

**March 3, 2019**  
**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Our Lady of the Prairie & Bread of Life Area Faith Communities  
 Visit us on the web at [www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.org](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.org) or [www.holy-redeemer.com](http://www.holy-redeemer.com)

**Father Mark Steffl, Pastor**  
 507-532-5711 [Holy Redeemer - Marshall]  
**Father Mark Mallak, Associate Pastor**  
 507-629-4075 [St. Mary's - Tracy]  
**Cell #320-221-3145**  
**Father Dennis Labat, Associate Pastor**  
 507-829-2412 [Marshall]



Don & Jean Schmidt  
 Pastoral Associates – Milroy  
 507-336-2583  
[stmichael@mnval.net](mailto:stmichael@mnval.net)  
[djschmidt@mnval.net](mailto:djschmidt@mnval.net)

“FORMED” AUDIO-VIDEOS  
[www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.formed.org](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.formed.org)  
 or [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) access code # YW2JXQ

Diann Timmerman & Suzanne Lightfoot  
 Director of Religious Ed. & Youth Ministry  
 507-629-3667 & 507-336-2505



**Holy Redeemer Church**  
 503 W. Lyon St.  
 Marshall, MN  
 56258  
 507-532-5711

**Masses:**

- 7:00 a.m. Tues.-F.
- 5:00 p.m. Sat.
- 8 & 10 a.m. Sun.
- 12:30 p.m. Spanish
- 6:00 p.m. Sun.

Pastor  
 Secretary  
 Bulletin editor

Fr. Mark Steffl  
 Amy Bauer  
 Rachel Krueger

msteffl@  
 holy-redeemer.com  
 abauer  
 @holy-redeemer.com  
 rkrueger  
 @holy-redeemer.com

**Confessions:**

- 9 a.m. & 4 p.m. Saturdays



**St. Mary's Church**  
 249 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Tracy, MN 56175  
 507-629-4075  
[stmary@iw.net](mailto:stmary@iw.net)

**Masses:**

- 8:30 a.m. Wed.
  - 8:30 a.m. Fri.
  - 10:30 a.m. Sun.
- Confessions:**
- 2:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. of the Month

Secretary  
 Religious Ed.  
 Maintenance  
 Prayer Network

Becky Lanoue  
 Diann Timmerman  
 Tim Amick  
 Alita Lenertz  
 Lota Hannasch

507-629-4075  
 507-629-3667  
[resaintmary@gmail.com](mailto:resaintmary@gmail.com)  
 507-829-5197  
 Cell:507-993-2654  
 Home: 507-629-4145  
 507-629-4866



**St. Mary's School**  
 225 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Tracy, MN 56175  
 507-629-3270  
[www.stmaryschooltracy.org](http://www.stmaryschooltracy.org)

**Office Hours:**  
 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Monday - Friday

Principal  
 Secretary  
 Cafeteria  
 Maintenance

Lisa Dieter  
 Chris Schons  
 Kate Schmitt  
 Tim Amick

[lisa.dieter.sms@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.dieter.sms@gmail.com)  
[Chris.schons.sms@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.schons.sms@gmail.com)  
 507-629-3841  
 507-829-5197



**St. Michael's Church**  
 200 Euclid Avenue  
 Milroy, MN 56263  
 507-336-2505  
[stmichael@mnval.net](mailto:stmichael@mnval.net)

**Masses:**

- 8:30 a.m. Mon.
  - 8:30 a.m. Sun.
  - 8:30 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Sat.
- Confessions:**
- 8:00 a.m. Sun.

Religious Ed  
 Bookkeeper  
 Church Cleaner  
 Groundskeeper

Suzanne Lightfoot  
 Kami Parker  
 Linda Dolan  
 Larry Karsten

507-336-2505  
 507-828-6515  
 507-829-1032  
 507-336-2624



**St. Paul's Church**  
 P.O. Box 236  
 Walnut Grove MN  
 56180

**Masses:**  
 8:30 a.m. Thurs.  
 At Country View  
 Senior Living

Administrator  
 Bookkeeper  
 Prayer Network

Nancy Hewitt  
 Pat Hansen  
 Pam Baumann

507-859-2375  
[hewitthn@redred.com](mailto:hewitthn@redred.com)  
 507-859-2581  
 507-859-2503

