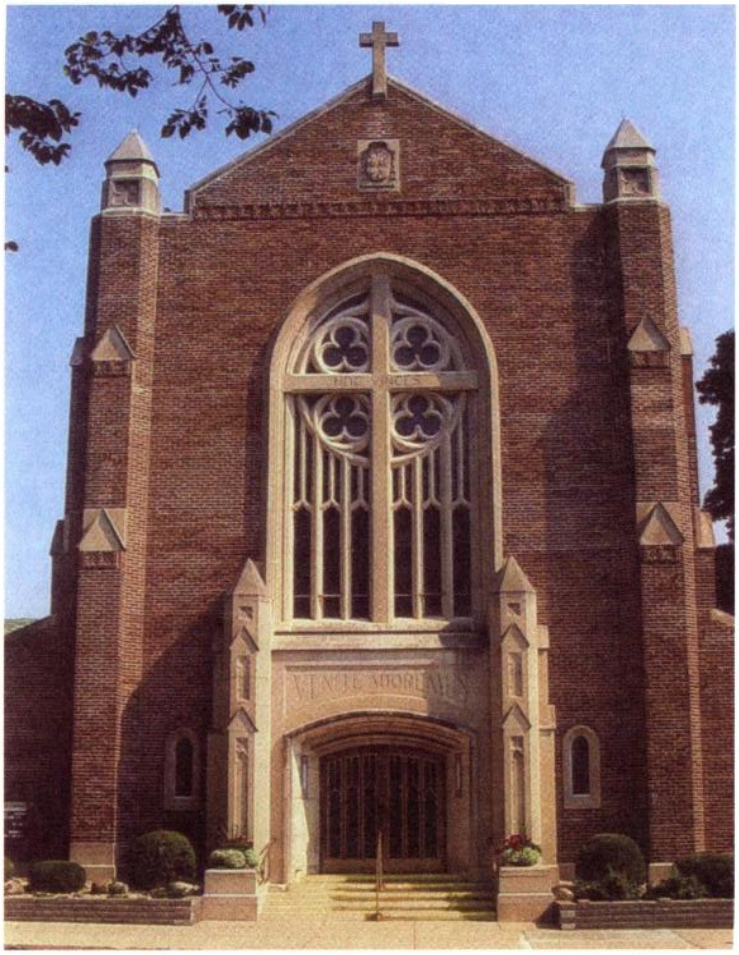
Holy Cross Church

Catholic Diocese of Peoria
1010 Jefferson Street • Mendota IL 61342
Phone 815-538-6151 • Fax 815-539-5014
https://mendotacatholic.org



Pastor
Fr. Peter A. Pilon

Pastoral Work
Deacon Ray Fischer
Deacon Jose Lopez
Deacon Hector Diaz

Music Director
Roy VanOpdorp

Director of Religious Education
Brian R. Corrigan

Business Manager
Lorraine Walter

Administrative Assistant
Mary Lou Flahive

Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care
Julie Winner - 815-538-7604
Offers Day Care for 3 year old to 12 year old.

Learning Lambs Pre-School
815-539-7003
3 yr old and 4 yr old sessions

Mass Schedule
Please check inside cover for all Mass times.

Confessions
Saturday - 7:00 a.m to 7:40 a.m. 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.
Sunday - 30 minutes prior to 6:30 a.m. Mass

Adoration Chapel
Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
(Closed on funeral days and holidays)

Baptism
Pre-baptismal instruction is required. Call the office for information and scheduling a date.

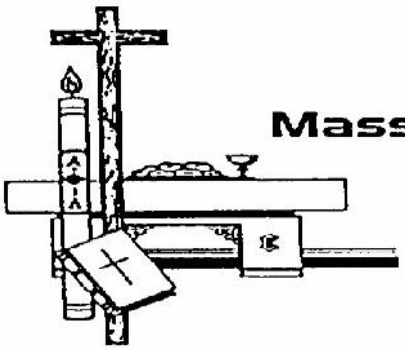
Weddings
Before any other wedding arrangements are made, please contact the parish priest 6-8 months in advance.

Homebound and Hospital Visits
Please call the office during times of illness and visits will be arranged.

Cemetery Lots Purchase
Please call Steve Schmitt 815-538-5276

Holy Cross School

1008 Jefferson St. Mendota, IL 61342
815-539-7003
Principal - Anita Kobilsek



Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 7th
9:00 a.m. +Cindy McCoy by Don & Cheryl King
12:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish - Nietas de Eloína Guzmán las Almas del Purgatorio

Monday, March 8th
8:00 a.m. +Louie & Louise Justi by Alan & Jackie Emm

Tuesday, March 9th
7:00 a.m. *Parish:* +Ronald Vaessen by Paddy Schwemlein
9:00 a.m. *School:* +Mary Catherine Wujek by Brian & Deb Corrigan

Wednesday, March 10th
8:00 a.m. +Ben Bokus by Family

Thursday, March 11th
7:00 a.m. *Parish:* +Jim Overly by Deane & Phyllis Vogel
9:00 a.m. *School:* +Mary Margaret Fry by St. Mary's Altar Society

Friday, March 12th
8:00 a.m. +Edward Donovan by Len Schwemlein
5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross during Confessions

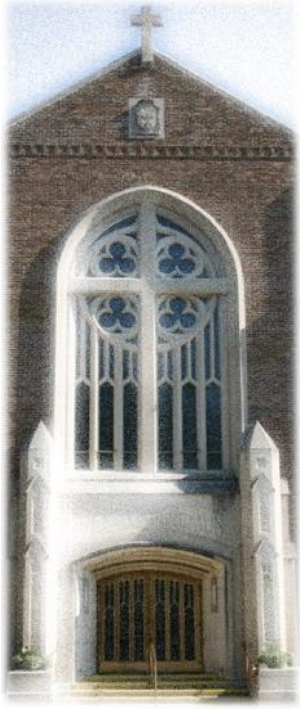
Saturday, March 13th
4:00 p.m. +Joel Schroeder by Dean & Carol Vandre

