

From the Pastor's Desk:

"The Spirit drive Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan."

-St. Mark

Last Saturday evening I came home around 10:00 P.M., having been invited out to dinner. I decided it was time to head to bed. I turned on my lamp, next to my bed and I heard a "pop". The lamp went dead and there was no longer power in most of the room. Only one outlet was working. Fearing fire, I made it my priority to call the electrician first thing on Monday morning.



When I called, I was actually surprised that they could come in less than a half-of-an-hour. I barely had a chance to get things ready to work on the outlets, when the electrician arrived. It would be a riddle as to why this happened. All I had plugged into two outlets was a lamp, an alarm clock and a small television.

Several hours later, I had the verdict. There was a type of nut (or something) that had melted down. I questioned what would be the cause of this since the wiring in that area of the house had been redone only a few years ago. Do I just chalk it up that it is an old house from 1925?

The electrician believed that someone in that room (it is not the former pastor's bedroom) had previously overloaded the circuit with perhaps several electrically demanding appliances. I just happened to be the beneficiary of the problem that perhaps had existed for some time in that wall. The Good News is that the electrical problem has been solved.

I mention this simple electrical example because, as we begin the start of the Lenten season, we are called to go into the "spiritual desert", just as the Lord went into the desert for forty days. We are called to enter this spiritual desert called Lent, a place that is more simple and uncluttered than our present life is. For just as an electrical outlet can only give so much electricity and if it gives too much energy, it will have a "melt-down"; the same could be said for us and for our spiritual lives.

How many of us take on so many things and involve our children and family in so many activities? There are sports activities, dance lessons, birthday parties, bridge games, evenings of eating out, movies, etc. etc. Perhaps both emotionally and spiritually we can start having a "melt down" as well from all the energy that we expend. This melt down can reveal itself by our being short with other people. Our "meltdown" can manifest itself by

cutting things out of our spiritual life from Mass attendance, to prayer time and everything else besides involving the Church. Sadly, so many times when we have to choose between a Church event or some other community event, guess who wins? You and I both know that the meeting or activity at Church becomes the "sacrificial lamb" for the sake of that particular secular activity.

As we have been invited into the "spiritual desert" with the Lord through the season of Lent, we are asked to work on simplifying our life and intensifying our time with our God. Yes, the Devil will be there just as he was for the Lord, tempting us to take care of our physical needs and wants over our spiritual necessities! But strive to resist him.

If you are still hammering out your Lenten resolutions, consider coming, 1.) To daily Mass at 8:30 A.M. on the days that it is offered. 2.) Come to the Stations of the Cross. This week they will be held on Friday at 12:00 noon. 4.) How about striving to come to Mass on the weekend a bit earlier so that you might have just a few minutes of quiet prayer before the start of the Mass?

As I stated on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a kind of "world-wide" retreat for the Universal Church. I have been on enough retreats over the years to know that some take this "spiritual desert time" very seriously. I also know of others that are pretty casual about retreat time.

Suffice it to say, if we have had a spiritually productive Lent, we will understand the spiritual need and desire to be at all three days of the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. If our Lent has been largely another 40 days in our earthly life, we will find every excuse not to be present for these SUPREMELY important days in the life of the Church and the life of our faith. May we all have a blessed and Holy Lent! God love you!

Rev. Paul van de Crommert,
Pastor

DID YOU KNOW HOLY ROSARY?

Our Holy Rosary staff was recently updating the parish census. I found one statistic very interesting. Presently, Holy Rosary has 2,453 members. Less than 20% of the congregation is over the age of 65 years old. This is a remarkable statistic for a parish in the Diocese of New Ulm in which there is a statistical struggle with an aging population and lowering numbers. How wonderful that we can conclude we are a young parish!!!

