

From our Pastor

I wrote my annual letter to the young people who have been preparing here at the parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. I told them how, when I was a boy, I used to watch the NASA rocket launches on TV. Often it was the case that the rocket was ready on the launch pad. "Ignition sequence" was started and the countdown begun. T-minus and counting! Then, because of weather conditions or mechanical failures or some other technical concern, the launch would be "scrubbed" until a later date.

So it has been with our celebration of Confirmation – and of First Communion too at St. Vincent de Paul. Due to that pesky virus, the initial dates had to be scrubbed. We have been eager to launch, but we were told that we had to wait just a little longer.

As always, we want to offer liturgies that are intimate, beautiful, sacred, and prayerful. Some lament this is much harder to do amid regulations such as those that require us to keep distance from one other, limit attendance, and refrain from congregational singing. Yet we remember that Jesus chose to come to a world that was messy, cold, and ailing.

Throughout this pandemic, we have longed for the True Presence of Jesus and the life of the Holy Spirit. Now that we can finally celebrate the Sacraments with our children, we believe that the grace of God will make our liturgies just as intimate, beautiful, sacred, and prayerful as ever – maybe even more. Thanks be to God – and thank you all, good people.

~ Fr. Dennis Zehren



Calling All Young Adults!



Those in their early 20s to late 30s, those who are single and those who are married with kids, I'm reaching out to you! Recently I was reading about the life of Pope Saint John Paul II and how he would take young people, usually couples out for camping trips in the mountains.

This got me thinking about going on a camping trip this July 15-19, and I would like to invite the young adults in our parish to join me. My idea is to camp along the North Shore between Duluth and Grand Marais doing some hiking and visiting breweries and landmarks along the way. ***If you might be interested in an adventure like this, please reach out to me via email by next Sunday, June 21: frandrewzipp@saintvdp.org.***

2nd Collection this Weekend

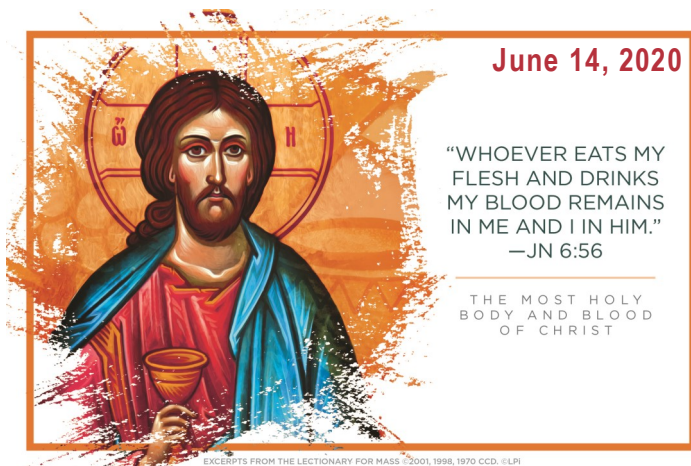


Our second collection this month will be for our Youth Ministry Scholarship Fund. These funds will help to provide financial assistance to our teens who attend youth activities and events throughout the year.



Electronic Giving

Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to make a donation to St. Vincent de Paul, or log on to saintvdp.org to set up recurring online giving.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT:

KNOW and celebrate our Catholic Faith,

LOVE God and our neighbor,

SERVE as disciples of Jesus Christ.

CONTACT

Online: saintvdp.org

E-Mail: General: churchinfo@saintvdp.org

Prayer Line: prayerrequests@saintvdp.org

Parish Office: (763) 425-2210

School Office: (763) 425-3970

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation

Weekdays: 7:30 AM and Saturdays: 3:30-4:15 PM

Or call to schedule an appointment.

Baptisms: Call to schedule an appointment

Matrimony: Please call the office at 763-425-2210

WORSHIP

Location

9100 93rd Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN, 55445

Masses

Monday-Friday at 8 AM

Saturday at 5 PM (*will be recorded and posted online early evening*)

Sunday at 7:30 AM, 9 AM, 11 AM

All weekend Masses will be radio broadcast into the parking lot on 91.7 FM.



Thank you to all those who made masks for the Villa of Osseo. We appreciate your willingness to help keep the residents at the Villa safe.