Sunday, March 14th
9:00 a.m. +Betty Shaughnessy by Jeff & Julie Winner
12:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish - Rev. Msgr. William Graham

Lector's Schedule

Saturday, March 13	Clare Fischer
Sunday, March 14	Nancy Goble
Saturday, March 20	Brian Corrigan
Sunday, March 21	Rudy Arteaga
Saturday, March 27	Teresa Leffelman
Sunday, March 28	Gwen Krenz
Holy Thursday, April 1	Volunteer
Good Friday, April 2	Nancy Goble, Gwen Krenz
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	Brian Corrigan, +1 Volunteer
Easter Sunday, 8 a.m.	Teresa Leffelman
Easter Sunday, 10 a.m.	Nancy Goble

If you are interested in getting on the list of Lector's for the weekend Mass schedule, please contact the parish office, or briancorriganhcdre@gmail.com



PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM!

The Mass schedule will remain the same for the time being with Monday, Wednesday and Friday Masses at 8:00 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 a.m.*

Sunday Masses remain at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Sunday.

*The school Masses are scheduled as follows: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. The only persons permitted to attend the school Mass will be the HCS students, teachers, and staff.

This is a directive from the Diocesan Office of the Vicar General and the Office of Catholic Schools.

The Mass will continue to be livestreamed via the Zoom connection we have been using. The Sunday Masses, including the Saturday Vigil Mass will continue to be broadcast to the parking lot via the loudspeaker system. It may be best to leave the sound off, but if you would like to watch, this option may make your Mass experience a better one.

Here is the link for the Zoom site:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91380508562pwd=RzZtRi8xNjJtNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09

Meeting ID: 913 805 0856

Password: 811195

Please help spread the word so all of our parishioners are aware of this new development. The link, ID, and Password are the same for all of the Masses. If there are any questions, Fr. Pilon may be reached by email at: frppilon@holycrossmendota.com

Our Lady of the Cenacle Chapel

"The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host."
~ Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Pray that our Chapel may soon reopen so that we may once again fall down in Adoration of Our Blessed Lord exposed in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Chapel Coordinator, Karen Brandner
1-815-915-6635

The 2021 Daily Dollars are here!

$$$ DAILY DOLLAR WINNERS $$$

Sat.	Feb 27	0072	50.00	Suzy Greathouse
Sun.	Feb 28	1199	50.00	Eileen Johannes
Mon.	Mar 01	2812	100.00	Maria Maurice
Tue.	Mar 02	0689	50.00	Edward Kuczek
Wed.	Mar 03	1462	50.00	Jaiden Peters
Thur.	Mar 04	1594	50.00	Eugene & Henriette Klein
Fri.	Mar 05	3028	50.00	Susan Eddy

SUPPORT YOUR GENEROUS ADVERTISERS! ! !

THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

	For the Week of 02/21/2021
Sunday	$4,311.20
School	65.00
Food Pantry	282.00
Youth Ministry	40.00
First Offering	85.00
Aid to Eastern Europe	25.00
Ash Wednesday	37.00
Misc.	50.00
Total	**$4,895.20**

Ss. PETER & PAUL
FEBRUARY 21ST, 2021

Sunday	$1,685.00
Ash Wednesday	30.00
Aid to Eastern Europe	220.00
Total	**$1,935.00**

Give God what is just, not what is left!

2020 Annual Diocesan Appeal

Thanks to all who have made a pledge to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Currently, at Holy Cross we have pledges of $39,450.00 toward our goal of $46,356.00. We have received pledge cards from 152 parishioners.

At Ss. Peter & Paul we have pledges of $13,150.00 toward the goal of $15,422.00 36 pledge cards have been returned.

A gift to the ADA, no matter how great or small can go a long way. A pledge of $10 or $20 a month can add up. Even a one-time gift is helpful. To those who have con-tributed, we are most grateful. If you have not yet made a gift to the ADA, we invite you to do so today. Every dollar raised to make our goal supports important diocesan services and every dollar raised over our goal will be kept in the parish.

We Have a *New* Website!
Check it out!

We are now at: https://mendotacatholic.org/

PARISH SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE!

Zoom web address:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?pwd=RzZtRi8xNjJtNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09

Zoom Meeting ID 913 805 0856
Password 811195

Sun: 9:00 a.m. Mass
12:00 noon Mass in Spanish
2:00 p.m. Adoration via Zoom
2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Confession
3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:15 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Mon: 8:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

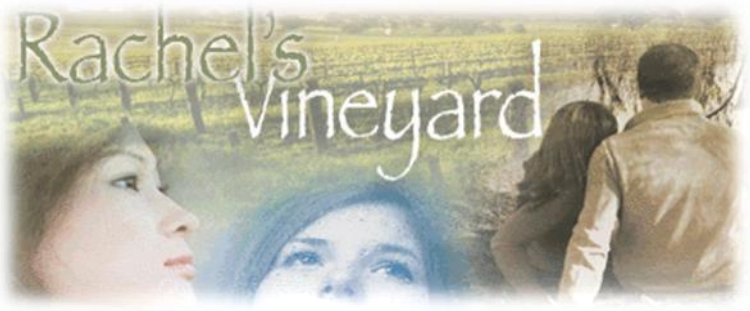
Tues: 7:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
9:00 a.m. *School Mass*—On Zoom
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confession
6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
6:30 p.m. Adoration (3rd Tuesday only)

Wed: 8:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confession
6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Thur: 7:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
9:00 a.m. *School Mass*—On Zoom
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Confession
6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Fri: 8:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
11:30 a.m. Mass @ OSF St. Paul
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Confession
5:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Sat: 9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Confession
4:00 p.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru



RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT MARCH 12-14, 2021

Has the abortion experience left you feeling empty and alone? Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is available in our diocese for any man or woman who has struggled with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. This healing weekend is for singles or married couples, mothers, fathers, grandparents, siblings, or anyone suffering the effects of an abortion loss. If you are searching for peace and inner healing from an abortion experience, this retreat is for you. Register now for the March 12-14 retreat by calling 309.264.1489, or emailing rvrpeoria@gmail.com**. All communications are strictly confidential. For more information, please visit the national Rachel's Vineyard website at** https://www.rachelsvineyard.org/

A SPECIAL REQUEST TO HELP RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Due to the special circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic, the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat will necessarily need to take place off-site of diocesan grounds; therefore, it will be held in a Peoria hotel. This is an added cost for the program. Registration is $140 per person. The Mendota Knights of Columbus Council is going to help subsidize the retreat. If any parishioner would like to help out by donating to the retreat, they may contribute through the Sunday collection with a check payable to Knights of Columbus 2090 with Rachel's Vineyard on the memo line.

