

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

Come join us downstairs for coffee & donuts after Sunday's Mass.

From the Pastor:

The readings for the first Sunday of Advent prepares us for the second coming of Christ. This is something we may not want to reflect on, most particularly because it sounds kind of frightening. We hear in the end there will be great signs on earth. People will have great anxiety in anticipation of Christ's return. How are we to look at this reality? One could grow complacent in thinking that for 2,000 years Christ has not returned. Nevertheless, the scripture always tells us to be vigilant. Saint Paul in Thessalonians tells us to increase in love, strengthen our hearts and be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at Christ's coming.

In order to be blameless we must return to looking at sin. Sin is a violation against God. It has three effects. It divides the person from himself because it make the soul a battlefield. It divides the person from his neighbor in that a man who is not at peace with himself is not at peace with his neighbor. Cain after sinning said, "am I my brothers keeper?" Finally, it divides us from God in that it blocks divine life.

According to scripture, personal or actual sin, is either deadly or not, mortal or venial. Mortal sin kills grace within us—divine life is extinguished. Venial sin wounds us slightly. Where love exists there is no distinction between the two. It would be wrong to say, if it is mortal sin, I won't do it. If it is venial sin, I will. Nevertheless, mortal sin is known in three ways, it consists in grave matter, for instance missing mass on Sunday and Holy Days. You know it is grave and you go ahead and do it anyway.

In the Sacrament of Penance, we submit to judgment. It is a Sacrament instituted by Christ. It did not exist through the Old Testament but throughout the O.T. there is an acknowledgment of sin before God. Adam is asked by God, has he eaten from the tree? Why did God need to ask him, God knows everything. He asked him in order to illicit a confession. It was the same with Cain. He asked him, where is your brother? Cain not wanting to confess and says, "Am I my brothers keeper?"

The Pharisees challenged Christ in forgiving sins on earth. They were right in saying only God can forgive sins. But God wanted to communicate that power through His Church. First, he gives Peter the keys and says, whatever you bind on earth is bound, whatever you loose is loosed. Later after the Resurrection, he appears to Peter and the Apostles, breathes on them and says, "receive the Holy Spirit, whose sins you forgive they are forgiven, whose sins you retain they are retained." The Church then is to hear the confessions. If they did not hear the confessions, how would they know what to forgive and what to retain.

The Lord then wants to help us be saved. Sin paralyzes us. Similarly, in the natural order like a boil it has to be taken out or lanced. Our Lord will lance the souls and release the evil from within. Sin when confessed looses it power. If we suppress it comes out in many neurotic ways. God was merciful when he gave us the Sacrament of Penance. Are we ready to receive his mercy by going to confession regularly?

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS: THE ALTAR: The altar on which the Sacrifice of the Cross is made present under sacramental signs is the table of the Lord to which the People of God are called together to participate in the Mass. The altar of the Lord's table is also the center of the whole Liturgy of the Eucharist.
Continued next week

POPE BENEDICT XVI: Christ is a King who dominates with love, who does not impose himself but rather respects human freedom, Benedict XVI is affirming. The Pontiff affirmed that Christ's royalty is not like that of the great ones of the world, but rather, it is the power to defeat evil and death and to "awaken hope" even in the hardest of hearts. The Holy Father explained to the faithful that the power of Christ "is the divine power to give eternal life, to free from evil, to overcome the reign of death." He continued: "It is the power of love, that knows how to bring good out of evil, soften a hard heart, bring peace to the most bitter conflict, awaken hope in the most impenetrable darkness. "This Kingdom of Grace never imposes itself, and it respects our freedom." Benedict XVI noted that "the title of 'king,' in reference to Jesus, is very important in the Gospels and allows a complete reading of his figure and his mission of salvation." "We are able to see a progress in this regard," he observed. "First there is the expression 'King of Israel' and then we arrive at that of universal King, Lord of the cosmos and of history, therefore, far beyond the expectations of the Hebrew people themselves." Before the grandeur of this royalty, the Pope affirmed, even with its paradoxical sign, the Cross, a choice becomes "necessary" for every conscience: "Whom do I want to follow? God or the evil one? The truth or the lie?" He continued, "Choosing Christ does not guarantee success according to the criteria of the world, but it assures that peace and that joy that he alone can give." "This is shown in every age," the Pontiff affirmed, "by the experience of many men and women who, in the name of Christ, in the name of truth and justice, knew how to oppose themselves to the enticements of earthly power with its different disguises, to the point of sealing this fidelity of theirs with martyrdom."

