

NEWS

from St. Anne Parish

3/6 to 4/20

From ASHES to the LIVING FONT

Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation? My honest response to such a question is: Does it matter? Obligation, opportunity—Ash Wednesday is essential, regardless.

I'll explain the technical, and unique, designation of Ash Wednesday among the assorted feasts and solemnities of the Church calendar in an Under 10 Minutes presentation on March 2/3.

Suffice to say, for now, that our participation in worship on Ash Wednesday is necessary if we hope, in any way, to make something of Lent; if we hope, in any way, to be guided in any new or different direction as disciples; if we hope, in any way, to experience more deeply and dramatically the new life of Easter revealed most clearly in living waters of our glorious baptismal font, and the people who will be brought to faith as they are washed in the waters of that font.

Ash Wednesday is necessary if we are serious about celebrating Easter. The Easter Vigil and its dynamic living font are the wonderful destination of the journey we initiate on Ash Wednesday.

Where we go and what we do during Lent, on our way to the font, will vary for each of us, and yet we share those days together in some way, engaged in a common pursuit to repent and be ever more faithful to the gospel of Jesus. **TL**



*Fr. Tom's
Note*

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP PREVIEWS FASTING & ALMSGIVING

Ash Wednesday is a day on which the Church asks that we not eat meat, while also eating less of what we usually consume. This fasting calls us to a deeper awareness of ourselves, of what we really need, and the grace of going without.

It's fitting that even our worship might entail a bit of fasting. At two of our four liturgies that day, we will celebrate the Eucharist, but at two others we will not. Most of us

don't usually receive communion on Wednesdays and there's no particular necessity of doing so on this particular Wednesday.

Indeed, this shift in routine might be startling: Gathering for worship; hearing God's word proclaimed and preached upon; being called to repentance and conversion with a mark of ashes; gathering our alms for a worthy cause; praying for the needs of the Church; and being sent to pursue the Lenten disciplines of

prayer, fasting and almsgiving — doing all of that, full and worthy in itself, and not receiving Communion. It may leave us feeling a bit empty and incomplete,

ASH WEDNESDAY

+ March 6

+ 7A - Mass with Ashes

+ 12:15P - Liturgy of the Word with Ashes

+ 5P - Liturgy of the Word with Ashes

+ 6:30P - Mass with Ashes

>> Rice bowls, Little Black Books and Little Purple Books will be distributed.

>> Faith Formation families will participate in the 5 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. liturgies.

>> A collection will be gathered to support the Diocese of La Crosse orphanage in Lime, Peru.

IT'S THE ONLY DAY LENT BEGINS!

which is probably exactly as Ash Wednesday should leave us.

We'll also, appropriately, offer the first of our Lenten alms in a collection to benefit the orphanage operated by our diocese in Peru, and distribute the Rice Bowls that will facilitate our Lenten almsgiving to encourage the outreach of Catholic Relief Services.

Plan to participate yourself. Invite others to join us. It's the only day Lent begins! — *Fr. Tom*

GOALS IDENTIFYING PARISH PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW YEAR

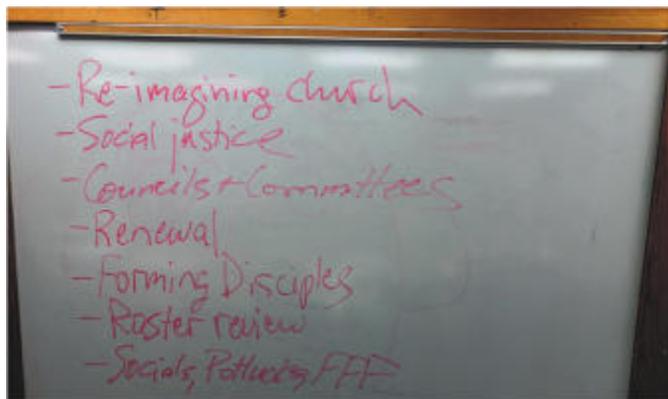
A blank white board was filled rather quickly as the Pastoral Council met last month to

consider priorities for 2019. Some were projects already under way, others new goals to potentially pursue. Some were more general or vague, others quite precise.

