

Saint Lawrence Catholic Church

August 16th, 2020

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Solemnity: August 15



Parish Office Hours

Dave Ecke (DRE):

Monday-Friday 8:00-Noon

Kim Siegler

(Secretary/Bookkeeper):

Wednesday and Thursday
9:30-4:00

Dave will be available to answer phone calls everyday (M-F) 8-Noon. If you need to reach Kim outside of her office hour times you can call 715-741-0153. Please feel free to leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

THANKS!!!

Mass Schedule and Intention

Tuesday 6:00 pm at St. Lawrence - Mary Cournoyer

Wednesday 8:45 am at St. Philips - Anne Tork

Thursday 7:00 am at St. Lawrence - Sue Rucinski

Friday 7:00 am at St. Lawrence - For the Parish

Friday 8:45 am at St. Philips - Lloyd Bohman

Saturday 4:00 pm at St. Philips - The Living and Deceased
Members of Leo and Minnie VanAsten Family

Saturday 6:00 pm at St. Lawrence - For the Parish

Sunday 8:30 at St. Philips - Jenna O'Shasky

Sunday 10:30 at St. Lawrence - Otto, Verena, and Ron

For health and healing for Theresa Zanetti, Marie Kaszuba, Eileen Folgert, Dawn Weaver, Karen Lorbeck Gail Narlock, and all whose names appear on the prayer list, we pray to the Lord. We pray to the Lord. And for all the souls of the faithful departed, that through the mercy of God, they may rest in peace, we pray to the Lord.

St. Lawrence Directory

Rectory Hours - - - Mon-Fri, 8:00am - noon

Rectory Phone - - - - - 715-421-5777

Email - - - - - slparishwr@gmail.com

Website - - - - - saintlawrencewr.org

Facebook - - - - - "St. Lawrence Church"

Director of Religious Education email

- - - -stlawrenceevangelization@gmail.com

Fr. Janusz's contact information:

Emergency cell - - - - - 715-456-1450

Email - - - - januszek2002@yahoo.com

Parish Staff

Pastor - - - - - Rev. Janusz Kowalski

Deacon - - - - - Kevin Ray

Senior Deacon - - - - - Jim Landry

Parish Facilities Manager - - - - Corey Siegler

Evangelization/Formation - - - - Dave Ecke

Secretary/Bookkeeper - - - - - Kim Siegler

Sacraments

Baptism: Baptismal classes are required for parents having their infants baptized. Contact Father Janusz at the Parish Office.

Confession: Saturday 5:30 p.m. before Mass (weekday & Sunday) or by appointment.

Marriage: Please notify the Pastor/Parish Office as soon as you are engaged, but not less than nine months prior to the wedding date. A marriage preparation retreat is necessary, call St. Vincent de Paul for upcoming dates (715) 423-2111.

Anointing of the Sick: Those seriously ill or undergoing surgery should call the rectory to request an appointment with Pastor Janusz.

530 Tenth Ave N, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, 54495

715-421-5777

We have many openings for mass intentions so if you would like to have a mass said for a loved one feel free to contact the office.

The practice of offering the holy Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased originates in the early church. The catechism teaches, "From the beginning the church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God" (No. 1032). When we face the death of someone, even a person who is not Catholic, to have a Mass offered for the repose of his soul and to offer our prayers are more beneficial and comforting than any other sympathy card or bouquet of flowers. Most importantly, we always should remember our own dearly departed loved ones in the holy Mass and through our own prayers and sacrifices to help in their gaining eternal rest.

A number of years ago, my son and a class mate were in charge of a class project, a project for which they needed the permission of the HS principal. So they scheduled a time and went to meet with him. Upon hearing their request the first words out of his mouth were absolutely not! Now his class mate wanted to sit and argue with the man, but Devin said thanks anyway, got up and together they left the office. Once outside in the hall, his classmate grilled him on why he didn't put up a fight. Devin later told my wife, he said, "Mom, I told her that the principal is just like my dad, he always says no the first time you ask him anything. But if we just give him a while, let him ponder it, and remind him now and then, eventually he will give us what we want." Now maybe it's just a guy thing, but after hearing today's gospel, I think I am in pretty good company. This, in spite of the fact that this is one of the hardest passages in the Gospel. One that, a scripture professor of mine said, "if the lectionary didn't direct us to it, we'd love to skip it altogether". For what Jesus says is not what we expect from him. Actually he sounds downright rude. I think it's because he is frustrated. For, at the beginning of this passage, Jesus, by his own understanding and admission, tells us that he has been sent only after the lost sheep of Israel, yet it seems that those particular lost sheep just don't want to be found. Despite his undivided attention, the Jews are not willing or able to respond. Sure, there have been crowds, it seems that everywhere he turns he finds people who want what he can do for them. But they remain blind, or at least unwilling to admit to who he is and so he has left Galilee and traveled north toward Samaria on what seems to be a vacation, a getaway from his enemies and would be friends alike. But then, this Canaanite woman, a non-Jew, comes along, crying out for help for her daughter. Now she was only one small voice among the needy multitude, so it must have been the way she addressed him that initially got his attention. Lord, son of David, she cries out, addressing him with a Messiah's title. And he finally hears what he wants to hear most from the mouth of someone he least wants to hear it from. So he doesn't answer. Enough is enough. The bank is closed, the doctor is out, I am not here for these strangers. But the woman will not keep her place and so the Apostles try to run interference with a version of 'you're not his type' but she still doesn't relent, and she begs again, "Lord, help me". , and so finally we hear "It's not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs". That is as cruel a put off, as clear of a first century- absolutely not -as you will ever hear. And, if you ever wondered if Jesus was fully human, right there's your proof.

