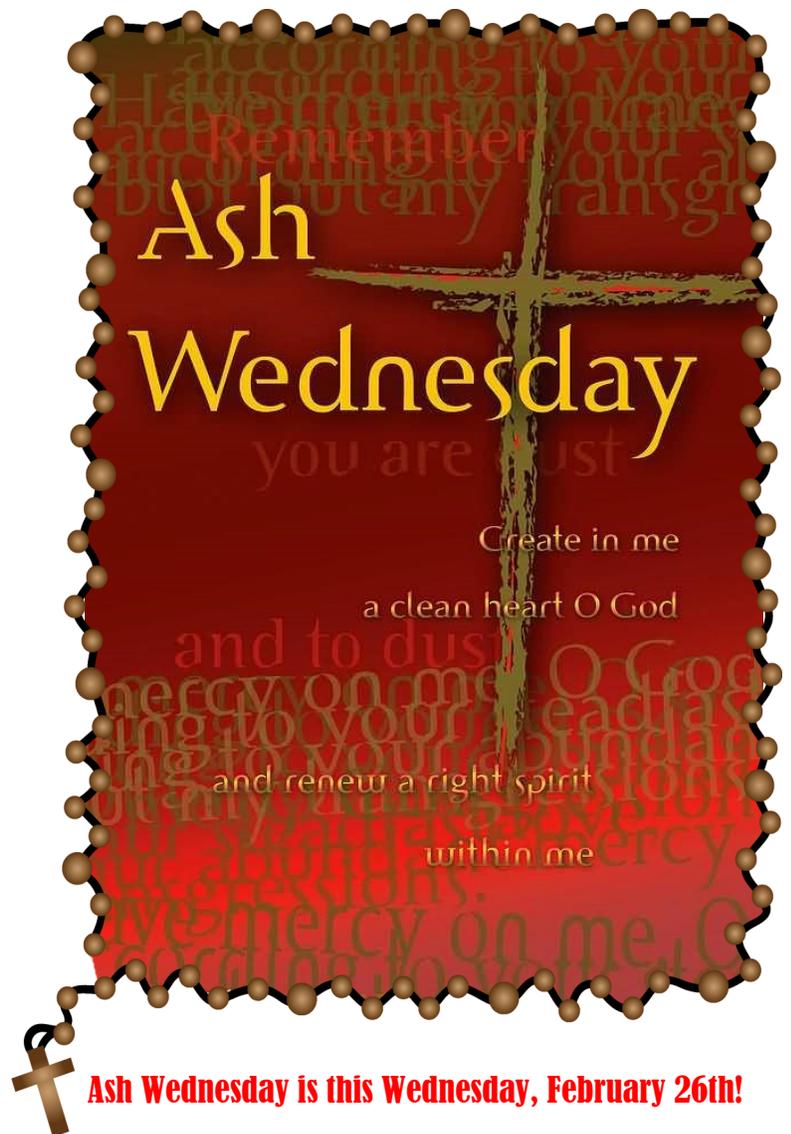
FOR SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT:
[HOLYROSARYNORTHMANKATO.COM/
WORSHIP-SACRAMENTS](http://HOLYROSARYNORTHMANKATO.COM/WORSHIP-SACRAMENTS)



HOLYROSARYNORTHMANKATO

February 23, 2020

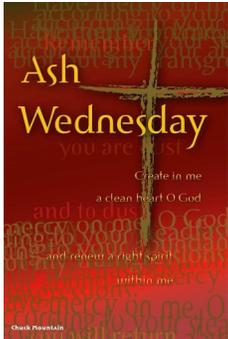
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 26th!

**Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor**

the Quill and the Cloth



Happy Lent! (Well, almost!) This week Wednesday, the Lenten season begins with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. I would like you to see the 40 days of Lent as a kind of “World-Wide Retreat,” for more than a billion souls. For just as in our lives, we need to take in our vehicle for an oil-change, or to vacate a closet or shelf that has become cluttered; so too, at least once a year we need to change or clean out our soul that has become cluttered with so many things of this world, including sin. So, once again as Catholics, we are called to embrace the three-fold mission of Lent of intensifying our prayer life, fasting from our normal diet, and giving more generously to the poor and the needs of the Church, then just to ourselves and our own personal family.

Again this year as pastor, I will be offering 3 Masses on Ash Wednesday, in order for us to begin on the right or “righteous” foot for these next 7 weeks. **The Mass times on Ash Wednesday this year, on February 26th, at Holy Rosary are at 8:30 A.M., 4:30 P.M. and at 7:30 P.M.** (Our strongest attendance in recent years has been at 4:30 P.M. Mass with a nearly-filled church.) **We are asking parents of students in grades 1-8 to bring their students to the Faith Formation classrooms prior to the start of Mass at either 4:15 P.M. or at 7:15 P.M.** The students will be brought over to church and will be seated together as a class or your son/daughter may join you at Mass. **The Stations of the Cross will be every Friday during Lent at 5:30 P.M.** We are also offering Adult Enrichment each Wednesday during Lent that will be held on Wednesday at 6:00 P.M. and will conclude at 7:00 P.M. The study book that will be used is called *Our Catholic Life: The Journey of the Human Heart* and the spiritual topics will focus on:

- The Inborn Hunger for God
- The Response to Revelation is Faith
- Made in God’s Image
- The Human Inclination to Sin
- Mercy, Grace, and Sin
- The Dignity of the Human Person
- The Communion of Saints and the End of Life.

