

The Sunday Bulletin

SAINT MARY PARISH, BANGOR, WISCONSIN

SAINT LEO THE GREAT PARISH, WEST SALEM, WISCONSIN

March 21, 2021



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24

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OFFICE HOURS Please contact the appropriate staff member to make an appointment.

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BULLETIN DEADLINE To appear in *The Sunday Bulletin*, items must be received no later than 12:00 noon on the preceding Tuesday.

The first reading, taken from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah, explains how God will replace the Old Covenant of Judgment with a New Covenant of Forgiveness of sins. This New or Renewed Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah was fulfilled, at least in part, through Jesus' life, death and Resurrection. In the second reading, St. Paul tells the Hebrews that it is by Jesus' suffering and death, in obedience to his Father's will, that Jesus established the New Covenant. Using metaphors of the "sown wheat grain" and the "spent life" in today's Gospel, Jesus teaches the lessons St. Paul will repeat. The Gospel hints at the inner struggle of Jesus in accepting the cup of suffering to inaugurate the New and Eternal Covenant. However, Jesus accepts the cross as his "hour," meaning the stepping-stone to his passion, death, Resurrection and exaltation. Jesus also considers his "hour" as the way of glorifying his Heavenly Father and of being glorified by his Father. In addition, it is the way by which all people will be drawn into the saving action of God. Finally, the "lifting up" of Jesus on the cross and later into Heavenly glory by Resurrection and Ascension is the assurance of our own exaltation and glorification, provided we accept our crosses. God Bless — Fr. Kenny

Planning Ahead The times for the Triduum and Easter Sunday Liturgies are as follows: Holy Thursday – 6:30 p.m.; Good Friday – 2:00 p.m.; Easter Vigil – 8:30 p.m.; Easter Sunday – 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Since seating is limited, it is imperative that you reserve your seats for these Masses. We ask that you call or email the office to reserve your seats (**even if you are "recurring" for weekend Masses**) at your earliest convenience so we can make the necessary arrangements if we are reaching capacity. You may email stleomaryoffice@wsbcwi.org or call 786.0610 ext. 6.

Stations of the Cross This Friday, March 26, will be the final Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. There is no advanced sign-up for the Stations of the Cross. For those who attend we ask that at least one family member help clean the pews. If you are unable to do so, we ask that you leave your kneeler down so one of the other cleaners is able to sanitize your pew.

New Parish Name By now you have received the letter regarding the merging of St. Mary and St. Leo the Great parishes. Please return your ballots for the new parish name by next Monday, March 29. This is an honor and once in a lifetime opportunity!

God's Sacrament of Healing for Our Wounded World Listen to Msgr. Hirsch's presentation on God's Sacrament of healing for our wounded world at www.diolc.org/lent. This compelling recording deals with the common questions and struggles surrounding this Sacrament.

Receiving God's Healing and Strength Every person faces temptations. Jesus has obtained the grace for us, not only to resist temptation, but the grace to receive His forgiveness when we fall. This amazing gift of grace has been purchased for us at the price of Christ's Blood, shed in His Passion and Death and made available to us through His Resurrection! Therefore, this is a most appropriate time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Penance Service The Lenten Penance Service is this Sunday, March 21, at 5:00 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church. There will be several priests available to hear confessions.

Zoom Bible Conference Are you seeking to grow in your love and knowledge of God's Word? Join some of the nation's most dynamic Scripture scholars beginning at 10:00 a.m. on March 27 for a one-day virtual event that will be streamed via Zoom. Visit www.bibleconference.augustineinstitute.org to register.

Stewardship Reflection As we are nearing the end of our Lenten journey, our readings today remind us of the goodness that our God has to offer us. In today's Gospel, Jesus announces that the "hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." All that He came to do on this earth was soon to be fulfilled. When we reflect on what Jesus says in this passage, He tells us a great deal about how we should be living as disciples of Christ. He clearly states, "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." We are called to detach from our own desires and entrust our lives to all that God has in store for us. Without self-denial, we might miss occasions God has given us to produce good fruit. We have been practicing this throughout our Lenten season through fasting. One way to continue this effort after Lent is by taking advantage of the countless opportunities God presents to us to sacrifice our desires for something much greater — whether

waking earlier to spend time in prayer, fasting from a favorite comfort on a weekly basis or taking the time to check in on a friend or family member instead of turning on the TV, just to name a few. It is important that we continue to make room for God and the good things He wants to produce in us all year long. As our Lenten journey soon concludes, may we consider the ways in which we might continue the practice of self-denial by offering small, daily sacrifices to the Lord.

