A WORD FROM FR. NIEHAUS

Hot Topic: Marriage & Divorce
The Psalmist this week sings out in Psalm 119, “Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.” And with eyes fixed on heaven proclaims, “Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law.” It is this song of the heart that points to a deeper meaning for all of us, “Give me discernment, that I may observe your law and keep it with my heart.” Our scriptures this weekend from Sirach 15, Psalm 119, 1 Corinthians 2 and Matthew 5 point to a truth that for those who fear the Lord, they will be on the path of wisdom where they will find opportunities to trust in God and seek to follow His laws with love in their hearts. In this week’s Gospel from Matthew we read about the topic of marriage and divorce. Jesus teaches his disciples about the truth of marriage and the importance that the bond of matrimony has for the husband and wife in relation to the law of the Lord. “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.’ But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife—unless the marriage is unlawful—causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery (Matthew 5:31-32).” The union of a man and woman in the eyes of God is sacred and should not be broken up by anything until by “death do the couple part.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Jesus has not placed on spouses a burden impossible to bear, or too heavy—heavier than the law of Moses. By coming to restore the original order of creation disturbed by sin, he himself gives the strength and grace to live marriage in the new dimension of the Reign of God. It is by following Christ, renouncing themselves, and taking up their crosses that spouses will be able to ‘receive’ the original meaning of marriage and live it with the help of Christ. This grace of Christian marriage is a fruit of Christ’s cross, the source of all Christian life (CCC 1615).” There are many crosses in life that married couples are given and by the grace of God, they will be helped to persevere through all temptations and trials. There are some marital situations that are effected by abuse, alcoholism, mental illness, addictive behaviors or other sensitive issues that can cause great strain on the marriage. In our current age of “no-fault divorce” even lesser causes become grounds for some marriages to end in divorce. The Church teaches that, “There are some situations in which living together becomes practically impossible for a variety of reasons. In such cases the Church permits the physical separation of the couple and their living apart. The spouses do not cease to be husband and wife before God and so are not free to contract a new union. In this difficult situation, the best solution would be, if possible, reconciliation. The Christian community is called to help these persons live out their situation in a Christian manner and in fidelity to their marriage bond which remains indissoluble (CCC 1649).” In our contemporary culture it seems more rare for one man and one woman to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Church. Along with this under valuing of the Sacrament of Matrimony there seems to be a trend for younger couples to not get married or for those married in recent years that at the first sign of conflict they end quickly in divorce. Still there are others who were married in the Catholic Church, divorced and then remarried without an annulment—a condition of irregularity as described by Jesus in the Gospel—that prevents those persons from receiving the Sacraments validly until the nature of the first marriage is discovered according to God’s design for marriage. In a culture where marriage is broken, we need Jesus Christ to heal the hearts of struggling married couples and to encourage all of our Catholic couples to receive the Sacrament of marriage so that they would receive the blessing and strength from God. If you are in a struggling marriage or were divorced some time ago and would like some prayer and support around this area of your life, I would be happy to visit with you about your situation and pray with you for healing.

Lent 2020
Ash Wednesday is on February 26, 2020 and begins the season of Lent. For the Christian Lent is the annual time of spiritual exercise as we grow in our love for God through participating in spiritual disciplines that sharpen the mind, body and soul to our need for God. During this 40 day pilgrimage toward the Easter mystery, we should take time individually and as a community to participate in Confession, the Stations of the Cross, praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, increased prayer, fasting, almsgiving and taking on other sacrifices as directed by our Lord, pastor or spiritual director. In our Most Holy Redeemer/St. Canice & St. Patrick Parish Cluster Wednesday Nights will have a special schedule with one site per week hosting a 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Stations of the Cross with Confessions for Faith Formation Students before Stations of the Cross and Confessions offered for parishioners afterwards at 7:30 pm. Also with the closing of the Knights of Columbus Hall in Faribault, St. Patrick’s-Shieldsville will be hosting three Lenten Friday Fish Fry events. Please see the bulletin and websites for exact details on Lenten events. What is the Lord asking of you this Lent in the way of prayer and sacrifice?

Catholic Services Appeal
The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis kicks-off the Catholic Services Appeal or CSA this weekend. The funding from this appeal is important for the running of the Archdiocese and for the departments and support staff who help us in carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ in our area parishes and schools. Please consider giving a contribution to this vital fundraising effort for our local Archdiocese. One can also utilize online giving for the CSA by going to GiveCSAF.org.

Special Guest at the Cana Dinner
On February 22, 2020 there will be a Cana Dinner for married couples in our area. This will be a night that the gift of marriage will be honored as the true gift of God that it is. Coming to celebrate the 5pm Mass at Most Holy Redeemer on that special night will be Bishop Andrew Cozzens. He will also be offering a special message on marriage for all those in attendance at the dinner. Please join me in welcoming Bishop Cozzens to our Most Holy Redeemer/St. Canice & St. Patrick Parish Cluster!

