

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:

Saint John the Baptist proclaimed, "A voice of the one crying out in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths....." This week's Gospel of Luke gives us direction in following the Lord. In order to make straight the way of the Lord, we need to be pure and blameless. This comes about through deeper prayer and the knowledge of what the Lord desires. One of those desires was that all confess their sins. This comes about in the Sacrament of Penance

What are the essential acts of Penance? First, you tell your sins. Second, you manifest a contrite heart. Third, you repair the damage done by your sins by making satisfaction. Sometimes people believe they can share their sins with others, no big deal. Many young people share their sins willingly online. It can be centered very much in pride—look at me, what a rogue am I. And often it has the intention to incite an emotional or passionate response. This is not the case in St. Augustine's book "The Confessions," he did not tell of one grave sin. He said he wrote the book to tell of the mercy of God. When we tell our sins, we tell them to God in order to be healed, to have justice rendered, to receive grace and build character. But we must come with a broken heart.

Contrition means to break, to crush. We must break with our sin, crush it. It's not a worldly remorse related to the past. We see the difference in the lives of Peter and Judas. Our Lord called Peter the devil and Judas was obsessed with the devil. Peter was later forgiven and Judas was not. Why? Because Peter repented unto the Lord. Judas repented unto himself. Contrition must be sincere. There must be sorrow. It is an interior disposition that admits the truth, "I have sinned against you Lord."

Now there are those that say, "all you have to do is admit your sins and you will come out white as snow." But that doesn't complete the confession. A confession must be made with firm purpose of amendment or it is not valid. In other words, the absolution is not efficacious unless there is serious sorrow. Repentance is very important. Peter's first sermon preached about it and of course John the Baptist emphasized it.

On the road to repentance Christians suffer more when they sin than those who do not know the faith. The faithful want to please the Lord and when they sin they break the relationship with Him. Nevertheless, though we suffer more, we never despair. We make an amendment not to sin again.

It is interesting to look at the different levels of sorrow. Imperfect sorrow dreads the loss of Heaven and fears Hell. An example of this is the child that says to his mother, "mom I'm sorry, can I go to the movies." Perfect sorrow is when we are sorry because we offended God. It would be expressed when a child throws their arms around their mother and says, "mom forgive me, I love you." That is perfect contrition. While imperfect contrition is sufficient to receive absolution in confession, we actually acknowledge both sorrows in the act of contrition.

With sorrow comes our firm purpose of amendment not to sin again, to avoid the near occasion of sin. We once again face the world with God's grace and choose to change and turn away from sin. This will complete our confession and once again restore us to God's grace. Confession is beautiful, have you received it?

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS: THE ALTAR:The Immobility/Stability of the Altar: It is appropriate to have a fixed altar in every church, since it more clearly and permanently signifies Christ Jesus, the living stone. Altars in permanent churches should be fixed and never moved.

POPE BENEDICT XVI: Benedict XVI will be praying in a particular way for children in December. The Apostleship of Prayer announced this general intention chosen by the Pope: "That children may be respected and loved and never be the victims of exploitation in its various forms." "The Holy Father also chooses an apostolic intention for each month. In November he will pray: "That at Christmas the peoples of the earth may recognize in the Word Incarnate the light which illuminates every man and that the Nations may open their doors to Christ, the Savior of the world."

ARCHBISHOP RESPONDS TO GAY RIGHTS PROTEST: Show Me No Hate has accused the Archdiocese of St. Louis of misusing the funds, saying the Church has neglected the poor, sick and homeless in the city. "Following Christ's teaching on marriage does not mean we neglect the poor," states Archbishop Carlson in response to the accusations. "In fact, no other private institution in the world does as much for the sick and poor as the Catholic Church." The Church "always tries to follow the teachings on Jesus in welcoming all people," and "does not believe in discrimination" The archbishop explained, however, that this "does not mean we can change Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and added that Catholics have the obligation to "carry out Christ's teachings, whether in the privacy of our own home or in the public square." "Separation of church and state means that the government cannot favor a particular faith," continued the prelate. "It does not mean that faith-filled people lose their right to speak out publicly and engage in the political process." When it comes to serving the poor and supporting traditional marriage, Archbishop Carlson added that "it's not an either/or choice when it comes to Christ's teachings. As Catholic, we are called to live and teach them all."

COFFEE & DONUTS: We will have a sign up downstairs for family or individuals to serve coffee and donuts each week. If you would like to help with this ministry please sign up or call Curt LaVelle at 276-7007.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSES TO MEMORIZE: Lk 1:28 and the virgin's name was Mary. And when the angel had come to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women." **Lk 1:30-31** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus."

2nd Sunday of Advent December 6 2009

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, Dec. 7 Ambrose, bishop & doctor

7:00 pm MASS Reparation to Immaculate Conception of Mary
6:00 pm-12:00 am Adoration

TUESDAY, Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception

7:00 am MASS †Bill Nirschl/Don & Ann Vescio
7:00 pm RCIA attend Mass
*7:00 pm MASS Ellie Heitmanek/Mary Harris
*7:30 pm Procession & Reception
12:01 am-12:00 am Adoration

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 9 Saint Juan Diego, hermit

5:15 pm Confession
6:00 pm MASS Jesse & Guadalupe Delgado/Elaine Urban
6:30 pm RE Class/Adult Ed
12:01 am-12:00 am Adoration

THURSDAY, Dec. 10 Advent Weekday

7:00 am MASS †Mike Lambert/Kathryn Thomson
*7:00 pm Confession
12:01am-12:00 am Adoration

FRIDAY, Dec. 11 Damasus I, pope

5:45 am Men's Bible & Faith Study
7:00 am MASS †Maralla Peterson/Kathryn Thomson
12:01 am-10:00 am Adoration

SATURDAY, Dec. 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 am MASS Special Intentions/Fr. Clemens
*9:00 am Christmas Bazaar begins
*3:30 pm Holy Hour for The Americas
3:30 pm Confession
4:30 pm Rosary
5:00 pm Bob & Pat Smith/Mary Harris

SUNDAY, Dec. 13 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00-9:00 am Holy Hour
9:15 am Confessions
9:30 am Rosary
10:00 am MASS †Mary Katona/Vic & Karen Early
11:30 am(sp) MASS For the Parish

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.

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. There will be hotdogs, soup and warm beverages served.

CALENDARS: We are taking order for the Indulgences Calendars "The Beauty of Grace" same as last year. Please sign up in the back of the church. Cost will be \$12. We will also have the free calendars from Burns later in December.

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

Altar Servers for December 19-20

Saturday 5:00 pm: Seth & Peter Case & Walker Hoolehan

Sunday 10:00 am: Daniel & John Kubishta & Soren Wolf

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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