Stewardship of Treasure

Adult (140)	\$ 6,963.00
Electronic Giving	2,407.25
Previous Week Electronic Giving Correction	657.75
Junior	118.79
Plate	270.05
Ash Wednesday	2,783.16
Building Rent	125.00
Wine & Food Pairing Dinner	1,001.00
Home Missions	15.00
Fuel	1,050.00
Pop Machine	14.05
Grand Total	\$ 15,405.05

**(Our weekly budget is set at \$12,750.00)*

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for another week of generous stewardship and most especially with regards to the spirit of “almsgiving” for Ash Wednesday. We moved the contributions to a center page as the deadline for the main bulletin is Wednesday evening and I wanted the Ash Wednesday contributions in this week’s total.

Many thanks to all of you that came to the Loose Moose last Friday night for the Wine and Food Pairing event. Although our numbers were down due to some large community activities, it appears that our profits will be fairly close to last year. Those who did come were most generous while attending the event. Thank you for that. I hope to have some of those figures in next week’s bulletin.

Finally, I have been remiss as pastor as I thank you week after week for your generous stewards. Yet, I need to thank in a special way our young people who have really “stepped up to the plate” in the recent months with regards to stewardship. For example, last year at this time, the junior offering was \$12.29. This year, for the same weekend the amount was \$118.79. This is exceptional. I know many of you as parents have expressed that your children enjoy coming to bring their offering to “Father”. God bless you in your generosity. We are getting our bills paid!

THANK YOU WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We are so blessed at Holy Rosary to have such a wonderful and active Worship Committee. We have great chemistry as everyone can work together so beautifully. We started at 6:30 P.M. decorating the church for Lent and were done at 9:30 P.M. We were proud as the new environment did not cost the parish one cent. (Maybe that makes the environment look even better!) Thank you for all of your great help!!!

TIME AND TALENT SURVEYS

Through the efforts of our Worship Committee, all of you should have received a “Time and Talent Survey” in the mail with the financial statement and last week’s bulletin. We are asking you to take just a few moments to fill out the form and return it through the mail or the Sunday collection. We are asking every parish household to fill out a form. We are asking that every household would take on at least “one” area of service for the good of our parish. Many hands and hearts make up a successful and spiritually active parish. The deadline for returning the forms is Friday, March 6th. Thank you for your attention in this matter.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

We are a blessed parish at Holy Rosary as we had a great response for our initial meeting with those wishing to be received into Full Communion in the Church. Presently we have the potential of 10 candidates. This is tremendous as we add a good number of souls to the Roman Catholic faith!!! **What a wonderful Holy Saturday celebration we will have at Holy Rosary!** Please pray for these candidates and pray that you will receive the grace to welcome these individuals to our parish and into full communion by **BEING IN ATTENDANCE AT THE EASTER VIGIL THIS YEAR!!!!**

EASTER CANDLE

We are in need to order a new Easter candle for the parish and in time for the Easter Vigil that will be held at 7:00 P.M. on April 4th. In past years the family that often donated this candle have passed away. Is there someone who might like to donate part or all of this cost in memory for a loved one? Depending on size and style, the cost is below \$500.00. Please call the parish office in the coming days if you might like to donate this important symbol of Christ and the joy of Easter. Thank you!!!



FUEL COLLECTION

It was recently mentioned to me by a member or two from the Finance Council of the need for a Fuel Fund collection. Without mentioning anything about our need for fuel assistance, we have already taken in \$2,712.00. Thank you to those of you that have so generously contributed to this fund. The total monies received for fuel last year came to \$4,549.00. **We are less than \$2,000.00 from last year’s total with a difference of \$1,837.00.** I encourage you to make an offering in the coming weeks as we still have a bit of winter remaining. Perhaps in the near future we can take up a collection for this budgeted necessity. Thank you!