Good Samaritans Needed

We need 5 people per Mass who would arrive 20 minutes before the start of each Mass and will be stationed at the doors to count people. After Mass you would help wipe down the pews. This process takes about 15 minutes. Anyone who is willing to serve in this role will need to wear a face mask and check in with Tony Freeman or a Sacristan on arrival. At this point, the Good Samaritans will be in lieu of Ushers and Greeters. If you have served in one of these roles in the past, please consider signing up. Go to our website and sign up on our electronic scheduler or contact the Parish Office. This is a great opportunity for a family to serve together!

Cemetery Rate Increase



Effective July 1, 2020

Rates will increase for the St. Vincent Cemetery gravesites, columbarium, and interment fees. Please contact the church office with any questions.

Welcome, New Parishioners!

APRIL 2020

- Joshua & Molly Lewis, Brooklyn Park

MAY 2020

- Edward & Catherine Keller, Osseo
- Lisa Bradley-Hill, Maple Grove
- Jackson & Jennie Beaudoin, Maple Grove
- James & Elizabeth Cochran, Plymouth
- Steven & Nancy Voots, Maple Grove
- Stephen & Katherine Fisher, Champlin
- Wayne & Paula Svegal, Brooklyn Park

*Thank you
for being
a part of
our parish
family!*

The deadline for the bulletin is Noon on Monday.

Please pray for the souls of...

† Anne Custer † Craig Biegert
† Beverly Mooney

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Danny Kroll

To submit prayers or become a member of the Prayer Line, go to saintvdp.org, click on "Be Involved", click on "Pray", then choose "Prayer Line" from the menu on the left.

Perpetual Adoration Adorers Needed



Due to social distancing recommendations, we are asking that all regularly scheduled adorers use the chapel, while those who are not scheduled continue to pray in the Sanctuary between 7 AM – 4:30 PM.

We are in **urgent** need of adorers to fill these hours:

Sunday: 1 AM, 5 AM, Noon	Thursday: 4 AM
Tuesday: 4 PM	Friday: 9 AM, 11 AM, 5 PM,
Wednesday: Noon, 11 PM	10 PM
	Saturday: 1 PM

To volunteer, please contact JoAnne Newman at 763-420-4089.

"The best, the surest, and the most effective way of establishing peace on earth is through the great power of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament."

These were the words of Pope John Paul II in establishing Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition on Dec. 2, 1981 at St. Peter's in Rome.

Mass Intentions for June 15-21

Monday	8:00 AM	† Gary Yanta
Tuesday	8:00 AM	† Katie Vanderheyden
Wednesday	8:00 AM	† Clarence Przybilla
Thursday	8:00 AM	† Raymond Seth
Friday	8:00 AM	† Tim Burns
Saturday	5:00 PM	† Sylvia Ditter
Sunday	7:30 AM	Parishioners
	9:00 AM	† Robert Davis
	11:00 AM	† Edward Czerwinski

Readings for this Week

Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 [12]/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58

Monday: 1 Kgs 21:1-16/Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7 [2b]/Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 21:17-29/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16 [cf. 3a]/Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Ps 31:20, 21, 24 [25]/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Sir 48:1-14/Ps 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7 [12a]/Mt 6:7-15

Friday: Dt 7:6-11/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 10 [cf. 17]/1 Jn 4:7-16/Mt 11:25-30

Saturday: 2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1]/Lk 2:41-51

Next Sunday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35 [14c]/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office will be open from 8:00 to Noon, Monday - Friday. The office doors will remain locked through the day. Please ring the doorbell for assistance. Staff will continue to work remotely as much as possible. If you leave a message between 8 AM and 4 PM, a staff member will get back to you. If it is an emergency, please call 763-425-2210 and press 1 to connect to our Emergency Call center.



There Is No Time Like Now! – A Reflection on Racism by Okey Anyanwu

Working in a faith community as an employee or a volunteer bequeaths a satisfaction of a different kind. This has been so true in my personal experience at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. I say that with confidence because, as a “black” man working in a predominantly “white” parish, the events of this past week could have forced me to recoil into my shell for the fear of my inner questions. However, I have chosen to share my reflection based on the encouraging and inspirational experiences I have had in this great faith community for almost 13 years.

One of my most memorable experiences took place while I was presiding over a Wake Service for a 90-year-old deceased parishioner in one of the funeral Chapels in the Cities a few years ago. Let me refer to the deceased as “Jim” in order to avoid giving away his identity. As I was sharing a reflection from the readings, I jokingly said: “I wonder whether it ever crossed Jim’s mind that a black guy all the way from Africa will be presiding at his Wake Service”. Before I could finish that statement a huge laughter and applause resounded in that Chapel, which was fully packed with Jim’s relatives and friends. I was caught off-guard by that hilarious reaction because I knew nothing about Jim’s social struggles until his son humorously shared a story during his eulogy. The most touching part of that story was when his son recounted that his Dad’s favorite nurse in the hospital was an African American. According to him, Jim was so touched by this nurse’s loving care to the extent that a day before he died, he held unto this nurse’s hand and tearfully thanked her for helping him get over decades of deep-seated unchristian racial impressions. Jim’s parting words with this African American nurse were: “you are one person I needed to meet before the Lord calls me home”.

