

FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE...

What is behind the door of the confessional? FREEDOM! "Whose sins you forgive they are forgiven." (Jn 20:23)

We come to the line in the Our Father: "...ET DIMITTE NOBIS DEBITA NOSTRA, SICUT ET NOS DIMITTIMUS DEBITORIBUS NOSTRIS." We are asking this heavenly Father, who we have been praying to the whole prayer as a provident loving Abba/daddy, to now really make us his sons and daughters. When you and I sin (especially serious sin like any of the commandments broken gravely, with full knowledge and full consent), we become a slave to sin. When by grace we accept the Lord's invitation to free us from this sin by his forgiveness, especially in the sacrament of reconciliation, we are this "new creation" St. Paul talks about in the second reading.

The short answer to the who/what/when/where/why of confession is to just go. Be not afraid. We have surrounding parishes along with our own penance services with visiting priests to offer you someone outside this parish. That is understandable if you would like someone you don't know at all or prefer. But in the end, the point is the freedom waiting for us that comes from absolution. There is grace there as we resolve to "do our penance, amend our life and sin no more."

The Gospel today of the prodigal son from Luke 15 couldn't be a better meditation for us as we examine our conscience. Check out the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the section on this sacrament of penance. Also, a few books if you wish to go deeper in your understanding of this sacrament:

Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen

The Untapped Power of the Sacrament of Penance: A Priest's View by Fr. Christopher Walsh

Frequent Confession: Its Place in the Spiritual Life by Benedict Baur

Why We Need Confession by Russel Shaw

An older and great movie directed by Alfred Hitchcock (1953) on the seal of confession entitled *I Confess*.

Don't miss out this Lent or in your life on this totally free gift of a new beginning in the life of grace, especially if there is any serious sin blocking this life from coming in.

God bless,
Fr. Adams

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.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday..... Sunday School

Tuesday..... Fatima Rosary Group, Choir Practice 7pm,

Wednesday... Religious Ed.

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

Friday..... Soup Supper 6pm, Stations of the Cross 7pm

Sunday..... Sunday School, PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

ADVERTISERS WANTED – We are looking for several new advertisers to fill the back of our bulletin. Rates are cheap & your ad runs every week for a full year. Please call the parish office for more information. 952-461-2403.

The upcoming Solemnity of Saint Joseph (March 19) falls on a Friday during Lent. As was already mentioned in the Lenten Guidelines, this is not a day of fast and abstinence. The Church does not enjoy

fasting or penance on this day of the solemn celebration of her Universal Patron.

150th Anniversary Books will continue to be available for purchase. Please contact the parish office to purchase one. 461-2403.

This Weeks Soup Supper is Hosted by.....

Cursillo – The Cursillo Movement is dedicated to spreading the Word of God and helping people form a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. You can become a part of the Cursillo Community by attending a 3 day weekend. The next men's weekend is April 29th thru May 2nd and the women's is May 13th thru 16th.

Stations of the Cross / Soup Supper will be offered during the Lenten Season. The first Soup Supper is Fri day, Feb. 26th at 6pm, followed by Stations of the Cross at 7pm, and will continue every Friday during Lent, with the exception of Good Friday, when stations will be at 3pm and no Soup Supper.

Vacation Bible School – 2010

PARENTS – ARE YOUR KIDS READY TO SINK THEIR TEETH INTO BIG FUN?

That's just what they will do at Crocodile Dock, where fearless kids shine God's light! Crocodile Dock Totally Catholic Summer Program is filled with incredible activities that allow kids to see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible, crafts, team-building games, cool songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Crocodile Dock activities that help kids connect faith to real life. We will help kids discover how to see God in everyday life – something we call God sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Mark these dates on your calendar...

Monday, June 14th – Friday June 18th.

Time: 8:45 – 11:30am.

Ages 4 (must be 4 by June 1st) – Gr. 5th (fall of 2010)

Location: St. Nicholas Church Campus

Cost: \$15 per child with a family cap of \$45

Registration: Sunday, March 21st in the church basement, or by calling the parish office at 952-461-2403. Registration will open to outside the parish if not full by May 1st.

We rely on many volunteers to help with this week-long fun program. We are looking for ADULT and Student volunteers. We have been very blessed in years past to have such fantastic help. If you are interested in helping please sign up on Sunday March 21st or by calling the parish office at 461-2403. Parents if you sign up to help and have children in the program, your fee will be waived. Any questions please call the parish office 461-2403.