The Knights of Columbus is a 501(C)(8) non-profit organization. Donations made to Rachel's Vineyard through the council are tax deductible. Donations in excess of $200 will receive a letter for tax purposes from the Grand Knight of the Council.

If you are still unsure whether or not to donate or support, or even to register for yourself if needed, please take the 7 1/2 minutes it takes to watch this video: https://cdop.org/offices/respect-life/rl-programs-resources/rachels-vineyard/

March is the Month of Saint Joseph.

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. We don't know much about him except what is mentioned in the Gospels. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection. Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Quamquam Pluries (On the Devotion to St. Joseph)* in 1889 explains why we place so much trust in this saint:

"Thus in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties. ...It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ."

One hundred years later John Paul II echoes his predecessor in his 1989 Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer), hoping "that all may grow in devotion to the Patron of the Universal Church and in love for the Savior whom he served in such an exemplary manner ... In this way the whole Christian people not only will turn to St. Joseph with greater fervor and invoke his patronage with trust, but also will always keep before their eyes his humble, mature way of serving and of "taking part" in the plan of salvation." St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his death-bed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.— *Jennifer Gregory Miller*

Joseph the Just Man

The Church encourages us to be devoted to Joseph because he was a model in the heroic practice of all the virtues. The example of virtuous living that he gave in the exact fulfillment of the duties of his state of life is worthy of our reflection. Read the gospel and you will see his faith, hope and charity practiced under trying circumstances. He was prudent in caring for his wife and the child; he showed great leadership in protecting them and assisting them. He was religious in every sense, with that delicacy and sincerity of conscience that is proper to the saints of God. He was just in his dealings with God and man. He was conspicuous for his fortitude and courage. He was truly outstanding in the practice of virginal chastity. More: he *protected* and *defended* Mary's virtue in the time of courtship and all during their life together. They had made a promise of chastity, and because they were resolved to live it for God they were blessed above all others. While Mary *inspired* him to practice this virtue perfectly, he, as a real man, understood the profound meaning of her inspiration and how it came from a heart that was steeped in the love of God. Time and again the Church has made it clear that Joseph is not a saint for only a

Saint Joseph

certain number of souls, but that he can help *all* men. Excepted from *St. Joseph: a Theological Introduction* by Michael D. Griffin, O.C.D.

Saint Joseph in Popular Devotion

St. Joseph plays a prominent part in popular devotion: in numerous popular traditions; the custom of reserving Wednesdays for devotion to St. Joseph — popular at least since the end of the seventeenth century — has generated several pious exercises including that of the *Seven Wednesdays*; in the pious aspirations made by the faithful; in prayers such as that of Pope Leo XIII, *Ad te, Beate Ioseph*, which is daily recited by the faithful; in the Litany of St. Joseph, approved by St. Pope Pius X; and in the recitation of the Chaplet of St. Joseph, recollecting the *Seven agonies and seven joys of St. Joseph*.

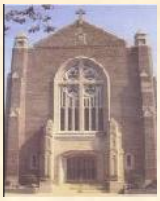
That the solemnity of St. Joseph falls in Lent, when the Church concentrates her attention on preparation for Baptism and the memorial of the Lord's Passion, inevitably gives rise to an attempt to harmonize the Liturgy and popular piety. Hence, the traditional practices of a "month of St. Joseph" should be synchronized with the liturgical Year. Indeed, the liturgical renewal movement attempted to instill among the faithful a realization of the importance of the meaning of Lent. Where the necessary adaptations can be made to the various expressions of popular piety, devotion to St. Joseph should naturally be encouraged among the faithful who should be constantly reminded of the "singular example [...] which, surpassing all states of life, should be recommended to the entire Christian community, whatever their condition or rank."

— *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*

Saint Joseph Model of Fathers

In the litany of St. Joseph, we say, "St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, pray for us." There is more hidden behind this invocation than meets the eye. We know, of course, that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ. We know that the Savior was not conceived of a human father. Yet the Church has never tired insisting on the fatherhood of St. Joseph in the Holy Family. It is crucially important to understand that there are two levels to fatherhood. There is the physical level of providing for the conception of a human body. In this sense, Christ did not have a human father. But a father is not only to cooperate with his wife in generating a child. He is also to cooperate with her in rearing the offspring which his spouse brings into the world. From all eternity, Joseph was destined to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin. They were truly married. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she was his wife. Marriage is the most intimate of all unions between two human beings. It imparts a community of gifts between those joined together in matrimony. Consequently, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as his spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, but also the witness of her virginity, the protector of her honor. No, by reason of his conjugal tie to Mary, he participated in her sublime dignity. We cannot exaggerate the importance of seeing St. Joseph as the true spouse of Mary. Under God, he was to share in her unique role as Mother of the Word made flesh who dwelt among us. St. Luke tells us that, on returning to Nazareth after Mary and Joseph found the young Christ in the temple, "Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and grace before God and men (Luke 2:52)". What are we being told? We are being told that the Christ child constantly manifested greater wisdom as he grew in age. In God's mysterious providence, both Mary and Joseph contributed to this manifestation of greater wisdom in Jesus.

— *Father John Hardon*



Holy Cross AΩ Why Be Catholic?