My dear people of God, Jim came to terms with the fact that how we relate to people who are different from us matters in our spiritual life. In accordance with the scriptures and Church’s moral teaching, our own Archbishop Harry Flynn of blessed memory in his Pastoral Letter on Racism titled “In God’s Image” clearly observed that **“Racism is a serious moral evil. It is a sin”**. That should be our focus as people of faith, not the regrettable looting and vandalism that took place during the protests. Those were mere momentary distractions and therefore do not qualify as an excuse for us to tune off.

We cannot tune off now that the hope of a better tomorrow has become so evident on the streets all over the world where blacks and whites, young and elderly, Christians and non-Christians came out to say, “enough is enough!”. I am inclined to think that the sanctuary for preaching the gospel of racial harmony has just received a face-lift in our hearts, on our streets, in our neighborhoods, in our workplaces and even in our immediate families.

I can imagine an America and indeed a world, where being **different** may no longer connote deficiency and being **indifferent** to this reality may no longer be an option, because **making a difference** is becoming a unifying form of spirituality. The stage seems to be well set, because for several weeks, all the big cities in the world looked like ghost towns due to a global lockdown necessitated by COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly, while governments of nations and religious leaders were strategizing to reopen in phases, our cities got flooded with people protesting racial injustice. What an involuntary and thought-provoking way to reopen for business!

It does feel like the joy of reopening our churches was quickly met by an urgent call for the Universal Church to leave the building and stand up for justice. **As a person of faith, what did you see? What are you hearing? ... and how do you feel?** There seem to be a deeper narrative than the fact that George Floyd died under the weight of injustice personified by Ex-officer Derek Chauvin while the 17-year-old, Darnella Frazier filmed and shared the video that ended the global lockdown as we knew it.

This deeper narrative hinges on the concept of **'breathing'**, which we don't think about very often. The scary statistics of the impact of coronavirus pandemic, which triggered a scramble for ventilators around the world reaffirmed how essential **'breathing'** is to life. Last week, in our beautiful City of Minneapolis, George Floyd screamed **"I can't breathe"** into the ears of a world plagued by a more dangerous pandemic of racial injustice and inequality. Just a few days after George quit breathing, the universal Church celebrated Pentecost, when **Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit"**. John 20:22

It would have been easier to end this reflection here by connecting the untold fear, anxiety and chaos in our society today to the emotions that ran through the hearts and minds of the disciples before the birth of the Church at Pentecost. However, it is striking to historically recall that **who we are as a Church has always and everywhere been forged in the crucible of turmoil and injustice**. So, while we feel sickened by the news of COVID-19 and the unrest following George Floyd's tragic death, we need to realize that the "Life and dignity of the human person" (the first principle of Catholic Social teaching) is at stake here. The truth remains that every race has a fair share of the same stereotypes that feed our fears and suspicions of the "other". Above all, we all share equal dignity as images and likenesses of God.

It's therefore expected that some of us may be asking the same question the Jews asked Peter after Pentecost: **"What do we do now?" or better still, what do I do now? Does racial difference mean deficiency to me? Am I indifferent to the sin of racism because I neither feel like a victim nor a perpetrator? Is there any opportunity for me to make a difference by being in solidarity with people of other races locally or internationally?**

- Can we as a parish community amplify our already established relationship with Zanewood Community School, which is predominantly populated by less privileged African American, Hispanic and Asian children?
- Can we become more intentional about our international outreach through BIZAA, which is focused on moving African children from streets into classrooms?
- Administratively, can we close our offices on every Martin Luther King Jr. public holiday as a concrete way of witnessing to the gospel of racial harmony?
- Can we start praying for victims and perpetrators of racism during "Prayers of the Faithful" at Mass when appropriate?

Sisters and brothers, while the scientists are busy researching to find a cure and develop a vaccine for COVID-19, we have the moral obligation as people of faith to be the "salt of the earth" by becoming living ventilators in a world that is suffocating from racial injustice and inequality. There is no time like now.

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us both now and forever. Amen!