**UP COMING AT OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE AREA FAITH COMMUNITY:**

**Sun. Mar. 3 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MASS TIMES HAVE TRADED TODAY)**

**8:00 a.m. CCW Rosary at St. Mary's in Tracy**

**8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy  
+Lennard Nydell**

**10:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Michael's in Milroy**

**10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Michael's in Milroy  
+David Louwagie**

**11:00 a.m. St. Michael's Men's Dinner**

**Mon. Mar. 4 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Michael's in Milroy  
+Lenore Rohlik**

**7:00 p.m. Spirit Day at St. Mary's School  
CCW Meeting at St. Michael's in Milroy-Please come and join us.**

**Tues. Mar. 5 Healing & Deliverance Prayer Day at St. Michael's in Milroy**

**6:00 p.m. AFC Council Meeting at St. Michael's Rectory in Milroy**

**7:00 p.m. St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting at St. Michael's Rectory in Milroy**

**Wed. Mar. 6 ASH WEDNESDAY**

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE**

**8:30 a.m. School Mass, Gr. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>. at St. Mary's in Tracy  
+Mildred Blesener**

**NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES**

**5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Michael's in Milroy  
For Youth of St. Michael**

**7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy  
+Jean Lamfers**

**Thurs. Mar. 7 8 – Noon Adoration at St. Michael's Rectory in Milroy**

**8:30 a.m. Mass at Country View in Walnut Grove  
+Pearl VanDeWiele**

**5:30 p.m. Bp. Grace 4<sup>th</sup> Degree KC Meeting**

**Fri. Mar. 8 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy  
+Joe Cooreman**

**2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's in Tracy  
SCRIP order/pick up at St. Mary's School**

**Sat. Mar. 9 2:00 p.m. Confessions at St. Mary's in Tracy**

**Sun. Mar. 10 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**8:00 a.m. Confessions at St. Michael's in Milroy**

**8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Michael's in Milroy  
+Margaret Gilb**

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTIONS – BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS-MILROY & TRACY**

**10:00 a.m. CCW Rosary at St. Mary's in Tracy**

**10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's in Tracy  
+Wayne Steffes**

**Baptisms: Contact Priest to set up a date.**

**Marriages: Contact Priest at least six months in advance of proposed wedding date.**

**Hospitalized or ill parishioners: Contact Priest.**

**New Ulm Diocese Catholic Charities: Counseling & Adoptions toll-free 1-866-670-5163**

**Pray for safety for all those serving in the military from our families and from our communities especially: Aaron Moudry, Samantha & Lucas Karnes, Troy Sik, Joe Goodnow, Stuart Stroman, Patrick Carnahan, Brad & Andrea Bond, Travis Davis, Martin Hamsa, Cole DeBlicke, Patricia Baker, Pat Weisbrich, and Troy Baumann.**

**Prayer Network prayers for healing for all the sick and other needs in the area faith community especially:** Sandy Alcorn, Don Alex, Kevin & Kim Arnold, Bob Brewers, Maia Brooks, Linda Bruns, Piyaunch "Bee" Chompsob, Scott Daggett, Loanne Johns Dale, Delmar Debbaut, Paul DeSmith, Lisa Driessan, Rachel Ewertz, Gavin Fischer, Mike Foley, Kelly Garner, Phillip Goblisch, Theresa Hansen, Glad Henning, Rachel Hubner, Vera James, Nick Jenniges, Joe, Lillian Johannes, Alyssa Kirk, Barb Knutson, Leonard Lanoue, Jim Larsen, Nathan Lewis, Carol Louwagie, Kristine Lunsford, Vonnie & Chuck Lutz, Beatrice Maeyaert, Bob McCoy, Fr. Bob Mraz, Al Rolling, Amy Sik, Someone Needs Healing, Someone Having Surgery, Ron & Evie Stadick, Lawrence Stassen, Dee Thatcher, John Thomas, Maurice VanDeWiele, Cathy Verly, Lloyd Welu, Tudy Will & for 4 special intentions. *If you know of someone who should be now removed from the sick list, please let the rectory know. Names will be left on the list for 1 month and then taken off, if you wish them put on again please contact the office we will gladly put them on again.*



### **OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS:**

**NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE BULLETIN IN BY WEDNESDAY 10:00 A.M. PLEASE SEND ALL BULLETIN INFORMATION TO THE CHURCH OFFICE - e-mail use: [stmary@iw.net](mailto:stmary@iw.net) or call the office 629-4075.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION FOR THE AFC WEBSITE – E-MAIL IT TO BECKY LANOUE AT [stmary@iw.net](mailto:stmary@iw.net).**

**DID YOU MISS GETTING THE SUNDAY BULLETIN?–** Feel free to look up the website to find the Sunday Area Faith Community bulletin, the Area Faith Community monthly calendar, and other information at the OUR LADY OF THE PRAIRIE WEBSITE: [www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.org](http://www.ourladyoftheprairie-afc.org).

