



March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent

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MASS INTENTIONS:

March 13th 5:00 pm - D'Andrea Family
March 14th 9:00 am - Richard & Mildred Kuchar
11:30 am - Pro Populo
March 16th Frank Spolar
March 17th William Marshal
March 18th James Snyder
March 19th Mark Spalding
March 20th 5:00 pm - Margaret Grindle
March 21st 9:00 am - Haze & Silvio Yahne
11:30 am - Pro Populo

If you would like a Mass said for a special intention please contact the parish office.

PILGRIMAGE OPPORTUNITY: Join Fr. Daniel Whelan, Fr. Tony Steinacker, and Fr. Solanus Guild-Huntington Extension members to visit and pray at the Tomb of Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen in Peoria, IL. Pray with God's "Hero of Adoration," on Thursday, June 10th, 2021. Cost is \$85. For more details, and registration form, contact Jan Scher at 260-450-3045 or e-mail her at janscher8@gmail.com. Reserve by May 1, 2021 deadline.

LITURGICAL MINISTER SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY: MARCH 20TH

Lector: Ann Snyder

SUNDAY: MARCH 21ST

Servers: Riley Shock & Noah Pinkerton

Lector: Luke Pinkerton

Counters: Joe & Julie Accetta & Bobbi Lautzenheiser

All day adoration every first Thursday of the month from 8:30 A.M. until Benediction at 6:00 P.M. The next day will be Thursday, April 1st.



Please remember St. Robert's in your will.

AT THE PARISH THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, March 16th:

6:00 pm Mass
6:30 pm Holy Hour & Benediction

Wednesday, March 17th:

5:00 pm Adoration
5:30 pm Confession
6:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm St. Joseph book study

Thursday, March 18th:

8:00 am Mass
6:45 pm Knights of Columbus

Friday, March 19th: Solemnity of St. Joseph

8:00 am Mass
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross
6:00 pm Soup Supper following Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 20th:

4:00 pm Confession
5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, March 21st:

9:00 am Mass
10:00 am Coffee & Donuts
10:15 am Religious Education & Bible Study
11:30 am Misa en español



Let Us Pray For:

Edith Sands, Larry Harris, Bill Fleck, Josiah Abbott, Marco Martinez, Bill Reese, Nyla Dee Evans, Lucy Daugherty, Ashley Ervin, Richard Seagert, Thiago Lugo, Jeff Labas, Brie Ann Armstrong, Tim Shepherd, Tom Tatum, John Coonrod, Rex Tharp, Chad Alexander, Debby & Doug Hyde, Paul Nisbet, Bob Wagoner, Jeanne Huser, Arlene Wring, Joe Accetta, Gary D., Jesus Diaz, Luke Donathon, Fernando Santaromita, Donna Zubowski, Shirley Williams, Jim Norman, Brett Tracy, Carolyn Reed, Mike Drancik, Fred & Judy Geyer, Pat O'Hara, Josephine Koontz, Margaret Grindle, Ray & Bobbie Elbertson, Jeff Labas, Bill Leonhard, Paula Roemele, Margaret Grindle Chris & Rosemary Spalding, Chris Martin, Deanna Niccum, Bernie Bradley, Delores Hardy, Liz Learned, Summer West, Larry Reynolds, Brooks Mobley, Winnie Lautzenheiser, Joanna Maxine & Evelyn Ruth Johnson, Donna Labas

Dear family,

I'd like to invite you to join me in a unique and beautiful way of honoring St. Joseph! On his feast day of March 19 there will be a Solemn High Latin Mass at 6:30 P.M. at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka. Consider how joyful it would be to go on a "mini-pilgrimage" in honor of St. Joseph by attending the form of the Mass the vast majority of the saints were familiar with. If you don't feel like making the drive yourself Joel Nesler has graciously offered to take people in his van which will depart St. Robert's at 2:30 on Friday to ensure plenty of time for dinner before Mass. He can be reached at 765-661-8747 to reserve a space.

If you have never attended a Traditional Latin Mass (TLM) before I highly recommend it! The experience can feel strange at first but it is very interesting to see firsthand the historical roots of the Mass. It is also a beautiful experience filled with incense, bells, and Gregorian chant provided by Notre Dame students. There are two major differences at the Traditional Latin Mass that are immediately apparent and can frequently turn people off (as happened to me the first time I went). I'd like to try to explain these practices to make them more palatable. The first is the language. Everything at Mass (except for the homily) is said in Latin. Why use a dead language to worship God? There are two reasons. The first is that the Latin language unites us as Roman Catholics. Because Latin is spoken by nobody, it belongs to everybody. When Mass is said in English, Spanish, or any other language it excludes people who don't belong to the ethnic group whose language is being spoken. However, when Mass is said in Latin it reverses the curse of the Tower of Babel and is inclusive of all God's children by uniting us in one voice. The second reason for Latin is sacredness. Everything that pertains to the Mass is set apart for exclusive use in the worship of God. The chalice and paten are never used to drink and eat ordinary food. The altar linens are never used to clean up around the house. In a similar way Latin has become a consecrated language used only for prayer. Because it is not spoken in the street like a vernacular language the mere sound of Latin takes on a holy and otherworldly quality. Our Jewish friends understand this principle and continue to pray in ancient Hebrew, even sending their children to hours of Hebrew school every Saturday morning. I've often thought we Catholics should have a similar Latin school!

The other thing people often dislike about the TLM is that the priest must offer it facing Jesus in the tabernacle rather than turning away from Him to look at the congregation. It's common for people to feel that this posture prevents them from participating in the Mass because it limits their view of part of the altar. However, it's crucial to remember that our participation in Mass is primarily interior and at the level of our soul rather than visual. A blind person is not less able to participate in the Mass than a person who can see everything that is happening at the altar. As Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29). When priest and people face God together it emphasizes their unity, equality, and the fact that our worship has a direction and a goal...we are walking together towards the Lord. Pope Benedict XVI wrote about this in his book *The Spirit of the Liturgy* when he said, "The turning of the priest toward the people has turned the community into a self-enclosed circle. Looking at the priest has no importance. What matters is looking together at the Lord." This is stronger language than we are used to hearing about the Mass! Sadly, in recent decades we have become accustomed to speaking about the Mass based on our personal preferences rather than any objective standard, i.e. "Some like it this way. Others like it that way. It's all the same and it's all good." It's normal to have preferences, but we must remember that the Mass is an objective reality and is always about something much greater than us, or rather Someone. It often feels unpleasant when we begin to allow the Mass to form us instead of us forming the Mass according to our likes and dislikes, but as Christians we are often called to endure some discomfort.

I always say the Traditional Latin Mass is like a vegetable. The first time we taste it as children we think it's gross. But as we grow older, we begin to appreciate how healthy vegetables are, the degree of work and skill involved in cultivating them, and how much they will benefit us in the long run. Eventually we may find that we even begin to enjoy vegetables and encourage others to eat them too! So, I urge you to give the Traditional Latin Mass a taste! You won't regret it (and even if you do there's nothing to lose except a couple of hours). The TLM looks and sounds weird at first but it is ever so healthy for our souls. Like me, some day you may be surprised to discover that you actually like all these things that at first seemed so off-putting. God is full of surprises for us!

In Christ,

Father Dennis

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION:

Envelopes \$4083.00
Loose \$569.00
Votive \$26.00
Over Bishop Appeal \$18.00

Monthly Budget \$13,200.00
\$100 every month will go to R.E.A.C.H.



Next Sunday's Gospel Reading

John 12: 20-33



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