

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021

Saturday, March 20th

8:30 am - St. John – *in pectore*
 9:00 am - 9:30 am – Confessions at St. John
 3:15 pm - 3:55 pm – Confessions at St. John
 4:00 pm - St. John – Rita Lorenz Reis

by Susan Dugan

Sunday, March 21st Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 am - 7:55 am – Confessions at St. John
 8:00 am - St. John – Mike K. Capriola Sr. by his family
 9:35 am - St. Elizabeth – Van Danforth by the Wellman / Danforth families
 11:30am - Queen of Peace – Mass for the People
Confessions at QP before Mass (time permitting) or following Mass as needed

Monday, March 22nd

8:30 am - St. Elizabeth – Douglas Lyons by Ray & Diane Bailey

Tuesday, March 23rd St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

8:30 am - St. John – those assisted by St. Vincent de Paul
 by SVDP Corpus Christi Conference

Wednesday, March 24th St.

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm – Holy Hour of Adoration with Confessions at St. John
 5:15 pm - St. John – Jeanette Belanger by her family

Thursday, March 25th The Annunciation

8:30 am - St. John – Randy Mackay by his wife & daughter

Friday, March 26th

8:30 am - St. Elizabeth – Julie Boera by Linda Toborg
 9:00 am – St. Elizabeth Stations of the Cross
 6:00 pm – St. John Stations of the Cross
 7:00 pm – Queen of Peace Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 27th

8:30 am - St. John – *in pectore*
 9:00 am - 9:30 am – Confessions at St. John
 3:15 pm - 3:55 pm – Confessions at St. John
 4:00 pm - St. John – For the soul of Esmeralda Vasquez by Isabel

Sunday, March 28th Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:30 am - 7:55 am – Confessions at St. John
 8:00 am - St. John – Richard Wilkins by James & Lisa Warren
 9:35 am - St. Elizabeth – *in pectore*
 11:30am - Queen of Peace – Mass for the People
Confessions at QP before Mass (time permitting) or following Mass as needed

*Please pray for parishioners who are ill or in need of your prayers, especially:
 Pam Austin, Charlene Chase, Connie Lapage, Martin Fortin, Charlie Weis,
 Randy Thomas, Dick & Anita Bedor, Sue Maurice, Karson St. Marie*

3/21/21	St. John	St. Elizabeth	Queen of Peace
LECTORS:	4pm M. Noyes 8am D. Houde	9:35am N. Godin	11:30am M. Goldrick

The **FORMED** program is available to everyone in our parish. To start enjoying this free gift, please visit the FORMED website:

- Go to: nekatholic.formed.org
- Click on REGISTER to create a personal account

NEW OFFICE HOURS: While Sue is away the regular office hours will be Monday – Friday from 9:30am-3pm. If no one is in the office the phone calls will be forwarded to Fr. Hahr's cell phone where you will be able to leave a message. Thank you in advance for your patience.

PARISH EVENTS

March 23rd: St. John Tailgate supper 5-6pm @ St J parking lot

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: 7/1/20-6/30/21 Budgeted Regular Collection: \$243,650
 Reg. Collection Year-to-date: \$86,209.12 + On-Line: \$55,600.59
 Collections & Receipts: March 14, 2021 Reg. Offertory: \$3415.00

Second Collections

March 21st: Easter Flowers March 28th: NO Second Collection

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly donations. Visit our website at: nekatholic.com and click "Give Online" to sign up!

Bishop's Annual Appeal Progress for Corpus Christi Parish as of 2/9/21

Overall Goal	Actual	% of Goal
\$72,573.00	\$58,939.00	84%

Christ Our Hope Progress for Corpus Christi Parish as of 2/9/21

Overall Goal	Actual	Pledged	% of Goal
\$361,693.00	\$33,328.14	\$73,097.14	20%

Each of our churches are involved in local efforts to feed the hungry in our area. We're always looking for "boots on the ground" who are willing to help with these projects. Right now at St. Elizabeth's we're in need of two more volunteers. If you're able to help, please call either Lawrie Easterbrooks at 751-5255 or Sandy Amadon at 274-5285, or if you would like more information about help needed at one of the other churches, please call the Parish Office. Thank you.

