



February 14, 2010

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish of St. Michael

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Cimply Putting It...

Happy Valentine's Day, Fat Sunday and a Holy Lent... I love these "fat" days before Ash Wednesday. New Orleans isn't the only place that should have an extended Mardi Gras as they celebrate their "Saints", we are in need of a few party days because of our long, cold, icy, snowy winter. It is also Valentine's Day this Sunday. So let's think happy thoughts. When most of us are asked to single out the happiest day of our lives, naturally enough, we begin to search our memories for big events—a graduation, marriage, birth of a child, winning a prize, receiving an honor. Such times indeed shine brightly in our consciousness. However, what most of us tend to overlook are those moments when we felt relief—hearing that someone dear to us has pulled through a crucial operation or illness, a pregnant wife or daughter has safely negotiated a dangerous labor and birthing, that a tumor has been pronounced by the doctor to be benign. These are times of emergence from dread and worry. Most of them have one thing in common despite their diversity—they mark a return to normalcy. But because things are back to normal we soon forget the joy of our deliverance from the pain and worry.

On Valentine's Day our words and cards reflect on love. St. John sums up the Gospel in the single commandment of "Love one another." Jesus told his friends to "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you." When Jesus spoke of love he was not talking about a warm, cozy feeling. Love for Jesus was an act of the will, a choice. And Jesus makes it quite explicit whom the object of our love is to be—and in each case it is not the person we are inclined to love.

Sometimes we kind of cringe or at least blush with embarrassment when someone calls us "holy." The word seems to have gathered to itself false connotations, suggesting a piety that is on display. Thus, we sometimes refer to a person as being "holier than thou." Most of us have a distrust for apparent goodness. We suspect that it may actually be a cover-up for venality. And when we reflect upon our lives, in a way it's true. We don't have to poke around too long in our consciences before we discover that there is a hodgepodge of sin and grace, virtue and vice. Yet this should not deter us. Our Christian faith tells us that we have within our capacity as human beings to be not only self-seeking, but also self-sacrificing. We can choose good for its own sake, rather than for what we can get out of it. Salvation is a gift from God, not a payment for a job well done, and perhaps nowhere is this clearer than when we are confronted with our own inclination to repay evil for evil, to get revenge, to be good only to those who are good to us. And when we realize this we also find that doing something for someone else is good for us too.

After all, who is being hurt by all our bitterness? Does it stop the bad things from happening? Does it pay the person back who has hurt us? Of course, the answer is no. I know there is no denying that we feel a surge of "Yes!" and pump our fist, when the driver who cut us off a mile back is now stewing in this front seat as a state trooper writes out a ticket. But if that streak of vengeance runs deeper and meaner, we know that the immediate gratification is passing. Nothing is changed by our cursing and blaming.

Right in the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Mark, a leper comes up to the Lord and says, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Jesus' response is "I do chose. Be made clean."

Lent begins this Wednesday and those words of Jesus may well be taken as a sort of theme for this holy season of repentance, reparation and preparation for the great feast of Easter. On another level, leprosy can be seen as symbolic of the sort of sinfulness which corrupts and eats away at us. Once infected by it our lives are lived as outcasts from God's grace and also from the community of faith. While we may not have to literally proclaim ourselves as "unclean" to those we meet as a leper did, we are cursed with the knowledge that things are not right in our lives. We too use these forty days of Lent to throw ourselves at the feet of Jesus and say, "If you chose, you can make me clean." We too can hear the marvelous words of the Lord, of course, "I do chose. Be made clean." Hearing those words ring through with conviction in our hearts is to experience the greatest relief of all—relief from the state of sinfulness, from being unable to love ourselves as Jesus, ever compassionate, loves us even in our sin. Could these days of Lent be different for us this year? Why not make this Lent a time to refresh our souls in a positive way by saying, "Of course I do chose to reflect God's love and the compassion of Jesus in my life. Of course I do chose to do something more this Lent to make sure that I am spiritually alive, fit, and full of the joy of God's love, not flabby, indifferent and lukewarm."

Yes we can be **Happy and Holy**. Yes we are all still a work in progress. I have found that the best way to count my blessings is to take the time I need to appreciate what God has so lovingly given to me and to our entire parish family. Take time this Valentine's Day, and then on "Fat" Monday and Tuesday to celebrate life's special moments with those who are dear to you. As our feasting fills us with gratitude, on Ash Wednesday may our fasting and abstinence make us more alert and heighten our consciousness so that we might be ready to hear your Word and respond to your call. We are **Happy and Holy indeed!**

Happy Valentine's Day!