Clergy Appreciation Dinner will be held at St. Nicholas Church Basement on Sunday March 14th beginning with social hour at 6pm, dinner at 6:30, followed by a talk & prizes. All priest, school teachers, religious ed teachers, church & school staff and spouses are invited to this dinner. Please call Pat Theisen to RSVP 461-2599.

Golden Hearts are sponsoring a used book and religious article sale after all masses on March 20-21. If you have books or an article you would like to donate please bring them to church by March 19th. Put them downstairs on the marked table. Proceeds go to buy new books for the Chapel.

Pancake & Sausage Breakfast will be held on Sunday March 21st from 8-12. This breakfast is hosted by the Knights of Columbus and all proceeds will go to Peter & Lucy Simones. Confirmation students who would like to earn service hours, should call Pat Theisen to help with the breakfast.



Inspirational Catholic CD's are now available at St Nicholas. **Check out the display in the back of church.** Lighthouse Catholic media presents CD's from Fr. Corapi, Scott Hahn, Matthew Kelly and many others. These CD's are only \$3.00 that can be dropped in the CD box. If you are not an avid reader or have a long commute – this is a great opportunity to learn and grow in your Catholic Faith. Titles will change around a couple times a year. Enlighten your mind and open your heart during Lent and throughout the Easter season.

ALL YOUNG ADULTS! If you are of college age or a bit beyond and still are interested to come on retreat May 9-14, I will lead the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius for those interested. There is still some room. Contact me by the end of this week for more information. -Fr.

Morning Moms' Group/Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 18, April 15 & 29 & May 13 @ 9:30am At Deb Streefland's home. Childcare provided! The current book is "Raise Happy Children: Teach Them JOY!" By Maryanne Budnik. Please contact Sarah Kuehl @ 952.461.4631 or Katherine

We reached 80% of our goal as a parish! The Appeal goes on! Thank you to those who returned their pledges for the Catholic Services Appeal. For those of you continuing to prayerfully respond, we ask that you return your pledge form to Mass this weekend or next. **As a reminder, our parish receives 25% of all gifts donated through the parish, before the telemarketing begins. If you have not done so, please consider a respond to the appeal.** The need has never been greater and your response is greatly appreciated. "We are one body, one body in Christ."

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 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.**

CMLG

Save the Date!

The Christian Mothers and Ladies Guild (CMLG) will be hosting a Marriage Enrichment Dinner on April 24th. Tickets will go on sale March 14th. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

CHOIR

Practice for the holy week and Easter vigil masses will begin Tuesday March 2nd at 7:00 pm. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

Choir Practice: March 16,23 & 30th. All practices are Tuesday evenings at 7pm. **New members are always welcome!!**

Choir Mass: March 21, 28 (Palm Sunday), April 1 (Holy Thursday, April 2 (Good Friday), April 3 (Easter Vigil), April 4, (Easter Sunday, 10am)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

"What else do I need to be happy? Nothing in this world but to be able to see Him – Jesus in the Sacred Host -, Whom I now see by faith and adore on the altar" (St. Dominic Savio).

Adorers are welcome to come to the Chapel at any time. **MORE ADORERS ARE NEEDED FOR HOLY HOURS WITH JESUS. PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING WITH AN HOUR.**

Adorers are needed especially for the following hours:

Sunday: 1 pm- on the 5th Sunday of the month when that occurs,

Monday: 1 am, **Tuesday:** noon (during the winter months),

Wednesday: 9 am, 4 pm, **Friday:** midnight,

Saturday: 3 am, 1 pm-(we are looking for adorers for once or twice

a month.)

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

RELIGIOUS ED.

March Calendar

10th Gr. Reconciliation is scheduled for **Wed., March 17th** (more information will following in a couple weeks)

10th Gr. Confirmation Interviews are scheduled for **Wed., March 24th**

No Class Wed., March 31st.

