

ENCOUNTERING JESUS EQUIPPING DISCIPLES, LIVING MERO

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Friends.

From a literary standpoint, the bible is a romantic comedy. In classic literature, a comedy is a book with a happy ending. The bible certainly has that. Additionally, its basic plot is that of a love story. The bible begins with a lover, God, pursuing His beloved people, which is the Church. The people of God rebuff His pursuits, but God doesn't give up. Millennia of hijinks ensue until, at last, the guy finally gets His gal. They get married and live happily ever after.

This is why one of the images we so often use to describe the Church is the Bride of Christ. Ironically, the root of this image flows from the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Recall that Jesus is crucified with two criminals. The Roman soldiers break the legs of these two criminals, but when they discover that Jesus is already dead, one of the soldiers thrusts a lance into Jesus' side and blood and water flows out.

Now, I have some experience with puncture wounds. Never has this experience included the presence of water. Blood? Always. Water? Never! Nevertheless, this depiction is physiologically accurate. Jesus would have died from asphyxiation, which meant His lungs filled with fluid. When the lance pierced His sacred body, the fluid accumulated in His lung sprayed out. Additionally, the blood flow would have quickened substantially when that lance pierced Jesus' heart.

However, the true reason for inclusion of this final desecration of Our Lord's sacred body is spiritual. In Sacred Scripture, water is always an illusion to baptism. Additionally, the blood present symbolizes the Eucharist. These two sacraments are the ones from which the other five flow. As such, they are the foundation of the Church. This truth takes on a deeper significance when it is tied to the truth that Jesus is the New Adam. Both Jesus and Adam were sinless at the time of their trial. But, while Adam's disobedience brought sin and death into the world, Jesus' obedience ushered in forgiveness and life. Notice something else. Adam's bride, Eve, came from his side. It only follows, then, that the Church is the Bride of Jesus since She comes out of the side of the New Adam.

This insight has dramatic consequences. Just as a man and a woman become one flesh when they consent to be united in Holy Matrimony, so, too, Jesus and His bride, the Church, are one flesh. In fact, the Union of Jesus and His Church is so radical that St. Paul uses the image of Jesus as the Head and the Church as the Body. Just as a head cannot exist apart from the body, so, too, Jesus does not exist apart from the Church. You see, the union of a man and a woman in Holy Matrimony is but a pale imitation of the union of Jesus and His Church. Yet, even a man and woman united in Holy Matrimony cannot be separated. How much more so, then, can Jesus never be separated from His Church?

Nevertheless, how diligently our modern society pushes for this divorce! How often do we hear people say things like, "I'm spiritual, but not religious." "I follow Jesus, not some human institution." "I don't need a church to worship God." All of these are attempts to divorce Jesus from His Church, and they are even less possible than a husband truly divorcing his wife.

The reverse is often the problem with Catholics. All too often, we act as if we can get to heaven through the Church and don't have to be disciples of Jesus. Many of us are cultural Catholics careful to maintain all the outward appearances of Catholicism. However, our desire for self-denial, evangelization and a personal relationship with Jesus seems dispensable. What is this but trying to get to heaven through the Church and not through Jesus Christ, which is just as fruitless?

Blessings, F. EIM

GENERAL INFORMATION MASS SCHEDULES & INTENTIONS

SACRAMENT PREP

CONFESSIONS:

DAILY: 7:30 AM-7:50 AM (Before All Daily Masses)

SATURDAYS: Lindsay: 4:00 PM-4:45 PM

Humphrey: 4:30 PM-5:15 PM

SUNDAYS: Lindsay: 7:00 AM-7:45 AM

Leigh: 8:00 AM-8:20 AM Tarnov: After 10:30 AM Mass

BAPTISMS: To schedule, please contact Rev. Eric Olsen at

(402) 923-0913.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the priest six months before wedding in order to fulfill required wedding prep classes.

