

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

ST. MARY'S IS A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ON A JOURNEY OF FAITH WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO WITNESS CHRIST'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

From the Pastor-(Repent and believe in the gospel) Saint John the Baptist this week challenges us to a deeper conversion of heart by turning from sin. The people of Nineveh recognized the seriousness of sin and proclaimed a fast to God. God held back his punishment and offered them mercy.

Since the kingdom of God is at hand, we must be vigilant in fighting against sin. However, we are living in a culture that for the first time in history denies the reality of sin. Dostoevsky predicted that there will come a time when men will say, "there is no sin, no guilt, only hunger." But even though sin and guilt are not popular topics today, we must face them.

Take for example, a child! Does a child not know what sin is? Let any mother say to a child, I do not love you anymore and she will soon see tears and hurt. The child knows a broken relationship consists of sin!

What is sin? It is the breaking of communion with Jesus Christ. Our relationship with the Son of God is severed. We choose to love the sin rather than Christ, who shed His blood out of love for us. We even leave the subject of sin out of our conversations.

There are two escapes from sin today. The first escape is that we have lost being penitents, and accepted to be just patients. It may be said, we are not guilty we are just sick. So we seek the counsel that does not have the power of forgive sins, but explains them away. Only in confession can we be freed from sin.

And if guilt is not forgiven and sin removed, we are like a capped-tube of toothpaste when you squeeze it comes out in all the wrong places. Genuine normal guilt often has an abnormal manifestation like a thief who neurotically washes his hands. When we deal with it abnormally, we are apt to forget, but underneath all this denial, there is real sin. So the first escape used today is to deny we are guilty.

The second escape is rationalization. We rationalize our evil and blame others so the sin doesn't look so bad. But the guilt cannot be covered up. For instance, someone may convince themselves that God will forgive anything. It wasn't such a big sin, I don't need to go to confession.

What is the best medicine for any sin is to look truthfully into your heart, kneel in front of a crucifix and go to a priest for confession. Instead of rationalizing that sin doesn't exist we can accept it as a thorn that needs to be removed.

Now how is sin forgiven? By washing in the sand as some religions do? By just doing penance? Ignoring it? What is the absolute condition for the forgiveness of sin? It is found in the 9th chapter of the Hebrews verse 22, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." Why blood? Because sin is in the blood, in the blood of the adulterer, the addict, the murderer, from the fall of Adam. And in order for this blood to be redeemed, the Son of God had to come to this earth and shed His own blood as a sacrifice.

There are blood sacrifices that allude to Jesus' death in the Old Testament. First, when Adam and Eve sinned, God covered their innocence with animal skins. In order to get animal skins there had to be the shedding of blood. Second, when Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac, the angel held his hand and a ram was sacrificed instead. Third, Moses spared the people of Israel by having them mark their

doorsteps with the blood of the lamb. And finally Our Lord was lifted up and pierced as the lamb, so that Heaven could be opened to mankind. For "without the shedding of blood there can be no remission for sins." The blood of Jesus makes us free. Repent and return to our Lord, many times this week. It is the precious blood of Jesus that will change us to be like Him forever! It is the precious blood of Jesus that will wash our away our sins.

POPE BENEDICT: The path to Christian unity requires more than being nice to each other and cooperating, says Benedict XVI. Full and visible unity will require transformation and being conformed to the image of Christ.

"The full and visible unity of Christians for which we long demands that we allow ourselves to be ever more perfectly transformed and conformed to the image of Christ," the Holy Father stated. "The unity for which we pray requires interior conversion, both communal and personal. It isn't simply a matter of kindness and cooperation; above all, we must strengthen our faith in God, in the God of Jesus Christ, who has spoken to us and who made himself one of us; we must enter into new life in Christ, which is our true and definitive victory; we must open ourselves to one another, cultivating all the elements of that unity that God has preserved for us and gives to us ever anew; we must feel the urgency of bearing witness before the men of our times to the living God, who made himself known in Christ."

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer is "We Will All Be Changed By the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ," and the reflection and meditation were prepared by ecumenical.

The Holy Father reflected on the Church's commitment to ecumenism, "The Second Vatican Council put the ecumenical pursuit at the center of the Church's life and work," he said.

He cited John Paul II, who referred to unity, not as "something added on, but [which] stands at the very heart of Christ's mission. ... [I]t belongs to the very essence of this community."

Benedict XVI affirmed, "The ecumenical task is therefore a responsibility of the whole Church and of all the baptized, who must make the partial, already existing communion between Christians grow into full communion in truth and charity. Therefore, prayer for unity is not limited to this Week of Prayer but rather must become an integral part of our prayer, of the life of prayer of all Christians, in every place and in every time, especially when people of different traditions meet and work together for the victory, in Christ, over all that is sin, evil, injustice, and that violates human dignity."