The Week Ahead**Sunday, February 22: First Sunday in Lent**

- 7:30 am – Rosary
 8:00 am – Mass - Joyce Schroeder† (Baptism)
 9:30 am – Rosary
 10:00 am – Mass - People of the Parish
 *Morning Pre-School and Nursery
 *Mark and Pam Weingartz - Silver Anniversary
 11:30 am – Baptism
 12:30 – 3:00 pm - 1st Eucharist Learning Retreat
 (in School Building Cafeteria & Gym)
 3:00 pm – Rite of Election - Cathedral of New Ulm
 (*Fr. Paul and R.C.I.A. candidates attend)

Monday, February 23: Lenten Weekday

- 8:05 am – Rosary
 8:30 am – Mass - Charles & Iola Orcutt†
 9:15 am – Bible Study
 11:00 am – Mass at SSND Chapel
 - Sarah (Max) O’Hara† (Fr. Paul)
 3:30 pm – Altar Server Training (in Church)

Tuesday, February 24: Lenten Weekday

- 8am-4pm – Pastoral Leader Days (Fr. Paul attending)
 8:05 am – Rosary
 8:30 am – Holy Communion Service
 5:30 pm – Soup Supper with Enrichment to Follow

Wednesday, February 25: Lenten Weekday

- 8:15 am – Mass at Fitzgerald Middle School
 - Lyle & Katherine Pearson† (Fr. Paul)
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm – Sewing Group - Parish Center
 4 pm, 6 pm, 7:15 pm – Faith Formation
 6-7 pm – Holy Rosary Choir Practice - Choir Room

Thursday, February 26: Lenten Weekday

- 8:05 am – Rosary
 8:30 am – Mass – Sherry Kittleson†
 10:15 am – Mass at Pathstone - Colleen Bianchi†
 (Fr. Paul)
 4:30 pm – Loyola Board of Trustees Meeting
 (Fr. Paul attending)

Friday, February 27: Lenten Weekday

- 8:05 am – Rosary
 8:30 am – Mass - John Klaseus†
 12:00 noon – Stations of The Cross

Saturday, February 28: Lenten Weekday

- 10:00 am – Confirmation Rehearsal
 4:30 pm – Sacrament of Reconciliation
 4:30 pm – Rosary
 5:00 pm – Confirmation Mass
 - Richard & Donald Smishek†

The Week Ahead Continued**Sunday, March 1: Second Sunday of Lent**

- 7:30 am – Rosary
 8:00 am – Mass - Joe & Martha Phillips
 9:30 am – Rosary
 10:00 am – Mass - People of the Parish
 * Morning Pre-School and Nursery
 1:30 pm – Convert Instruction (Conf. Rm #1)
 6:30 pm – Eucharistic Minister Training (in Church)

Liturgical Roles February 28 - March 1**Lectors**

- 5:00 pm: Brian Eggersdorfer
 8:00 am: Mike Brumm
 10:00 am: Tim McGowan

Eucharistic Ministers

- 5:00 pm: Mary B. Nygaard & Kathy Frederickson
 8:00 am: Peter Backes & Margaret Ayers
 10:00 am: Sherry Henrickson & Tom Koch

Altar Servers

- 5:00 pm: Jonathan Hull, Tony Weber, Reid Gruenes
 8:00 am: Ben Cahalan, Lauren Cahalan,
 Carson Fischer
 10:00 am: Sheamus Westermann,
 Elias Westermann, Matthew Helget

Presentation of Gifts

- 5:00 pm: Jim & Carrie Schill Family
 8:00 am: Gianna Aloisio Family
 (First Communicant Family)
 10:00 am: Andrew Griebel Family
 (First Communicant Family)

Ushers

- 5:00 pm: Gary Wintheiser, Bob Meyer,
 Larry & Maggie Bennett
 8:00 am: Bill Fasnacht, Gary Zellmer,
 Carl Steffensmeier, Chris Sturm
 10:00 am: Chuck Schoettler, Bob Stachon,
 Brandon Bernard, Steve Enderle

Music Ministry

- 5:00 pm: Holy Rosary Choir/Sr. M. Adelyn
 8:00 am: Lori Christiansen/Jeanne Makela
 10:00 am: Kathy Jo Johns & Nancy Evans/
 Jeanne Makela

Rosary Leaders

- 5:00 pm: Eileen Wadekamper
 8:00 am: Sharon Lenz
 10:00 am: Donna Wolf

Money Counter for January, February and March 2015

Marilyn Rieff, Shirleen Gulden, Jan Nelson, Jan Brumm,
 Carl Steffensmeier & Bill Fasnacht

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS...

