



St. Mary's Catholic Church



March 21, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Lent - Cycle B

St. Mary's - Shenandoah
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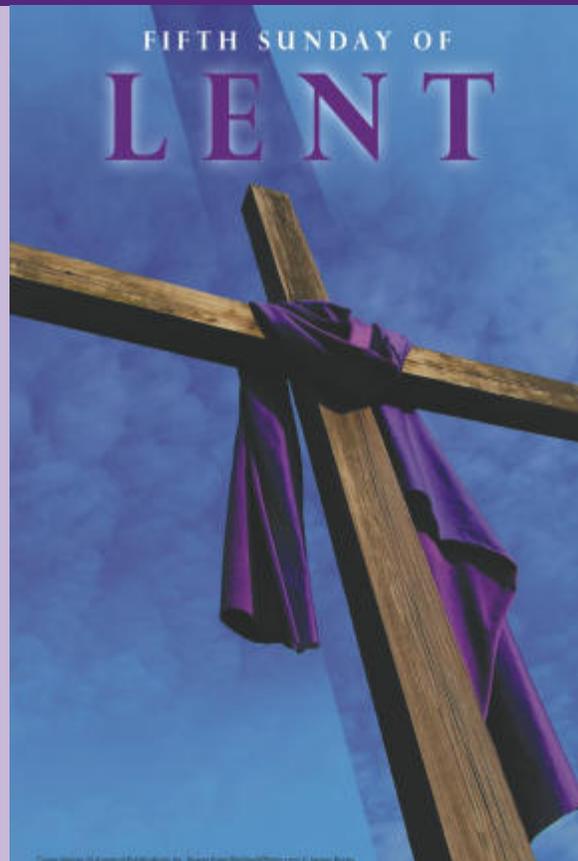
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Welcome to St. Mary's Church on this Fifth Sunday of Lent. During Lent, our Lord calls us to make a conversion of the heart. Our parents, teachers, or mentors can show us the way, but then it is up to us to commit to Christ's mission. As we approach the days in which we remember Jesus' suffering and death, we ask ourselves if we are willing to resolve to die to sin and to live faithfully, selflessly and courageously in the Lord.

Readings for week March 21, 2021

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/
Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/
Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/
Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55,
56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/
Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/
Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd,
13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 /Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,
19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

Cycle B—Reflection on Readings

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51; Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33



Theme: **Dying to self**

It is so easy to remain indifferent, unattached, and uninvolved. We see problems and needs on all sides, but too often we do not see them as our problems and our needs. We rationalize these as God's concern, not ours. The readings for today speak of covenant relationships. People relate to God by relating to one another. To worship God is to meet the needs of God's people.

Jesus proclaims: **"He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."** (Jn 12:25)? This sounds threatening and contradicting our experience. But we need to keep in mind that there is more to human life than the physical, namely, we are involved in human relationships and are destined for eternal life. Hence, for this human life to flourish, as Jesus sees it, it had to forget itself. To forget self is to transcend self. That is what it means to lose oneself, to deny self, to die to self. It is when we forget ourselves that we are most free and most happy. It is in getting out of ourselves, that we grow and bear fruit. We may live longer if we take things easy with our own life.

To grow is to die to self

Dearly beloved, to hate our life in this world is not a death-wish, but a call to be fully alive. Few sights are as beautiful as that of a field filled with young stalks of corn. To watch them swaying in the wind and dancing in the sun brings joy to the heart. I enjoy seeing how the corns and beans grow during the farming season as I drive around. This is like a person being fully alive. But how strange is the process by which these stalks come into being! The grain of corn must be first buried in the earth as in a tomb for new life to come forth. Likewise, we have to die to self in order to become fully alive.

Dying to one's own will

A missionary had been sick for eight years and could not understand why God let this tragedy happen to her. Daily she prayed for health to resume her missionary work. But her prayers went unanswered. One day, in desperation, she cried out to God: "All right, I give up. If you want me to be an invalid, that is your business." Within two weeks the missionary was fully recovered. Unless we die to our own will, we cannot bear fruit for God.

If there is no self-giving there is no real relationship

There is dying to our own little personal world to enter relationship with others. To enter positive relationships, one needs to give up oneself. If there is no self-giving there is no real relationship. Those who do not die for others do not thrive and live but shrink and die.

There is a dying to our pride and asking for help. For example, when our marriage is falling apart, and we need outside help, but are too proud to ask for it. Suppose a friend or a family member has hurt us in some way, and we are holding a grudge against him or her. Are we ready to forgive that person from the heart and treat him or her with love once again? There are many more phases in life when we are called to die to self: we taste death in moments of loneliness, rejection, sorrow, disappointment, and failure. Such dying to oneself can be a hard struggle, but it is worth struggling.

An eaglet somehow ended up in a chicken barnyard. The eaglet was raised with the chickens, pecking at corn, and strutting around the chicken coop. One day a mountain man, passing by, recognized the bird, now a fully-grown eagle, and asked the farmer if he could work to rehabilitate it. The farmer said, "Go ahead, but it is useless. All that eagle knows is pecking corn like a chicken." The mountaineer began weeks of rigorous training with the eagle, forcing it to run after him so that it had to use its wings. Many times, the eagle fell out of the limbs of trees onto its head. One day, finally, the mountaineer took the eagle to the top of a mountain and held it above his head on his wrist. Giving an upward thrust to his arm, he sent the eagle into the sky with a 'Fly'! the eagle circled and wheeled upward, straining, till it took off in a majestic sweep looking directly into the sun. It was gone. It had regained its nature. It was an eagle once more.

Like the eagle, we too must struggle through life which requires dying to self. But it is worth struggling, to be fully alive in Christ, which is our glorious destiny. Shalom!



Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 24th
@ 5:30pm
via Zoom - Hamburg

Lectors - March 27th & 28th

4:30pm — Blaine Maher
6:30am — Steve Berning
10:30am — Steve Schuster

Easter Triduum



Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter Sunday

Holy Thursday - April 1 Hamburg - 5:30pm
Shenandoah - 7:00pm

Good Friday - April 2 Hamburg - 2:40pm
Shenandoah - 5:00pm
Divine Mercy Chaplet Before Mass

Holy Saturday - April 3 Hamburg - 6:00pm
Shenandoah - 8:00pm

St. Mary's Church Support

Tithes - \$1,639.00
Plate - \$127.00
Mass Intentions - \$150.00



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Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



Saturday 3:30pm 4:30pm	March 20 Confession Mass for Matt McIntyre+
Sunday 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom	March 21 5th Sunday of Lent Mass for Mike Lonowski+ Mass for Jose R Aguero Trejo+
Monday No Mass	March 22 Fr Raphael Day off
Tuesday 12:10pm	March 23 St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop Mass for Fr Broheimer—Legion of Mary Curia Spiritual Director
Wednesday 12:10pm	March 24 Mass of Berky Martin Family
Thursday 12:10pm	March 25 The Annunciation of the Lord Mass for healing of Diane Mullenberg
Friday 12:10pm	March 26 Mass for Mike Teachout+
Saturday 3:30pm 4:30pm	March 27 Confession Mass for Thomas & Ruby Mahert+
Sunday 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom	March 28 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins Mass for Elmer Grashorn+ Mass for Wally Teten+

This & That

- **Please note the change in program.** Stations of the cross in Hamburg will be on Wednesday March 24th @ 5:30pm.
- **Appreciation:** A hearty gratitude to Joan Bloom and Joseph Hirner for their splendid presentation during our discussion on **Paris Corde** last week. Kudos to all who participated and made the program a success.
- We will be discussing **consecration and devotion to St. Joseph** in the Summer/Fall. Watch out for the dates.

Spiritual Works of Mercy (By Fr. Richard Heilman)

Works of mercy can be directed not only toward the needs of the body, but the needs of the soul as well. Indeed, the most serious form of poverty of all can be the poverty of the spirit, not only because it drains life of all energy, joy, and sense of purpose, but also because it is the one kind of poverty that can last forever.

The evangelist Billy Graham tells the story of a private dinner he shared with one of the wealthiest men in the United States. During the meal, the man confessed that despite having every good thing money could buy, he was miserable beyond words. The lesson: money cannot buy happiness. It is a cliché, but it's true. Clearly, this wealthy gentleman suffered from moral poverty. Indeed, the human spirit longs for the nourishment of truth, goodness, and beauty if it is to be healthy and strong and if it is to grow in sanctification and be prepared for the life to come.

That is why, in addition to the corporal works or mercy, the Church has outlined the spiritual works of mercy. Look to these works as preventative medicine for poverty of the spirit. The spiritual works of mercy are as follows:

- (1) Admonish sinners.
- (2) Instruct the uninformed.
- (3) Counsel the doubtful.
- (4) Comfort the sorrowful.
- (5) Be patient with those in error.
- (6) Forgive offenses.

*God is good! All the time
All the time..... God is Good!*

Holy Humor for Lent

An Irishman walks into a bar in Dublin, orders three pints of Guinness and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender asks him, "You know, a pint goes flat after I draw it; wouldn't you rather I draw fresh pints for you one at a time?" The fellow replies: "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is now in America and the other, in Australia. When we all left home, we promised we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together." The bartender admits that this is a nice custom and leaves it there.

The fellow becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way: he orders three pints and drinks them in turn. One day, he comes in and orders two pints. All the regulars notice and fall silent, speculating about what might have happened to one of the absent brothers.

When the fellow goes back to the bar for a second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your great loss." The fellow looks confused for a moment and then a light dawned in his eye and he laughs and says: "**Oh, no, everyone's fine. You see, it's just that I've given up beer for Lent.**" (Source credit Aleteia)

Annual Diocesan Appeal 2021

Ongoing commitments to the Annual Diocesan Appeal work in quiet, unheralded ways to sustain the Catholic Church in southwest Iowa. We empower others to encounter Christ; we help parish leaders to shepherd the faithful, support local communities of faith, and help people in need as one diocesan family committed to serve and protect one another and bring each other to Christ. Your pledge card can be placed in the Lockbox in Church or mailed to the parish office, or mailed directly back to the Diocese. Or, you can give online at dmidiocese.org/giving. **Our parish goal is \$31,154.** Thank you for your generosity and kindness!



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Proceeds to St. Mary's Religious
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Birthdays

3-23 - Linda George
3-23 - Dee Saner (80th)
3-25 - Pete Wenstrand
3-27 Evelyn Pontious

St. Mary's Shenandoah Parishioners who would like to have their Birthdays & Anniversaries in the Church Bulletin, please email them to: saintmaryoffice.shen@gmail.com. Thank You



Knights of Columbus Council 1479. Meet the **second Tuesday of each month.** Meal at 7pm followed by meeting at St. Mary's Parish Hall in Shenandoah.

Legion of Mary group meets every Thursday at **5:30pm via Zoom.**



Mary Lightfoot
Patricia Steffes
Evelyn Pontious
Carla Offenburger
Helen Lewis
Mary Berning
Homebound Parishioners

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What: Diapers sizes 2-5

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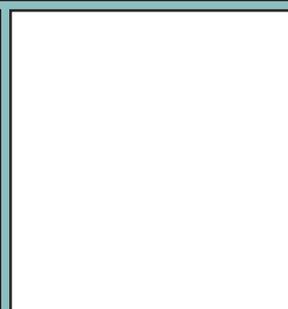


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