



St. Mary's Catholic Church



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." - Jn 8:11b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor

Mass Schedule and Intentions

4/4: Malta - 8:30 A.M.: NO Mass

4/5: Malta - 8:30 A.M.: NO Mass

4/5: Malta - 8:30 A.M.: NO Mass

4/6: Malta - Hi-Line Retirement Center 10:00 AM: The LaFond Families & Pat Comstock r/b Darlene & Bruce Cummings

4/7: Malta—8:30 A.M. Blanch & Francis McGuire r/b Maynard & Mary LaFond

4/8: Malta 4:00 P.M. Repose of Jerry Depute r/b Knights of Columbus

4/9: Malta - 10:30 AM: For all Parishioners;

Dodson—8:30 AM: Nancy Dahl r/b Julie & Gary Howell

Saco - 12:30 PM: Helen DePuydt r/b Terry Hunder

Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00, Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon;** and by appointment.

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM after Daily Mass.



Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.

Knights of Columbus
Council 2124

Parish Council of Catholic
Women

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

Daily Scripture Readings

4/3 5th Sunday of Lent; Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalms 126:1-6; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

4/4: St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41-62; Psalms 23:1-6; John 8:12-20

4/5: St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest; Numbers 21:4-9; Psalms 102:2-3, 16-21; John 8:21-30

4/6: Wednesday in the 5th week of Lent; Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52-56; John 8:31-42

4/7: Thursday in the 5th week of Lent; Genesis 17:3-9; Psalms 105:4-9; John 8:51-59

4/8: Friday in the 5th week of Lent; Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalms 18:2-7; John 10:31-42

4/9: Saturday in the 5th week of Lent; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10-13; John 11:45-56

4/10: Holy Week begins; Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Luke 19:28-40; Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalms 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49

Saturday Evening - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday—Dodson—8:30 a.m.

Malta - 10:30 a.m.

Saco—12:30 p.m.



New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

Sacraments

Confessions: See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

Baptism: Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

Marriages: Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

Please Pray For

Zayden Mathh, Tana Mount, , Lesley Robinson, Lana Pekovich, Myrtle Hould, Cory LaBrie, Julia Cebulski, Eric Riggs, those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Lew McNamara, Ray Shores, Jerry Depute, Eleanor Emond, Helen DePuydt, Lydia Abrahamson, Selma Sticha, Bev Comstock, Leroy Rummel, Howard Rummel, Lyle Cochran, Pat Comstock, the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and for comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Jean Niebur at 654-2822 and Dianne Salsbery 654-4675. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one

Everyday Stewardship

Make a Way

What's your comfort zone: emotionally, professionally, personally? We all have one. But did you realize that you can have one spiritually? Think about what you like and what you don't particularly enjoy when it comes to church, prayer, and liturgy. We all have "those songs" we crinkle our noses at, either because they're too modern or too old-fashioned. We all have "those people" in our parish whose ideas we aren't so sure about, whether that's because they're trying to change too much or because they seem always to be looking toward the past. Also, when was the last time you sat on the OTHER side of the church during Mass?

As much as we may not want to admit it, even (and especially) as people of God, we get deeply attached to our own personal comfort zones — and we tend to view those outside with distrust.

But what if God had a comfort zone? What if He viewed us, in our sin and our misery, as too "far away" from Himself to reach? Thankfully, our God is a God who "opens a way in the sea and a path in the mighty waters." Our God is a God who does "something new."

The call to stewardship demands that we look outside of ourselves. Our thoughts, our opinions, our preferences — these things are not important to the steward. Even if there is a vast, dry desert of discord, or a seemingly endless wasteland of opposing views between us and our neighbor, God challenges us to "make a way" out of our comfort zone, that together we may announce His praise.

"The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever." "And now, O LORD God, you are God, and your words are true"; this is why God's promises always come true. God is Truth itself, whose words cannot deceive. This is why one can abandon oneself in full trust to the truth and faithfulness of his word in all things. The beginning of sin and of man's fall was due to a lie of the tempter who induced doubt of God's word, kindness and faithfulness. CCC 215

Pope Francis' Intention

Health Care Workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities

Fr. Felix

Lent Sunday V (C): Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, today's liturgy reminds us of God's readiness to forgive the sins of repentant sinners and challenges us to show the same mercy to fellow sinners around us.