St. Michael Parish News

CATHOLIC FAMILY SHARING APPEAL—2010. This is our opportunity to enable the mission and ministry of the Church of Eastern South Dakota. Please take time to prayerfully consider your gift for this year and pray for the success. Our efforts will enable all members of our diocesan Church to join in glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ. You will receive a letter from Bishop Swain this week.

New Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk Arriving Feb. 20th - Would you like to grow closer to Christ this Lent? Would you like to learn more about your faith? Pick up a Lenten Bundle of 7 faith-filled Catholic CDs next weekend after Mass at our new Lighthouse Catholic Media kiosk display and listen to one CD a week during Lent and then pass it on to family and friends. Celebrate Easter knowing that your simple efforts during the Season of Lent have helped you truly grow closer to Christ. (Suggested donation of \$20)

Lenten regulations for Catholics. The Lenten season begins Feb. 17 with Ash Wednesday. Here are the regulations and guidelines Catholics are to follow during the season of Lent:

- *The Christian faithful are to do penance through prayer and fasting, abstinence and by exercising works of piety and charity.*
- *Abstinence: All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays in Lent.*
- *Fasting: All those who are 18 or older, until their 59th birthday, which means no meat, and only one FULL meal, no eating between meals. Liquids are allowed. Does not apply to those whose health or ability to work would be affected seriously.*

RICE BOWLS—As part of our community's observance of Lent, we ask all families to participate in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, a program of prayer, fasting, learning and giving. Please be sure to take home a Rice Bowl packet and follow this simple yet powerful Lenten practice. Visit orb.crs.org for more information.

Little Black Books— This year's reflections are based on the Passion of Mark and has been carefully crafted to help you explore the depths of Scripture and deepen your relationship with Christ. Spend some quiet time with the Lord this Lenten season. Pick up your book in the Commons!

Why is St. Joseph Cathedral the "mother church" of the Diocese? Because it is the church which, in a sense, gives birth to all of the other individual parishes in each diocese. The cathedral is the official church of the pastor of the diocese: the diocesan bishop. It is for this reason that there is only one cathedral in a diocese.

Light of the World Retreat

This Lent come experience the **Light of the World Parish Retreat** beginning Friday evening, February 26th here at St. Michael. Join with other parish participants and learn what you can gain in just one weekend. Here is a comment from a Light of the World retreatant: *“ As a busy mom, I'm always taking care of everyone and just didn't have time for a retreat. But then I realized how can I take care of others when I'm not taking care of mom? The LOTW retreat was a great way to start taking care of myself.”* Spend some time with the Lord and begin caring for yourself on February 26th. Call Anne or Deacon John (361-1600) for information or to register.

R.C.I.A. welcomes ALL who want to learn more about our Catholic faith.

Sunday evenings at 7:15 in MPR

This week: Holy Orders & the Vowed Life

Next Week: Rite of Election—No class

No need to register—Just come!

Attention: Weekend Volunteers
Ash Wednesday is this week!
If you are a bus driver, lector, EME, greeter, gift bearer, altar server, book bearer, usher, **or would like to help distribute ashes:** Please sign up for ministries for Ash Wednesday Masses in the Commons, or call the parish office. Thank you!
You are needed!

Daily readings: February 15-21, 2010

Mon.	James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13
Tues.	James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21
Wed.	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Thur.	Deut 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Fri.	Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Sat.	Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32
Sun.	Deut 26:4-10; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13

A Special Request:

Ushers! Ushers are so needed at these special liturgies, when we have so many guests! Please sign up to help out if you can. Many, many thanks!

Youth Happenin's CAFE

Café youth group event for the month of March will be held on **Thursday, March 4th** 6:30-8:00 at St. Michael. We will get an opportunity to meet with Deacon Harold before he speaks!

Mark your calendars now and plan on joining Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers at St. Michael on Thursday, March 4th at 6:58 pm. Deacon Harold is a nationally recognized speaker who speaks with enthusiasm and passion about his Catholic Faith.

Registration forms available on the youth bulletin board for the following events:

Jr. High Discipleship Camp July 11-14**
Sr. High Discipleship Camp July 15-18**
Steubenville HS Youth Conference July 30-Aug. 1
Jr. High and High School Totus Tuus Retreat

The Small Christian Core Group (SCC) will meet on **Tuesday, Feb 16th** at 8:30 pm in the Fireside Room to lift up the Parish needs in prayer. Each month we hold up in prayer the needs that have been placed into the basket in the west entrance. Everyone Welcome!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT @ 5:30 PM

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Tonic Sol Fa Benefit Concert Sat., Feb. 20th @ 7 pm at Washington Pavilion. Sponsored by Catholic Family Services. Proceeds go to Gift of Hope Endowment.

