



The Fifth Sunday of Lent — March 21, 2021
 SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES
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 FATHER GARY BENZ-PASTOR
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 VICTOR DVORAK -DEACON



Visit us at: www.stmarychurchnewengland.com



“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” As our farmers prepare for planting their spring crops, they look forward to the life and growth of fields of wheat, canola, corn, etc. Ironically, for this new life, there must first be a death. During germination, a seed must “die”, or sacrifice itself, to become a flourishing plant. To us with rural roots, we know exactly what Jesus is telling us: die so as to grow and flourish. Before our final end (death and the cessation of life as we know it), we will have died many “deaths” so as to grow in virtue and holiness. Not responding with revenge when we have every right to do so is a death, and it leads to *love*. Not becoming irritated by people’s annoying habits or mannerisms is a death, and it leads to *patience*. Not being consumed by our own needs and concerns is a death, and it leads to *compassion*. As the death of Jesus was followed by Resurrection, so embrace every dying process in life, because something beautiful will follow. Like Saint Paul, only the devout Christian can see death as gain (cf. Philippians 1:21).

Familiaris Consortio (cont.)

39. The Synod too, taking up and developing the indications of the Council, presented the educational mission of the Christian family as a true ministry through which the Gospel is transmitted and radiated, so that family life itself becomes an itinerary of faith and in some way a Christian initiation and a school of following Christ. Within a family that is aware of this gift, as Pope Paul VI wrote, “all the members evangelize and are evangelized.”



Covid continues its attack on Holy Week: Part II. With Holy Week around the corner, the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments of the Vatican has made some changes for the liturgies of Holy Week. They are unfortunate, but at least this year, we are able to celebrate Holy Week in our parishes. Palm Sunday: The parishioners take palms at the back of church and go to their pews. There is no procession of the faithful with palms into or through the church. Celebration of the Lord’s Supper (Holy Thursday): The Washing of the Feet is not to be done and with the procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Reposition, it is to be the priest, deacon, and altar servers alone in the procession. Good Friday: With the Veneration of the Cross, the faithful may not kiss or touch the Cross, but must only bow before it. Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday): There is no lighting of the Easter fire and no distribution of candles to the faithful. Easter Sunday: No changes, except for one . . . the faithful are mandated, under threat of excommunication, to give their Cadbury Crème Easter Eggs to the parish priest. Hey . . .don’t blame me; I don’t make up the rules.

Flower power. A reminder that in the back of your parish church, you will find yellow envelopes for a donation to help defray the cost of the flowers for Easter Sunday. Please list the names of individuals, both living and deceased, in whose memory you wish to donate these flowers and they will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Thank you for your role in making our church sanctuaries beautiful for Easter Sunday, the celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection.



Back to the good old days. At Saint Elizabeth’s, we are back to the Community Room for parish fellowships and the first one will be on **Sunday, March 28th**. Its good to be back home and we thank the KC Club for hosting parish fellowships while we were in exile. At Saint Mary’s, it would be great to start up a monthly parish fellowship again. If a parish organization would be willing to take on this effort, please contact Fr. Gary as well. Thank you!

A point to ponder: *You can be comfortable or courageous, but not both.*

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, March 22nd

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, March 23rd

7:30 AM SM—+Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—+Clarence & +Viola Martin by Fran & Cindy Martin

Wednesday, March 24th

7:00 PM SM—Rosary, Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

Living & deceased relatives of +Joseph & +Gertrude Schwartzbauer

Thursday, March 25th

7:30 AM SM—+Joyce Rettinger by family

Friday, March 26th

7:30 AM SM—+Joan Binstock by Mary Neil

12:00 PM—3:00 PM SM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, March 27th

8:30 AM SM—+Chuck Brusich by Leo Brusich

5:00 PM SM—+Cecelia Jung by Martina Stagl

Sunday, March 28th—Palm Sunday

8:30 AM SE—+Clarence & +Viola Martin by Fran & Cindy Martin

10:30 AM SM—Pro Populo



**Confessions offered 15 minutes before each daily Mass and 30 minutes before Saturday vigil Mass at St. Mary's.*

Marriage: Contact Pastor at least nine months prior to your anticipated wedding date.

Baptism: Pre-Baptism preparation session required.

Anointing of the Sick: By request.

Please Keep in Your Prayers: Fr. Jason Lefor, John Urlacher, Rod Crane, Katy Kautzman, Bob Barnes, Bart Rohan, Cooper Craig, Juanita Koppinger, Lea Madler, Derek Benz, Kevin Schaefer, Gene Wert, Theresa Tarpo, Todd Leach, JoAnn Urlacher, Zane Sabo, Brad Novak, Josie Steier, Katie Stolz, Bonnie Benz, Nate Hernandez, Andy Prokop, Duane Grundhauser, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Cindy Martin, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Yvonne Fettig, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl

Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents: John Urlacher, Florence Frank, Marilyn Wert, Gilbert Buzalsky, Mary Hanson, Joe & Aggie Wandler, Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Donnela Koppinger, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick

Our Deceased Loved Ones: +Willard Beaudoin, +Marilyn Jeske, +Marvin Wert, +Archie Jalbert, +Frank Kilwein, +Emma Magelky, +Loretta Jung, +Kathy Kaufman, +Leona Roll, +Ruth Buzalsky, +Jim Schneider, +Eugene Heidt, +Richard Jambor, +Chuck Brusich, +Joan Binstock, +Kevin Jacobs, +Betty Biel, +Wenzel Roller, +Shawn Flaherty, +Duane Dobitz, +Dan Frank, +Cecelia Jung, +Benedict Benz, +Kenneth Stagl, +Florentine Bohlman, +Josie Heidt, +Dale Schoeder, +Ed Pechtl, +Magdalen Schorsch, +Dale Reindel, +Adam Schulz, +George Koffler, +Edwin Lefor, +Louise Krebs, +Regina Gentz, +Tina Rixen, +Rose Krebs (SE), +Herbert Emmil, +Joan Madler, +Eugenia Stagl, +Mike Urlacher, +Keith Herold

***New Website:** www.stmarychurchnewengland.com

***Lenten faith formation:** Please join us for our discussion of the seven capital sins. We meet on Tuesdays (and First Friday) at Saint Elizabeth's at 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays at Saint Mary's after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

***Lefor KC Council #5477 Memorial Mass** and breakfast, **Sunday, March 21st.** Breakfast at the KC Hall following 8:30AM Mass. **Serving farmer hats and sausage patties.** Free will donation.

***Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church Oyster Stew Supper.**

****Take out only**** Sunday, March 21st call 579-4424 or 290-8733 to place order. \$12 per quart.

***Christ in Cinema movie night: Sunday, March 21st at 7:00pm.** We will be watching the conclusion of Ben Hur.

On the lighter side, Those wonderful church bulletin announcements: "Ladies, don't forget the spring rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands!"

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers March 27th & 28th

MINISTRY	Saturday 5:00 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Connie J.	John E.
Altar Server	Will S.	Brock E.
Rosary Leader	Maureen G.	Vivian H.

Collection Report St. Mary's March 13th & 14th, 2021

Adult	Youth
\$ 820.00 Envelopes	\$8.00
\$ 0.00 Loose Plate	African Mission—\$1125.00
\$ 828.00 Total	
\$ 3090.00 Monthly Total	Easter Flowers—\$85.00

Saint Elizabeth's Liturgical Ministers March 28th

Sunday 8:30 AM	
Lector	Stetson
Mass Server	Bailey & Stockton
Eucharistic Ministers	
Gifts	
Greeters	
Ushers	Dennis W. & Arlen L.

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's March 14th, 2021

Adult	Youth
\$ 230.00 Envelopes	\$ 0.00
\$ 95.00 Loose Plate	
\$ 325.00 Total	
\$ 2097.00 Monthly Total	

The ABCs of our Catholic Faith: Venerable: The stage of the canonization process where the Congregation for the Causes of Saints verifies if the candidate for sainthood practiced virtue to a heroic degree, or died a martyr's death. When the pope accepts their report, the candidate is termed "Venerable".

While we are on the topic, perhaps we should review all of the stages in the canonization of saints, in case someday people want to promote the Cause for Canonization of Father Gary Benz, a potential patron saint of people who have trouble falling asleep . . . a service he provides with his homilies.

1) **Servant of God:** At least five years after someone has died, the Church allows for the Cause for Beatification and Canonization to begin for the candidate. Once the Cause has begun, the individual is called a *Servant of God*. During this first phase, the diocese or religious order promoting the Cause must gather testimony about the life and virtues of the Servant of God. Also, the public and private writings must be collected and examined. This phase can take many years and concludes with the judgement of a diocesan tribunal (the ultimate decision of the bishop) that heroic virtues of the Servant of God have or have not been demonstrated. The results, along with the bound volumes of documentation, or *Acta* (Acts) are communicated to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints of the Vatican. They discern the information and then affirm positively or negatively on the Cause. If the vote is affirmative, the Decree of Heroic Virtues is sent to the Holy Father, whose judgment is final.

2) **Venerable:** Once the person's heroic virtues have been recognized by the Pope, they are called *Venerable*, e.g., Venerable Fr. Gary Benz of Slope County. The remaining step before beatification is the approval of a miracle, evidence of the intercessory power of the Venerable Servant of God, and thus his or her union with God after death. As for the alleged miracle, a scientific commission is set up to determine if the miracle is of natural or supernatural explanation. If the miracle is instantaneous and attributed directly to the intercession of the Venerable, then the miracle is considered of God, working through His servant. This is the first miracle proposed in support of the Cause. With the Holy Father's approval of the Decree of the Miracle, the Servant of God can be beatified.

3) **Beatification:** With the Rite of Beatification, the Venerable Servant of God is declared *Blessed*, e.g., Blessed Gary of Slope County. Blesseds may receive public veneration at the local or regional level, usually restricted to those dioceses or religious orders closely associated with the person's life. But despite this restriction, Catholics are free to privately venerate them. After beatification, the Church looks for a second miracle before proceeding to canonization. The process is the same as it were for the miracle which made beatification possible. A Blessed who dies as a martyr does not need this second miracle to have their Cause move forward to Canonization. With the consent of the Holy Father to the decision of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Canonization is now possible.

4) **Canonization:** By the Rite of Canonization, the Supreme Pontiff, by an act which is protected from error by the Holy Spirit, elevates a person to the universal veneration of the Church. By Canonization, the Pope does not make the person a saint. Rather, he declares that the person is with God and is an example of following Christ, worthy of imitation by the faithful. A Mass, Divine Office, and other acts of veneration may now be offered throughout the universal Church. As for Saint Gary of Slope County, some have suggested April 1st for his feast day. I like that idea; I have always loved spring. How thoughtful and kind a suggestion!



We could use your expertise. At Saint Mary's, we have done so much to catch up on problems and issues with the parish physical plant that have been neglected over the years. Its not time to rest on our laurels, but to keep moving forward. I am looking for men and women who would be willing to be part of a Building & Grounds Committee. This committee would periodically walk through the parish buildings and onto the grounds as well to suggest improvement projects and how they should be prioritized. They would then be submitted to the parish and finance councils for approval. If you wish to serve on this committee, please call Fr. Gary at 701-509-9504. The first three callers get their image placed on the church mural. What a deal too good to pass up!

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