****WE ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGING OUR PARENTS OF OUR FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS TO NOT SIMPLY DROP OFF THEIR SON AND DAUGHTER AND RETURN AN HOUR LATER TO PICK THEM UP, BUT ON THESE***

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT, TO PARK THE CAR AND TO JOIN US AS WELL IN THE LOWER SOCIAL HALL OF CHURCH FOR A TIME OF SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT. WHAT A POWERFUL WITNESS TO OUR CHILDREN WHEN THEY SEE THEIR OWN PARENTS WANTING TO GROW IN THE FAITH AND NOT SIMPLY TELLING THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE THAT THEY MUST LEARN THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST AND HIS HOLY CHURCH! **Pastorally, I have always encouraged those who are free from work responsibilities to prioritize coming to daily Mass during the season of Lent, particularly on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8:30 A.M. when the Mass is being offered in the main church.**

When we approach the great holidays such as Christmas or even Thanksgiving, we anticipate these great days in our human condition perhaps, because we are getting something, either some great gift or a good meal. Maybe we do not anticipate Ash Wednesday or the Lenten season very much, because this season is a call not to get but to give. Most especially, we are asked to give to our God through a more intense time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

May this Lent of this new decade of 2020, make us more dedicated to giving an hour each weekend to that most perfect prayer of the Church as it contains the four forms of prayer, petition, contrition, adoration, and thanksgiving. May we commit ourselves to giving up on those foods we do not need during the Lenten season through fasting. Finally, may we all give a bit more of our time, talent and treasure through almsgiving during the Lenten season, knowing that giving of our stewardship, is not the responsibility of a few, but the responsibility of all. Have a blessed Lenten season. See you at Mass on Wednesday as you receive the mark of ashes, and also attending Mass on Sundays throughout the Lenten season.

Rev. Paul van de Crommert
Pastor



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.”

-St. Matthew 10:8

40 Days of Lent

Lent begins this Wednesday with the celebration of Ash Wednesday on February 26th. Three Masses will be offered at Holy Rosary at 8:30 am, 4:30 pm, and 7:30 pm.

1 Cross
+ 3 Nails
4 Given

The Lenten rules for the Universal Church for 2020 are as follows: Abstinence from meat to be observed by all Roman Catholics 14 years or older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during the Lenten season.

Fasting is also to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Roman Catholics who are 18 years of age, but not yet 60. Those who are bound by fasting may take one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. The special Paschal fast and abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

By the three-fold discipline of fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. All of the faithful should undertake seriously these spiritual practices of PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING in preparation of the great Triduum celebration of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Failure to embrace the three-fold spirit of the Lenten season is still considered a confessable matter in today's Church. However, those who have a medical condition in which fasting may be detrimental to their health, or for the purpose of taking certain medications requiring the consumption of food, are not obligated to keep the Lenten fast. These individuals, however, are then encouraged to take on some other form of penance such as abstaining from certain entertainment as well as other acts of penance or charity. Young children under the age of 14 are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence, however, they are to be educated in the authentic sense of penance and encouraged to perform acts of penance suitable to their age.



Upcoming Parish Events

- **Confirmation Retreat** - Sunday, February 23rd, 1:00 - 5:15 pm, SSND Chapel
- **Ash Wednesday** - Wednesday, February 26th - Mass Times: 8:30 am, 4:30 pm, 7:30 pm
- **CCW Women's Retreat** - Saturday, March 14th, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Church lower hall
- **Confirmation** - Saturday, April 18th, 5:00 pm Mass
- **First Communion** - Sunday, April 19th, 10:00 am Mass
- **Community Meal/Picnic Supper**- Wednesday, April 15th, 5:00 - 6:00 pm, School cafeteria - **Everyone is welcome!**

Stewardship of Gratitude

Our Gifts to God & Holy Rosary

Adult Contributions	\$7,797.00
Electronic Giving	\$1,444.25
Plate Collection	\$298.79
Junior Collection	\$59.49
Fuel Fund Donations	\$280.00
Taste of the Nations Tickets	\$480.00
Easter	\$50.00
.....	
Weekly Offering Total	\$10,409.53
<i>Weekly offering goal is set at \$10,300.00</i>	
Bridging the Gap	\$0.00
Additional Weekly Income	\$60.00
Grand Total *	\$10,469.53
<i>Total weekly stewardship goal is set at \$13,200.00</i>	

Thanks for your gifts of gratitude to God!!!

Stewardship of Gratitude

This week we begin the season of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. We are called to be good stewards of our "time", "talent" and "treasure", by intensifying our time spent in "prayer"; our "talent" by "fasting" from the things that we do not need to eat, drink or do; and to share our "treasure" by giving to those charities and to our local churches that are in need.

This week Wednesday is a spiritual opportunity to "reset" our religious and spiritual life as good stewards. Perhaps in these final days we might begin to reflect on how we can intensify spiritually and materially our efforts to be sacrificial in the spirit of our Savior and His Holy Cross. Although a little early, Happy Lent! Thank you for your gifts!