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSES TO MEMORIZE: John 8:12
Again, therefore, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me does not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life."

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2012

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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| Monday, Jan. 23 | Weekday (<i>Day of Penance</i>) |
| 6:30 pm | Confessions |
| 7:00 pm MASS | †Rita Kirkpatrick/Helfrich |
| 6:00 pm-12:00am | Adoration |
| Tuesday, Jan. 24 | Saint Francis de Sales |
| 6:30 am | Confession |
| 7:00 am MASS | †Buddy Herron/Case |
| 7:00 pm | RCIA |
| 12:00 am-12:00 am | Adoration |
| Wednesday, Jan. 25 | The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle |
| 5:30 pm | Confessions |
| 6:00 pm MASS | †George Simonis/Sprenger |
| 6:30 pm | RE Class |
| 6:30 pm | Adult Bible Class with Fr. Albert |
| 12:01 am-12:00 am | Adoration |
| Thursday, Jan. 26 | Saints Timothy and Titus |
| 6:30 am | Confession |
| 7:00 am MASS | †Alfred Koch/Helling |
| 7:00 pm | Painting with Father |
| 12:01 am-12:00 am | Adoration |
| Friday, Jan. 27 | Saint Angela Merici |
| 5:45 am | Men's Bible Study |
| 6:30 am | Confession |
| 7:00 am MASS | †Alfred Koch/Helling |
| 12:01 am-10:00 am | Adoration |
| Saturday, Jan. 28 | Saint Thomas Aquinas |
| 8:00 am MASS | Special Intentions |
| 3:30 pm | Confession |
| 5:00 pm MASS | Jim Nirschl/Nirschl |
| Sunday, Jan. 29 | 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 8:00 am | Holy Hour |
| 9:00 am | Confession |
| 10:00 am MASS | †Wayne Willman/Willman |
| 11:30 am SP MASS | For the Parish |

PARKING: Parking has become a problem as parishioners are parking in fire lanes. Please do not park where there is not a parking space marked. If we had an emergency the ambulance or fire truck would not be able to enter our parking lot. If you don't need the handicap space please leave them for those with walker or wheelchairs.

ADORATION: We are looking for a person to spend one hour with our Lord at **9 am and midnight on Wednesday**. "For where two or three are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them.". Call Karla at 276-3615.

ADULT ED: Fr Albert will teach an adult bible study on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm. **Classes will be Jan. 25, Feb. 1st and 29th.**

LIBRARY HOURS: The library will be open Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-Noon. Please check to see if you have library materials at home. Many things are overdue. Questions call Ann Vescio @ 541-278-8616 or E-mail at annvescio@q.com. Thank you.

DDA RETREAT: High School Youth please register for the upcoming HS Retreat. Deadline Feb. 10, 2012. For registration and Medical release call Patti at 541-388-4004 she will mail you the form.

ORGANIST: We are looking for someone to play the organ during Masses. If you know of anyone please let Father Clemens know.

PRO-LIFE WEBSITES: Some good life websites are: lifesitenews.com, all.org, priestforlife.org, hli.org. All these websites are dedicated to promoting pro-life causes and reporting the pro life message.

PRO-LIFE BREAKFAST: Breakfast will be served downstairs this Sunday from 9:00—11:30 am. Come and support our Right To Life Group and Knights.

WEBSITE!! Our website is up and running—
stmaryspendleton.org. or gwestcatholicmen.com

Our new e-mail address is saintmary@qwestoffice.net

BOOK OF MONTH: The book *Mother Teresa of Calcutta* by Monsignor Leo Maasburg gives us such great insight into this very human and very holy saint. In it, he not only shows us why Mother Teresa was a saint, but points the way for us also to become saints: become people of prayer. In this person portrait of the beloved nun, he presents fifty amazing stories about her that most people have never heard, wonderful and delightful stories about miracles, small and great, that he was privileged to experience at Mother Teresa's side. Stories of how, without a penny to her name, she started an orphanage in Spain and at the same time saved a declining railroad company from ruin, and so many more. They all tell of her limitless trust in God's love, of the way the power of faith can move mountains, and of hope that can never die.

Altar Servers for Jan 28-29

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| 5:00 pm | Bradon, Jacob & Elijah Sprenger |
| 10:00 am | Seth & Peter Case/Remington Christensen |
| 11:30 am | Jonathan Lopez |

We Would Like To Welcome You To Our Parish Family

If you are new to the Parish, please fill out your name and address below. We would love to add you to our Parish Family. Please visit us at the Parish Office or mail this form to us or place it in the collection basket.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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