March 7, 2021 The Third Sunday of Lent

Cleansing the Temple...

PEOPLE/PARISHIONERS HAVE TOLD ME of two things they enjoy about this column; first, there is appreciation for some of the background of the Scriptures provided, and secondly, there is appreciation for the food for thought that this column seeks to provide. Today's column will endeavor to provide the food for thought to deepen and reenergize your Lenten preparation.

The link in our First Reading and the Gospel may be seen as the image of cleansing the temple of the body through the Ten Commandments that were given by God to Moses and the Israelite people.

Some 3,300 to 3,500 years ago, during the Exodus of the Israelite people out of slavery in Egypt, Moses was presented with the Ten Commandments (or Laws) by God. These laws were given so the Israelite people would know how to live righteously, that is, in right relationship with God.

The first three commandments are about how we may have a loving relationship with our God and Father; the first is to recognize the supreme sanctity of God himself; the second is to realize that even his name is sanctified and not to be profaned; the third is in regards to the gift and sanctity of time.

The remaining seven laws are meant to address our fallen human nature. Father and Mother, indeed life itself (*Thou shalt not murder*) are commands that bring to the forefront of the mind the sanctity endowed by God of the honor that is due to every single human person. The sixth through the tenth commandments point to the sanctity of marriage (#6), the sanctity of property (#7), the sanctity of the spoken word/truth (#8), the sanctity of another's spouse and property (#'s 9 & 10).

By following these laws of God, one may be assured he/she is living in right relationship with our God and Creator. In giving these commandments to Moses, God's Word would light the path of what we must not do, lest we fall into sin and broken relationship with God.

In the Gospel we have Jesus cleansing the Temple in a fit of righteous indignation. He was not angry that there were money-changers and merchants, for indeed, they did fulfill a need in selling the animals for Jewish pilgrims to sacrifice, and the money-changers were also necessary, much like the exchanges of today, they could convert the various monies from around the world to the money used by the Jews in Jerusalem. What angered Jesus was the placement of these merchants—they should not have been in the Temple!

Jesus spoke of tearing down the temple and he would rebuild it in three days' time. John points out that, of course, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body.

Cleansing *Our* Temple...

This is where we should begin reflecting on our Lenten penance now, this year... We all, at the beginning of Lent, make a resolution to do penance, give something up so as to purify and sanctify the soul; we resolve to increase our practice of prayer and talking to and making time for God in our daily lives; and finally, we resolve to be more compassionate toward others, and abstain from eating meat on Fridays, and even fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

How is it going for you right now, today? Have you maintained those ideals you set for yourself at the beginning of Lent? If you haven't, no worries, because our God is pure and perfect mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. Our God is the very embodiment of perfect love. Those ideals you set out for yourself at the beginning of Lent are the very ideals that would cleanse the temple that is your own body. If you have not maintained, don't dwell on a perceived failure—you are human, after all. Rather, turn to God and ask him for a clean slate to begin anew. This is what the spiritual work of Lent is all about. We want to make ourselves as pure and holy in preparation for that Great Easter celebration!

Holy Cross

Family Catechesis Corner

WHAT IS THE MASS? (PART 8)

WE HAVE NOW COME TO THE POINT OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL (after the Gospel Acclamation). This is the point where Jesus comes to us in a very particular way—in His Word. This is, with the Eucharistic celebration, the fullness of Christ in our world today!

The chanting of the Gospel Acclamation is a hymn of joy, accompanying the Gospel procession. This is less elaborate in our parish celebration than say, in the celebration of the Mass when the bishop is present. When there is a deacon present, he will proclaim the Gospel, and just prior to this, you will see the deacon receive a blessing from the presider.

In this blessing, the presider prays quietly, "*May the Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may proclaim his Gospel worthily and well, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*" Before proclaiming the Gospel, the deacon will announce: "A reading from the holy Gospel according to…" and the people make a (small) Sign of the Cross on the forehead, lips, and heart.

This signing has no official commentary from the Church, but is often taught as a prayer in which we express, "May the Lord be in my *mind* that I may know the Word of God, and on my *lips* that I may speak the Word of God, and in my *heart* that I may love the Word of God." The deacon will then kiss the Book of the Gospels as a sign of loving respect, and says quietly, "*Through the words of the Gospel, may our sins be wiped away.*"

During the reading of the Gospel, we are challenged to be active listeners, and so it is customary and proper to stand for the Gospel Acclamation and Proclamation. I say we are challenged because it can truly be challenging if we are preoccupied in our thoughts or if the reader does a poor job in proclaiming the Word—or even if the readings themselves are difficult to understand.

This is why it is an excellent idea to come to Mass 10 or 20 (or more) minutes before Mass is to begin, so that we may quiet our thoughts and preoccupations and prepare our souls for participating in this divine liturgy. The noise of the world grows ever louder and more prevalent, and the Mass can be a sanctuary of quiet solitude where we can expect to commune with our Lord in honor, adoration, and worship. At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says, "The Gospel of the Lord" and the people reply, "Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ." Following the proclamation of the Gospel is the Homily. We will discuss the importance of the homily in next week's bulletin.

¿QUÉ ES LA MISA? (PARTE 8)

HEMOS LLEGADO AHORA AL PUNTO DE LA PROCLAMACIÓN DEL EVANGELIO (después de la Aclamación del Evangelio). Este es el punto en el que Jesús viene a nosotros de una manera muy particular: en Su Palabra. ¡Esta es, con la celebración eucarística, la plenitud de Cristo en nuestro mundo de hoy!

El canto de la Aclamación del Evangelio es un himno de alegría que acompaña a la procesión del Evangelio. Esto es menos elaborado en nuestra celebración parroquial que, digamos, en la celebración de la Misa cuando el obispo está presente. Cuando haya un diácono presente, proclamará el Evangelio, y justo antes de esto, verá al diácono recibir una bendición del presidente.