This man is weary and discouraged and yet at every turn someone wants something from him, while at the same time no one seems to want what he wants most to give-himself. We have all been there. We are surrounded by people or organizations that want our time and our money but do not seem very interested in who we really are. And to keep from being swallowed up by them, we have to put up barriers around our families and friends. And if some poor stranger shows up and tries to cross that barrier looking for something from us, sometimes it think we too resort to invoking our own version of the line, "It's not fair to take the children's food ...". I know--- it sounds harsh, just as it did when Jesus said it. Only, this Canaanite woman will not back down, and for the only time in all of the Gospels, someone gets the best of Jesus in a verbal exchange. "Yes, Lord", she says after he has just called her a dog, "yet even the dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall from the masters table." And it is at that moment, we hear a distinct change in his tone, when Jesus says "Oh, woman, great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish". It seems that the barricade that he put up...has disappeared. For some, I know the idea of Jesus as fully divine requires him to read his lines, like from the script of a play. Maybe in the Gospel of John, but not so in Matthew. Today, I think, that through the pleadings of this woman, the Father has given him a new understanding of who he is and what he has been called to do. It appears that through her faith he learns that the Father's purposes are bigger than he imagined. Her faith makes him open his arms wider and wider, until....finally... there is room for all of us in them, and then... wider still, until he allows them to be nailed to a cross.

So... this week maybe we can remember that God's call to us to be Disciples of Christ means pushing back old boundaries, tearing down our own barricades and giving up the notion that there's not enough of us to go around. Today's Gospel is a good reminder that the more we are called to stretch ourselves for others, to get out of our comfort zones for strangers, the more likely it is that it is God who is doing the calling.

We may resist, we may even lose our tempers, or say 'absolutely not' at least at first....but then so did Jesus. What is important for us to remember is that The Father's call for us to be holy is also....very persistent...as persistent as it was through the Canaanite woman who would not leave Jesus alone. In a way it is comforting, at least for a sinner like me, to think we actually have a chance at true holiness, if only because we can count on God to be no less persistent with us.

"Oh woman....great is your faith", Jesus says. He might also have said, "Oh woman...you are faith". Perhaps the time has come to put stained glass images of the Canaanite woman in our churches....to remind us....what faith....looks like.

Gun Raffle...Because of Covid we are not going to have a Sportsmans Banquet this year. Instead we will raffle off the four guns and optics that remained from our first raffle. Tickets will be sold after weekend Masses at St. Philip and St. Lawrence for \$10 a ticket. Drawing will be held on Sunday, December 20, 9:30 a.m. right after the 8:30 mass at St. Philip rectory.



Saint Peter's Chicken Dinner to Go!!!

Sunday August 23rd 10am - 1pm

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Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish

Saturday, August 22nd 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday August 23rd 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Pizza, Soda, & Water will be available.



“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day.”

- St. Gianna Molla -

Always have HOPE by having confidence in GOD One of the greatest obstacles in life is spiritual discouragement or discouragement in general. “Do you easily fall into discouragement? If you give into it, this will cause further failures. It is here more than anywhere else that you must strengthen yourself by proposing always to desire to be invincible in hope – by having confidence in God – whatever may happen, and however weak you see yourself to be; because for our part, the basis of our hope is precisely our weakness, and on God’s part, His mercy, which is nothing other than a heartfelt compassion for our weakness.” These words are by Fr. Timothy Gallagher, who will be presenting at the Diocesan Virtual Conference on Saturday, August 29th . Father Gallagher’s warmth and style of speaking is for people of all states in life and all levels of formation. Cost is \$15 which includes Fr. Gallagher’s book, *Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement*” shipped to your home. To register online go to diolc.org/witness.

The Assumption of Mary is the teaching that:

The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory [Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus* 44].

This teaching was infallibly defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950 in the bull *Munificentissimus Deus* (Latin, “Most Bountiful God”).

As Pius XII explained, this is “a divinely revealed dogma” (ibid.).

This means that it is a dogma in the proper sense. It is thus a matter of faith that has been divinely revealed by God and that has been infallibly proposed by the Magisterium of the Church as such.

Since it is a dogma defined by the pope (rather than by an ecumenical council, for example), it is also an “ex cathedra” statement (one delivered “from the chair” of Peter).

Because it is infallibly defined, it calls for the definitive assent of the faithful.

Pope John Paul II explained:

The definition of the dogma, in conformity with the universal faith of the People of God, definitively excludes every doubt and calls for the express assent of all Christians [General Audience, July 2, 1997].

Note that all infallibly defined teachings are things we are obliged to believe, even if they aren’t defined “ex cathedra” (by the pope acting on his own).

The bishops of the world teaching in union with the pope (either in an ecumenical council or otherwise) can also infallibly define matters, but these aren’t called “ex cathedra” since that term refers specifically to the exercise of the pope’s authority as the successor of St. Peter. (It’s Peter’s cathedra or “chair” that symbolizes the pope’s authority.)

"O sinner, be not discouraged, but have recourse to Mary in all your necessities. Call her to your assistance, for such is the divine Will that she should help in every kind of necessity." "If you invoke the blessed Virgin when you are tempted, she will come at once to your help, and Satan will leave you."

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