The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 23: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am - Rosary
 8:00 am - Mass - Juliette Shamp†
 9:30 am - Rosary
 10:00 am - People of Holy Rosary Parish
 11:15 am - Baptism

1:00 - 5:15 pm - Confirmation Retreat - SSND Chapel

Monday, February 24: Weekday

11:00 am - Mass @ SSND - Matthew Wesely†
 6:00 pm - Worship Committee Decorate for Lent

Tuesday, February 25: Weekday

No morning Mass

Wednesday, February 26: Ash Wednesday

8:30 am - Mass - Fuller Family
 1:00 pm - Sewing Group
 4:30 pm - Mass - Florentine Doyle†
 6:00 pm - Adult Choir Practice
 7:30 pm - Mass - Wojciech Gawrych†

Thursday, February 27: Thursday After Ash

Wednesday

8:05 am - Rosary
 8:30 am - Mass - Kathleen LaRoose
 4:30 pm - Loyola Board Meeting (Father attends)

Friday, February 28: Friday After Ash Wednesday

10:15 am - Mass @ Monarch Meadows - John Klaseus†
 5:30 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 29: Saturday After Ash

Wednesday

4:30 pm - Rosary
 5:00 pm - Mass - People of Holy Rosary †

Sunday, March 1: First Sunday of Lent

7:30 am - Rosary
 8:00 am - Mass - Juliette Shamp†
 9:30 am - Rosary
 10:00 am - Tim & Pat Brown Family

Baptism!

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Steven and Jennie Helget on the occasion of the Baptism of their daughter, Rose Lynette Helget.

May the Baptism of this child in the waters of new birth, be the beginning of a life-time relationship with Jesus Christ. Blessings to you today and always!



2020 ECHO FOOD SHELF COLLECTION

- Amount Collected in 2020: \$277.00
- Total Amount Collected: \$18,091.17



Weekend Ministry Schedule February 29th & March 1st

Readers:

5:00 pm Vince Guertin
 8:00 am Michelle Fischer
 10:00 am Chris Cain

Eucharistic Ministers:

5:00 pm Pat Hull, Rick Gruber
 8:00 am Cathy Neve, Gene Brandt
 10:00 am Maxine Davis, Brent Friedrichs

Altar Servers:

5:00 pm Anna Voracek, James Voracek,
 Clare Neideregger(C/B/B)
 8:00 am Quinn Kelly, Lauren Cahalan,
 Gus Nelson (C/B/B)
 10:00 am Emma Bernard, Hannah Linnes,
 Nathan Lang (C/B/B)

Presentation of Gifts:

5:00 pm Pat Hull Family
 8:00 am Arlyce Anderson & Margaret Ayers
 10:00 am Lindsay Kohrs Family

Ushers:

5:00 pm Steve & Barb Enderle, Dan Voracek,
 Bob Meyer (*Head Usher*)
 8:00 am Paul Harguth, Frank Weber, Donna Wenkel,
 Doug Helget (*Head Usher*)
 10:00 am Isaac Kolstad, Steve Kaiser, Teresa &
 Blaine Kolstad (*Head Usher*)

Rosary Leaders:

5:00 pm Steve Enderle
 8:00 am Arlyce Anderson
 10:00 am Donna Wolf

Music Ministry:

5:00 pm Choir/Michael Steimel
 8:00 am Corrine Ort/Lori Christianson
 10:00 am Joe Kunkel/Janelle Campeau

Money Handlers:

5:00 pm Jim Theuninck
 8:00 am Dolores Portz
 10:00 am Curt Stanke

Money Counters:

February 2020: Arlyce Anderson, Bill Fasnacht, Shirleen
 Gulden, Jan Nelson

Bulletin Folders:

February 2020: Mary Bliss, Barb Wegscheid,
 Maxine Davis, Rita Townsend



This Week's Sanctuary Light Intention:

Betty Houck



Ash Wednesday Ministry Schedule February 26th

Readers:

8:30 am	Jim Schorn
4:30 pm	Mary Clare Wyrowski
7:30 pm	Roxi Lang

Eucharistic Ministers:

8:30 am	Darlene Schorn, Arlyce Anderson
4:30 pm	Brenda Voracek, Jim Theuninck
7:30 pm	Jane Younge, Mary Beth Nygaard

Altar Servers:

8:30 am	N/A
4:30 pm	Timothy Cain, James Voracek, Ethan Westermann (C/B/B)
7:30 pm	Danielle Fischer, Carson Fischer, Zach Chelstrom (C/B/B)

Presentation of Gifts:

8:30 am	Gordy & Terri Compton
4:30 pm	Pat & Wanda Hull
7:30 pm	Dan Wingert Family

Ushers:

8:30 am	Arlyce Anderson, Bill Fasnacht, Mary & Gary Zellmer (<i>Head Usher</i>)
4:30 pm	Karen Winters, Tom Rheaume, Roger Steinbach, Mark Weingartz (<i>Head Usher</i>)
7:30 pm	Isaac Kolstad, Blaine & Teresa Kolstad, Doug Helget (<i>Head Usher</i>)

Music Ministry:

8:30 am	Julie Gruber/Michael Steimel
4:30 pm	Kathy Jo Johns/Vicki Galli
7:30 pm	Choir/Michael Steimel

Money Handlers:

8:30 am	<i>Money Handler Needed</i>
4:30 pm	Dolores Portz
7:30 pm	<i>Money Handler Needed</i>



Faith Formation

Ash Wednesday - "Yes Virginia, There is Religion Class on Ash Wednesday!"