God bless you!

Fr. Tom Niehaus
**Most Holy Redeemer**

**Remember in your prayers:** Helen Drentlaw, Gladys Zahratka, Kevin Nickolay, Larry A. Trnka, Ken Meyers, Taylor Fischer, Katie Lockrem, Genevieve Metzdorf, Marcie Linburger, Kathy Kocina, John & Gordy Prochaska, Don & JoAnn Petricka, Alice Zika, Milo Holey, Marcella Blaeser, Lloyd Viskocil, Gary Flicek, Margaret Mach, Jessica Bauer, Carol Fried and all men & women serving in the military.

If you have a prayer request or would like your name removed from the list call Rita Parsons at 507-364-5164.

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Location</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 15, Sat</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>St. Canice (First Saturday)</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Donna Benzick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16, Sun</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Pro Populo</td>
<td>Doris Claffey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 18, Tue</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>Norbert Malecha</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 19, Wed</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
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<td>Ray Chlan</td>
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<td>Leonard Wondra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 22, Sat</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>St. Canice (First Saturday)</td>
<td>Jerry &amp; Mary Ruhland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 23, Sun</td>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>St. Canice</td>
<td>Elizabeth &amp; Clayton Janovsky</td>
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IF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY would like to bring up the gifts during a Mass you’d requested for a loved one, or at any weekend Mass, simply let the ushers know your wishes.

Pro Populo is For the People

**CCW Meeting**

The next meeting will be February 24 at 6:30pm in the lower level of Most Holy Redeemer.

The dues for 2020 can be paid by placing them in an envelope marked "CCW dues" and can be placed in the collection plate. Dues are $5. Please let us know if your address or phone number has changed.

Next Saturday, February 22 we welcome Bishop Andrew Cozzens as our presider during the 5pm Mass.

**St. Canice**

**Mass Intentions:**

- February 23: Deceased members of the Korba Family

**Confessions:**

- 1st Saturday of the month after the 8:30am Mass

**Funerals and Hall Serving:** February 2020, Circle 2

**Remember in your prayers:** Duane Brueggemeier, Kari Green Nesje, Henrik Roiger, Mike Sheehy, Lisa Ziemer Roberg, Colton Tupy, Linda Walton, Ethan Shane Delaske, Jim Roberg, Delores Balfe, Dorothy Kuball, Lionel Sorgatz, Chip Beadell, Andi Olsonawski, Lloyd Viskocil, Josh Hummer, Mary Jane Ralidak & Mavor Barnett

**Sunday Collection**

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**Liturgical Ministers**

- Sunday, February 23-9:00am
  - AS: Thomas Hackett, Faith Barnett
  - EM: Don & Darlene Barnett
  - L: Barb Kinniry
  - U: Scott Ayers, Steve Stangler

**52 Week Raffle:** Week 36 February 16, winner of $50

- is John Schlie

**Congratulations!**

**Fellowship**

All are welcome to join us for coffee, treats and fellowship in the Social Hall after the 9am Mass on the second Sunday of the month.

**Thank you! Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast 2020**

Thank you to everyone who came to the Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast last Sunday and made it a success! A special thank you to those who helped and made donations. Thank you to Michael foods of Gaylord for the delicious eggs they donated and the Kwik Trip of Faribault for the milk they donated. Thank you to Thrivent Financial for their donation towards the expenses for the breakfast. The money from the event is designated for the St. Canice Hall roof project. The amount raised is $1500.

**Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast Raffle Winners**

- Nerf Titan-James Stangler
- Dance & Groove Rockit-Megan Edel
- Terrasect Remote Control-Walter Fellows
- Baby Born-Thomas Hackett
- Num Noms Baking Oven-Gabby Salazar

**Congratulations to the winners!**

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Vikla who recently passed away. Betty’s funeral was Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at Most Holy Redeemer.

**BeFriender Ministry**

To schedule a confidential visit with a trained BeFriender minister or to refer someone you know for a BeFriender visit, contact Kathy Ruhland 612-483-6868.

**Wedding Banns III**

Cory Sladek & Rachel Claffey

February 22, 2020
As mentioned last week, increasing enrollment for the 2020-21 academic year is a major goal for the school, and, like most institutions do nowadays, HRS participated in a study to gain insights into the community’s perception of HRS. Following up on the study’s findings, we are committed to addressing several areas, one of which relates to the school’s multiple logos. To project a unified image of the school and to avoid confusing potential families, the recommendation is to select and use one logo consistently. With that as the objective, the school has hired a graphic designer to combine the two currently-used logos into one (pictured above). The process to change over the logo will take some time, so expect to see changes. I will keep everyone updated as we move forward in addressing the logo concern and other findings from the study. Have a good week.

