

## **From the Pastor—February 17, 2019**

**Mass Times Change March 10<sup>th</sup>** As published last week in the bulletin in an insert, our parishes will have a new schedule beginning Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. On that day, and going forward, the St. Mary's Mass will be at 8:15 a.m., followed by the St. Joseph's Mass at 10:45 a.m. I am praying that we all adjust well to this change. The Saturday evening Mass will remain at 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

**Study Day** Last week, I mentioned our deanery day of priests gathered in York. This coming week, we will have a gathering of priests from across the entire Diocese, which is made up of 13 deaneries. We will meet at Seward, St. Gregory the Great Seminary. These days are always great for fellowship and learning. Our speaker will be Sherry Weddell, who formed the first process specifically-for-Catholics to discern charisms. If you are not sure what that is, I will be able to tell you more about it in next week's bulletin. Some of you may be familiar with Sherry's writings, especially the book, *Forming Intentional Disciples*. \*\*\* When I am at Seward for a Study Day, I can be reached by cell phone or by the landline phone at the seminary, in urgent needs, at 402-643-4052.

**It's a Great Day to be a Priest!** With due respect to District 4R, Aurora Public Schools, I really like how every day is a great day to be a Husky. I am borrowing the theme, to share with you highlights, or challenges, which make being a priest a great day every day. \*\*\* We held Confessions last week on Wednesday, for grades 3-11. Two brother priests from Seward came and assisted me. Confessions are always a great day of reconciliation with the Lord. As it was the day before Valentine's Day, I gave a little meditation on Saint Valentine and his love for Jesus. It came to me to speak to the students about how our Catholic celebrations originate many secular observances. Here is a paraphrase of what I came up with, addressed to our students of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's: *"Think about things that are really fun at school. Many of these are based upon our Catholic faith. Halloween is 'All Hallow's Eve', the day before All Saints Day. We get to do fun things like dress up, and we receive candy. Next, consider Christmas. We might dress in red and green at school, we might give gifts to others. We might receive candy, AND we get two or three weeks off from school. Next comes Valentine's Day, which is tomorrow. You ought to google 'St. Valentine's Day' and you will see that he was a real person, and that we celebrate the love he had for someone whom he had healed. He sent her a note, before he was martyred for love of Jesus, and he signed it, 'From, your Valentine.' So, on Valentine's Day, we give and receive love, and there is also candy given and received. Next month, we will look forward to Saint Patrick's Day by dressing in green, and, guess what, we might even receive candy...are you seeing a pattern here? You can also eat corned beef, if you like that sort of food. At Easter in April, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with the coming of the Easter bunny—not sure how a bunny represents Jesus risen from the dead—and, guess what, we will receive candy! Isn't it cool how our Catholic faith is interwoven in what the world celebrates, even if the world doesn't realize that the origins of these celebrations are from the Catholic Church?"* \*\*\* I enjoyed giving this talk, spontaneously. It truly was a great day to be a priest!

**Living Liturgically** This Friday, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle. It is a great day to pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he encourages us to live our faith as handed on by St. Peter

down through all the popes. The official web site for the Pope is: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>. There, you can find out what number of pope Francis is (which I will tell you at the end of this note). You can see where Pope Francis travelled earlier this month, and more about his upcoming travels. The bottom of the web site shows an image of every single Pope the Church has had. You can read all the writings of the popes of the modern era. You can see which saints each pope canonized. February 22<sup>nd</sup> is a day for us as Catholics to be so thankful to Jesus for giving us the Pope to be our leader and to show us the way to heaven. ANSWER: Pope Francis is our 266<sup>th</sup> pope.

**Confirmation Classes and RCIA** I am really proud of our students who are attending Confirmation classes on Wednesday evenings. They are learning more about Jesus and our beautiful Catholic faith. I hope to meet with each of the confirmands (which is the official name of a candidate preparing for Confirmation) and their families, to get to know them and to watch/discuss a movie with them from FORMED.org. Our parish has a subscription to this "Catholic Netflix", which you can access at [stmarysaurora.formed.org](http://stmarysaurora.formed.org). \*\*\* We also have adults who are preparing to be confirmed and/or become Catholic. They are meeting on Thursday evenings. I am excited for these candidates as we come closer to Easter. \*\*\* I do not yet have a date for the Confirmation Mass for our school students; I may know as soon as this week (just a hunch I have). \*\*\* For all those preparing for the sacraments, and for all of you, I hope you are enjoying my catechetical tour of the 92 Questions of our Diocese on the back of my bulletin articles.

**Our Web Site** Remember to check our parish web site for parish information and other great features. For example, we have some pictures posted of our Christmas program from this past December. Also, there are videos from Bishop Robert Barron and his Word On Fire ministry. Recently, I have asked parish secretary, Navy, to post the bulletin notes that I write in addition to the main, 8½ by 14" bulletin news and notes. Make our web site your companion. I hope to make more use of social media to promote the Lord Jesus and His work among you, the People of God of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's.

**The Shroud of Turin** Jim Bertrand will be here to speak to our parishes about the Holy Shroud of Turin next month. Mr. Bertrand will speak at St. Mary's after the 8:15 Mass at Coffee and Rolls on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He will speak at St. Joseph's after Stations of the Cross on March 19<sup>th</sup>. His talk will be around 50 minutes, with 10 minutes allowed for Q & A. Jim is the Director of Field Operations for The American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud (ACHS). Plan now to make time for learning about the Holy Shroud. To learn more, go to [www.shroudofturin.com](http://www.shroudofturin.com).

**When does Lent begin?** We have one of the latest Easters possible this year, placing Ash Wednesday on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The date has to do with the full moon and the vernal equinox. Begin praying about what you will do to be more Christ-like this Lent.

**God Bless You!**

**Father Grell**