Faith Formation classes will be held for grades 1-8th this Wednesday. However, we are giving the families and students the option of attending at 4:15 P.M. or at 7:15 P.M. **Students are asked to report to the school building and then will be brought over to the Ash Wednesday Mass.** When the students arrive in church they may either be seated with their class or with their family. Dismissal will be from the church following Mass. Happy Lent!

Faith Formation students should meet in their classrooms at either at 4:15 P.M. for grades 1-5 or 7:15 P.M. for grades 6-8. If a family can't make it at 4:15 P.M., they are welcome to come at 7:15 P.M. even if they are in grade 1-5. There will be catechists in attendance at both times to take the children over to Mass.



Confirmation Retreat THIS Sunday

The Diocesan required Confirmation Retreat for our Confirmation students of Holy Rosary will be this Sunday beginning at 1:00 P.M. **STUDENTS ARE TO REPORT BY 1:00 P.M. TO THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE SCHOOL SISTERS (AWNING).** All retreatants are asked to bring warm winter clothing including hat and gloves, a Bible and a rosary. The retreat will be completed at 5:15 P.M. Cell phones are not needed and are discouraged from being brought as we will be "fasting" from technology for the afternoon. See you there!

Backpack Food Program

The 4th graders in our Faith Formation program will be volunteering at the Backpack Food Program on March 11th. The Backpack Food Program provides healthy and easy to make snacks and meals over weekends and school breaks for kids who might not otherwise have enough to eat at home. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please bring your financial gift (no food is needed!) to the parish office, or put it into the weekly collection in an envelope marked "Backpack Food Program." Thank you!



Altar Server Post-Valentine's Day Party - Thank you!

The vast majority of our servers were in attendance at our Altar Server Party this past Wednesday evening. The servers enjoyed a variety of pizzas, pop and treats along with a gift card to Culver's in appreciation for their faithfulness throughout the year. We are very blessed to have so many committed and reverent servers! Thank you guys and gals!!!

Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Prayers and support for all of our sick and injured of Holy Rosary Parish

Our prayers go out to all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!

For Those Who Are Ill & Special Needs

Laurice Telshaw, Arnie & Eileen Wadekamper, Mary Kelly, Molly Viehweg, Mary McVicker, Steve Drummer, Ruth Fitterer, Steve Fitterer, Brandon Winters, Nancy Eilbert, Dan Telshaw, Charles Wesely, Craig Van Loy, Delores Haubrich, Dave Neubert, Joe Galli, Kent Durenburger, Mark Spangler, Betty Goettlicher, Agnes Morgan, Tim Brown, Ann Giroux

Home Visitation: If you wish to have yourself or a loved one receive the sacraments, Holy Communion or a personal pastoral visit, please call our coordinator, Lorraine Klaseus at 507-388-4932

For Our Families

Monday	Janice Muellerleile
Tuesday	Jeff & Karla Maurer
Wednesday	Mario & Nena Aquino
Thursday	Rae Jean Peterson
Friday	David & Karen Vershelde
Saturday	Steven & Vicki Foix
Sunday	Mary Curtis



For Those in the Military

Nick Blace	Matt McGraw	William Backes
Jared Hiniker	Christopher Schmidt	Ben Barsness
Dana Schiller	Anna Drummer	Timothy Eick
Mark Hansen		

Prayer Chain



If you have a short term prayer request or prayer of thanksgiving for our prayer chain to pray for, please call Teresa Kolstad at 327-9810.

This Week's Readings

Mon:	Jas 3:13-18/Mk 9:14-29 (341)
Tues:	Jas 4:1-10/Mk 9:30-37 (342)
Weds:	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 (219) Pss IV
Thurs:	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25 (220)
Fri:	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15 (221)
Sat:	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32 (222)
Sun:	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11 (22) Pss I



Preschool Enrollment for 20-21 is OPEN now, please see our website for more information. Have your student be a Crusader for a Day on March 13th. Kindergarten Round-up is on March 19th at 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm. Enrollment is always open at Loyola.

Contact acasteel@loyolacatholic.school.org or 507-388-0615 for more information.

Loyola will soon be offering bus service to some of our students outside of the District 77 bus routes. We are seeking a shuttle driver for the morning route, with the potential of adding shifts. For more information, please contact Trudi Clements, 507-388-0606.

THANK YOU to all who send us Box Tops for Education, Hy-Vee receipts. Loyola no longer processes Campbell's soup labels.

YOUR PARISH SUPPORT MAKES ALL WE DO, LEARN, AND CELEBRATE AT LOYOLA POSSIBLE.

Leading through Faith, Academic Excellence, and Service.

Our Catholic Life: The Journey of the Human Heart



A Lenten faith sharing group will meet Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Sign up and pick up your book after Ash Wednesday Masses. Refreshments will be provided. Pray, Read, Share and grow in Faith and Knowledge and Fellowship this Lent!

Music On The Hill



Here are the upcoming performers coming to Good Council. All concerts are in the chapel unless otherwise noted.

- Dr. Jacob Benda Organ Concert, on Friday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m.
- "Music on the Hill" Sunday, March 22, 2:00 p.m.
- Nathan Madson Senior Organ Recital (student at Bethany Lutheran College), March 30, 7:00 p.m.
- Musicorum Chamber Choir, Saturday, April 25, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
- A Fellowship of Musical Souls, choral group, May 16, 2020, 7:00 p.m.