People may know something about the various St. Valentines and their association with February. Two other important February 14th saints who influenced the spread of Christianity in Slavic peoples, such as Czechs and Poles, are Ss. Cyril and Methodius. Perhaps they are responsible for planting the seeds of the faith tradition in your own family!

Student Happenings-SAVE the DATES!
#1 Thursday, March 5-Preschool/Kindergarten Roundup & HRS Science & Presentation Night (Grades 3-8)
#2 Friday, March 13-Grade 7-8 Lockin (looking for chaperone)
#3 Wednesday, March 24-Camp Courage at TCU (Grade 7-8)
#4 Saturday, March 28-Pasta & Bingo Night!-All proceeds go to providing scholarship for children attending Little Lambs Pre-school.

New HRS Family
Please welcome Silvana Rodriguez to HRS. Silvana started in Little Lambs this week and is the daughter of Juan Jose and Veronica Rodriguez. Welcome to HRS Silvana!

Looking for Volunteers
On Sat., Feb. 22, a group of parents will be painting the Kindergarten classroom. If you are available to help, please contact the school or Tracy Odenthal.

Casey’s Rewards
Turn your Casey’s purchases into donations to Most Holy Redeemer School. Sign up for Casey’s Rewards in Casey’s app and turn points earned on everyday purchases into a donation. Get started today! Sign up to participate in the Casey’s Rewards program by creating an account through Casey’s app or online at Caseys.com to start earning points on your everyday purchases and turn those points into a donation to your school. It’s that easy! For more information go to: https://www.caseys.com/schools

Thank you -Mr. Vondracek, Principal -gvondracek@mosthrs.org

Thank you to Our 2019 Marathon Gold Sponsors

Knights of Columbus
Auxiliary #1573

Most Holy Redeemer-St. Canice and St. Patrick Lenten Events

Ash Wednesday Mass Times
February 26
Most Holy Redeemer at 8:30am and 6:30pm
St. Patrick at 6:30pm

Soup Supper Stations of the Cross Confessions
Wednesday evenings during Lent join each campus for a Soup Supper, Stations of the Cross and Confessions
6:00pm Soup Supper (free will offering)
7:00pm Stations of the Cross
7:30pm Confession

March 4 & 25 at St. Patrick
March 11 & April 1 at St. Canice
March 18 & April 8 at Most Holy Redeemer

All Are Welcome!

Lenten Fish Fry Events
Friday, March 13, 27 & April 3 at St. Patrick from 5-7pm
Baked or fried fish, salad bar, baked potato and green beans.
$13 adult, $8 child 5-8, Free for under 5.

Parish Lent Reconciliation
Sunday, March 29 at Most Holy Redeemer at 3pm.

Thank you for all you do in support of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation.
GIFT OF TREASURE REPORT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Collection</th>
<th>February 9, 2020</th>
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<td>Envelopes</td>
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Amount needed weekly to meet our budget: $5,500

This week thank our sponsors: Schoenbauer Funeral Home

Thank You! to all who hosted Fr. John Fischer last weekend.

Pasta & Bingo Fundraiser for Little Lambs Preschool Scholarships
March 28 from 5:30pm-8:00pm at Most Holy Redeemer School.

PreK-Kindergarten Round Up
Thursday, March 5 from 6:00-7:30pm at Most Holy Redeemer School. See what Most Holy Redeemer School has to offer your family! Tour the school, meet our staff, and see why we get kids off to a great start! Families will have a chance to attend a free presentation from the HRS Science Fair.

Want to chaperone a field trip for your parish’s faith formation/school students? Want to volunteer in the classroom or be a catechist or helper to the children? If so, then join us for a VIRTUS session! To keep our children safe, the archdiocese mandates that all staff and volunteers be Essential-3 certified.

This consists of a background check, code of conduct, and a very informative VIRTUS training. Most Holy Redeemer will be hosting a VIRTUS session on Tuesday, February 18 at 6:00pm in the lower level of Most Holy Redeemer Church. You will only need to attend this training one time and you will be good to go. To sign-up, go to www.virtusonline.org and follow the prompts. Please consider taking the training now so you will be prepared if/when God calls you to one of these ministries.

Lighthouse CDs available at Most Holy Redeemer and St. Canice Campuses.
This weeks featured CD is Why Be Catholic? For those who aren't Catholic, it may not be apparent why one should embrace the Catholic Faith. In this inspiring presentation, bestselling author Patrick Madrid gives compelling biblical and historical reasons for why he embraces the faith as a lifelong Catholic. He shares valuable insights into the beauty of the Catholic Church and its claim to contain the fullness of the deposit of faith given by Christ.

This talk was previously titled Why I Am Catholic When I Could Be Anything Else. This is the same talk with a new title.

National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453