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	13	5:00 pm	Nicole Goblirsch
Sun	14	8:00 am	Melvin Shea+
Sun	14	10:00 am	For the Parish
Tues	16	8:00 am	Bob, Patrick & Anna Devine+
Wed	17	8:00 am	
Thurs	18	8:00 am	Bernadine Popp+
Fri	19	8:30 am	Willie Williamson+
Sat	20	8:30 am	Joan Britten+
Sat	20	5:00 pm	Floyd Hartmann+
Sun	21	8:00 am	Marlys & Jerry Schilz+
Sun	21	10:00 am	For the Parish

Daily Scriptures		
Mon	Isaiah 65:17-21	John 4:43-54
Tue	Ezekiel 47:1-9,12	John 5:1-16
Wed	Isaiah 49:8-15	John 5:17-30
Thu	Exodus 32:7-14	John 5:31-47
Fri	2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Romans 4:13,16-18,22/Matthew 1:16,18-21,24a	
Sat.	Jeremiah 11:18-20	John 7:40-53
Sun	Isaiah 43:16-21/Philippians 3:8-14/John 8:1-11	

Liturgical Stewardship		March 20 & 21
5pm	Lectors:	Gail Mathews-H
	Ministers:	Chuck mathews-Ch-H
	Servers:	Justin Biren & Jackson Dietz
	Ushers:	
8am	Lectors:	Ken Thomas-H
	Ministers:	Lynda Bunnell-Ch-H
	Servers:	James & Justin Tupy
	Ushers:	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
10am	Lectors:	Mary Zweber-H
	Ministers:	Chris Kuehl-Ch-H
	Servers:	Patrick Kuehl, Doug Nelson
	Ushers:	Tom Wagner, Pat Theisen

Sacrificial Support Week 36 / March 7, 2010			
Budget	\$4900	Budget-to-date	\$176400
Received	\$4369	Received-to-date	\$165088
Capital Improvement	\$40		

Please show your appreciation by supporting those advertisers who help make our bulletin possible. This week we thank...

FISH ROCK COUNTRY MARKET

Convenience Store with Cash Machine,

Video Rental, Postage Stamps

952-461-2251 / Reed Clemmer, owner

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Summer Stretch is back! For students entering grades 6-9 in the fall. Six Wednesdays in June and July, you will spend from 8am-5pm with the Summer Stretch Group. Mornings will begin with a brief prayer service and then you will be off to your community service project for the remainder of the morning. After lunch, students will enjoy a fun activity such as a trip to a water park, Cleary Lake, bowling and much more. We will end the summer on August 5th with a trip to Valleyfair. Registration forms can be found at the back of church and are due March 31. This program is open to all school students, parishioners and their friends.

Holy Cross Annual Rummage Sale will be on Saturday, March 27 from 8-11am in the school gym. Donations can be dropped off on Friday, March 26 from 3-7pm in the school gym. We are looking for the following gently used items: baby, kids, clothing, household and furniture. We cannot accept TVs, computers or other electronic equipment. All unsold items will be donated to a local charity.

The **Holy Cross Silent Auction Event** will be on Saturday, April 17 beginning at 6pm. New this year, Elvis will entertain us following the Live Auction. To purchase tickets or donate a item to the auction, please contact the school office at 952-652-6100.

Mark your calendars, Holy Cross Athletic Association will hold its **Spring Breakfast Fundraiser** on Sunday, April 11 from 8am-12pm in the school gym. Please join us for a breakfast of scrambled eggs & ham, fruit, cinnamon rolls and beverages. All proceeds benefit Holy Cross Athletics

Holy Cross Catholic School K-8 registration for the 2010-2011 school year has begun! Registration packets can be found at the back of church, on the school website (www.holycrossschool.net) or by calling the school office at 952-652-6100. If you would like to schedule a tour of our school, please contact the school office.

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.

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.

PRO-LIFE

Mark your calendars! Several excellent speakers are lined-up throughout the coming year--you won't want to miss them! The Respect Life Groups of South Central Minnesota are sponsoring the following presentations:

Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center (April 22, 2010, Church of St. Dominic, Northfield)
Archbishop Raymond Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura at the Vatican (Aug. 8, 2010, Divine Mercy, Faribault)
Kalley Yanta, former KSTP TV news anchor and pro-life activist (Oct. 21, 2010, Divine Mercy, Faribault)

With questions, call Dr. Richard Weiland, 507-645-2633, or Anne Fredrickson, 507-645-2348

YOUTH GROUP



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

World Youth Day is a great opportunity to learn more about your faith as a young person. This is also a wonderful way for the whole parish to support our youth. Consider coming on this pilgrimage if you are a freshman this year in high school or up to 30 years of age. So many of us have heard God calling us through his voice and presence of the Holy Father. This is a wonderful time to grow in your faith and your role in the church. -Fr. Adams

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

All You Can Eat Fish Fry @ St. Patrick's Church of Cedar Lake, on Friday March 19th 5-8pm. Adult:\$10, 4-12 Years: \$5, 3 & Under: Free. Fish, French Fries, Au Gratin Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Beans, Bread, Bars & Beverage.

