For more Easters than I can remember, a group of friends have gathered for dinner at a restaurant in St. Paul. After a Vigil that always exceeded two hours and, in my campus ministry days a dinner at which we often didn’t begin to eat until midnight, it was an exhausting three-hour drive. But, it became a wonderful tradition and well worth the exhaustion.

As with all traditions there’s a system of ritual involved in this gathering. It begins on Ash Wednesday when my friend George calls to reserve a very specific round table. We are a rotating cast of characters, emphasis on “characters,” and a stable cohort of priests and parish ministers. The food, in my estimation, was not all that special and grossly overpriced, but being with friends and the conversation that ensued was priceless. A meal is far, far more than food.

As you might expect the dinner contained its own traditions. (As an aside, even the drive to the dinner included a few traditions. For example, Fr. Tom Krieg, who grew up at St. Anne’s, and I would always connect by phone, sometimes even recognizing our cars crossing paths, so to speak along Highway 29, usually around Thorp, as he headed from the west to visit his mom, Vivian. We’d share the highs and lows of our Triduum experiences. Thankfully, the highs usually outranked the lows.) But, back to the dinner: Having reserved the table and calling us together, George would guide the conversation with a series of questions. The long drive from Central Wisconsin gave me time to consider answers to the questions, if I could remember them. To be honest, again, Triduum entails a lot of remembering, and so it’s not always easy to retrieve those Easter dinner questions stored somewhere in the back of my mind.

George asks the question: “So, what was the funniest moment of Triduum?” And, then, like any good meeting chairperson, he’d add, so as to keep things moving: “Mike, you go first!” And there were other questions: most emotional moment, biggest blunder, most surprising moment, what you would do differently? You get the idea. And while that was the general pattern of the gathering, there were countless asides and interjections from people failing to take their turn.

Needless to say, we didn’t meet for dinner this year. George made the reservation, as usual on Ash Wednesday, but precaution and pandemic intervened. Most strangely, I talked with George on Easter morning when, in any normal year we’d have been in the middle of celebrating Mass.

While I regret not getting together with these friends, a few of whom I see some years only at this dinner, I also regret that we didn’t get to review this year’s celebration of Triduum. I approached our Great Three Days with, to be honest, some indifference. Not so much an attitude of “let’s just get it over with,” but definitely not my usual enthusiasm and determination to celebrate worthily and well. This was, I had concluded, a Triduum we would soon want to forget, the few of us who were able to participate without gazing at a screen.

That assessment changed during the first reading on Holy Thursday. It is the story of the Israelites preparing for what will be the great Exodus from Egypt that culminates in the story proclaimed at the Easter Vigil. In the Thursday reading, God directs Moses and Aaron to prepare a people who are gathered in their homes, in a sense quarantined,
The Parish Office is closed and the staff is working remotely. However, email and phone messages are checked regularly, so please contact us. Also, someone does check the office daily for mail and contributions. Thank you!
Fr. Tom Lindner, Pastor
ftom@stanneswausau.org | Ext. 309

Mass On-Line & TV
Lord's Day Mass from St. Anne will be available live on the internet at 5 p.m. Saturday, as well as anytime after that. A link to the Mass will be provided in an email to parishioners every Saturday, as well as at www.stanneswausau.org and at St. Anne Parish on Facebook.

There also are several Sunday Mass options on television:
• 6:30 a.m. on Channel 12,
• 9 a.m. on cable Channel 980,
• 7 a.m. on WGN America - cable Channel 6, DirectTV Channel 307 and Dish TV Channel 239,
• Several times throughout the day on EWTN on cable.

Communication
Email is a central means of communication during these weeks of precaution. If you have not been getting weekly email updates from us, then we do not have your email address. Please send an email to mail@stanneswausau.org and we will add you to our email roster. You will not be inundated with emails, but two a week to stay informed.

Facebook is another good way to stay connected. Like us at St. Anne Parish for news and features throughout the week.

Resources On-line
A selection of resources is available at stanneswausau.org to guide our prayer, to assist parents in ongoing disciple formation, as well as links to Fr. Tom's weekly video posts, links to Masses celebrated at St. Anne's and elsewhere.

Music for this week’s Lord’s Day Mass

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

1. Christ the Lord is ris’n to-day, Alleluia!
2. Lives a-gain our glo-rious King; Alleluia!
3. Love’s re-deem-ing work is done, Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

All on earth with angels say,
Where, O death, is now your sting?
Fought the fight, the battle won.
Winging our ex-alt-ed head;

Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Saves our souls to save,
Bids him rise; Alleluia!