In today's first reading, through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord God assures the Babylonian exiles that He is going to end their 70 years' exile in Babylon. The prophet reminded them that, as God had liberated their ancestors from Egypt, He has forgiven their sins. He will provide for their return journey from Babylon to Jerusalem, giving them food, water, and protection.

In the second reading, St. Paul presents himself as a forgiven sinner who has been completely transformed by his Faith in Christ Jesus. His life is an example of obedience to the Gospel exhortation, "Sin no more." Paul loves Christ so much that he wants to share in his sufferings and even in his death so that he may share in Christ's Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, a sinful woman was brought to Jesus to give his verdict on the crime. In Palestine, the scribes, most of whom were Pharisees, were a group of people with special training in Scripture and in the interpretation of Jewish law.

The Pharisees were the members of a lay movement. The scribes and Pharisees brought forward a woman caught in the act of adultery. The Mosaic penalty for such an offense was death by stoning. Besides, Moses commanded that both partners in adultery should be stoned. (Lv 20:10; Dt 22:22). The Jewish civil and criminal code considered three grave sins as punishable by death, namely: idolatry, murder, and adultery. Deuteronomy prescribes death by strangulation for a married woman caught in adultery. If the guilty woman is betrothed, she has to be stoned. In both cases they have violated God's sixth commandment and have destroyed the fidelity and unity of marriage. His opponents wanted to use the occasion to embarrass Jesus, because he had the reputation of proclaiming God's mercy toward sinners. If he insisted on following the Law exactly, his reputation as a prophet of God's mercy would be open to question. Besides, if Jesus consented to her death by strangulation or stoning, he would be violating the Roman law, which forbade killing by private citizens. If he took the side of the adulterous woman, he was open to the charge of ignoring God's Law and God's Justice as given by Moses. This was the inventive

inventive trap they had set for Jesus.

Initially, Jesus seemed to be indifferent in the case by simply writing on the ground. Perfectly understanding the secret intentions of her self-righteous accusers and the helplessness of the repentant sinner, Jesus gave his verdict: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Jesus confronts their self-righteousness with a demand that they first examine their own consciences before they accuse another. Hence Jesus made them realize that they, too, were sinners, probably bigger sinners than the woman. Thus, Jesus silenced the accusers who had come to trap him. By being brought to an examination of their consciences they were prompted to leave in shame. According to Jewish custom, in the absence of eyewitnesses, the eldest should have begun the stoning, and since stoning was work, it was forbidden on a Sabbath day according to Mosaic Law,

also stoning one to death was a violation of Roman law. So, the accusers ran away, beginning with the elders. Since the elders left the scene first, followed by youngsters, the case against the woman was dismissed. By appealing to the Justice of God and the injustice of humans, Jesus upheld God's mercy. The moral is God extends mercy to repentant sinners in order that they may turn from their sins. The sinful woman's story invites us to recognize and experience in our own lives both God's Justice and His Mercy. We bear witness to the Justice of God by confessing our sinfulness and determining to avoid sin. We bear witness to God's Mercy by accepting the forgiveness of our sins and by determining to forgive those who have offended us, Amen.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Gospel Meditation

5th Sunday of Lent

We love to make examples out of those who have erred and done wrong. Publicly punishing others serves as a means of demonstrating the consequences for what is deemed inappropriate or wrongful behavior. While this may appear an effective way of achieving conformity to established rules, it runs the real risk of distorting motivation. Obviously, we want people to do what is right and pursue healthy, virtuous behaviors and ideals. But is fear of punishment ever the best motivation for avoiding one action in favor of another?

Doing something out of fear is never healthy. Focusing exclusively on our behavior and what others expect or think, leads to living life with a self-focused superficiality. We become more concerned about protecting ourselves from something negative and unpleasant, than investing ourselves in the freedom, wonder and awe of being human! We can still find our way to the unacceptable or inappropriate behavior as long as we do not get caught! Being a whole, focused, and God-centered human being requires more. It demands an investment of the heart. Virtuous, moral, and mature lifestyles reflective of the Gospel necessitate love.