Stepping Up in Faith

Collected this week:	\$0.00
Received to date:	\$109,292.22
Goal:	\$175,000.00

The other day as I drove past our Church, I was feeling sorry for myself that I am the pastor of a church that looks so derelict. The other side of me, reminded me that it was progress and as soon as the weather warms up, the work will be finished and it will all be worth the long wait. I also reminded myself that while I lived in Italy, all of the major churches in Rome were constantly under scaffolding and canvas as they were continually under repair. Just like the people, the pastor needs to be patient. In pledges and gifts, a portion of this project has been funded. I had been prepared at the start of the project to take parish reserves to see this project through. Your support has been wonderful and I have not been required to take parish reserves at this time. Please be assured that when the work is all completed, you will be very pleased with how practical and "perfect" it will look. As always, thank you for your gifts!



Pasta with the Padres is Coming!

The 13th Annual "Pasta with the Padres" fund-raiser for ECHO

Food Shelf, sponsored by the four Mankato area Catholic Churches, will be held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church on Sunday, March 8th from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Sign-up sheets to volunteer are in the church entries and we need lots of volunteers to make it a success. Joe Kunkel and Bully Pulpit will provide entertainment and the spaghetti will be delicious. Sign up to help and then plan to attend. It's lots of fun!



Lent is a Time for Liturgies

In my years as pastor, I have always strongly encouraged and invited people to make the 40 days of Lent more than just another 40 days in their life but truly 40 days of conversion by intensifying their prayer, their fasting and their almsgiving. Who of us can say that they pray enough or pray to much? What does the Church teach is the most "perfect" prayer? It is the Mass as all the elements of prayer exist in the Mass from prayers of petition to contrition, from thanksgiving and adoration.

As we are drawing ever closer to our last days on this earth and to (hopefully) the beginning of eternity with the Almighty; wouldn't it be wonderful spiritually, if it was said of us that we were devoted to the Holy Eucharist in not only that we came during the weekend out of *obligation*, but that we came during the week out of *oblation* and love for the Lord. I know, you have a hard time getting up in the morning and get going! I know you have other plans and commitments! I also know that it would be a little bit of a sacrifice to get up, get going, and get to Mass, at least on Mondays Thursdays and Fridays when the Mass is being offered here at Holy Rosary on a normal week. It would not be a sacrifice every morning, just 3 mornings a week. That sacrifice does not sound nearly as intense as carrying a cross and suffering and dying for sinners of the world, past, present and future. Who knows, maybe you might come to realize how much you need the Lord in His Eucharistic presence not just during Lent, but throughout the entire year! Happy Lent!

Birthright Raffle

It is again time for the Knights of Columbus to co-sponsor its annual Benefit for Birthright Ticket Raffle. Tickets are available at the parish office or by calling David Mutch at 387-5406. The cost of a book of 6 tickets is \$6.00. There are 5 prizes ranging in value from \$50.00-\$250.00.



6th Annual BRUNCH with the BISHOP

A BENEFIT FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Make a difference for Catholic families and Catholic education.



Join Bishop John LeVoi for brunch!

Sunday, March 22, 2020 10:45 am
following 9:45 am Mass
Church of St. Mary, 636 1st Avenue N, Sleepy Eye

No reservations needed.
Support the endowments with your free will offering.

**Finance Council Meeting Minutes
Holy Rosary Catholic Church
February 3, 2020**

The Holy Rosary Finance Council convened on Monday, February 3rd, 2020. Following the opening prayer, the past minutes of November 4th, were reviewed and approved as read, and had been published in the parish bulletin at an earlier time. The majority of the Finance Council members were in attendance. There were no additional items added to the February 3rd, agenda that was presented to the members.

Pastor's Comments

Father reported that our last Finance Council meeting was almost exactly 3 months ago. The income has been keeping up with the expenses. The full transfer of investments from Eide Bailey to Northwestern Mutual has been completed since our last meeting. The Christmas collection exceeded last year's collection. The final tallies are in from the Fall Festival. This main area of stewardship was noticeably up from the previous year by \$2,087.00. The total gross income of the Fall Festival, "November Fest" came to \$30,948.03. The final profit for November Fest 2019, came to \$19,451.00. A special word of thanks to the dedicated leadership as well as the many volunteers who made the event possible.

The parish has completed the payments for the Diocese of New Ulm as of January for the Fiscal Year of 2019-2020, totaling \$78,875.71. Our next full payment for the Diocesan United Fund will now be due in the new Fiscal Year of 2020-2021 at the close of July 2020. (*However, the parish is being required to pay an additional \$10,000.00 for the Diocese's legal issues that will be most likely coming due at the close of February 2020.*) The parish has also completed our stewardship commitment to our Area Catholic School for the year in the amount of \$179,571.97. Our next scheduled payment will also be at the start of the new Fiscal Year of 2020-2021. The parish has also just completed all the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 property insurance from Catholic Mutual of Omaha, our insurance provider totaling \$17,387.00. The Diocesan Ministry Appeal (*which is a soft goal*) has reached 65% through pledges and gifts. This percentage is up 13% from a year ago. Of all the parishes of the Diocese, the amount that we have contributed to the DMA is \$21,660.00, which is in the top 10% of contributions to the Diocese. Following the remaining *third appeal* in this Fiscal Year of 2019-2020 from New Ulm in the amount of \$10,000.00, we will have contributed to the Diocese of New Ulm in this Fiscal Year of 2019-2020 alone, a total of \$110,410.71. Combined contributions to the area Catholic School and the Diocesan Appeal totaled \$ 290,107.68 this year, just a bit under \$300,000.00.