En esta bendición, el celebrante reza en voz baja: 'Que el Señor esté en tu corazón y en tus labios para que proclames digna y bien su Evangelio, en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo'. Antes de proclamar el Evangelio, el diácono anunciará: "Lectura del santo Evangelio según…" y la gente hace una (pequeña) Señal de la Cruz en la frente, los labios y el corazón.

Esta firma no tiene un comentario oficial de la Iglesia, pero a menudo se enseña como una oración en la que expresamos: "Que el Señor esté en mi mente para que conozca la Palabra de Dios, y en mis labios para que pueda hablar la Palabra de Dios. Dios, y en mi corazón que pueda amar la Palabra de Dios ". Luego, el diácono besará el Libro de los Evangelios como señal de amoroso respeto, y dirá en voz baja: 'Por las palabras del Evangelio, nuestros pecados sean borrados'.

Durante la lectura del Evangelio, se nos desafía a ser oyentes activos, por lo que es habitual y adecuado defender la Aclamación y la Proclamación del Evangelio. Digo que tenemos un desafío porque realmente puede ser un desafío si estamos preocupados en nuestros pensamientos o si el lector hace un mal trabajo al proclamar la Palabra, o incluso si las lecturas en sí son difíciles de entender.

Por eso es una excelente idea venir a la Misa 10 o 20 (o más) minutos antes de que comience la Misa, para que podamos acallar nuestros pensamientos y preocupaciones y preparar nuestras almas para participar en esta divina liturgia. El ruido del mundo se hace cada vez más fuerte y prevaleciente, y la Misa puede ser un santuario de tranquila soledad donde podemos esperar estar en comunión con nuestro Señor en honor, adoración y adoración. Al final del Evangelio, el lector dice: 'El Evangelio del Señor' y la gente responde: 'Alabado seas, Señor, Jesucristo'. Después del anuncio del Evangelio está la homilía. Discutiremos la importancia de la homilía en el boletín de la próxima semana.

March 7, 2021

Holy Cross News of Note

If you haven't taken advantage of the parish's subscription to Formed, you're missing out!

If you have not checked out the *new* FORMED.org website, we strongly encourage you to do so. It is chock-full of great videos, movies, eBooks and audio books, Bible studies, talks, and so much more!

To sign up for your free FORMED account, please visit formed.org/signup

What can we recommend for this week?

Watch

Everyday Heroes

Heroism isn't restricted to dedicated soldiers or persecuted saints. It's something achievable for all of us even in our ordinary lives. In this documentary, see how the Knights of Columbus have embodied this everyday heroism!

Listen

12 Stories About Aquinas with Peter Kreeft

Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote the equivalent of 500 books, all with a quill and pen! Join Dr. Peter Kreeft, an influential teacher of Catholic thought, as he shares some entertaining anecdotes from the life of this genius saint!

Learn

Lectio: The Case for Jesus

In nine session Dr. Brant Pitre answers the key question of faith: Who is Jesus? Dr. Pitre present evidence from early Christian and non-Christian writing that attest to the authenticity of the Gospels. Timed to lead up to Triduum, Dr. Pitre looks in-depth at the accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion and Resurrection and his proclamation of divinity.

Catechism Corner

» What prepares a person for repentance? «

† **What prepares a person for repentance?**

The insight into one's personal guilt produces a longing to better oneself; this is called contrition. We arrive at contrition when we see the contradiction between God's love and our sin. Then we are full of sorrow for our sins; we resolve to change our life and place all our hope in God's help.

The reality of sin is often repressed. Some people even think that guilt feelings should be dealt with in a merely psychological way. But genuine guilt feelings are important. It is like driving an automobile: When the speedometer indicates that the speed limit has been exceeded, the speedometer is not responsible, but the driver is. The closer we come to God, who is all light, the clearer our dark sides come to light also. Yet God is not a light that burns but, rather, a light that heals. That is why repentance impels us to go into the Light in which we will be completely healed.

† **What is penance?**

Penance is making restitution or satisfaction for a wrong that has been committed. Penance must not take place exclusively in my head; I must express it in acts of charity and in solidarity with others. One does penance also by praying, fasting, and supporting the poor spiritually and materially.

Penance is often misunderstood. It has nothing to do with low self-esteem or scrupulosity. Penance is not brooding over what a bad person I am. Penance frees and encourages us to make a new start. (YOUCAT questions 229-230)

Further reading: CCC 2777—2785

Dig Deeper: CCC section (1430-1439) and other references here.

Our Lord sometimes makes you feel the weight of the cross. This weight seems unbearable, but you carry it because in His love and mercy, the Lord helps you and gives you strength.

— St. Padre Pio

March 7, 2021

Holy Cross News of Note

HCS News

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

If you haven't sent in your registration money and form for 2021-2022, you have until March 12 if you want it to go to your 2021-2022 tuition. If it is paid after March 12, it will be in addition to your 2021-2022 tuition.

If you want to participate in the optional K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences, you can Zoom or Google Meet with your child(ren)'s teacher on Thursday afternoon. You need to sign up in advance through the parent log-in on the Option-C portal. Let us know if you have any questions.

We are preparing for the summer for Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care. If you need care for your kids, or know of someone who needs care, please call Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care at 815.538.7604.

Peace,
Mrs. Kobilsek

Holy Cross School Lenten Challenge

Lent Almsgiving

Donating to IVPADS homeless shelters in Peru & Ottawa

Contact: Cal Doyle—4th Grade
Donations Due By: Thursday, April 1, 2021

Loving & Caring

Are you looking for some way to do almsgiving during Lent? Well, I have the perfect way of how to do it. I'm planning to give the donated items to IVPADS in Ottawa and Peru.

You can brighten someone's day by giving just a little help.

So spread love to the world and give!

Bring your donations to Holy Cross School c/o Cal Doyle.

Contact Mrs. Doyle at ldoyle@holycrossmendota.com if you have any questions.