Empty Bowls Soup Supper Benefit Thursday, Feb 25 at OGHS. Call 575-3347 to preregister. Proceeds benefit homeless.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat March 12-14 Healing the Trauma of Abortion. Call 988-3775 for more information.

Lenten Bible Study "Adult Temple Builders" 6 Fridays, Feb. 19th-March 26th @ St. Mary Parish Hall 8:45-9:45 am. Call 334-9881 to register.

SEARCH Retreat Feb. 19-21...100 students will gather at Holy Spirit. If you can help in the kitchen or bake cookies or bars, or bring pop or chips, call Amy at 371-1478. Thank you!

St. Nicholas Lenten Fish Fry Friday, Feb 19th 6:30 pm in Tea.

KC Pancake Breakfast Sunday, Feb 28th 9-1 pm at Christ the King School Gym. Free will offering.

ProSanctity Presents-A Lecture Series on Holiness with Fr. Shaun Haggerty Monday, Feb. 15th 7-8:30 pm at Holy Spirit.

Grieving Loss of Child Six Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm March 2-April 6 by Dr. Marcie Moran. Call 988-3775 for info.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ASH WEDNESDAY—There will be NO R.E. CLASSES on Wednesday, February 17th. Students are expected to attend Ash Wednesday Mass with their parents.

EXTREME LOVE: A Journey to the Cross—The 5th & 6th Grade R.E. students will be presenting Christ's journey to the Cross on Wednesday, February 24th at 7:00 PM in the Nave. Watch the February 21st bulletin for more details.

WE NEED YOUR HELP—We are in need of 12 more 5th & 6th Grade Wednesday night R.E. students for the February 24th presentation. No speaking parts! Please contact Jackie at 361-1600 ext. 209, or jackie@stmichaelsfsd.org.

Feb. 24th R.E. CLASSES—Grades 1-6th will not have regular classes on Wednesday, February 24th. Students are expected to attend the 7 pm presentation of **EXTREME LOVE: A Journey to the Cross**. **Grade 7-9th** will have RE classes as usual.

KC'S FRIDAY FISH FRY

This Friday, February 19



Following Stations of the Cross @ 5:30 pm
Serving: Fried or baked fish, mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, coleslaw, grilled cheese & treats.
\$5 Adults, \$4 for Children, Family Max \$25.



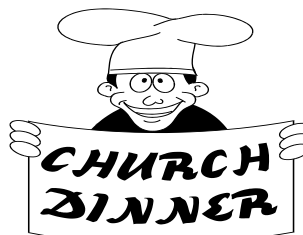
We still have the "Breadsmith
10 for \$10 Cards"

The '40 Days for Life' South Dakota Spring Campaign

has been cancelled.

However, you can still make it a **pro-life Lent**, and join us at the **Life Chain Link** for a peaceful rosary prayed in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion facility **at noon on: March 1st, 10th and 15th.**

For more information, contact Sylvia.



**To benefit Mission
trip to Louisiana
and youth retreats
this summer!!**

St. Michael Parish Dinner on Sunday, March 7th from 10:30-1 pm for Pork Loin dinner with salads and desserts galore! Tickets will be available in the parish office or after Mass starting Feb. 20th. Tickets are Adults \$7, Children \$4, Family max \$30. (Door prices will be a \$1.00 more.)
Signup in the Commons to bring a salad or dessert!

Liturgical Ministers for the Weekend of Feb. 20/21, 2010

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday & Tuesday 5:30 pm
Wednesday – Saturday 8:15 am

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:00–9:30–11:00 am- 6:00 pm
Supervised Nursery at
9:30 & 11am Masses
Nursery open for all Masses

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday & Tuesday 5:00 pm
Thursday 7:45 am
Saturday 3:00 – 3:45 pm

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

First Thursday of month at 7:00 pm

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Begin 6 months ahead by appointment

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

ADORATION OF THE

BLESSED SACRAMENT

"Can you spend one hour with me in prayer?"
Call 361-1600 to sign up

Happenings

Monday, February 15

Bible Study 10:15 am
Life Chain Link PP Noon
Confessions 5:00 pm
Mass 5:30 pm
Lorraine DeVille (d)

Tues., February 16

Finance Council 6:45 am
Confessions 5:00 pm
Mass 5:30 pm Bob Sarutski (d)
Book Study 6:30 pm
Social Ministry Mtg 7:00 pm
SCC 8:30 pm

Wed., February 17 Ash Wednesday

Mass 8:15 am Frances Parker (d)
Mass 12:15 pm Lorraine DeVille (d)
Mass 5:30 pm Leon/Dorothy Welbig (d)
Mass 7:00 pm Kara Schwab