PRAYERS AND SUPPORT FOR ALL OF OUR SICK AND INJURED OF HOLY ROSARY PARISH

Our prayers go out to all of the sick and injured in our parish who are at home, in the hospital, nursing homes or assisted-living residences. May God bless them and keep them under His guidance and protection!



FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Marilyn Rieff, Herbert Karpinsky, Rose Wilson, Jane Keltgen, Isaac Kolstad, Rachel Tobin, Mary Jane Ledwein, Tom Grausam, Don Haley, Jan Schmidt, Doris Lorentz, Bill Goettlicher, Lenore Sweers, Dolores Spreter, Richard Flynn, Jr., Krystal Portz, Jan Brumm, Steve Fitterer, Kathy Eggersdorfer, Nancy Marquardt, Gabriel Speckel, Shannon Murphy, Harriet Senesac, Lisa LaPoint Leland, David Bruender, Marilyn Bastian, Betty Kotthoff, Nancy Wesely, Susan Zenk, Catherine Atchley

FOR OUR FAMILIES

- Monday** Kevin & Jane Meyer
- Tuesday** No Mass
- Wednesday** Troy & Mary Michels
- Thursday** Aaron & Kendra Erickson
- Friday** Myrna Yenter
- Saturday** Jeffery & Nicole Helget
- Sunday** John & Tammy Romberg

FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Nick Blace | Timothy Eick | Alex Ek |
| Jared Hiniker | Matt McGraw | Ben Barsness |
| Ann Winkler | Christopher Schmidt | Sean O’Dea |
| Dana Schiller | Jonathan Heintz | Daniel Fitterer |
| Mark Hansen | William Backes | Anna Drummer |



PRAYER CHAIN

If you, or someone you know, would like to be included in our prayer chain, please call Karen Etzell, 387-7877

Readings for the Week

- Mon:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Mt 25:31-46
- Tues:** Is 55:10-11/ Mt 6:7-15
- Wed:** Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
- Thurs:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
- Fri:** Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
- Sat:** Dt 26: 16-19/Mt 5:43-48
- Sun:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10 (26)

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY TRAINING SESSIONS:

We are presently doing the “Time and Talent” survey as we are looking for more Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist. A number of you have expressed an openness to serve in this important ministry. Now is the time to sign up through our survey.



The Worship Committee is scheduling two “mandatory” training sessions for both new and returning Eucharistic Ministers. Father Paul van de Crommert will be leading these sessions in church that will be an hour and a half in length, with a social that will follow. There are some new directives that will be implemented from the Universal Church. **The two dates for this (re)training will be Sunday, March 1st at 6:30 P.M. and March 8th at 6:30 P.M.** Please mark your calendars to attend one of these sessions. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS: Council of Catholic Women

March 2nd General Meeting at 7:00pm

March 19th Region I Spring Gathering (at Holy Rosary) 5:30pm registration, 6:00pm mass, followed by a meal and speaker from Partners for Affordable Housing.

POTENTIAL ALTAR SERVERS

Several more young people have come forward, expressing interest in being trained to serve at our altar for the weekend Masses. Training will be on Monday, February 23rd in the church at 3:30 P.M. Three adults will be there for the training session that will last about an hour! We are in special need for servers for the 8:00 A.M. Mass as well as for the 5:00 P.M. Mass. We have sufficient numbers for the Mass at 10:00 A.M. If your son/daughter would still like to become an altar server, please call the Parish Office by March 2nd.

K of C Council #5551 News

- February 24 - Free Soup Supper
- March 12 - Planning Meeting
- March 26 - General Meeting
- March 27 - Fish Fry



INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FEBRUARY 2015

Universal Intention: That prisoners, especially the young may be able to rebuild lives of dignity. For Evangelization – That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.