When we experience and recognize love, God's unconditional love, in the depth of our soul, we fall in love with what we have found. We then find ourselves leaving destructive and sinful actions behind in search of something more holy, dignified, true, integral, and loving. This is really "mercy realized." God's tremendous, loving, eternal forgiveness and willingness to bring us back to something more real and tender is transformational. The respect for myself that I receive from God is so life changing that it causes me to run quickly away from anything sinful and self-destructive to things that are whole and holy.

There are many people who want nothing more than to judge or criticize us. What would actually stoning the woman caught in adultery really accomplish? Nothing more than the inflation of the already self-righteous egos of a few men who think they have power. They have no power because they are sinners too, just like everyone else. What all of us have is the humble ability to express sorrow for pursuing destructive thoughts and actions and receive the power of God's mercy. Then, Jesus' request to "go and sin no more" will be one we proudly heed and follow.

Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.

Please consider having Masses celebrated for family and friends on special occasions



Sacrificial Giving for 3-27

	3-27	Direct Deposit
Malta:	\$1,002.50	\$25.00
Dodson:	\$270.00	\$0.00
Saco:	\$230.00	\$50.00

Finance Council

Charlie Mears 654-7006, cmears@itstriangle.com

Regina Webb 319-491-7607, auntregina@gmail.com

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh_99@hotmail.com

Mike Ereaux 658-2613 (H), 654-7803 (C), mfe7195@itstriangle.com

Scott King 654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com

Please send bulletin announcements to office@SaintMarysMalta.org by Thursday evening. Thanks!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Knights of Columbus last Lenten Fish Fry's will be April 8th**
- **Stations of the cross are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. following the fish fry dinners.**
- **The Lay ministry schedule is out and in the back of the church.**
- **There is general cleaning of the church on Saturday, April 2nd beginning at 8:30 AM and carried forward thru Saturday, April 9th. Duty lists assigned by PCCW bands is posted in the South East cleaning closet but every church member is invited to assist with this important semi annual job. Please cross off work as it is completed. Thank you.**
- **Anyone wishing to purchase and donate a Lily or spring flowering plant are asked to do so after April 10th (closer to 16th if possible) and leave them in the vestibule or drop them downstairs on a designated table where they will be cared for until Easter decorating on Holy Saturday.**
- **Fr. Felix celebrates the anniversary of his ordination on April 11th. Congratulations Fr. Felix.**

Parish Council

Alora Snider— 399-1675, alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com (Malta)

Shawn Bleth— 654-7303, shawn.bleth@gmail.com (Malta)

Nancy Ereaux—658-2613 (H),

Cliff Merriman— 654-4391, merrimanclifford@gmail.com (K of C)

Wilma Mavencamp—654-1346, maven100@itstriangle.com (PCCW)

Tom DePuydt—674-7060, 4bard@itstriangle.com (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459, leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

Raffle Update for St Mary's

Every raffle ticket you've purchased for the Annual Raffle through the Diocese counts! Check out how our Parish has benefited from the tickets that you have purchased!

2022 Ticket Sales by St Mary's = 184
2022 Money Earned by St Mary's = \$ 1,104

2021 Total Tickets Sold by St Mary's = 242

There's still time to continue to help raise money through purchasing raffle tickets. Visit us in the Parish Office or order your tickets directly through the Diocese. The order form can be found at www.diocesegfb.org/charity-fundraising-raffle/.



This is a Charity Raffle for the Diocese of Great Falls - Billings. All rules can be found on our website at www.diocesegfb.org.

Tickets can be purchased at First State Bank, Bank of Malta, Valley Drug, Todd's Technology, Northern Prairie Designs, Westside Self Service or by contacting Tom Golik or Brenda Rummel.

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The Annual Catholic Appeal campaign is in progress! “Living our Faith Together” has enabled us to come together as a family of faith and ensures our gifts touch the entire faith community of the Church of Eastern Montana. Your support is received with great gratitude and conviction that we are growing as a family of faith, sharing in toils and happiness together, all while being molded into the image of God.