Marriage Preparation Retreats - The La Crosse Deanery, which consists of 14 area parishes, will be offering *Married Love: Two Becoming One*, a marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples, on April 24, and July 10. These retreats will take place at Mary Mother of the Church Parish in La Crosse. Couples must register at least one month prior to the retreat. To register for a retreat, please email Mari at mnerickson95@gmail.com or leave a voice message at 608.518.7655.

U.S. Bishops' Action Alerts opposing ERA and "Equality Act" The U.S. Bishops ask the faithful to voice their opposition to a renewed attempt to ratify the deceptively named Equal Rights Amendment, as well as to speak out against the more recent, similarly named Equality Act, both of which threaten the true dignity of women and the lives of unborn children. They would also discriminate against the work of faith-based organizations. For more information and to make your voice heard, visit www.votervoice.net/USCCB/home.

U.S. Bishops Cite Ethical Problem with Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine The U.S. Bishops, citing the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, have judged that, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. While the vaccines from

READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK			
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:1-11			
Mar 22	Private Mass	† Fred & Mary Schroeder by Michael Schroeder	
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/Jn 8:21-30			
Mar 23	5:30 PM	† Jack Jarosh by Roger & Donna Elsen at St Leo	
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52-56/Jn 8:31-42			
Mar 24	8:30 AM	† Bernard Clements by Joan & Clarence Urbanek at St Leo	
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38			
Mar 25	8:30 AM	† Grace Finn by Donna Finn at St Leo	
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42			
Mar 26	8:30 AM	Brandon B. Mathison by Jane Mathison at St Leo	
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10-13/Jn 11:45-56			
Sunday: Mk 11:1-10/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47			
Mar 27	4:30 PM	† Brenda Horman by St. Mary PCCW at St Leo	
Mar 28	8:00 AM	Pro Populo at St Leo	
	10:00 AM	† Mavis Sommerfield by Art Sommerfield & Family at St Leo	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK		
Mon Mar 22	6:00 PM	Adult Bible Study
Fri Mar 26	6:30 PM	Stations of the Cross

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT		
		2020-21
\$ 38,845.00		Parish Target
\$ 46,105.00		Amount Received
119%		Percent of Target Met
\$ -		Amount Needed
\$ 7,260.00		Monies Returning to Parishes

Pfizer and Moderna did use an abortion-derived cell line for testing, they did not use the problematic cell line in their vaccine development and production. By contrast, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was developed, tested and produced with abortion-derived cell lines, raising additional moral concerns. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's. Sadly, when it comes to a number of vital vaccines – such as the one for Rubella – there is no other choice than either to make use of a tainted vaccine or to forgo vaccination altogether. For a broader discussion, visit www.dioc.org/respect-life and click on the tab for "COVID Vaccines-Ethics."

Inspiration for the Week How do we convince people that God's law is written upon their hearts? God is wedded to God's people. This is a simple and fundamental fact of life. Yet, many ignore this truth and carry on as if they, or humanity as a whole, are the center of the universe. As a grain of wheat has to fall to the ground and die in order to become what it really is, we too must die to our secular images and ideas of ourselves so that we can become who God really made us to be. If all of us kept our focus on God's deep bonded love with human beings, indeed with our very self, then there would be no need to teach others this fundamental life lesson. They would simply know this truth, as Jeremiah tells us. Somehow, perhaps through original and personal sin, we have lost sight of this reality. We

have lost our way and our axis. It is time to find our way back, to learn the virtue of obedience, to pay attention to what God is saying and become aware of the Divine Love that is the reason for all creation. Then, even in our darkest hour when all may seem to be lost, we can say as did Jesus, the model of obedience, "Father, glorify your name." By this perseverance, people can come to know the Lord and what God has done. ©Lpi

5th Sunday of Lent



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

ANDREW	FOLLOW	HEBREWS	OBEDIENCE	SALVATION
ANGEL	FORGIVE	ISRAEL	PASSOVER	SAVE
COVENANT	GALILEE	JEREMIAH	PEOPLE	SERVANT
DEATH	GLORIFIED	JESUS	PERFECT	SERVES
EGYPT	GOD	JOHN	PHILIP	SUFFERED
ETERNAL	GREEKS	JUDAH	PRAYERS	SUPPLICATIONS
FATHER	HEARTS	JUDGMENT	REMEMBER	TEACH
FLESH	HEAVEN	LIFTED	REVERENCE	VOICE