Free Community tailgate supper March 23rd from 5-6pm at St. John's parking lot. Take-out only. All are welcome!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Corpus Christi Conference offers assistance in name of Jesus to the needy in our community. To contact us call: Patrick McWilliams: 274-3542 Ann Lovett: 751-8187; or the Rectory: 748-8129 We will arrange a visit to see if we are able to serve you!

Stations of the Cross on Fridays of Lent

St. Elizabeth's – immediately following the 8:30am Mass
 St. John's – 6pm
 Queen of Peace – 7pm

Good Shepherd's new "fun"draiser has begun. Similar to the traditional football pool, where you buy a square for a chance to win cash, Good Shepherd is having an *Easter Pool*. You choose your square and have a chance to win up to \$1,000 if your square is one of the lucky ones. The squares are \$20 each, and the drawing will be held on Easter Monday, April 5th. The squares are identified by a grade and a Saint. For example: St. Paul's column, 3rd grade row. You can view the live grid on the school website (goodshepherdschoolvt.org). On April 5th we'll draw four winning squares; the prizes are: 1st place - \$1,000, 2nd place - \$250, 3rd place - \$100, and 4th place - \$20. Should we not sell all of the squares, the prize money will be given out based on the percentage of squares sold. You can call the school to reserve your squares. Payment may be in the form of cash, check or Paypal (find the link on the home page of our website). Thank you for your help in supporting our school!

Visit us at – www.nekatholic.com

Points to Consider on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines: “The National Catholic Bioethics Center recognizes an ethical hierarchy among COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines that do not use abortion-derived cell lines in any phase of design, manufacture or testing are the best ethical choice if they are reasonably available, safe, and effective. Vaccines that do not use abortion-derived cell lines in the manufacturing process but did use them at one point in development, such as for confirmatory testing, are preferable to those that utilize abortion-derived cell lines in more than one phase of development and, in particular, in the manufacturing process. Nonetheless, for grave reasons, people could decide in good conscience to accept vaccines that use abortion-derived cell lines in their development and production to protect their own lives and health and that of others in the absence of any satisfactory alternative. The use of an ethically problematic vaccine, however, may be done only ‘under protest.’ A person who discerns in conscience that he or she can take such a vaccine has an obligation to make known his or her opposition to abortion and the use of abortion-derived cell lines. People may legitimately discern in conscience that they cannot use a vaccine with some connection to abortion and such a refusal can be a courageous witness to help build a culture of life. The Catholic Church neither requires nor forbids the use of ethically problematic vaccines, but instead urges people to discern what decision to make after having carefully formed their consciences about the moral and prudential issues surrounding the vaccines that become available.”

Currently the Moderna and Pfizer companies have the least objectionable vaccines available, as they were not grown using the abortion-derived cell lines, but they did use them for confirmatory testing. The Vatican urges everyone concerned for the sanctity of life, whether they receive a vaccine or not, to protest the use of abortion-derived cell lines and advocate for the development of vaccines with no connection to abortion. To make it easier to take this action, sample letters to pharmaceutical companies that are using abortion-derived cell lines to produce/test vaccines are available at: <https://www.ncbcenter.org/> or: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/letters-pharmaceutical-companies>. Such protests have recently been having a good effect; for example, one pharmaceutical company has stopped using abortion-derived cell lines to produce their shingles vaccine, while another has done the same in regards to their polio vaccine. Instead they have opted to use ethically obtained cells that have no connection to abortion. Pharmaceutical companies need to know that they will have more support when they choose ethical practices. Please take the time to contact them today!