These amounts of stewardship are a great sacrifice made on the part of some very generous people of Holy Rosary. Father reported that since his arrival, 6 years ago in June, no principal, dividends, or interest has been taken out of the parish reserves. Presently, the Endowment Fund that was established in April of 2017, has grown over the past two and a half years from zero to \$229,700.80. Father expressed his public thanks to the consistent giving of the people week in and week out, year in and

year out.

Overall, because the parish has not spent any monies this fiscal year on anything except our outside commitments and the basic parish expenses of salaries, utilities and repairs, as well as staff reductions; the parish has been able to keep our expenses down. It is the hope that in the final quarter of this Fiscal Year, we can build up our parish reserves through our checking account to complete the exterior repairs of our church and proceed with the interior repairs of both the main level and the lower level of the church. The interior of our church still needs a great deal of work as the structure is passing its 70th year. We are nearly fully funded for the exterior project of the main entrance of the church through gifts and pledges so that no reserves will need to be taken to complete the project.

Northwestern Mutual Report: There was no representative from Northwestern Mutual present to give a report of the parish investments at this time.

Business: Church Steps: "Stepping UP in Faith": The financial progress on the parish project "Stepping UP in Faith," continues on the financial end, although the actual finishing work and completion of the project is still some time out due to the winter weather. At the last Finance Council meeting, the parish had taken in a total \$83,217.22 in this designated account. Since that time, the revenue for this fund has continued to increase by an additional \$84,959.04, bringing the total amount to \$168,176.26 in pledges and gifts. There are additional pledges being made, so it appears at this time that the parish is less than \$25,000.00 in need to complete the total project by spring. A payout to WEB of \$68,000.00 has been made at this time. There appears to be great support for this project as evidenced by the faithful stewardship. A good deal of work has been completed under the tents that are still present in the front of the church, with most of the brick work completed. The workmanship has been excellent. Father is anticipating that the work would be completed on or before Holy Week and Easter. The weather will play a significant factor in the completion of this project. **Parish Financial Audit:** The parish was informed several months back by the Diocese of New Ulm that we were "randomly" selected for another parish audit. The last audit had taken place more than five years ago with the change of pastors. At the time of the previous audit, many recommendations/requirements were made to implement sound stewardship transactions for Holy Rosary parish. In this past five years, Father and Jim have worked on implementing all of the requests from Clifton-Larson-Allen as well as Diocesan procedures for sound business practices. Jim reviewed the report with the Finance Council. Jim had spoken with Tom Holzer, the Diocesan Director of Finances and also the Director of the Diocesan staff following the reception of the final report. Tom credited the parish on a fine report and that the few recommendations that were made are standard practice when an audit is done in that "*auditors will always find something*" to address. However, Mr. Holzer indicated to Jim by telephone that there was nothing to be concerned about. There are some small recommendations that have come about since the last audit that would include the implementation of a policy handbook for employees that is being required of all parishes with staff in the

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Meeting minutes continued...

Diocese of New Ulm. There was also a concern that there should be a significant rotation of volunteers for the depositing of the parish collections and those who count the collections on Mondays at the bank. All in all, both the pastor and administrator can be pleased that the parish received flying colors and that the stewardship of Holy Rosary parish is in good order at this time. **Interior Church Repairs:** At the last Finance Council meeting, a discussion was held involving the parish social hall and the parish kitchen. At the last meeting, it was agreed that there are multiple issues in the lower hall ranging from the appliances, water issues, bathroom accessibility/handicap friendly, etc. The last time the social hall was addressed to any degree was back in the 1980's. At that time, the Knights of Columbus had been major donors for installing the suspended ceiling and doing other additional repairs. Father shared with the committee that upon further reflection, while he is in agreement and support that the social hall and kitchen needs to be addressed in the near future; there are many areas in our main worship space that also need a great deal of attention. Father stated that the church proper, when compared to the social hall, is used on a daily basis, where the lower hall has periods of time where it is used very little, or not at all. Father expressed that there are so many areas of the church proper that have not been addressed since the structure was built in 1950, from the lighting on the ceiling to the flooring under the pews. The council concurred that the church, in relation to the other churches in Mankato, is in need of basic repairs and redecorating.

