Dear Padre,

April 7, 2019

Incense in church irritates my eyes. Is it really needed?

Some churches, for example, limit incensation to only the sanctuary to minimize discomfort by those with allergies in the congregation. Although incense is optional at Mass (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 276), and therefore isn’t “needed” per se, the question of its occasional use is more than a necessity issue. The US Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy writes, “Since worship enganges Christians fully, in every aspect of their being, the worship of their bodies with their minds and feelings as well as their minds and spirits, with their hands and feet as well as their eyes and ears. The non-verbal elements of the Liturgy can express what cannot be articulated in words and, at times, can reinforce the spoken word” (Introduction to the Order of the Mass, 27). Incense is a powerful, solemn expression of prayer, purification, and reverence that reinforces the spoken word in worship and praise. It “suggests both the otherness of the transcendent God and the cloud that symbolized God’s glory and presence in the midst of the Israelites” (Introduction to the Order of Mass, 58). The fragrance is intended to awaken our senses and the rising swirl of smoke represents our lifted hearts in prayer. “The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel” (Revelation 8:4).

If you are new to our parish, please contact the Parish Office to register.

Reconciliation:
Before each Mass or by Appointment anytime.
At St. Lawrence every Saturday from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm CT.

Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least one week prior to the wedding.

Baptism:
Class required for the first child. Please contact the Pastor to schedule.

Remember in Prayer
Theresa Deichert, Marylin Roth, John Carys, Amber Whitstad, Karen Heisemeyer, Nick Reitnauer, Doris Hartman, Eileen Paul, Brad Schell, Ray Leingang, John Jochim, Erin Steinlecker, Lynd Ajemian, Dan Roth, Blaise & Mary Ann Koch, Erinna Neuberger
To place a name on the Prayer List, please call Darlene Friesz at 701-390-3300 or the parish office.

Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps.
~Luke 9:23

Amen

Welcome Visitors!

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Amen
**Church Of St. Gertrude**

**Mass Intentions**

**Sat (April 6) 12:30 pm MT**

*St. Paul* by Roy & Arlene Riehl

*St. Theresa* by Miles & Brenda Miller

*St. Lawrence* by Charlie & Marleen Miller

*St. Theresa* by Ervin & Janet Ripplinger

*St. Lawrence* by Claire & Jennifer Hauge

*St. Theresa* by Miles & Brenda Miller

*St. Theresa* by Simon & Ann Walter

*St. Theresa* by John & Kathy Jochim

*St. Theresa* by Sharon Klein

*St. Theresa* by Lisa & Paulina Erhardt

*St. Theresa* by Karen Bachmeier

*St. Lawrence* by V. Noel Wax

*St. Theresa* by Lee Fitterer

*St. Theresa* by Pauline Erhardt

*St. Theresa* by Jacki Beauchamp

*St. Lawrence* by Kristin Schafer

*St. Lawrence* by Shelly Meyhoff

*St. Theresa* by Lee Fitterer

*St. Theresa* by Jim & beach Fergel

*St. Theresa* by Owen Erhardt

*St. Theresa* by Francis Fergel

*St. Theresa* by Bryan Shafer

**Church Of St. Lawrence**

**Liturgical Ministries**

**April 13, 2019**

**Reader:** Brenda Miller

**EME:** Judy Zing

**Gifts:** Kelly Hetzel Family

**Ushers:** Gerald Kraft

**Exp. Leader:** Jim Stumpf

**Music:** YOU!

*Week of 03-31-19 $392.11*

 Fiscal Year to Date $12,558.82

 Children’s Offering $2,328.53

 Children’s Charity $16.00

 Weekly Budget Goal $450.00

 Actual v. Budget (to date) $4,706.32

*Thank you!*

Father will be calling for volunteers to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday. Don’t be a Peter… Say ‘yes’ the first time.

**Church Of St. Theresa**

**Mass Intentions**

**Sun (April 7)**

*Our Satersteins* by John & Katin Jochim

*Wed (April 10)*

*Holy Week* by John & Pam Hoff

*Th (April 11)*

*Shylock Family* by Schott Family

*Fri (April 12)*

*Alex & Krista Gingerer* by Erin & Janey Fippsinger

*Sun (April 14)*

*For the People*

**Liturgical Ministry**

**Mar 14, 2019**

**Reader:** J. Fitterer

**EME:** Norlene Schafer

**Gifts:** Mark Jochim

**Ushers:** Owen Erhardt

**Music:** V. Noel Wax

**Counters:** Shelly Meyhoff

*Week of 03-31-19 $1,592.00*

 Fiscal Year to Date $4,735.01

 Children’s Offering $28.00

 Children’s Charity $17.00

 Weekly Budget Goal $1,076.50

 Actual v. Budget (to date) $2,471.41

*Thank you! Four generations is a blessing*

**Church Of St. Theresa**

**Liturgical Ministry**

**April 14, 2019**

**Reader:** Jennifer Hauge

**EME:** Ann Hertz

**Gifts:** Peter Reis Family

**Ushers:** Allan Baum

**Rosary:** Mary Baum

**Counters:** Ann Hertz

*Week of 03-31-19 $454.00*

 Fiscal Year to Date $35,965.52

 Children’s Offering $11.00

 Children’s Charity $8.00

 Weekly Budget Goal $783.35

 Actual v. Budget (to date) $5,948.37

*Thank you!*

**From the Pastor’s Desk**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

April 7, 2019

In the movie, With Honors, Joe Pesci plays Simon Wilder a homeless man slowly dying from asbestos poisoning. Brendan Fraser portrays Montgomery ‘Monty’ Kessler, a student at Harvard who has reluctantly befriended Simon. In one of their conversations Simon pulls out a leather pouch and says, “There it is. That’s it. My trick is to bump a bunch of stones out in his hand, picks up one say and, “I got this one on a beach. Best night I ever had.” Monty asks, “You remember that night of sleep?” Simon says, “Last good one I had.” Monty then asks, “What’s that shiny white one?” “A woman. The one. The one true love. Yep, each stone tells a story that I want to remember. All I do is put them in my hand and rub them and abracadabra, I’m back there.” They walk on and Monty asks, “Tell me about the woman.” Simon says, “I can’t. I’m not holding the stone.”

You know, there are a lot of stones and rocks in the Bible. There’s Peter the Rock who sink like a rock when he tried to walk on water. There are the stones, which Jesus said would break into song on Palm Sunday if the people didn’t sing. There’s the stone that sealed the tomb, which was rolled away so we could see inside and see that no mere grave could hold the Son of God. There are the stones used to build the Temple.

And then there are the stones we might be holding in our hands, the ones related to the gospel for today. Do we have grudges against another that don’t allow us to love them fully? Have we made unfair or rash judgements about others that cover our own sinfulness? Jesus challenged the ones who have no sin to judge the woman caught in sin. We often don’t acknowledge our own sinfulness when we see the faults and shortcomings of others. Let us pray to be people of mercy who, like Jesus, try to help others to be better people, rather than simply pointing out their sins and punishing them.

We can remember God’s mercy to us in this way that we help to reveal His kingdom among us. Faith makes things possible. Love makes things easy. Hope makes things work.