FINANCE REPORT	St Leo the Great Parish			St Mary Parish		
	Mar 1 - 7, 21	Fiscal Year to Date		Mar 1 - 7, 21	Fiscal Year to Date	
		Jul 1, '20 - Mar 7, 21	Budget		Jul 1, '20 - Mar 7, 21	Budget
401.00 · Adult Envelope Receipts	5,523.56	155,317.67	121,709.68	1,100.00	44,027.00	42,129.03
402.00 · Youth Envelope Receipts	0.00	67.00	205.65	4.00	141.55	164.52
403.00 · Offertory Plate Collections	111.00	2,969.42	8,225.81	28.00	816.00	0.00
404.00 · Other Church Support/Income	21.95	445.38	411.29	0.00	13.00	0.00
411.00 · Monies Collected for Bldng/Reno	100.00	2,785.00	1,233.87	0.00	0.00	0.00
432.00 · Societies	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
434.00 · Bequests & Memorials	60.00	1,485.00	0.00	0.00	670.00	0.00
441.00 · Int Received from St Ambrose	0.00	32,965.22	34,959.68	0.00	1,804.92	1,768.55
442.00 · Int Received from Others	0.00	40.81	90.49	0.00	17.07	82.26
452.00 · Rel Ed & Adult Tuition/Fees	0.00	4,690.00	5,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
467 A · Diocesan Annual Appeal Rebates	0.00	11,965.25	0.00	0.00	2,343.75	0.00
467 B · Gifts for Works of Charity Fund	40.00	1,372.00	0.00	0.00	198.00	0.00
Total Income	5,856.51	214,102.75	173,386.47	1,132.00	50,131.29	44,144.36
Total Expense	10,884.86	146,643.95	144,815.57	3,758.36	47,979.92	48,920.93
Net Income	-5,028.35	67,458.80	28,570.90	-2,626.36	2,151.37	-4,776.57

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING to the Call

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

When Our Own Hour Comes

We parents know that it's tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it's okay to be scared, that it's something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being "troubled" and he speaks of "the time of judgment." There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

"Yet what should I say?" he asks them. "Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



THE
Annunciation
OF THE Lord

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

Answer:

The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

All, from least to greatest, shall know me,
says the LORD,
for I will forgive their evildoing and remember
their sin no more. (Jer 31:34)



PSALM

Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Ps 51)



SECOND READING

Son though he was, he learned obedience
from what he suffered; (Heb 5:8)



GOSPEL

Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to
the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (Jn 20:24)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm
Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
1997, International Commission on English in the
Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

SPREAD THE WORD
A Thriving, Vibrant
Community Matters

The logo for Hubert's Auto Care is a circular emblem. Inside the circle, there is a stylized illustration of a wrench and a screwdriver crossing each other. The words "HUBERT'S" and "AUTO CARE" are written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "HUBERT'S" being larger and positioned above "AUTO CARE".

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**ADVERTISE
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HERE**

*Your Community
is Looking!*

The logo for Maxwell-White Plumbing. It features a black and white illustration of a garden hose attached to a faucet, with a powerful stream of water spraying out and curving downwards. The company name "MAXWELL-WHITE" is written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the spray. Below it, "PLUMBING" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, followed by the slogan "Done Right!" in a cursive script. At the bottom, the website "www.maxwell-white.com" is displayed in a small, clean font. The entire logo is set against a white background.

AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME

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A photograph of three children of different ethnicities standing side-by-side with their arms around each other's shoulders, forming a circle. They are all wearing green shirts. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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An advertisement for a medical alert system. It features a close-up of a white pendant with a circular button and a small green LED light at the top. The background is white with black text. At the top, it says 'PROTECTING SENIORS NATIONWIDE' and 'MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM'. Below that is a large red price tag with '\$29.95/MO' and 'BILLED QUARTERLY'. To the right is a red starburst graphic containing the words 'PLUS SPECIAL OFFER'. At the bottom, there's a blue circular logo with 'USA' and '24-7 MEDALARM.COM' below it.

An advertisement for ADT Monitored Home Security. The top half features the company name in large blue letters. Below it, a woman in a red dress runs towards a man in a blue shirt and khaki shorts in a garden setting. To the left, a blue box contains text about 24-hour protection and trust. To the right, a smaller blue box lists four monitoring services. The bottom right corner has the ADT logo and phone number.

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100

OSI
Outdoor Services Inc.

- Lawn Care Services
- Lawn Maintenance Services
- Irrigation Services
- Tree & Shrub Services
- Pest Control Services
- Industrial Vegetation Control

The image shows a family of four people (two adults and two children) sitting closely together. Each person is holding a white tissue to their nose, with visible redness and mucus, indicating they are sick. They are all wearing light-colored t-shirts. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Too Sick for Mass?

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