HCS Lenten Challenge (cont'd)

Items Needed for Donation:

Juice Boxes	Dryer Sheets	Bleach	Bottled Water	Coffee
Dry Cereals	Laundry Soap	Hairbrushes	Paper Plates	Clipboards
13-30-39 Gallon Garbage Bags	Air Freshener Spray	Pump Hand Soap	Pillow Covers (New/Like New)	White Copy Paper
Paper Bowls	Powder Coffee Creamer	Multi-purpose Cleaning Spray	Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Individually Packed Snacks
Paper Napkins	Dish Soap	Toilet Paper	Adult Socks	Paper Towels

Coming Up:

- Friday, March 26 - 8th Grade Fundraiser - "tie-dye/ neon day" - $1.00 or more
- Thursday, April 1 - Lenten Almsgiving Challenge items are due to Holy Cross School
- April 2-11 - Easter Break - Happy Easter! - No school - Extended Care is available

Attention: Ss. Peter & Paul Parishioners

If you have not received your 2021 Sunday Envelopes, they will be on the bench inside the parish office entrance.

March 7, 2021

Holy Cross News of Note

Did You Know. . .

Your child *can* attend a Catholic School? Financial Assistance Available

Tuition assistance scholarship grants from the endowment fund established as a result of the Diocese of Peoria ROOTED IN FAITH Campaign and named in honor of Archbishop Spalding, the first Bishop of Peoria, will be available for the 2021–2022 school year for students enrolled in or intending to enroll in grades Kindergarten through 12 in any Catholic school located in the Diocese of Peoria whose families are active members of a Catholic parish in the diocese. All grants will be based on financial need objectively assessed.

Information about the grants and application materials may be obtained from any Catholic elementary or secondary school in the Diocese of Peoria or on the Diocesan website www.cdop.org under ***Catholic Education*** and then under ***Financial Assistance***. Consult the detailed protocols and procedures and checklist for all requirements necessary to be eligible for an award.

Parents must apply online at: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Families of students currently receiving grants are reminded that all grants are for one year only, and anyone seeking to renew a grant for the 2021–2022 school year must reapply.

Deadline date for the completed application is **April 30, 2021.** Notification of grant awards will be made by the end of June 2021.

Another funding opportunity is also available due to the Invest in Kids Act legislation in Illinois. Students may be eligible for up to 100% of tuition and fees under a new program for tax credit scholarships (TCS). Details on how to apply and who qualifies are available on the Empower Illinois website at: www.empowerillinois.org. Students who receive a TCS are ineligible to receive a Spalding award.

¿Sabías?

Su hijo *puede* asistir a una escuela católica

Las subvenciones de becas de asistencia para la matrícula del fondo de dotación establecido como resultado de la Campaña ENRAIZADO EN LA FE de la Diócesis de Peoria y nombradas en honor al Arzobispo Spalding, el primer Obispo de Peoria, estarán disponibles para el año escolar 2021-2022 para los estudiantes inscritos en o Con la intención de inscribirse en los grados del jardín de infantes al 12 en cualquier escuela católica ubicada en la Diócesis de Peoria cuyas familias sean miembros activos de una parroquia católica en la diócesis. Todas las subvenciones se basarán en la necesidad financiera evaluada objetivamente.

La información sobre las subvenciones y los materiales de solicitud se puede obtener en cualquier escuela primaria o secundaria católica en la Diócesis de Peoria o en el sitio web diocesano www.cdop.org en Educación Católica y luego en Asistencia financiera. Consulte los protocolos y procedimientos detallados y la lista de verificación para conocer todos los requisitos necesarios para ser elegible para un premio.

Los padres deben presentar la solicitud en línea en: online.factsmgt.com/aid. Se recuerda a las familias de los estudiantes que actualmente reciben subvenciones que todas las subvenciones son solo por un año y que cualquier persona que desee renovar una subvención para el año escolar 2021-2022 debe volver a solicitarla.

La fecha límite para completar la solicitud es el 30 de abril de 2021. La notificación de la concesión de subvenciones se realizará a finales de junio de 2021.

Otra oportunidad de financiamiento también está disponible debido a la legislación de la Ley de Inversión en Niños en Illinois. Los estudiantes pueden ser elegibles para hasta el 100% de la matrícula y las tarifas bajo un nuevo programa de becas de crédito fiscal (TCS). Los detalles sobre cómo solicitar y quién califica están disponibles en el sitio web de Empower Illinois en www.empowerillinois.org. Los estudiantes que reciben un TCS no son elegibles para recibir un premio Spalding.

March 7, 2021

Holy Cross News of Note

Position Openings at Holy Cross School, Mendota for 2021 – 2022

1. Principal
   Holy Cross School, Mendota
   Application available through www.cdop.org
   Click on: Catholic Education; School Openings; Principal Application Packet
   Review of applicants will take place in mid–March with interviews in mid–April
   Approximately 160 students total
   Contact: Mrs. Anita Kobilsek
   1.815.539.7003
   akobilsek@holycrossmendota.com

2. Part–time Physical Education Teacher

3. Part–time Computer Teacher
   PE and Computer positions may possibly become a full–time position

4. Part–time Athletic Director

   Contact: Mrs. Anita Kobilsek
   1.815.539.7003
   akobilsek@holycrossmendota.com
   or
   Mail Resume to:
   Holy Cross School
   1008 Jefferson Street
   Mendota, IL. 61342
   Call 1.815.539.7003 ext. 111

Applications available through www.cdop.org
Click on: Catholic Education > School Openings > Teacher Application Packet

Confession Schedule for the Season of Lent

It begins on Thursday, February 18
and ends on Palm Sunday, March 28th

Sun. - Confessions during Holy Hour
from 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Mon. - No scheduled confessions
Tues. and Wednesday - 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Thurs. and Fri. - 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sat. - 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Most of Christ's life was hidden. He was hidden in his mother's womb, he was hidden in Egypt and in Nazareth. During his public life he was hidden often, when he fled into "a mountain to pray." During the forty days of his risen life, again and again he disappeared and hid himself from men. Today, he is hidden in the Blessed Sacrament, in Heaven, and in his mystical body on earth. But in his Passion he was exposed, made public property to the whole of mankind. The last time he went up into a mountain to pray, it was to pray out loud, in a voice that would echo down the ages, ringing in the ears of mankind forever. It was to be stripped naked before the whole world, forever, not only in body, but in mind and soul… Every detail of his Passion revealed something more of his character as man. Not only his heroism and his majesty, but his human necessities, and the human limitations which he deliberately adopted as part of his plan of love, in order to be able to indwell in us as we are, with our limitations and psychological as well as physical necessities and interdependence on one another.

