LENT | 1 2 3 4 5 6
8 MARCH 2020

DISCIPLES DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

It’s still a great time to join one of our four Lenten small groups; indeed, the Wednesday night group is just beginning to meet this week. Four groups of parishioners meet weekly, or as often as you can, to talk about the Sunday gospels, faith, and the challenges of discipleship.

It’s a wonderful way to develop and strengthen connections with other parishioners, as well as deepening our convictions to live as more faithful disciples.

Groups meet in the Fireside Room, which is downstairs from the main entrance (follow the signs), at the following times:
- 6 p.m. Mondays;
- 5 p.m. Tuesdays;
- 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays;
- noon Thursdays.
Confusion about open arms

We come to Mass week in and week out, hopefully, and what we do and why we do it may not be something most of us wonder about. That’s OK, but it also might be worthwhile to have a better awareness of the intent or meaning, or sometimes lack of meaning, in terms of what unfolds as we celebrate Eucharist.

Occasionally, a parishioner will ask a question on her way out of Mass, or he sends an email with an inquiry. Often, what they wonder is probably something others are curious about as well. Thus, on these Sundays of Lent I’ll dedicate this space to addressing questions about what we do at Mass. If there’s something you’d like to know or better understand, send me an email or call the office.

For years I raised my hands while praying the Lord’s Prayer during Mass. I recently listened to a podcast teaching 10 things Catholics should do and not do. On the not-to-do list was raising your hands and arms during the Lord’s Prayer. Why?

If this is something that makes the list of things we shouldn’t do, I’m curious as to the rest of the items. But I haven’t heard the podcast. There are two parts to my response: 1) answering the specific question and 2) where we get information.

This practice probably made the list because the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which governs our worship, doesn’t stipulate that members of the assembly should open their hands and arms during this prayer. But, it doesn’t prohibit the practice. It simply isn’t mentioned. What the General Instruction states is that the priest “with hands extended ... pronounces the prayer with the people.”

What’s developed in many communities is the custom for members of the assembly to raise or open their arms, like the presider, as they recite the Lord’s Prayer. This provides a uniformity of gesture, which seems worthwhile, as we ritually open ourselves to the Lord as we offer the prayer together.

This is quite different than the Collect, or opening prayer, in which we “collect” the various needs of the people gathered for worship, as well as the Eucharistic Prayer and other prayers of the Mass in which the priest alone speaks the words of prayer on behalf of the assembly. In those instances, when just the presider is giving voice to the prayer, he opens his arms in prayer on behalf of the others who are gathered. However, we also have the custom of raising our arms as a gesture of blessing, along with the presider.

While the custom of opening arms and hands during the Lord’s Prayer seems fairly prevalent in our parish and seems quite appropriate, there are other customs that might be problematic. In some communities, for example, worshipers will join hands during the Lord’s Prayer. While, it’s acceptable for family members to do this, it’s problematic to grab the hand of other worshipers. That may not be a practice with which they are familiar and would be understandably disconcerting. Holding hands during the Our Father, in other words, is best avoided, aside from family members and good friends.

So, why did the podcast warn against opening or raising hands and arms? Because we’re not strictly told to do so. And while others might clearly disagree, I think it’s a tradition worth continuing.

As for the list of 10 things Catholic should not do, which included this practice, I’d suggest a revision, since I could easily identify 100 things we should not do that are of far greater consequence than this.

And to the second point about our sources of information. Increasingly one of the challenges we confront as web sites, podcasts and social media outlets proliferate is where to find reliable and accurate information, and how to differentiate between fact and opinion. In matters of the Church, for example, there is no shortage of “experts” who speak or write with authority, but it’s not always clear where that authority comes from.

So, beware. And, it never hurts to ask when you’re in doubt.
Save the Date: Pancake Breakfast - March 29
Join the Knights of Columbus members from St. Anne’s for a pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 29 in Fischer Hall. Freshly made pancakes will be served from 9 a.m. to noon. Proceeds will benefit the youth mission trip to East Bank, WV.