**AFC COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 5, AT ST. MICHAEL'S RECTORY AT 6:00 PM.** We are looking for new members to serve on this council. If interested please contact Patty Lessman.

#### **CCW NEWS**

**TRACY: Next Large Function—**St. Elizabeth: Betty VanKeulen & Mary Jo Henkel

**Next Small Function –** St. Elizabeth: Betty VanKeulen & Mary Jo Henkel

**SHEPHERD OF THE FIELD for 2017-18: For St. Mary's in Tracy – Fr. Ron Huberty**, Church of Sts. Peter & Paul, P.O. Box 49, Ivanhoe, MN 56142-0049, Ordination Date July 15, 1990, Birthday June 2.

**MILROY:** Next Funeral is Circle 1.

**SHEPHERD OF THE FIELD for 2017-18: For St. Michael's in Milroy –Rev. Germain Rademacher**, Ridgeway, 720 23<sup>rd</sup> St. N. Apt. 201, New Ulm, MN 56073, Ordination Feb. 23, 1958, Birthday Dec. 4.

**"IT FELT LIKE A HONEYMOON... I couldn't wait to get home and see her at the end of the day." - husband who attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter.** Bring back the honeymoon in your marriage. The next available **Weekends** are Apr 26-28, 2019 in HUTCHINSON, MN and Nov 15-17, 2019 in OWATONNA, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [southmnwwme.org](http://southmnwwme.org) or contact Miki at [applications@southmnwwme.org](mailto:applications@southmnwwme.org) or 507-227-8229.

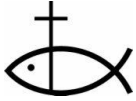
#### **COME AND ENJOY BRUNCH WITH BISHOP JOHN M. LEVOIR**

The 5th Annual Benefit for Catholic Schools – Brunch with the Bishop will be on Sunday, March 24, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. (serving will end at noon). The brunch will be held at Church of the Holy Redeemer (Roncalli Room), 503 W Lyon Street, Marshall. Bishop John M. LeVoir will assist in serving the brunch and greeting those attending. Guests will be asked for a free-will offering. Free-will donations will be allocated with 75% of the donations benefitting the diocesan endowments supporting Catholic schools and 25% to the local hosting school, Holy Redeemer. Donors will also have the opportunity to specify the allocation of any additional contributions. No reservations necessary.

**ADULT GRIEF SUPPORT** beginning Feb, 4 – March 11, 2019 at Redwood Area Hospital. Give yourself the opportunity to work through your own grief, gain strength and experience the care and support of others in the group. There is no cost to participate. It is important to attend all six sessions if possible. For more information on the support group or to register, please call Chelsey Gniffke at the Carris Health – Redwood Hospital at 507-637-4617.

**THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS** of the Americas local Court St. Joan of Arc #1291 is offering a \$500.00 scholarship to a 2019 graduating Catholic girl who plans to continue her formal education. She must be a member of Holy Redeemer Parish or any of the adjacent Catholic parishes that do not have a Catholic Daughter Court. Applications are available at the Holy Redeemer Parish office or from Lois Novosad, 710 N 6<sup>th</sup> St., Marshall, MN 56258. Phone:507-532-5236. Complete forms, including letters of recommendations, must be returned to Lois Novosad no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**WIDOWED, DIVORCED OR SEPARATED??** Beginning Experience of SW MN, is offering a Weekend Retreat that provides an individual with the opportunity to encounter self and to grow with a purpose to achieve inner peace. The experience is to help close the door gently on the past and move on with renewed hope and purpose. The weekend retreat will be held at Shetek Lutheran Ministries and is scheduled for April 12th-14th. Deadline for registrations is April 5th. Email [swmnbe@gmail.com](mailto:swmnbe@gmail.com), Or call/text MaryAnn 507-828-2866, Laurie 507-829-4004, Tim 507-530-6379.