— Caryll Houselander

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

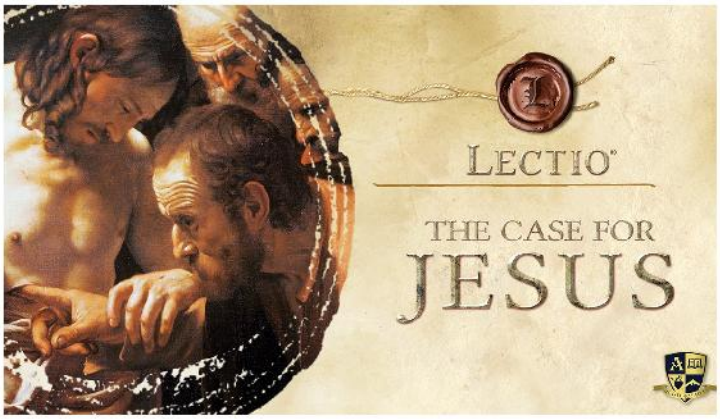
March 7, 2021

WATCH

EVERYDAY HEROES

Heroism isn't restricted to decorated soldiers or persecuted saints. It's something achievable for all of us even in our ordinary lives. In this documentary, see how the Knights of Columbus have embodied this everyday heroism!

LEARN



LECTIO: THE CASE FOR JESUS

In nine sessions, Dr. Brant Pitre answers the key question of faith: Who is Jesus? Dr. Pitre presents evidence from early Christian and non-Christian writings that attest to the authenticity of the Gospels. Timed to lead up to the Triduum, Dr. Pitre looks in-depth at the accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion and Resurrection and his proclamation of divinity.

LISTEN

12 STORIES ABOUT AQUINAS WITH PETER KREEFT

St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the equivalent of 500 books, all with a quill pen! Join Dr. Peter Kreeft, an influential teacher of Catholic thought, as he shares some entertaining anecdotes from the life of this genius saint!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

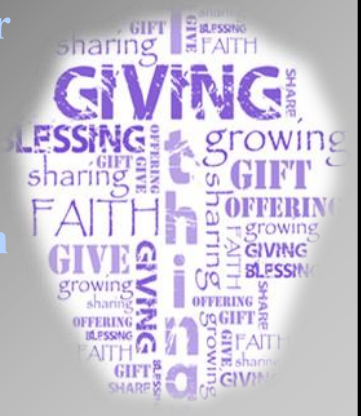
Because of the COVID protocols, the Knights have not been able to host the Lenten Fish Fry ~ Fish Boil Dinners as usual.
The local Council of the Knights of Columbus is not able to raise funds for our charitable giving.
We really miss seeing all of our friends and patrons on these Friday nights during the Lenten season.

We hope and pray that we will be able to be together to eat as a community of friends and family very soon. In the meantime, please know that our family, friends, and our wonderful patrons are very much in *our* prayers.

God Bless each and every one of you!

YEAR-END TAX CONTRIBUTIONS

To receive a copy of your year-end contributions for your tax preparations, call or come to the Parish Office Monday through Wednesday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon.



How is Your Lent Going?

If you are looking for something extra to energize and super-charge your Lenten experience, we have a few suggestions for you to try. In addition to availing yourself of the offerings on the formed.org site, you can catch up with Fr. Rocky's Lenten Lessons on the Mass here: https://relevantradio.com/lenten-lessons-archive/

You can get daily emails from Matthew Kelly for the "Best LENT Ever" here: https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/best-lent-ever/best-lent-ever-all-reflections.html

Or perhaps Bishop Robert Barron is more to your liking. You can get his daily Lenten Gospel Reflections here: https://www.lentreflections.com/?vgo_ee=wHAxjoYLqrqSd37mR5mlBtmesl%2BfDWJDHOeo1HIlS%2B8%3D

Pray the Rosary

Did you know that each Tuesday night a small group of parishioners gets together to pray the rosary together?

At 6:30 each Tuesday evening parishioners dial in to pray together. And you can join in too! Simply call 425.436.6314 and when prompted enter the pass-code 604509# (you must include the "pound" sign).

On the third Tuesday of every month Father Pilon is offering Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Church. If you are someone who has gone before the exposed Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist and have missed that peaceful and quiet solitude communing with our Lord, you may participate in this too. We always begin at 6:30 with the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Year of St. Joseph: What Catholics need to know

Pope Francis announced a Year of St. Joseph, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church.

Pope Francis said he was establishing the year so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

Here's what you need to know about the Year of St. Joseph:

Why does the Church have years dedicated to specific topics?

The Church observes the passage of time through the liturgical calendar - which includes feasts such as Easter and Christmas, and seasons such as Lent and Advent. In addition, however, popes can set aside time for the Church to reflect more deeply on a specific aspect of Catholic teaching or belief. Past years designated by recent popes include a Year of Faith, Year of the Eucharist, and Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Why did the Pope declare a year of St. Joseph?

In making his declaration, Pope Francis noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1870.

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," the pope wrote.

He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, "Our world today needs fathers."

When does the Year of St. Joseph begin and end?

The year begins Dec. 8, 2020, and concludes on Dec. 8, 2021.

What special graces are available during this year?

As Catholics pray and reflect on the life of St. Joseph throughout the coming year, they also have opportunities to gain a plenary indulgence, or remission of all temporal punishment due to sin. An indulgence can be applied to oneself or to a soul in Purgatory.

