

## **From the Pastor—February 24, 2019**

**Mass Times Change March 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 for us all to adjust well to this change. The Saturday evening Mass will remain at 5:00 p.m. at St. Mary's.

**Southern Nebraska Register** February is traditionally the month where we pay our subscription to the Southern Nebraska Register. It is our newspaper for the Diocese of Lincoln. Our Diocese for many years has had a 100% subscription policy—if you are a member of our parishes in the Diocese, you automatically receive the Register. To pay the subscription rate, an envelope is placed in the packet of Sunday envelopes each February. Please return that when you can. Our parish is then billed by the Diocese the total yearly cost of the subscriptions, spread out over the 12 months. Anything you can donate of the \$15 cost helps not to dip into the general operating funds for each parish to pay the Register's subscription. You may, if you wish, pay for more than one copy of the Register as an aid to the parish (customarily, not everyone in the parish is able to pay their subscription). \*\*\* Thank you! And I hope you read this publication, because it is good to stay informed about the Church in our Diocese, nation, and across the globe.

**My Fame-Shame Homily** I enjoyed preparing and delivering my homily last week on Fame and Shame. I included as an attention-grabber the true life story of the recent acquisition made by the Kansas City Royals of pitcher, Jake Diekman. Jake attended and graduated from Southern High School in Wymore, which is where I and my two siblings also graduated from. If you would like to see a copy of my homily, I am working on having it be available on our parish web site, [stmarysaurora.org](http://stmarysaurora.org). If you are not internet capable, please contact me for a copy of the homily.

**A KC Sunday** The Knights of Columbus of the Fourth Degree met last Sunday for a belated Christmas party. It included wives of the Sir Knights. We gathered at Chances R in York. For those men who have entered the Knights by exemplification to the first, second, or third degrees, I encourage you to consider becoming a fourth degree Knight. It is a wonderful organization which helps the Church and helps men to serve their families and society in a beautiful way.

**A Fulfilling Monday** Last Monday, I traveled to Omaha. My first stop was at Koley's Inc., which is located around 30<sup>th</sup> and Harney. There, I dropped off the chalice from St. Joseph's where it will receive a re-plating, donated by one of our families as a memorial—I will tell you more about this when the chalice is completed. Then, I went shopping at Cosgrave's (a church goods store) near I-80 and the 84<sup>th</sup> Street Exit. There, I found several items to help me in training of altar servers in our parishes, as well as materials to help me think through parish projects which I have mentioned to our Parish Council in St. Mary's. Finally, I attended the Spirit Catholic Radio Celebration Dinner, held at the Embassy Suites near the Exit off of I-80 for Giles Road. Over 1,500 people gathered to support

Catholic radio, including almost 70 priests. Archbishop George Lucas led us in prayer. We had a beautiful banquet dinner, and then listened to keynote speakers, Father Larry Richards and Father Wade Menezes. They were phenomenal with the message they delivered to us. I hope to speak more to you about their talks in a later column. I arrived home late that night, fulfilled in having had a great Monday.

**March Schedule Comments** Please note the March calendar of activities included in this bulletin. I have several special Lenten opportunities for you and your family to grow in faith. The calendar may not be as explanatory as you need it to be, so be looking in future bulletins for more information.

**Sometimes in sorrow, it's still a great day to be a Priest** Even in the midst of sorrow—especially in the midst of sorrow—it is still a great day every day to be a priest. Father Brad Zitek, age 58, died this past week. Father Zitek had served our Diocese since being ordained in 1989. He had been as close to our area as Seward, which is the same deanery our parishes are in. Father Brad was currently the pastor of St. James in Cortland when he had to resign due to health. His decline was sudden, and we will celebrate his funeral Mass at St. Joseph, Lincoln, on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. I was stationed “next-door” to Father Brad for five years, when he was in Superior and I was in Lawrence. Please pray for his mom and sister who survive him. \*\*\* Also, the mother of Father Chris Kubat died this past week. Her name was Mary Barbara Kubat; she went by Barbara. She and her husband (who died several years ago) were big supporters of my vocation to the priesthood. They attended my first Mass in 1996, and then I attended Father Chris' first Mass in 1999. Barbara's funeral Mass will be on Tuesday this week, at St. Mary Church, 36<sup>th</sup> & Q, in Omaha. \*\*\* Please keep our Diocese in your prayers at these losses of two beautiful lives well lived.

**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**