March 25th: Feast of the Annunciation

“25th March in the year 2000, the Solemnity of the Annunciation in the Year of the Great Jubilee: on this day the eyes of the whole Church turn to Nazareth. I have longed to come back to the town of Jesus, to feel once again, in contact with this place, the presence of the woman of whom Saint Augustine wrote: ‘He chose the mother He had created; He created the mother He had chosen.’ Here it is especially easy to understand why all generations call Mary blessed ... In Nazareth, where Jesus ‘grew in wisdom and age and grace before God and men,’ I ask the Holy Family to inspire all Christians to defend the family against so many present-day threats to its nature, its stability and its mission. To the Holy Family I entrust the efforts of Christians and of all people of good will to defend life and to promote respect for the dignity of every human being. To Mary, the Theotókos, the great Mother of God, I consecrate the families of the Holy Land, the families of the world.”

~ Saint John Paul II

The Mass: It’s Not a Spectator Sport

The Liturgy of the Word follows the collect. During the first reading, the Psalm and the second reading we sit listening to those who prepared for the preaching of the Gospel, viz. the Prophets of the Old Testament and the Apostles of the New. The Gospel is the preaching of Jesus Christ Himself. Because of the great dignity of the message it deserves to be proclaimed by one who has solemnly dedicated his life to it. At his ordination he was told: *“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”*

Before our Lord entered into His public ministry He retreated to the desert and prepared Himself with fasting and prayer. At the Mass the one who proclaims the Gospel, whether the priest or the deacon, makes a similar journey across the sanctuary. The deacon asks a blessing of the priest, the priest of God Himself; either one humbles himself in admission of his unworthiness: *“Almighty God, cleanse my heart and my lips that I may worthily proclaim Your Holy Gospel.”* Such is the blessing for the one who proclaims the Gospel, and similarly each hearer should ask that God would cleanse his/her heart to receive that which is about to be proclaimed. At the same time they stand, praising the Lord Jesus, and after attending carefully to the Gospel, they repeat that same praise at the end of the reading: *Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!* This is said whether the word received is easy or hard. Meanwhile the priest or deacon kisses the book at the beginning of the passage where he had signed it with the cross, he prays in a low voice: *May the words of the Gospel wipe away our sins.* He had signed the book with the cross as a reminder that Christ confirmed the truth of all He said by His death on the Cross. The people rising to hear the proclamation can also be a reminder: we remember that at the word of Christ the sick rose, picked up their beds and walked; the dead rose and were brought to life again; the Prodigal son rose and returned to his father. We also rise; receiving the word of Christ into our hearts we intend to live that word, to the glory of God.

Next comes the homily. It shouldn’t be the main focus of the Mass – what’s coming next with the Liturgy of the Eucharist should take that place, but the homily should help to point us to our Lord’s Sacrifice. St. John records in his Gospel that one day there came some Greeks, who approached the Apostle Phillip. They said to him: *“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”* This phrase has been traditionally inscribed on many pulpits throughout the world as a reminder to the one preaching that it’s Jesus that we want to see. The people who listen can help make this happen too, by reviewing the readings before Mass, and praying for the one who will preach. Each one who has come to the Mass has been summoned there by Christ. Our Lord has something to say to each individual: the preacher preaches, but it’s the Holy Spirit Who speaks His message in your ear, so, be sure to open them with prayer and preparation!

GIVE Your priest, O Lord, a mild and judicious eloquence which shall keep him from being puffed up and exalted above his brethren by reason of Thy gifts. Put into his mouth, I beseech Thee, words of consolation and edification and exhortation through Thy Holy Spirit, that he may be enabled to exhort the good to better things, and, by word and example, to recall to the straight way of Thy righteousness those who walk perversely. Let the words which Thou shalt give Thy servant, be like to sharp javelins and burning arrows that shall pierce and enkindle unto Thy fear and holy love the minds of all them that hear him. Amen.

~St. Anselm