Fest needs coordinators for bingo, raffle, Sweet Shoppe and volunteers — How about you?
June 19-20-21 seems a long way off, but planning has begun for the 2020 St. Anne’s Fest. People are needed to coordinate several key elements of that celebration: Bingo, Raffle, Coordinating Volunteers, and Sweet Shoppe. Lots of new volunteers identified a willingness to help at Fest through our Connect-Grow-Serve process, but they need leaders. Might you be willing to step forward to learn more about these jobs and possibly join the Fest team? Someone has already stepped forward to coordinate publicity — THANK YOU! To learn more, send an email to mail@stanneswausau.org.

Books for the season
A diverse selection of books pertaining to Lent are on display in the Parish Library, which is located off the Gathering Space. Stop in to see what’s available and check-out what you think will help you have a more prayerful Forty Days.

If you have children’s books in good condition you could donate, we can use a few more in the library.

Thanks to Community Meal volunteers
The toasted ham and cheese sandwiches and cream of tomato soup that our parish team prepared for our community meal guests on Feb. 25 was well received! To the 17 terrific volunteers who helped with this meal — Thank You for preparing and serving, making desserts, offering donations and visiting with our guests. Your generosity is appreciated!

Assistance offered to those who grieve
GriefShare is a weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. GriefShare meets from 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays in the parish library. If you’d like more information, call (715) 849-3930. This is open to all who are experiencing grief, regardless of parish membership.

This week: Stuck - How to prevent getting stuck in grief; Common misconceptions that hinder healing; Why our path to healing isn’t always smooth.

THE CHALLENGE OF CULTURE: Culture is like the land on which we live. If it is the only land we know, we tend to take it for granted and do not consider alternatives. It traps us in a certain way of thinking. Consider our contemporary cultures. It can trap us in a fixed way of thinking and fixed way of life. Faith that trusts in God can enable us to travel beyond the boundaries of our culture so that we can see more clearly what is dominating us and our mindset. Lent is a time to leave the land in which we find ourselves — a time to go out into a desert place and allow God to change our thinking. Then the actions that flow from our thinking can change, as well. We must die to what we know and allow God to create in us a new perspective. The apostles underwent such an experience when they went up the mountain with Jesus. Their first thought after the transfiguration was to erect three tents, to set up shop on the mountain. The perspective of Jesus, the one on whom the favor of God rested, was to descend from the mountain and continue the proclamation of the Kingdom throughout the world. Pope Francis throughout Laudato Si’ invites us to be aware of the signs of the times around us, to dialogue with all those who respond, so as to find workable solutions to the ills that afflict us. — CatholicClimateCovenant.org

ST. ANNE PARISH GIVING
Total collected (MAR 1) $16,078
Amount needed $15,865 per week
Total collected since July 1 $548,711
Amount needed $571,154
Shortfall $22,443

ASH WEDNESDAY ALMSGIVING
To support Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II, a home for at-risk youth outside Lima, Peru, operated by the Diocese of La Crosse: $3,282

PARTICIPATION AT MASS
MAR 1 - 4 PM - 277
10:30 AM - 263
ASH WEDNESDAY - 7 AM - 114
5 PM - 286
8:30 AM - 228
6 PM - 179
12:15 PM - 404
6 PM - 209

2019-20 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL
Target - $104,785
Received - $77,342
Still needed - $27,443
Number of parishioners participating - 199
Percent of participation - 18%

Building Our Future Capital Campaign

Amount Pledged $1,254,724
365 pledges
Payments Received $1,081,593
Balance Due $173,130 (14%)
LENT 2020

LENTEN ENCOUNTERS: The Encounters series of preaching and prayer continues at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Michael Church. This week we’ll welcome Sister Rhonda Miska, who brings a strong background of mission and ministry work. She is from the same Dominican community of women religious as Sister Carol Hlavac, a St. Anne parishioner. In college at UW-Stevens Point, Sister Rhonda was part of Fr. Tom’s parish. She is originally from Middleton.