The initial list of goals included, in no particular order:

- ◆ Greater focus at Mass during Catholic Schools Week.
- ◆ More Sunday after-Mass gatherings.
- ◆ More frequent Parish Potlucks, such as the Taste of St. Anne and the former Advent chili potluck.
- ◆ Offering food to children who come directly from school for Faith Formation on Wednesdays.
- ◆ Allocating at least a portion of Fish Fry proceeds to a charitable cause.
- ◆ A stronger Social Justice focus.
- ◆ Initiating a parishwide program dedicated to “forming disciples.”
- ◆ Engaging teenage parishioners in ministries at Mass.
- ◆ Re-establishing and renewing the Pastoral Council and parish committees, such as worship, social justice, community outreach, and education.
- ◆ Become a more “green” parish.

- ◆ Re-establish a Children’s Liturgy of the Word in conjunction with Sunday Mass.



- ◆ Review and refine the parish membership roster.
- ◆ Establish a process of renewal involving pledging of time, talent and treasure.
- ◆ Re-imagining the interior of our church.

Discussion culminated in a narrowing of the initial list to those identified in the picture above. The challenge now is to identify committees or other individuals to study the proposed goals, engage input from the parish as warranted, and help to make them happen. The fact that some initial ideas were not included on the final list does not mean they won’t be pursued, but are not immediate priorities.

To be sure, it is a challenging but also necessary set of priorities for this new year.

COUNSEL

Reviving the parish Pastoral Council

In 2010, St. Anne’s parish leaders and staff completed a thorough analysis of how best to promote leadership within and bring forth consultation from the parish. The resulting leadership model has served the parish well in the intervening decade, but has also been plagued by demanding procedures and structures that have taxed the interest and participation of our parishioners. It’s also a consultation model that is different from other parishes in the diocese, and thus difficult for new pastors to appreciate and embrace.

While clearly recognizing the necessity and significance of parish consultation with the pastor, and in line with one of the 2019 goals identified in the article at left, a more standard Pastoral Council arrangement will be restored at St. Anne’s, with the Pastoral and Finance councils being the primary bodies to offer input to the pastor. Committees addressing various components of parish life will be renewed so as to better assist in their consultative and leadership roles.

This will mean new and more people sharing in these important ventures. Please watch and listen for more information, and consider your participation.

WORSHIP

An update on sanctuary renovation

In October a new process of study and imagining was initiated by the Pastoral Council in regard to the renovation of the church’s interior.

Some preliminary planning for such work had preceded a capital campaign in the fall of

2017, which dedicated proceeds to a church renovation, among other projects.

However, as Fr. Tom explained in a fall newsletter, he discerned upon his arrival a need for greater consideration of liturgical norms and ideals, as well as how to most creatively

and helpfully apply them to our church.

Fr. Frank Corradi, a senior priest of the diocese with a strong pastoral and academic background in worship, is guiding the process, which has included study and discussion of *Built on Living Stones*, a guide of the U.S. Bishops for church design, construction and renovation.

Initial questions have included how to more clearly define the necessary connection of the baptismal font with the altar, and how to enhance an understanding of unity when people in our church are seated in various isolated sections and sometimes not even in sight of one

See **WORSHIP** on Page 4

A SERIES OF PREACHING AND PRAYER ON THE THURSDAYS OF LENT

The *Tools of Dynamic Discipleship* will be identified and emphasized in a Lenten series of preaching and prayer in which St. Anne's will collaborate with our eastside neighbors, Resurrection and St. Michael parishes. The series begins at 6:30 p.m. March 14 at Resurrection Church, with Pastor David Kluttermann, an Episcopal pastor, addressing the discipleship tool of "Story."

Topics, preachers and locations for ensuing Thursdays, all beginning at 6:30 p.m., include:

- ♦ March 21 – "Worship" with Fr. Tom Lindner at St. Michael Church.
- ♦ March 28 – "Prayer" with Wendy Mitch, a long-time parish minister and retreat director, at St. Anne Church. Wendy guided an Advent program for women at St. Anne's.
- ♦ April 4 – "Justice" with Deacon Peter Burek, a one-time St. Anne parishioner who now ministers at Resurrection and St. Michael, at Resurrection Church.
- ♦ April 11 – "Belonging" with Fr. Mark Pierce, pastor of Resurrection and St. Michael, at St. Anne Church.

