

Sunday Mass and Holy Day Obligation

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! A blessed New Year to one and all! St. Augustine defines peace as the "tranquility of order." The Prince of Peace (our Lord) wants to help us walk into a new year with first things first in order to bring peace to our restless hearts. How can we come to this peace without him? The first day of the week for us is Sunday. The primary part of Sunday and our whole life as followers of Christ is the Mass. So, no Mass, no Christ (in his fullness). No Christ, no peace. No peace, no joy in living. Thus, because we could all use a deeper understanding and renewal in why we are *obliged* to go to Mass on Sunday and Holy Days, please read and share with others this article on the subject (having just come through Christmas, Holy Family Sunday, Mary the Mother of God and now Epiphany Sunday):

"It is both a precept of the Church and Church law that Catholics must worship God on Sunday and [Holy Days of Obligation](#) by participating in the Holy Mass. This follows from the fact that in the Mass it is Christ Himself who worships the Father, joining our worship to His. In no other way is it possible to adequately give thanks (eucharistia) to God for the blessings of creation, redemption and our sanctification than by uniting our offerings to that of Jesus Christ Himself. Following the example of the Old Covenant the Church does this weekly, on the day of the [Lord's Resurrection](#).

Canon 1247

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass; they are also to abstain from those labors and business concerns which impede the worship to be rendered to God, the joy which is proper to the Lord's Day, or the proper relaxation of mind and body.

Canon 1248

1. The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day.

2. If because of lack of a sacred minister or for other grave cause participation in the celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, it is specially recommended that the faithful take part in the liturgy of the word if it is celebrated in the parish church or in another sacred place according to the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, or engage in prayer for an appropriate amount of time personally or in a family or, as occasion offers, in groups of families.

Since a "grave cause" is needed to excuse one from this obligation it would be a serious or mortal sin to willfully skip Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation, as the Church has always taught. Reasons such as the necessity to work to support one's family, child care, personal sickness or the care of the sick, necessary travel etc. would excuse a person on a particular occasions. Those who have continuing reason to be excused should consult their pastor.

If a priest is not available in an area and only a Liturgy of the Word or a Communion Service is offered the Mass obligation does not "transfer" to such services. As canon 1248 notes, participation is recommended for the spiritual value, especially if Communion is distributed.

The proper way to celebrate Sunday is spoken of at length in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

2182 Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2183 "If because of lack of a sacred minister or for other grave cause participation in the celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, it is specially recommended that the faithful take part in the Liturgy of the Word if it is celebrated in the parish church or in another sacred place according to the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, or engage in prayer for an appropriate amount of time personally or in a family or, as occasion offers, in groups of families."

A day of grace and rest from work

2184 Just as God "rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done," human life has a rhythm of work and rest. The institution of the Lord's Day helps everyone enjoy adequate rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives.

2185 On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body. Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health. The charity of truth seeks holy leisure- the necessity of charity accepts just work.

2186 Those Christians who have leisure should be mindful of their brethren who have the same needs and the same rights, yet cannot rest from work because of poverty and misery. Sunday is traditionally consecrated by Christian piety to good works and humble service of the sick, the infirm, and the elderly. Christians will also sanctify Sunday by devoting time and care to their families and relatives, often difficult to do on other days of the week. Sunday is a time for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind, and meditation which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life.

2187 Sanctifying Sundays and holy days requires a common effort. Every Christian should avoid making unnecessary demands on others that would hinder them from observing the Lord's Day. Traditional activities (sport, restaurants, etc.), and social necessities (public services, etc.), require some people to work on Sundays, but everyone should still take care to set aside sufficient time for leisure. With temperance and charity the faithful will see to it that they avoid the excesses and violence sometimes associated with popular leisure activities. In spite of economic constraints, public authorities should ensure citizens a time intended for rest and divine worship. Employers have a similar obligation toward their employees.

2188 In respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church's holy days."

-by Colin B. Donovan, STL

(http://www.ewtn.com/expert/answers/sunday_mass.htm)

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday..... Sunday School

Tuesday.....NO Morning Mass, Fatima Rosary Group

Wednesday...NO Morning Mass, Religious Ed.