An indulgence requires a specific act, defined by the Church, as well as sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, prayer for the pope's intentions, and full detachment from sin.

Special indulgences during the Year of St. Joseph can be received through more than a dozen different prayers and actions, including praying for the unemployed, entrusting one's daily work to St. Joseph, performing a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, or meditating for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer.

Why does the Church honor St. Joseph?

Catholics do not worship saints, but ask for their heavenly intercession before God and seek to imitate their virtues here on earth. The Catholic Church honors St. Joseph as the foster father of Jesus. He is invoked as the patron saint of the Universal Church. He is also the patron of workers, father, and a happy death.

Year of St. Joseph: What Catholics need to know (catholicnewsagency.com)

"Of all the people I have known with a true devotion and particular veneration for St. Joseph, not one has failed to advance in virtue; he helps those who turn to him to make real progress. For several years now, I believe, I have always made some request to him on his feast day, and it has always been granted; and when my request is not quite what it ought to be, he puts it right for my greater benefit."— *St. Teresa of Avila*

WARNING ABOUT RISK ASSUMED BY PARISHIONERS:

While our parish staffs will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners and guests should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 anytime they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

PARISH CONFESSION SCHEDULE

**Please note we are returning to the previous seasonal Confession schedule, which can be found on page 4 of this bulletin. Father will be offering sacramental confession every day of the week except for Monday.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION OFFERED

If you would like to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament, Fr. Pilon will livestream this Exposition, using the same site as is used for streaming the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We can also adore every third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The Adoration is scheduled from 2:00—3:00 p.m. every Sunday.

...AND DIVINE MERCY

Father will lead the *Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday*, following the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

These additional devotions will be every Sunday for the foreseeable future.

Life-Changing Study for Lent...AND Beyond!

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. Featuring the brilliant cinematic artistry of the Augustine Institute's film studio, the vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced.

We have completed session 2 in our 10-session study entitled Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told. Last week we learned about the seventeenth and eighteenth century heresy of Jansenism, a theological error in reconciling divine grace and free will; an error in which it was believed that it was necessary to earn God's love and be perfect before we can go to him (who can do that?). We also looked briefly at Saints Margaret Mary Alacoque and Thérèse of Lisieux, and how their particular spiritualism. We will meet again via Zoom on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Maybe you can join us this week!

We still have a number of Participant Guides available—just call the office to reserve your copy! For any additional information or to have questions addressed, please call the parish office in the afternoon Mon—Fri between the hours of 1:30 and 4:30 p.m.

This will again utilize the Zoom meeting information that Father Pilon has arranged (the same information to log on for viewing the Mass—see p. 2 of the bulletin); we have found that watching the video on your own prior to the meeting works best, and then for the meeting we will discuss each week's material.

If you have not yet utilized the parish's Formed subscription, this is a perfect opportunity to find out what a wonderful tool for evangelizing, studying, praying, and even being entertained is being provided. To set up an account for yourself is simple—just go to the website, https://formed.org, click on the "Sign Up" button, then select "Sign up as a parishioner" and then look for Holy Cross Mendota in the search window under "Create a New Account." Easy Peasy!!

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C.
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF PEORIA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
419 N.E. MADISON AVENUE
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61603
PHONE: 309-671-1550
FAX: 309-671-1576

March 2021

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock." —Revelation 3:20

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Soon our diocese will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Your support of this collection serves Jesus in the guise of the poor and vulnerable in some of the most marginalized communities in our world.

Sailors, fishers, harbor workers, and their families have unique pastoral needs because of mariners' long periods away from home. In addition to access to the Mass and sacraments on ships, seafarers also need hospitality and pastoral care in port cities as well as assistance with errands such as shopping and medical appointments. For the past hundred years, Stella Maris—also called Apostleship of the Sea—has ministered to the pastoral needs of mariners through chaplaincies and centers in port cities. This apostleship currently serves the community with more that 100 chaplains and lay ministers in 48 ports across the United States.

In November 2019, 21 bishops, 11 apostleship chaplains, and lay ministers and staff from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers (PCMRT) gathered to discuss the experiences and challenges of chaplains and how best to take on the challenges of maritime ministry. They invited bishops to engage in efforts to raise awareness of the Apostleship of the Sea in their own dioceses. By gathering chaplains with bishops, the apostleship can address challenges in the maritime world and continue to meet the needs of mariners.

Apostleship of the Sea is one of the PCMRT ministries funded through The Catholic Relief Services Collection. When you give, you help to support this valuable ministry.

Your support of this collection makes a difference for so many around the globe. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.
BISHOP OF PEORIA

2021 "Daily Dollars" Calendar

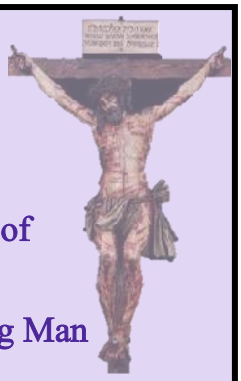
The Daily Dollars Calendars are here. This year we are adding a special drawing for those who sell more than the original eight. **For each additional eight you sell, you will also receive another [9th] one free, as usual, but you will get one entry into an "Early Bird Drawing" worth $500.00. This drawing is only if you sell more than the original eight calendars, and it is one entry for every eight additional calendars sold.**

Thank you in advance for your support.

PLEASE NOTE: RETURN YOUR SOLD OR ANY UNSOLD TICKETS/CALENDARS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Thank You!

Lenten Prayer



Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race
Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
and giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
by following His example of suffering
and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Your Son.
Amen.

PLEASE NOTE:

Distribution of Communion will be in front of church during the winter months, not in the back parking lot.

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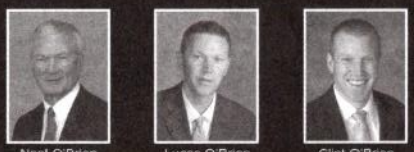
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