MEET TRINH: Trinh’s family are farmers in Vietnam who have been affected by climate change. What would you do if your source of nutrition was threatened? We can support those whose livelihoods are vulnerable to weather by supporting Catholic Relief Services, which offers assistance in nearly 100 countries, including Vietnam. Visit crsricebowl.org for more, and be generous in your Lenten almsgiving. If you haven’t taken a rice bowl, please do so today.

RECONCILIATION: The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated every Saturday at 9 a.m. in church. There will be several other opportunities to celebrate Reconciliation at St. Anne during Lent:
- 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18;
- Noon Friday, March 20;
- 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 1.
  Reconciliation also will be offered at:
- 3 p.m. Sunday, March 29, Holy Name;
- Noon-4 p.m. April 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 6:30-9 p.m. April 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. April 3, St. Matthew;
- 11 a.m. Saturday, April 4, Resurrection;
- 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 6, St. Therese, Schofield;
- 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, St. Michael.

DAY OF PRAYER: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be offered in church Friday, March 20, from the end of 7 a.m. Mass until the conclusion of Stations of the Cross, which will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. People are encouraged to come and go throughout the day.

WEEKDAY MASS: In addition to Mass at 7 a.m. Tuesday through Friday at St. Anne, Mass also is celebrated at neighboring parishes:
- Resurrection Parish: 5:30 PM Mon., 12:10 PM Tues.-Fri.;
- Holy Name Parish: 8 AM Tues.-Sat.;
- St. Matthew Parish: 8 AM Mon., Wed.-Sat.; 12:05 PM Tues.;
- Aspirus Wausau Hospital: Noon Wed.

DAILY PRAYER: Remember the Little Black Book, which offers scripture reflection for each day of Lent. The authors encourage six minutes a day.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY: The Sunday readings guide the conversation of young adults who gather at 7:15 p.m. Sundays at Biggby Coffee, 320 E. Bridge St. Join others in their late teens, 20s and 30s to consider the power of God’s word.

CALL FOR DESSERTS

This week we ask parishioners with last names beginning J-M to bring desserts.

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 main Gathering Space of church between 8 a.m. and noon on the date indicated.

WHO: This week it’s people with last names beginning J-M. Here’s the schedule for remaining weeks:
- N-Q: March 20
- R-U: March 27
- V-Z: April 3

Thanks for helping to make the 2020 Fish Fries a success.
ACCEPTED AND WELCOMED: Caroline Stabe and Violet Smith-Riggs were among those standing before Bishop William Callahan at the Cathedral in La Crosse last Sunday as he proclaimed: “I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil. Prior to that, Bishop Callahan had signed the Book of the Elect into which Caroline and Violet had written their names before our community sent them to the Rite of Election at the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Also gathered at the Cathedral were Tyler Steinbach and Peter Menutes who, along with Dennis McFadden, Chris Peterson and Kurt Utecht, seek to come into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. These candidates were called to “continuing conversion” as they anticipate confirmation and eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Caroline, Tyler and Peter are shown along with Bishop Callahan and their sponsors. Violet was not available for the photo.

THIS WEEK: Opening doors to Global Outreach youth

With us this weekend is Fr. Larry Seidl, a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay who serves as spiritual director for Global Outreach, a Catholic student exchange program which brings students from six Central/Eastern European countries to the United States for a year of study at Catholic high schools in Wisconsin, Nebraska and Minnesota. The mission of the program is to build the civilization of love by forming young dynamic Catholic servant leaders for the 21st century.

Newman Catholic High School has graciously agreed to accept two Global Outreach students next year: Rokas, 17, from Lithuania; he likes soccer, volleyball and basketball, and he plays the tuba and piano; and Dorottya, 16, from Hungary; she loves volleyball, plays the flute and is involved in Scouting.

But, they need a home. To learn more, contact Barbara Tota-Boryczka, (920) 540-3085 or barbara.tota-boryczka@globaloutreachprogram.com or Fr. Seidl, (920) 412-0320 or ljseidl1949@gmail.com. Please help a fine young person to have this wonderful experience.

Remember: Without the generosity of two families from the Wausau area, it cannot happen.