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Come one, Come all for a day of Christmas tree hunting on Tollgate with the Knights. Sunday December 6 following the 10:00 am Mass at Morning Creek snow park. Approximately 1.5 miles past the Tollgate Store on the right side of the road. You will need a snow pass purchasable at the DMV and a tree cutting permit purchasable at most convenience stores in town. If you are unable to go and would like a tree cut and delivered, just let Tony or Marc know. There will be hotdogs, soup and warm beverages served. Call Tony Nelson @966-9227 or Marc Sokoloski @ 966-8833 if you are interested.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSES TO MEMORIZE: Mt 6:7 "But in praying, do not multiply words, as the Gentiles do; for they think that by saying a great deal, they will be heard." **Mt 26:44-45** Then they also will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry, or thirsty, or stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Amen I say to you, as long as you did not do it for one of these least ones, you did not do it for me.'

1st Sunday Of Advent November 29 2009

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, Nov. 30 Andrew, apostle

7:00 pm MASS Holy Guardian Angels/Shirley Baker

6:00 pm-12:00 am Adoration

TUESDAY, Dec. 1 Advent Weekday

7:00 am MASS †Leonard & Antoinette Herbes/Georgia

7:00 pm RCIA

12:01 am-12:00 am Adoration

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 2 Advent Weekday

5:15 pm Confession

6:00 pm MASS Nicholas Feller/Feller Family

6:30 pm RE Class/Adult Ed

12:01 am-12:00 am Adoration

THURSDAY, Dec. 3 Francis Xavier, priest

7:00 am MASS Conversion of abortion providers

*7:00 pm Confession

12:01am-12:00 am Adoration

FRIDAY, Dec. 4 John of Damascus, priest & doctor

5:45 am Men's Bible & Faith Study

7:00 am MASS †Sean Phelan/Mary Pat McCarton

12:01 am-10:00 am Adoration

SATURDAY, Dec. 5 Sunday Vigil

8:00 am MASS Priests of Baker Diocese/Elaine Urban

3:30 pm Confession

4:30 pm Rosary

5:00 pm †Virginia Kohn/Kohn & Wolfgram

SUNDAY, Dec. 6 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00-9:00 am Holy Hour

9:15 am Confessions

9:30 am Rosary

10:00 am MASS †Laura Moore/Frank & Phyllis Ritz

11:00 am Leaving for KC's Christmas tree gathering

11:30 am(sp) MASS For the Parish

* Note change or new item in schedule

GIVING TREE: The giving tree will be in the back of the church Thanksgiving weekend please take a name home, buy a gift, and place the gift under the tree.

ENVELOPES: Your envelopes are in the back of church. If you don't have a set of envelopes and would like a set, take a blank set and put your name on the list provided **with the envelope number of the set. This is the only way I know who has that envelope set. The first few times please put your name on each envelope.**

ST. MARY'S ON-LINE: The website is stmaryspendleton.org

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: St. Mary Bazaar and Country Kitchen will be on Saturday December 12 from 9am-3pm in the basement of the church. More information contact Karen Moore at 276-2751. Proceeds benefit St. Mary's Outreach.

ADORATION:. We are looking for a person to spend one hour with our Lord at 3 am on Friday, 8 pm on Wednesday and 1 am on Thursday. *"For where two or three are gathered together for my sake, there am I in the midst of them."* Call Karla at 276-3615.

BOOK OF THE MONTH: Dare to transform your world with kindness! Probably you just can't find the time-and can't ever seem to develop the patience- that you need in order to be consistently kind amidst the irritations that afflict you daily. That's why *The Hidden Power of Kindness* by Lawrence G. Lovasik is such a godsend. You'll learn how to be kinder, even in difficult circumstances. This wonderful book increases our insights into the wonder of the message that speaks so powerfully to us: "Love is patient, love is kind..." Sign up in back of Church if you would like a copy to buy. Cost will be \$20.

Altar Servers for December 5-6

Saturday 5:00 pm: Nolan & Grant Kennedy

Sunday 10:00 am: Logan Thorne & Quinn Doherty

Sunday 11:30 am: Mitchell Montachalin

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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