### **AREA FAITH COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

**THIS WEEK** we will not be having religious education classes as it is Ash Wednesday. Please attend mass with your families. There will be a sign in at the back of the church for all students to sign in.

**7<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS:** Please consider joining us at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on March 20th. If you are interested in going, please contact Suzanne @ St. Michael's or Diann @ St. Mary's. There is a sign up in the back of church. A permission form will be needed if you plan to attend. We are also looking for donations for this event as well. There are envelopes in the back of the church.

**1<sup>ST</sup> COMMUNION STUDENTS/FAMILIES:** Mark your calendars for the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Retreat on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 pm. Please work on your packets and hand in Baptismal information ASAP.

**CONFIRMATION STUDENTS:** Remember to have a sponsor chosen by March 15<sup>th</sup>, and remember to bring mass notes with you if you attend mass at another AFC. Please staple a copy of the bulletin to your notes.

**OUR CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP** youth will be selling rolls in Tracy on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and in Milroy on March 10<sup>th</sup>.



### **ST. MARY'S AREA FAITH COMMUNITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL:**

**Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>,** 8:30 Mass at St. Mary's (Please note the change in Mass time.)  
10:30 Mass at St. Michael.

**Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>,** Spirt Day ~ wear your St. Mary's clothing.

**Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>,** Band Lessons today.

**Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>,** Ash Wednesday Mass, 8:30, prepared by grades 5&6  
Please wear appropriate clothing for mass, grades K-6.

**Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>,** Band Lessons today. Preschool & Kindergarten Come & Go Open House, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>,** Stations of the Cross, 2:00 p.m.

**ALUMINUM CANS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY FUND** for St. Mary's School can be dropped off in the wagon behind St. Mary's Church.

**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL WEEKLY CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS:** Feb. 22 \$100 – Kent & Denise Weedman; Mar. 1 \$100 – Kody Kirsh..

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A STUDENT'S TUITION?** Tuition at St. Mary's school is only \$1,875.00 a year for one child, or about \$200 a month. What a great investment in the future! Contact the school or parish office if you would like to help. Thank you

### **NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S IN TRACY**



**LOCKING THE CHURCH:** St. Mary's basement will be locked at about 2:30 p.m. and the upper church about 6 p.m. If you need to get a pie see Jan LaVoy or one of the staff to let you in. If you need to get inside for meetings or other needs, contact Keith Schons 507-629-4289 or Jan LaVoy 507-829-2755 to get the doors opened for you.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH**, and live in Tracy, you may receive communion weekly. Please contact Jeanine Vandendriessche @ 507- 212- 2018 for information.

**CCW SPRING GATHERING FOR DEANERY 2** - Mark your calendars - Tuesday, March 5th the CCW Deanery Spring Gathering will be here at St. Mary's in Tracy. Registration is at 5:00, Mass at 5:30, Meal at 6:30 followed by the speaker Deacon Michael McKeown at 7:00. He will be speaking on Spiritual Healing.

## **MONTH TWO - DEVELOPING BABY**

"I can suck my thumb now". The developing baby is now called a "fetus". She is making rapid progress developing all her external and internal organs. During the second month baby teeth form and fingers and toes are developing. Her ears, nose, lips and tongue can now be clearly seen. Brain waves can be recorded. The skeleton changes from cartilage to bone. The central nervous system is now functioning and so forty muscle sets begin their first exercise. By 8 weeks all body systems are present. This little one can now suck her thumb and is about two inches long. Thank you for praying for this precious little baby.

Denise Weedman - Reverence Life Commission

**Remember that Prayer Shawls are available in the back of Church.**

**TRACY AREA GARDENS AND QUILTS TOUR AND RAFFLE COMMITTEE** has set the date for July 10, 2019 with a July 11 rain date. Please mark your calendars! Plans are being made to tour in the Lake Shetek/Garvin area. Anyone knowing of places for hosting or anyone offering quilts for display please contact Jolynn Johns, Elise Lanoue or any of the other committee members. Thank you to Becky Averill for remaining on the committee for this event and welcome aboard to Rose Goltz and Fr. Mark Mallak for joining this directional committee. We will need many, many other willing hands to make this event a success. Please feel free to offer assistance if there is something you would like to help us with or please be willing to accept an invitation to service when the time comes. Thank you to Kim Roggatz for continuing to man the facebook page, to Denise Weedman for offering clerical service and Jan LaVoy for offering to help where needed.