CONTACTS

Pastor:

Rev. Eric Olsen 402-923-0913esolsen@archomaha.org

To Submit Bulletin Information: St. Francis Parishioners.....kmorfeld@hsfschool.org Holy Family Parishioners......lhfp@lhf.esu7.org St. Mary Parishioners......dbrabec@frontiernet.net St. Michael Parishioners stmichaelstarnov@gmail.com (For other parish contacts, please see the following pages.)

LEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Julie (Werner) Frauendorfer

KEEP IN PRAYER AS THEY SERVE OUR COUNTRY:

Craig Prather, Jedd Taff, Brent Kendall, Mitchell Preister, Cody Ramaekers, Eric and Michelle Oberhauser, Ben Borer, Nicole Thompson, Aaron Wallin, Steve Bender, Jacob Williams, SFC Van Dyke, Joshua Sprunk, Codi Rose Fehringer, Fr. Curt Dwyer, Bryce Bartholomew, Calvin Wiese, Doc Schumacher, Dylan Preister, John Babl, Patrick Washburn

(Please call your parish office to add a name.)



ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, HUMPHREY:

Sat, 02/15:

5:30 PM-+Lou Ann Hastreiter

Sun, 02/16:

10:00 AM-+Paul Duesman

Mon, 02/17:

8:00 AM-+Carolyn Gronenthal

Tues. 02/18:

8:00 AM-Sister Valeria Foltz

Wed. 02/19:

8:00 AM-+Eddie Kresha & +Vic Labenz

Thurs, 02/20:

8:00 AM-+Donna Zach (A) & +Cindy Ayala

Fri. 02/21:

NO MASS

Sat, 02/22:

5:30 PM-+Dick & +Eunice Olmer

Sun, 02/23:

10:00 AM-+Carolyn Gronenthal

(WA): Wedding Anniversary

(A): Anniversary of Death

(B): Birthday

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, LINDSAY:

Sat. 02/15: 5:00 PM-L/D Don Moravec Family, and

L/D Tony & Orma Klassen Family

Sun, 02/16: 8:00 AM-L/D Lee Hemmer Family, and

L/D Jim Preister Family

Mon. 02/17:

8:00 AM-L/D Clarence & Evelyn Wojcik Family

Tues, 02/18:

8:00 AM-L/D George & Monica Frisch Family

Wed, 02/19: 6:30 AM-L/D Swede & Arlene Kurtenbach Family 8:00 AM-L/D Duane & Mary Ellen Frauendorfer Family

Thurs, 02/20:

8:00 AM-L/D Matt Dohmen Family

Fri. 02/21:

8:00 AM-L/D Bud & Lori Bender Family

Sat. 02/22:

5:00 PM-L/D Leo & Bertha Wiese Family

8:00 AM-L/D Ted & Isabel Fehringer Family, Adam Jarecki

ST. MARY, LEIGH:

Sun, 02/23:

8:30 AM-Gary Brabec

ST. MICHAEL, TARNOV:

Sun, 02/23:

10:30 AM-For the People of St. Michael Parish

ST. FRANCIS CHURCH LITURGICAL MINISTERS FEB 22-23

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday - 8:00 AM-3:30 PM

CONTACTS

PARISH MINISTERS:

Deacon Dennis Anderson	(402) 920-1380
Deacon Kent Sachau	(402) 369-1750
Deacon Tim Howard	(402) 841-3434
Parish Council: Dave Krings	(402) 992-1376
Ken Classen	(402) 923-0313
Finance Board: Bryan Reichmuth	(402) 340-6429
School Board: Todd Preister	(402) 454-1302
Lindsey Kosch	(402) 910-3303
Home & School Association: Suzanne Beltz.	(402) 640-7360
Sarah Classen	(402) 923-0131
Religious Ed Director: Lori Classen	(402) 923-0987
Daycare Director: Brandi Eisenmenger	(402) 923-0585
Server Coordinator: Deb Herchenbach	(402) 923-0320
Bulletin Submissions: Katie Morfeld	(402) 923-0913
	feld@hsfschool.org
Finance Office: Lisa Krings	(402) 923-0913
Parish Office Secretary: Karen Wieser	(402) 923-0913
Alumni Relations Coordinator: Missy Braun.	(402) 923-0818
Prayer Line: During Office Hours - Parish Offi	ce(402) 923-0913
After Office Hours - Connie Foltz	(402) 920-3222
Pastoral Minister: Diane Zach	(402) 920-0617
Gift Shop: Julie Krings	(402) 992-4151
	(102) 552 4151
ST. FRANCIS SCHOOLS:	
Principal: Jennifer Dunnjdu	unn@hsfschool.org
Jr./Sr. High School:	402-923-0818
Elementary School:	402-923-0611

PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sun, 02/16:	*7 PM-"Rosary for Peace" in Church	
Man 02/17	*C 20 DIA DI	

Mon, 02/17 *6:30 PM-Discovering Christ in Parish Hall

Wed, 02/19: *6:30 PM-PRE

*7 PM-Athletic Board Meeting

Thurs, 02/20: *8:30 AM-7 PM-Adoration Following 8 AM

Mass

*7 PM-Parish Council Meeting

Fri, 02/21:

*4 PM-Parish Circle #6 Cleaning Parish Hall Sat, 02/22: *2 PM-Miles Foltz & Heather Meyer

Wedding

*7 PM-"Rosary for Peace" in Church Sun, 02/23:

You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father." _ Mt 5:43-45a

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

Sat, 5:30 PM

Lector-Jodie Eisenmenger Servers-Phillip Keller, Ethan Keller EMHCs-Deacon Dennis Anderson, Gina Eisenmenger Greeters-Jim & Marcia Schrant Gift Bearers-Milo & Rita Herink

Sun, 10:00 AM

Lector-Ron Denkinger Servers-Gavin Geilenkirchen, Mason Geilenkirchen EMHCs-Deacon Kent Sachau, Roger Baumgart Greeters-Mary Anne Haschke, Debbie Huettner Gift Bearers-Michael & Natalie Ramaekers

LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION REPORT

Church/School 19/20 Fiscal Year Budget..... \$1,979,168.63 Fiscal YTD Church/School Total Income \$1,304,722.93 Fiscal YTD Church/School Total Expenses \$1,213,845.93 Surplus/(Deficit)......\$ 90,877.00

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS: Improvement Fund - \$2, Seminary - \$5, Heat - \$20, PRE - \$30, 4-in-1 - \$40, Youth - \$41.98, Loose - \$260, School Support - \$850, Church Support - \$3,438

RESTORATION & BLDG FUND 2nd COLLECTION: \$451.69

2nd COLLECTION: Next weekend's 2nd collection will go toward the COLUMBUS RESCUE MISSION.

CHURCH CLEANING

WEEKLY CHURCH CLEANING CHAIRMEN:

Dick & Carolyn Wemhoff - 402-246-3005

Ivan & Mary Anne Haschke - 402-923-1721 Doran & Connie Kucera - 402-923-0679 Jim & Deb Herchenbach - 402-923-0320 Aaron & Lea Korth - 402-923-0148 Scott & Tricia Hanis - 402-923-9252

Dan & Deb Egger - 402-923-1083

SACRISTY & FLOWERS CHAIRMEN:

Randy & Michelle Preister - 402-920-1930

Dave & Diane Noonan - 402-923-0138 James & Emily Droescher - 308-219-0452 Erik & Dawn Baumgart - 308-214-0083 Brandon & Jenny Weidner - 402-920-0610

VACUUMERS: Michael & Lori Wegener

SERVING QUILTERS

It's Your Turn To Bring A Dessert: 3:30 PM in parish hall. Friday, February 21: Pat & Millie Veik

Monday, February 24: Eric & Sara Sjuts