"Loving Myself...Nurturing the Treasures Within." Please join us for a spring salad luncheon at **St. Catherine's of Spring Lake on Saturday, March 20th at 11:30am**. We're delighted to have Sisters Lay O'Neil and Michelle Meyers, Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, as our keynote speakers. Tickets are \$10 for the lunch and program. Contact Irene Buresh at 952-461-2400, if you would like to purchase tickets.

Veseli Lions Club is having a Scrap Booking Retreat from 8am – 10pm on Saturday, March 20th @ Holy Cross School in Webster. Cost is \$45 if you pre-register and \$50 at the door. Price includes: Light Breakfast, 2 meals, snacks, desserts, beverages, table prizes, raffle and vendors door prizes. Please call Carrie Kubes @ 507-744-4670 to register.

Reclaiming the Culture of Marriage & Life, Saturday, March 20 9-11am @ St. John the Baptist in Jordan

How many times have you heard the criticism, "The Church should stay out of the bedroom," and not known how to respond? Why does the Church care so deeply about marriage and relationships? Does the Church really need to get involved in these issues? Isn't it enough to focus on helping the poor and vulnerable? Many current issues, such as contraception, abortion, cohabitation, divorce, and same-sex unions, challenge Catholics to think deeply about the meaning of marriage, its purposes, its connectedness to life issues and its values to individuals, families and society. Because reflection based on reason and faith provides an appropriate framework for current debates, we invite you to join us for an evening of discussion about what the Church teaches regarding these issues—and WHY. **Father Andrew Cozzens**, theology professor at St. Paul Seminary, will explain the Biblical, philosophical and spiritual foundation of Christian marriage. **Attorney William LeMire** will help us understand the legal battle. Sponsored by the Archdiocesan Office for Marriage, Family and Life. Call 651.291.4488 or visit www.archspm.org for additional information.

A VERY SPECIAL PARTY!!! Imagine a World with MORE Birthdays!

You are invited to the Scott County Relay For Life Kickoff (Birthday celebration) on Saturday, March 20, 2010, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Shakopee Town Square Mall. Visit booths to learn all about Relay, join us in the fight against cancer in Scott County and help create a world with more birthdays! What's a birthday party without Ice Cream? Schwan's will also be having a truck load sale in the parking lot, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Scott County Relay For Life. For more information, please contact event tri-chair Annette Chlan at nettyc@frontiernet.net or by calling (612) 418-2617.

There will be an hour of prayer at Planned Parenthood in St. Paul in some Fridays of Lent. The prayer is from 5 - 6 p.m. You are welcome to attend. March 5, 12, 19, 26 - Lenten Vigils, Planned Parenthood, 1965 Ford Parkway, 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

During this modified "40 Days for Life," we strongly encourage you to pray outside Planned Parenthood anytime on the Fridays in Lent. We will conduct a formal time of group prayer from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. each Friday, except Good Friday

Southern Valley Alliance For Battered Women is in need of additional volunteers to answer its 24-hour crisis line, facilitate its women's support group and provide childcare for those groups. Free training for crisis line and group facilitation volunteers will begin March 27th. No training is required for childcare volunteers. For more information, please call Martha or Lori at 952-873-4214.

Certificates for Couples Married 50+ Years

The Archdiocesan Office for Marriage, Family & Life is once again honoring couples in the Archdiocese who have been married 50 years or longer. An attractive Certificate of Recognition, signed by Archbishop Nienstedt, will be mailed to all couples married 50 years or longer in the calendar year 2010. The longest married couple will be honored on June 26th at the Marriage Day Mass and Celebration at the Cathedral of St. Paul. **Requests need to be made in writing and received by April 1, 2010.** The letter should include the following information: First and last names of the couple, number of years they've been married, the address that the certificate should be sent to. Please send your requests to: Office for Marriage, Family & Life, c/o Marriage Certificates, 328 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55102