**MISSION OF LOVE PROJECT 19<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**, look whatever \$2.00 donated can do. Provide corn, beans, rice to feed a FAMILY for a week at our Diocesan Mission at San Lucas Toliman in Guatemala. Also provide some school supplies. Imagine what \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, \$50 or more can do. 100% goes to the mission and tax deductible. Make checks MISSION OF LOVE, put in envelope with your NAME and drop in collection at St. Mary's Parish or school office or give to Alita Lenertz. Your name goes on each card and sent to the mission. What a great Lenten alms given, also memorials for loved ones. Please be generous, note poster as you enter church You may contact Alita Lenertz, 507-629-4145 or 507-993-2654. Thank you!

**MARK YOU CALENDARS NOW!! ST. MARY'S DINNER, RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION** will be held this year on Sunday, March 31. Contact Keith Schons 629-4289 if you would like to donate to the meat or place your donation in a well marked envelope in the collection. If you have a specific area you would like to work at please call Gwen Johnson 507 829-9321, Silent Auction items can be donated anytime. Please leave in the parish office Monday thru Friday 8-12 or contact Jan LaVoy 507 829-2755 to let her know that you are donating something. We are looking this year for more assistance with the Silent Auction. If you would like to help out in this way please call Jan LaVoy 507 829-2755 or Elise Lanoue 629-3252. Some exciting items are coming in for your bidding at our St. Mary's Dinner Silent Auction March 31. **Items presently in are:** SMSU Mustang bobble head and three Let's Ride Mustang T Shirts; *Grand Falls Casino and Golf Resort* has given a one night stay and lunch buffet for two; *Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota at Mankato* a one day family pass; *Sioux Falls Stampede* has offered 4 tickets for a seasonal game; *Minnesota Zoo* two admission tickets; *Old Log House Theater* two tickets valid until February of 2020. These along with our St. Mary's prizes: Front row seating at the SMS Christmas program, one year parking and the spot in front of St Mary's for the 2019 Box Car Day parade. Keep watching as this list will be updated as things come in!

**COFFEE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE**, ground & whole beans, \$10/bag. Contact Alita Lenertz, 507-629-4145.

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD: Feb. 24, 2019 – NO MASS ATTENDED-SNOW BLIZZARD!**

(Weekly Budget Average Needed: \$3,923.07)

**Money Counters Mar. 4, 2019 – Patty Lessman & Charlene Lenertz**

**Liturgical Ministers for Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.-ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Gifts:** Gary & Patty Peterson

**Lector:** Molly Peterson

**Cantor:** Jen LaVoy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Mary Jo Henkel – Just 1 (NO PRECIOUS BLOOD)

**Servers:** Nevin Marten, Jake Tauer, Hailee Roggatz

**Ushers:** Dan Brewers, Dave Vandendriessche, Mitchell Benson, Rod Benson

**Liturgical Ministers for Sunday, Mar. 10, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.**

**Gifts:** Lane Peterson & Family

**Lector:** Jenna Buyck

**Cantor:** Audrey LaVoy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jeanette Lanoue, Richard & Sandy Tuszynski, Mary Jo Henkel, Jan LaVoy

**Servers:** Lauren Verlinde, Lawton, Verlinde, Nolan Verlinde

**Ushers:** Dan Brewers, Dave Vandendriessche, Mitchell Benson, Rod Benson

**Prairie View Nursing Home Communions: Mar. 13 – Marianne, Mar. 20 – Alita, Mar. 27 – Fr. Mark**



**NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S IN MILROY**

**ADORATION** is held at St. Michael's Every Thursday from 8:00 – Noon in the CHAPEL at the Rectory. Everyone is encouraged to come spend some time with Jesus. If not an hour – just come for a short visit. **HE LONGS TO SEE US!**

**CHAR LIGHTFOOT AND BEV WELU** would like to say a **HUGE** thank-you for the donation of new musical instruments for our children's liturgy program on Sunday mornings. The kids love them. The anonymous gift was greatly appreciated!!!! Thank you for sharing your kids with us on Sunday mornings.