Death in vain for him we rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened par-a-dise.
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Glory to God

Glory to God in the high est, Glory to God
Glory to God in the high est, and on earth peace to peo ple of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we ad-ore you, we glo-ri fy you,

StAnnesWausau.org
anticipating something with precise instructions for an outcome they could not possibly comprehend, but which would enlighten and empower their ancestors for millennia. A similar scenario unfolds in that night’s gospel – a tight gathering, curious rituals and instructions, but also practices that would endure, becoming comforting and empowering.

And here we were, a few ministers actually in church and a few hundred others engaged through the marvels of technology, engaged in an ancient, familiar ritual, albeit in a very strange fashion, but ritual that proved its enduring power to comfort, to enlighten, to challenge. What I discovered, maybe to my surprise, is that this would be a wonderfully prayerful Triduum, connecting me with elements of the story and ritual I hadn’t realized before; missing the people who bring life to our worship, to be sure, unquestionably, but also appreciating the power of what transpired, the wonder of the Spirit’s movement, a satisfaction in knowing that we were somehow united in these mysteries, and that we would rejoice in celebrating them again.

Now, as George might ask, what was my most memorable moment of Triduum? That’s always a hard question to answer, but I think I’d say it was the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday, when we sang “No Greater Love.” It’s an action and a hymn that encompass the power of the cross, the giving of one’s life for a friend, doing as Jesus has done, being Easter people!

Meanwhile, in our conversation Easter morning George and I decided we’d try to gather for dinner on the night of Pentecost. If it can happen — and plans are risky things to make these days — it would still be within the season of Easter and our Easter tradition will have endured.

CRS RICE BOWLS will be gathered as soon as our parish as able to gather again for worship. In the meantime, and if you are able, please continue adding contributions to your rice bowl as we support the relief and development mission of Catholic Relief Services.
ETERNAL LIFE: We pray for the eternal rest of Jean Seymour, who died recently. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated after the coronavirus precautions have been lifted.

Little White Books for Eastertime prayer

The Little White Book offers a scripture passage and reflection to guide our prayer on each of the Fifty Days of Eastertime. Baskets of books are located in the church’s main entrance. If you are out for another reason, you’re welcome to take as many as you need; or ask someone who is running errands for you to get you a copy. If you would like us to mail you a copy, or two, please call and leave a message or send an email to mail@stanneswausau.org.

A great offer to renew or subscribe

Give Us This Day is an excellent daily prayer resource for “today’s Catholic,” which offers a daily order of prayer, the daily Mass readings and insightful reflection drawn from current writers and ancient sources. Sample copies of the April issue are available in the main Gathering Space of church. A special bulk parish rate is available for new subscribers, as well as the several dozen parishioners who already subscribe. The parish rate is $31.50 for 12 issues, far below the regular rate of $44.95. To subscribe or renew, or to get more information, contact Bobbi Gadke at bobbig@stanneswausau.org or 715-849-3930, ext. 310, before May 1.
THANKS! to the many parishioners who have faithfully continued to honor your financial stewardship. We recognize, however, that many of you are confronting uncertain financial realities. As always, we encourage parishioners to support the parish as your circumstances allow. Contributions can be mailed to the parish or dropped off at the office, just slip it under the office door. While the office is closed, someone does check the office daily. You can find online giving options at our web site.

**FOUR PRIORITIES:**

In today’s first reading, the four activities of the earliest church are introduced to us as priorities of the church: devotion to the teachings of the apostles, communal fellowship, the Eucharist and prayer. The early members of the church saw themselves as devoted stewards of these activities. These were not options. They were the fruits of a genuine conversion to a life in Christ. Sharing in the Eucharist was the most intimate expression of fellowship, while the most common expression of fellowship in the New Testament was that of sharing financial resources – giving. It was not a perfect community, but one that offered evidence of God’s active presence in its midst. This early community offers us an excellent example of how to better exercise stewardship in our own parish families.

— International Catholic Stewardship Council

**ST. ANNE PARISH GIVING**

Total collected (APR 12) $17,596
Amount needed $15,865 per week

Total collected since July 1 $627,930
Amount needed $666,346
Shortfall $39,716

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER | 25/26 APR**

Links to all of these readings can be found each day on the main page of the St. Anne web site: stanneswausau.org. You’ll also find links to online daily Mass celebrations at the web site.

Just curious: Do you utilize the Mass reading scripture citations found above — for example, do you take your Bible and find Mark 16:15-20? A volunteer compiles this information each week, but we wonder: Is anyone using this information? If you are, please send an email or phone call. Thanks.

**“PARTICIPATION” AT MASS**

HOLY THURSDAY - 812 views
GOOD FRIDAY - 1,297 views
EASTER - 1,148 views

Source: YouTube

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