Father has spoken with several companies and some have reviewed the interior of the church. The flooring under the pews is still asbestos and would be very costly to remove. Father proposed to encapsulate the floor through a thin plywood layer that would be screwed over the top and then installing a poured resin-like floor from a firm here in Mankato. The new floor (upon completion), would no longer need to be waxed or sealed, but only be regularly washed. The floor would also have a texture so as to avoid slips and falls. The cost would be in excess of \$30,000.00. In order to re-do the floors under the pews (that are almost three-quarter-of a century old), the pews would need to be removed. The pews themselves were refinished some 15 years ago, but the varnish that was applied was not of a commercial grade. There are many scratches and areas of damage on the pews and the pews when they were re-stained, in many places were stained unevenly. There are also pews that are broken as well as numerous kneelers that need to be addressed. A firm from the twin Cities, Henning Restoration, submitted a bid. Concerns have also been expressed to Father that there is not sufficient leg room or kneeling room because the pews are so close together. Father is proposing to remove 4 pew on either side, which will add about 3 inches of space, changing the feel of the space between pews from "coach" to "business class." The bid that Father presented to the council would also include the cleaning of all of the interior stone that has not been cleaned since the church was built. Many of the stone pillars are very soiled from decades of use as well as soot from candles and general use. There has also been a great deal of leakage in various areas that has discolored the stone, especially in the

areas around the Blessed Mother's shrine. There are also lower level stones that are loose, as well as some stones where the mortar is missing. There was some mortar work done several years ago, but the mortar was not properly cleaned from the stone and this also would be removed, lightening the stone as it would have looked originally in 1950. (Father stated that Father Peter had indicated this was a project that he had wanted to do, but was not able to do so while serving at Holy Rosary.) The cost to clean the stone with an acid wash and repair the damage would be around \$12,000.00. The cost to restore the pews would be around \$30,000.00 and include touching up the lower level woodwork, which is in relatively good condition. There is additional plaster work that needs to be done in the main church that will done in the near future, particularly in the cry room and the sacristy where there had been roof leaks. A committee member spoke about the lighting in church as being insufficient. Father noted that the lights are turned on and off through flipping the circuit breakers. This also needs a major upgrade. The Worship Committee recommended some permanent artwork so as to avoid the continual work and expense of banners and decorations. Father shared with the Finance Council a computer rendering of how the sanctuary could appear when completed. The banners would complement the present mural that had been restored just a short time ago. The intention is make the additional artwork look as if it had always been in the church. The consensus of the committee was favorable for these two additional art pieces, which like the mural, would be painted on canvas and done by the same artist who painted the mural at the Newman Center, and who also restored our mural at Holy Rosary. The cost of this work would be around \$10,000.00. It is hoped that since this artist has a tight schedule, he might be able to do the work during the Lenten season in 2020. Additionally, some additional work would be done to the ceiling, improvements made to the overall lighting in the church, and upgrades would be made to the sacristy lighting, cabinetry and plumbing. Eventually, the entire church would be repainted to a warmer color, as well as carpeted, as the carpeting is nearing 25 years old and is worn out. The members asked Father what the project might cost (ball-park figure). At this time Father anticipated at least \$250,000.00. Father would see the financing through both the parish reserves as well as any parishioners who would like to support the project. Father stated that actually the church is not completed. For example, the side shrines in the back were left with blank walls, while the front shrines were completed. The church for many years, did not have stained glass windows and it was not until the 1980's that the church was finally paid off. ***With the completion of the main church, the work on the lower level would begin with upgrading the restrooms, the kitchen and social hall. It was suggested to the Finance Council that the targeted date of completion of the entire church, upper and lower level, would be by 2025, in anticipation of the parish's 100th anniversary. Most parishes have a large celebration on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary and the Bishop of the Diocese is often present and presides at such an event. Father concluded that some of the areas that would be decorated, such as the shrines, would be memorialized as a way to generate revenue. Father had***

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Meeting minutes continued...

anticipated subsidizing the cost of the front entrance through parish monies by at least 50%. However, with the tremendous support for this most practical project, we are approaching 95% funded. Father is hoping that when the displays and computer renderings are placed on display, people will also exhibit the same enthusiasm as was shown through all of the exterior work on the church over the past five years. (Even though the church roof on the 1925 school was replaced last summer, the parish did not have to dip in reserves but was able to cover the cost through the Fiscal Year monies of 2018-2019.) More discussion of this project will take place with the Worship Committee as well as the Pastoral and Finance Council in the near future. The work will be a great addition to our parish plant and our weekly worship. **Taste of the Nations:** The second to last fundraiser for the Fiscal Year of 2019-2020 is progressing along nicely. Jim reported that things are organized, but tickets still need to be sold. He has the confidence that the event will be another great success. (**The final result was that "Taste of the Nations" was sold out days before February 15th.*) Jim thanked all who had helped so far for the success of this FUN event. The proceeds will go for church repairs and updates. **Vacation Raffle:** **The annual Vacation Raffle and the final fundraiser is just around the corner. The date has been set for Monday, May 18th, 2020.** Again, the proceeds will go for the ongoing repairs and updates to the church. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with prayer. The next scheduled Finance Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 4th, 2020.



Diaper Drive - THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generosity for the recent CCW Diaper Drive. The following is a letter from a client of Options Mankato--

"I was absolutely clueless and so unprepared until someone helped me get in touch with Options. I am beyond grateful for everything they have done for me and my family. I started going when I was 8 weeks and they welcomed me with so much warmth and positivity that I would leave so excited for my journey. I started just weekly but then went every day I could. My fiancé went with me almost every time so we were able to learn together and earn as many credits(1 for each of us) as we could which rewarded us with a car seat, a playpen, bouncers, clothes, blankets and many more items we have needed beginning our journey. We were treated like family and welcomed with open arms and happy faces every time we would come. We would always leave smiling and determined to use what we learned to be the best parents we could be. Thanks to the diapers you earn per visit, we were able to use them for his first 2 months without buying any. All new moms and dads should know about this wonderful program and I thank everyone for the time, knowledge and support they provide at options. Everything I know I learned through them! Thank you Options and everyone for the donations to make this such a helpful program to so many families!"