**ST. MICHAEL'S WILL BE HAVING A MEN'S DINNER ON SUNDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>, FROM 11-1:00 P.M.** They will be serving pork loins, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables and a dessert. Free will offering will be accepted. St. Michael's Mass on Sunday, March 3, will start at **10:30 a.m.**

**Stewardship Report for Feb. 24, 2019 – NO MASS ATTENDED-SNOW BLIZZARD!**

**Liturgical Ministers for Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. - ASHWEDNESDAY**

**Gifts:** Eric Dolan Family

**Organist:** Doris Cauwels

**Cantor:** Suzanne Lightfoot

**Lector:** Jean Walling

**EHMC:** Becky Lanoue, Angie Orren – Just 2 (NO PRECIOUS BLOOD)

**ASHES:** Becky Lanoue, Angie Orren, Alice Vroman, Eli Welu, Emily Welu, Taylor Mueller

**Servers:** Margaret Dolan, Alex Schuh, David Schuh

**Ushers:** Ron Schmidt, Jacob Welu, Cory Schmidt, Andy Schmidt

**Liturgical Ministers for Sunday, Mar. 10 at 8:30 a.m.**

**Gifts:** Darek Kesteloot Family

**Organist:** Carole Snyder

**Cantor:** Moses Dolan

**Lector:** Bob Dolan

**EHMC:** Don Schmidt, Ken Lanoue

**Servers:** Brady Larsen, Braylon Timmerman, Camille Dolan

**Ushers:** Ron Schmidt, Jacob Welu, Cory Schmidt, Andy Schmidt

**Money Counters:** Melvin & Bev Welu, Ron Schmidt



## From Fr. Steffl:

Included as inserts in the bulletin this weekend are: one with suggestions/ideas for Lent, and a second one with all the times for Ash Wednesday Masses, Holy Week Liturgies, Confessions and Stations of the Cross in our area parishes. It is my hope that everyone will make an effort to add something from each of the Lenten “categories” of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In addition to Confession, I would like everyone to make efforts to pray the Stations of the Cross at least once each week during Lent, and make an extra weekday Mass if possible. Set some goals as a married couple or family; don’t let this season pass by! There are more than enough opportunities listed!

Reminder: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting as well as abstaining from meat. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstaining from eating meat, and fasting is recommended throughout this season of Lent.

At each of the parishes, there will be boxes for people to bring their palm branches from last year. The beginning of Lent is a time to get rid of last year’s palm branches as we get ready for Holy Week.

Also, this weekend is designated by the US Bishops as “Safe Haven Sunday.” I wrote about this a few weeks ago, the Bishops want to bring to our attention the need to be vigilant in our use of the internet, and that parents should be careful to also monitor their children’s use of the internet; although the internet can be a helpful resource, it can also be a great danger as we see from increasing addictions that are becoming big problems for our culture. Holy Redeemer’s parish website has a link to some resources on this!

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## Especially for St Mary’s, Tracy:

Since I have been assigned to St. Mary’s, I have had the difficult task of administering a parish that I am not able to be at on a daily, or even a weekly basis. I am grateful for the help that I receive from many to make this arrangement work, including a great finance council and education committee. The biggest difficulty has been trying to make the financial situation work. This was brought to a particular head this last week when we had to cancel Mass because of the blizzard. This means also that we did not have our usual weekend collection, and finances are so tight that this leaves us in a very difficult situation when this happens.

I am well-aware that over the last 10 years, Fr. Mraz worked very hard to bring St. Mary’s out of a huge financial hole that he “inherited” when he came. Since I have come, we have been able to keep current on our obligations, including a number of large annual bills that come up such as insurance (which because we are a part of a program that is self-insured, we save a considerable amount more than if we had to insure ourselves, through a company called Catholic Mutual that exists to insure Catholic parishes). Many have commented on the fact that you are glad that we have not had continuous second collections in order to pay our bills.

Our stewardship needs to come from a sense of recognizing and giving a return to all that God’s gives us. It cannot be that we give only to causes that want to help pay for, or specific needs but a gift, in general, because we need to give.

St. Mary’s, I really believe, has great and unrealized potential and many good things are going on here. We have dedicated teachers, parents, catechists, parishoners, and greater community support. I believe we just need to re-adjust ourselves, and I hope that we can do a little to get “a little ahead of the game” and not always be trying to move things around to be able to make our obligations.

**On this note, I need to make a special appeal for some additional and immediate financial support so that we don’t get back into a hole that we cannot get out of. As we begin Lent, can you please pray about this particular area of need, so that we don’t have to look at making some very painful changes or cuts to what our parish and school are able to offer. Thanks in advance for any extra contribution you can make to the parish so we can continue to pay our bills and bring us up to where we need to be.**