Loyola Kindergarten classes celebrated their 100th Day of School on February 16th. The students are proud to be “100 days smarter!”

On Tuesday, Loyola students in K-grade 5 enjoyed the MSU Theater department’s presentation of *Rabbit Tales*, an original musical about the Golden Rule. Catholic school students from Madelia, Madison Lake and St. Peter joined us.

We have initiated our Lenten activities. Primary students are having weekly Lenten prayer services, making donations to Food for the Poor, an outreach to families in need living in Latin America and the Caribbean, and praying the living Way of the Cross. Intermediate students are focusing on a change of heart, taking part in prayer services centered on prayer, fasting and alms giving, the Way of the Cross, and the rosary. High school students are making use of online daily Lenten reflections, praying the Way of the Cross, giving extra time to prayer and service, participating in a Passover Haggadah, and collecting money to purchase a computer for the staff and students at San Lucas parish in Guatemala. Students will have an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance during Lent.

Kindergarten Round Up is on March 10! Join us at 4:30 or 6:30 for an hour-long introduction to our Kindergarten program. Bring your Kindergartener-to-be for special activities in our Kindergarten classrooms.

SAUSAGE & SAUERKRAUT DINNER

Sunday, March 1st, the men of St. Mary’s Church in Sleepy Eye will host their Annual SAUSAGE and SAUERKRAUT Dinner. Dinner will be served from 10:30 am until 2:00 pm in the St. Mary’s School cafeteria. The cost for dinner is \$11.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 6-12 and \$1.00 for pre-schoolers. USDA inspected sausage and a variety of other kinds of meat will be available for sale. Everyone is welcome!

PASTA WITH THE PADRES IS COMING!

The 8th Annual “Pasta with the Padres” fundraiser for ECHO Food Shelf, sponsored by the four Mankato area Catholic churches, will be held at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church on Sunday, March 8th from 4-7 p.m. We will need a lot of helpers again this year with both the dinner and Silent Auction. Sign-up sheets to volunteer are in the back of the church. Please sign up to help and then plan to attend. It’s lots of fun! As pastor, I will be attending for a while, but have Eucharistic Minister training at 6:30pm. I hope to see you there!



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

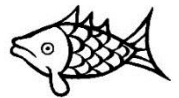
1. Diocesan United Fund (D.U.F.) Diocesan Priest Pension Fund/ Medical Care and Diocesan Audit:	
DUE:	\$ 78,103.92
Pd. to Date	\$ 46,769.43
2. Annual Diocesan Ministries Appeal (D.M.A.)	
DUE:	\$ 27,708.85
Rec'd. to Date:	\$ 43,921.00
(*We are 158.5% our goal!)	
3. Loyola Catholic School Assessment:	
DUE:	\$ 238,000.00
Pd. this week:	\$ 3,000.00
Pd. to Date:	\$ 123,135.93
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Total Assessments 2014-2015:	\$ 343,812.77
Total Paid to Date 2014-2015:	\$ 213,796.36
Total Assessments Due 2014-2015:	\$ 130,016.41
(* Total includes D.M.A. overrun)	

FR. ED ARDOLF ENDOWMENT FUND

This fund is now at \$130,852.00. 85% of the earnings of this fund go to pay tuition at Loyola Catholic School for Holy Rosary families. Contributions to this fund may be dropped off at the parish office or sent to Amy at Loyola.

KC FISH FRY IN SILVER LAKE, MN

The Silver Lake Knights of Columbus invite you to their 53rd Annual Fish Fry on Friday, March 6th at the Silver Lake Auditorium. The menu includes fish fillets, homemade potato salad, coleslaw, beans, bread, coffee and milk. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 5-10 and children under 4 are free. Take-outs are also available. Come and join us – we hope to see you there!



BAPTISMS

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Derek and Marie Tostenson on the occasion of Baptism of their son, Ethan Kenneth, and to John and Martha Speckel on the occasion of Baptism of their son, Callan Jacob. May their birth and Baptism be the beginning of a life-time relationship with Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church. Congratulations!