Thursday..... Mom's Group 9:30am, RCIA @ Holy Cross 7pm

Friday.....NO Morning Mass

Sunday.....Sunday School

St. Nicholas Emergency Food Shelf

If you would like to make a donation towards the food shelf or you or someone you know needs assistance please call 952-288-8101.

New Church address:

St. Nicholas Church
51 Church Street, PO Box 9
Elko New Market, MN 55020

Donut Sunday is scheduled on Sunday, Jan. 17th, and will be hosted by Cursillo.

The Great Adventure continues.....

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about The Story of Salvation during Lent.

Jeff Cavins Bible Timeline continues every Thursday in February and March beginning February 4 through March 25th, 9:00am-10:30am and 7:00pm-8:30pm.

If you would like to refresh the first 4 sessions or are joining us late there will be an opportunity to view sessions 1 & 2 on Jan. 21st 8:30-10am & 7pm-8:30pm and sessions 3 & 4 on Jan. 28th 8:30-10am & 7pm-8:30pm.

If you did not sign up for the first 4 sessions are and are interested in joining us please call Kathy Chlan at 952-652-2286 or Jean Moeller at 952-461-4552. You are welcome anytime!



A pilgrimage is a journey one makes to a sacred place for the purpose of venerating it or to ask for heavenly aid, and ultimately to come to know God better. Along the journey, there are many sacrifices involved, however, what matters is the distant goal.

Please pray for all of our youth as they consider taking the pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain in 2011.

PRAYER REQUESTS: If you would like to have the name of someone seriously ill, a newborn baby, or someone deceased mentioned in our bulletin for all to pray for, please notify the office by the end of each week. You must be an immediate family member of the person mentioned so as to respect their privacy.

WELCOME ALL YOUTH!!! You are invited to come to our next World Youth Day if you are currently a freshman in high school through 30years of age. Come and hear about this awesome trip to Spain in 2011 and think about going. We will meet after the 5pm Mass on Saturday January 2nd in the youth room of the old school building here.

The New Market-Elko-Webster Lions Club has donated \$500.00 to the St. Nicholas Food Shelf for purchasing food items. Please call the church office to notify families in need in our community.

Morning Moms' Group/Book Club will meet on Thursday, Jan. 9 & 21 @ 9:30am At Deb Streefland's home.. Childcare provided! Please contact Sarah Kuehl @ 952.461.4631 or Katherine DeWall @ 952.797.2359 for more information.

BOOK CLUB

The St. Nicholas evening Book Club.

We meet at Deb Streefland's home from 7:15 – 9pm. We read a variety of Christian books and enjoy lively and challenging discussions. The next gathering dates are Jan. 13, Feb. 3, April 7 & 28, May 12 and June 2.

If you would like to join or would like more information call Deb at **952-652-2349.**

RELIGIOUS ED.

Confirmation Students:

- Please remember to turn in your homily notes & service hours slips monthly! Notices will be mailed to parents by the end of the month.
- If you DID NOT attend the Lifeline Mass in November – **you must attend the one scheduled on February 6th. This is a Confirmation requirement!**

2nd Grade:

- Home School & Holy Cross students should call Father Adams to set up your 1st Reconciliation interview, before Friday, Jan. 15th. Wed. evening Religious Ed. Students who DID NOT have their interview on Dec. 16th, will be interviewed on Wed. Jan. 13th during regular class.
- 1st Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 16th at 10am in the church. A reception will follow in the church basement, hosted by the 1st grade class.

PARENTS – reminder to you – if your child is not going to be at religion you need to call the parish office or your child's teacher to let us know of your child's absence. If you are not reporting absences – they are marked unexcused.

Mass Intentions			
Sat	2	5:00 pm	Maria Simones
Sun	3	8:00 am	Joan Britten+
Sun	3	10:00 am	For the Parish
Tues	5	8:00 am	NO MASS
Wed	6	8:00 am	NO MASS
Thurs	7	8:00 am	Norbert Weckman+
Fri	8	8:00 am	NO MASS
Sat	9	8:30 am	Matt Severson+
Sat	9	5:00 pm	For the Parish
Sun	10	8:00 am	Jacinta Simones
Sun	10	10:00 am	Rich Cap Sr.