New - Evangelization Committee



Presently, I am in pastoral discussions to implement a new committee at Holy Rosary that will be focused on evangelization. Presently, there are several members of the parish that have stepped forward on this new adventure to simply visit and connect with members of our parish family. Presently, our parish does an outstanding job visiting the sick, infirm and homebound of our parish. We also visit the homes of new parishioners when they join Holy Rosary. But who visits the parishioners that have been members for many years? There are many members of our parish who have never been called or visited for years or decades. And while it is not possible to for the pastor to visit more than 800 homes; recall that Jesus sent out His disciples two by two to proclaim the Good News of salvation.

We will be having an initial meeting in the near future but are seeking people that would be willing to go out and to visit those from our parish who are young or young at heart; those who may be active or inactive in order to visit and to pray with them, visit with them and to make them feel ever more included in our Holy Rosary family. We are hoping that those who join this committee would visit one or two homes a month. This would come to about 15-20 households a year. We would have some 3-4 meetings a year to pray, review the visits and to address the progress of this committee. Lent is a wonderful time to step out of our comfort zone and to something more to build up the Mystical Body of Christ in our own backyard of North Mankato and Holy Rosary. If you are possibly interested please call either Darlene Schorn at 507-779-6751 or the Parish Office at 507-387-6501. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst."



Accompanist Needed!

Do you play piano, or know someone who does? Holy Rosary is in need of another person (or two) to play piano for our song leaders during Mass. It would be a few times per month. **This is a PAID position!** We can train someone on when to play the Mass parts, etc. Please call the parish office at 387-6501 for more information.

Fuel Fund

Last year the parish took in a total of \$13,193.00 to supplement our heat bill, or about 58% of the total cost. So far this year in 2019-2020, \$4,506.50 has been spent in heating our facility of Holy Rosary. *(*Please note that we still have cold, wintery months ahead in the remainder of February and March)* Even if you do not have an envelope from the bulletin, you are welcome to simply take a blank envelope along with your check or to simply write into the memo of your check "Fuel Fund", so that it will be counted towards this collection. Thank you for your support in this very practical area of stewardship.



Knights of Columbus Fish Dinners

Please see the schedule of the Fish Dinners offered by the Catholic Churches in Mankato. The Fish Dinner will be at Holy Rosary on Friday, April 3rd. Hope you can make it for a delicious dinner!



New Ulm Figure Skating Club Ice Show

The New Ulm Figure Skating Club presents, "Legends and Divas," on Saturday, February 29th at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm; and Sunday March 1st at 1:00 pm at the New Ulm Civic Center. Tickets are \$5.00 for students and \$10.00 for adults, and are available at the door or at the New Ulm Hy-Vee.

COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

CSB/SJU Chamber Choir Concert

St. John the Baptist Church will be hosting the Chamber Choir of St. Benedict/St. John's on Sunday, March 1st at 3:00 pm. The concert will feature a selection of sacred and secular music. Admission is free, but a free will donation would be welcomed. Host families are also needed to welcome a member of the choir for Sunday night, and drop them off at the church Monday morning. If you are willing to host a member of the choir, please contact Jamie Benzmilller at 507-995-4001.

K. of C. Council #5551 News

March 12 - Planning Meeting
March 19 - Blood Drive



Taste of the Nations - Thank You!

Last Saturday was a wonderful evening of fellowship and fine food. The "Taste of the Nations" is really an "International Potluck"! Those who came to this event were serious eaters as so much food was served from our 19 vendors, from all around the world! *(*Even the Dutch booth was cleared out of all of its food and there were no left-overs! Yea!)* Congratulations to Chef Arma for winning the People's Choice award with her delicious Pilipino spring rolls! They were delicious! We were sold out of tickets well before the actual event of some 150 tickets. **The final net profit came to \$2,668.87!** These monies will go towards the upcoming repairs we are planning for the church. *(*In the coming days we will be doing some plastering in the Cry Room, that we are renaming "The Blessed Mother's Room and/or The Rosary Chapel.)* Thank you again to everyone who organized, volunteered or purchased tickets for this annual event. We will see you again next year as we eat our way around the world! Yum!



Women's Lenten Retreat

The Holy Rosary Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring a Women's Retreat on **Saturday, March 14th**, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Holy Rosary Catholic Church. "Lord, teach us to pray...." Luke 11:1. Presenter Jackie Cesario invites you to set aside this day to nurture your prayer life and deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. This will be a quiet day of prayer and reflection where you will be given opportunities to experience different methods of prayer. **Bring your bible and a journal.** There will be a \$5.00 donation for lunch. Please RSVP by March 6th to the Parish Office at 387-6501.



Reflecting on the Paschal Mystery : The 40 Days of Lent

Come apart for a while; enter more fully into our Lenten Journey and be nourished for this time. On Saturday, February 29th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm the School Sisters or Notre Dame and offering a Lenten time of prayer and reflection. The event will be held at Sacred Space, Our Lady of Good Counsel Campus, 170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato. Fee: \$40.00, includes lunch. Don't let financial constraints keep you away. Offer what you can. Please register by February 25th: mjwelter@ssndcp.org or 507-389-4266.