ANNIVERSARY WISHES

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Mark & Pam Weingartz from Holy Rosary parish on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary this past Tuesday, February 17th. We ask God’s blessings upon them on this special marital milestone and wish them many more years of happiness, health and love. Congratulations to you both!



HOLY ROSARY FINANCE COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

The Finance Council of Holy Rosary Church was called to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting began with prayer and a review of the September 15th, 2014 minutes. In addition to the regular members being present, a representative and accountant from CliftonLarsonAllen by the name of Eric Beenken was in attendance, as well as the Director from the Diocese of New Ulm, Tom Holzer, was also present.



Each member was given a personal copy of the financial report that was prepared by the accounting firm. The accountant, Eric Beenken reviewed the multi-page document regarding the procedures and practices of accounting and stewardship handling in the parish. The two accountants from the firm that had reviewed the parish books and procedures had done their work in August 2014, shortly after Fr. Paul's arrival as required by the Diocese of New Ulm when there is a change in pastoral leadership. Eric was quick to point that the investigation was not an audit, but more in the order of a review. The accounting firm addressed the "internal controls" that needed updating, as well as accounting procedures that need to be performed in accord with basic accounting procedures and the policies of the Diocese of New Ulm.

Specific questions were raised by the members that were present and were addressed by both representatives. Some specific questions are still being addressed on the Diocesan level with answers forthcoming in the weeks ahead. In five years there will be another review of the parish books of Holy Rosary.

Pastor's Comments: Father stated that although this was the third Finance Council meeting since his arrival, this delay was due in part to staffing changes and also the challenge of scheduling a time when the two representatives could be present to review the present document. Father has hired since the last Finance Council meeting both a full-time parish secretary as well as a part-time parish book-keeper. Both are working out very well and are adjusting quickly to their new roles. Father also reviewed with both the two representatives as well as the present members some 25 points of accounting procedures and internal controls the staff and he have done in the recent months in keeping with the directives of the Diocesan policies as well as standard accounting procedures from the report. The staff and he will continue to work on implementing the required changes by the report in the months ahead.

Father also asked for the input from the Finance Council about the possibility of hosting a benefit for the Isaac Kolstad family to cover some of the many expenses the family has occurred in recent months. The Finance Council offered support and some possible suggestions for leadership and the actual fundraiser.

The meeting adjourned with prayer. The next Finance Council meeting will be held on March 9th at 6:30 P.M. in Conference Room 1. Future Business: Parish Finances Update of Rental Policies of church facilities.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Good Counsel Learning Center is bringing *Late Nite Catechism* to Mankato April 18th at Fitzgerald Auditorium. Mark your calendars now for this fun-filled, interactive experience to take you back to your Baltimore Catechism Days! For more information, call Director, Sr. Dorothy Zeller at 507-389-4229, or Sr. Virginia Bieren at 507-389-4499.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION



The 2015 Bishop Lucker Lecture and Diocesan Distinguished Service Award Ceremony will take place Monday, March 9, 2015, 7 p.m. at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. Our featured speaker will be Fr. Raymond de Souza. His talk will be on "The Future of Religious Liberty in America." Fr. de Souza was ordained a Catholic priest on July 20, 2002, for the Archdiocese of Kingston, Ontario. He currently serves as chaplain at Newman House, the Roman Catholic chaplaincy at Queen's University. He is the pastor of Sacred Heart of Mary Parish on Wolfe Island where he currently lives. Fr. de Souza teaches at Queen's in the Faculty of Education and the Economics Department. He is a longstanding weekly columnist for the *National Post*, and contributes a weekly column to *The Catholic Register*, Canada's largest Catholic newspaper. He is the editor-in-chief of *Convivium*, a magazine examining the role of faith in our common life. All adult parishioners are invited free of charge. A social time will follow the ceremony and the presentation.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"...You have never heard of a gloomy-faced saint...that would be a contradiction... A Christian is full of peace, because he knows to place his joy in the Lord, even in life's most difficult moments..."

- Pope Francis