Daily Scriptures		
Mon	1 John 1:5-2:2	Matthew 2:13-18
Tue	1 John 2:3-11	Luke 2:22-35
Wed	1 John 2:12-17	Luke 2:36-40
Thu	1 John 2:18-21	John 1:1-8
Fri	Micah 4:1-4/James 4:1-10/Matthew 5:20-24	
Sat.	1 John 2:22-28	John 1:19-28
Sun	Isaiah 60:1-6/Ephesians 3:2-3a,5-6/Matthew 2:1-12	

Liturgical Stewardship		Jan. 9 & 10
5pm	Lectors:	Jan Freeman-H
	Ministers:	Ken Thomas-W, Bill Vogel-W, Chuck Mathews-Ch-H, Gail Mathews-Ch-W
	Servers:	Ray & Andrew Petroski
	Ushers:	
8am	Lectors:	Kathy Chlan-H
	Ministers:	Ralph Wagner-W, Mike Moeller-W, Jolene Pierson-Ch-W, Margo Theisen-Ch-H
	Servers:	Sam Zweber, Peter Hilpisch
	Ushers:	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
10am	Lectors:	Stephen Conway
	Ministers:	Jackie Devine-H, Amy McDonald-W, Anne Conway-Ch-H, Julie Nelson-W
	Servers:	Robert Devine, Doug Nelson
	Ushers:	Randy Wagner, Pat McDonald

Sacrificial Support Week 26 / December 27, 2009			
Budget	\$4900	Budget-to-date	\$127400
Received	\$6363	Received-to-date	\$119706
Capital Improvement \$75 / School \$25/ Christmas \$8566 /			

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Mike & Rob Kaufenberg

YOUTH GROUP

LUTSEN! LUTSEN! LUTSEN!

Mass! Adoration! Reconciliation! Ski! Snowboard! Hike!

Fr. Adams will lead you on an unforgettable Lutsen adventure! Don't miss this great opportunity! All high school aged youth are welcome!

Parents and youth are invited to an information meeting on Wednesday, December 30th at 6pm in the youth room. We will meet prior to the youth group Christmas party. Lutsen ski trip set for February 26th-28th. If you can't make it to the meeting please call Tim or Molly at 952-461-2933

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

New Years schedule

The Chapel will close on Thursday, December 31st at 4:00 pm. It will remain closed through the weekend and will reopen on Monday, January 4th at 8 am.

MORE ADORERS ARE NEEDED FOR HOLY HOURS WITH JESUS. PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING WITH AN HOUR.

Adorers are needed especially for the following hours:

Monday: 1 am, **Tuesday:** Noon (during winter months) 4 pm, 7 pm, 11 pm,

Wednesday: 9 am, 4 pm, **Thursday:** 2 pm, 3 pm,

Friday: 3 am, **Saturday:** 1 pm, 7 pm.

To sign up as an Adorer or for more information on Adoration, please contact Dan and Lynne Soderlund at (507) 645-6012

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Pre-Kindergarten Registration Starts Now! We have begun the registration process for our 3-5 year old Pre-K Program. Registration packets and brochures about our program can be found at the back of church. We offer full day and half day options of two or three days per week. For more information, please contact the school office at 952-652-6100 or visit www.holycrossschool.net.

You're Invited! Holy Cross Catholic School will hold our Pre-K and Kindergarten Open House for the 2010-2011 school year on Tuesday, January 26 from 5-7pm at our school in Webster. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the teachers and see our school and learn more about the programs we offer. For more information, contact the school office or visit our website at www.holycrossschool.net.

Holy Cross invites all parish families and friends to our Family Pizza & Bingo Night on Friday, January 22 from 5-7pm. Enjoy all you can eat Dominos Pizza and play a few rounds of Bingo. The cost is \$7/adult, \$4/child with a maximum of \$20 per family

Crusader Winner for 11/30/09

Mary Lu Bastyr \$150, Connie Rimpila \$75, Tom & Terry Michaud \$75, Julie Smisek \$50, Cyrilla Pint \$50, Jennifer Himmerick \$50.

KNIGHTS CORNER

If you are a catholic male in good standing with the church and have some time and talent to give, then see what the Knights of Columbus can do for you. Contact Mike Kaderlik at 651-210-8644 or makaderlik@mchsi.com.