Thurs., February 18

Confessions 7:45 am
Mass 8:15 am Rita Reicks (d)
Adult Choir 7:00 pm
LPEC 7:00 pm

Friday, February 19

Mass 8:15 am Marshall Christensen (d)
Stations of Cross 5:30 pm
Fish Fry 6:00 pm

Sat., February 20

Mass 8:15 am Lucy Reif
Confessions 3:00 pm
Mass 4:00 pm Rita Wiese (d)

	Sat. 4:00 pm	Sun. 8:00 am	Sun. 9:30 am	Sun. 11:00 am	Sun. 6:00 pm
Altar Servers	Mercedes Arnett Corina Arnett	Ann Coppock Kelley Criddle	Cole Clemens Joshua Reed	David Melanson Collin Melanson	Kaleb Overman Carli Tomac
Book	Jenna Helgeson	Abbie Wilke	Jack Lund	Austin Serck	Isabelle Loudenslager
Bus	Brian Peters				
Lectors	Connie Burkard Jerry Klein	Cathy Jorgensen Deb Peterson	Dean Karsky Denny Seiner	Wanda Heisel Dennis Schulte	Mary Ann Garrigan Kelly Loudenslager
E.M.E.	Cup Bearer: Kenny Arnett Daryl Thuringer Carol Doss Ted Thie Mo Forsting Barb Bies Jan McEntee ---?--- ---?--- Becky Arnett	Cup Bearer: Alyce Merrill Jim Peterson Zach Williams Jeannie Williams Don Olinger Jerry Delker Dee Cink Wanda Criddle	Cup Bearer: Rita Feddersen Denny Seiner Brian Schaunaman Pat Seiner Mary Cunningham Barb Clinton Sharon Mulder Jackie Fink Dean Karsky Susan Schaunaman	Cup Bearer: Steve Kaufmann Dianne Neuroth Cheri Breittling Chuck Robinson Diane Lyons Ann Drotzmann Dennis Schulte Wanda Heisel Ron Waltman Lisa Serck	Cup Bearer: Michele Koupal Cassie Tomac Donna Hardie Brenda Schneider Denise Schwabauer Tracey Merrill Josh Zaug Jan Darby ---?--- Doyle Hardie
Sacristan	Becky Arnett	Wanda Criddle	Susan Schaunaman	Lisa Serck	Doyle Hardie
E.M.E.		<u>Good Samaritan</u> Curt Scheafer	<u>Covington</u> MaryJo & Gale Benson	<u>Sunnycrest</u> Cheri Breittling	
Gifts	Daryl Thuringer	Jim Peterson	Patrick Griesgraber	Ron Waltman	Lisa Kolb
Greeters	EJ Gowlovech John Hammond	Al Cink Jerry Delker	Stacia Tuschen Brandi Kowalczyk	Brian Vogndild Kevin Crouch	Jan Darby Deb Hauck
Receptionist	2:30 – 4:00 pm Marguerite Mohs	7:30 – 9:15 am Sharon Story	9:30 – 11:00 am Mary Bones Pat		
Rosary	Mary Poncelet				
SFCS Cert.	Jerry Klein EJ Gowlovech	Darlene Delker Jerry Delker	Angie Soukup Jeanita Erickson	Dave Melanson Terri Larson	Dawn Tomac Casey Tomac
Ushers	Mary Olinger Dick Krenke Brian Kerfeld Joe Ahlers	Steve Gaspar Larry Anderson Tom Lord Larry Puthoff	Frank Ahartz Mark Quissell Bob Clinton Mark Mulder	Dave Serck David King Jordan Serck Gary Larson	Dan Schneider Donna Schneider ---?--- ---?---

ST. MICHAEL STAFF

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

FR. CHARLES CIMPL PASTOR
FR. KEVIN O'DELL
DEACON JOHN DEVLIN PERMANENT DEACON
SUSAN SCHAUNAMAN ADMIN. ASSISTANT
SYLVIA WENSING VOLUNTEER COORD
MARY ELLEN MELANSON RECEPTIONIST
PAT BERG SECRETARY
ANNE BURKARD PASTORAL MINISTER
JACKIE CONLEY DRE GRADES 1-6
RHONDA KELSEY DRE YOUTH DIRECTOR
JEAN KLEIN LITURGY & MUSIC
LINDA HARTMANN CARING MINISTRY
LISA HUEMOELLER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
DENNIS ERNSTER CUSTODIAN
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Ash Wednesday Masses February 17th

8:15 am—12:15 pm--5:30 pm--7 pm