Receptions will follow prayer on March 28 and April 11.

Becoming more faithful disciples is the pledge we make in receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday, and this series will help us in honoring that commitment. It's also an important opportunity to break from our normal routines for scripture, silence and song and to deepen connections with our Catholic neighbors. Plan now to attend and invite others to join you.

PRAYER

The gospel passages we'll hear at Mass on the Sundays of Lent are the subject of daily, prayerful reflection in *The Little Black Book*, which will be made available to all parishioners to guide our prayer throughout Lent and into Triduum. The authors encourage that we spend six minutes a day with the book to consider the gospel passage and accompanying reflection. The books will be distributed on March 2/3, since the book offers a couple days of reflection to anticipate Ash Wednesday. *The Little Purple Book* for children also will be distributed.

WEEKDAY MASS: As we look for other opportunities of prayer during Lent, participating in Mass during the week might be a possibility. Mass is cele-

brated at St. Anne's at 7 a.m. Tuesday through Friday, with a communion service at 7 a.m. Monday. It's a briefer, simpler version of what we do on Sunday.

In addition, neighboring parishes offer a variety of times to celebrate Mass during the week: Resurrection – 5:30 p.m. Monday, 12:10 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; Holy Name – 8 a.m. Tuesday-Friday; St. Matthew –



8 a.m. Monday, Wednesday-Saturday, 12:05 p.m. Tuesday.

ALMSGIVING

The collection on Ash Wednesday will finance a project at the orphanage in Peru operated by the Diocese of La Crosse. Some aging and unstable electric poles need to be removed, but the cost is more than \$8,000. Parishes of the Wausau Deanery are uniting to cover that expense.

Throughout Lent our communal almsgiving will benefit Catholic Relief Services. Materials will be distributed with Rice Bowls on Ash Wednesday that help us better appreciate and support this tremendous outreach of the U.S. Catholic Church to people throughout the world. Rice Bowls will be collected as we end Lent on Holy Thursday.

RECONCILIATION

There will be numerous opportunities to celebrate this sacrament of God's mercy during Lent. The sacrament will be celebrated at St. Anne's at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9; 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 10; and noon Thursday, April 11; as well as 9 a.m. every Saturday.

Reconciliation also will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30 at Resurrection Parish; 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 15 at St. Therese Parish, Schofield; and 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at St. Michael Parish. Watch the bulletin for additional opportunities at neighboring parishes.

BEGINNING MARCH 8



As we prepare for the 66th year of the St. Anne Fish Fry, we ask parishioners to provide desserts, according to the schedule listed below.

WHAT'S NEEDED: fruit pies, cakes, bars, cupcakes and fruit cobblers. Please do not bring custard and meringue pies or frosting made with eggs. If you are not able to bring a dessert, please make a donation of \$5-\$10 on your scheduled week for the purchase of desserts.

WHERE AND WHEN: Bring desserts to the west gathering space of church between 8 a.m. and noon on the date indicated.

WHO: Please bring a dessert on the designated week, if your last name begins with:

- A-E: March 8
- F-I: March 15
- J-M: March 22
- N-Q: March 29
- R-U: April 5
- V-Z: April 12.

Thanks for helping to make the 2019 Fish Fries a success.

WORSHIP | from Page 2 another. An early conclusion was that to simply re-fashion the current altar space may not be the best approach.

A subcommittee was formed in December to study more detailed options and visit various churches. That group includes Michelle Allen, Helen Luce, Jeanette LeNoir, Bob Polesnak, John Schmitt, Jill Warsaw, Fr. Corradi and Fr. Tom. They intend to make a recommendation to the larger group by Easter. Ultimately, the entire parish will be brought into the conversation.

ST. ANNE PARISH

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ASH WEDNESDAY - March 6

Worship to introduce the season of Lent:
7 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m.
Ashes, Little Books, Rice Bowls & More.

LIVING SYMBOLS OF LENT



Lent is a time of more intense and eager preparation as these catechumens, and our parish, anticipate celebrating the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil on April 20. Remember in prayer, in back, Kenna-Cate, Brady and Rowan McFadden, and, in front, Lauren and Elizabeth Hodek.