

Catholic Churches of Barber County, Kansas

March 26, 2017

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Fourth Sunday of Lent

Thoughts on Today's Liturgy

Reading 1: Human beings see the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.

Reading 2: Live as children of God producing goodness, righteousness and truth

Gospel: Jesus opened the eye of the blind man on the Sabbath

Theme: God works through Jesus to transform the human condition, bringing healing to body and spirit

Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 minutes before Mass or by appointment

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat.	25	5:00 p.m.	SH	Brian Traffas	✠	Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sun	26	8:30 a.m.	KW	Parishioners		Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sun	26	10:30 a.m.	ML	Albert Blahut	✠	Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mon	27	6:00 p.m.	ML	Art & Omaha Tatera	✠	Stations of the Cross then Mass
Tue	28	9:00 a.m.	ML	David Rausch	✠	
Wed	29	8:30 a.m.	SH	Larry Traffas	✠	
Thur.	30	6:00 p.m.	KW	Special		Stations of the Cross
Fri.	31	5:30 p.m.	SH	Andy Patterson	✠	Stations of the Cross then Mass
Sat.	01	5:00 p.m.	SH	Vaughn Spencer	✠	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sun	02	8:30 a.m.	KW	Robert Loewenstein	✠	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sun	02	10:30 a.m.	ML	Parishioners		Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reflection: **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE FOR LENT:** The Sacrament of Penance is an experience of the gift of God's boundless mercy. Not only does it free us from our sins but it also challenges us to have the same kind of compassion and forgiveness for those who sin against us. We are liberated to be forgivers. We obtain new insight into the words of the Prayer of St. Francis: "It is in pardoning that we are pardoned."

Jesus entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to the Church. The Sacrament of Penance is God's gift to us so that any sin committed after Baptism can be forgiven. In confession we have the opportunity to repent and recover the grace of friendship with God. It is a holy moment in which we place ourselves in his presence and honestly acknowledge our sins, especially mortal sins. With absolution, we are reconciled to God and the Church. The Sacrament helps us stay close to the truth that we cannot live without God. "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). While all the Sacraments bring us an experience of the mercy that comes from Christ's dying and rising, it is the Sacrament of Reconciliation that is the unique Sacrament of mercy.

"Lastly, there is the [priest's] power of forgiveness. The Sacrament of Penance is one of the Church's precious treasures, since authentic world renewal is accomplished only through forgiveness. Nothing can improve the world if evil is not overcome. Evil can be overcome only by forgiveness. Certainly, it must be an effective forgiveness; but only the Lord can give us this forgiveness, a forgiveness that drives away evil not only with words but truly destroys it. Only suffering can bring this about and it has truly taken place with the suffering love of Christ, from whom we draw the power to forgive." — Pope Benedict XVI,

Prayer Intentions for the Sick and Shut-Ins: Ella Rundle, Alice Burenheide, Edna Swayden, John Dohm, Elizabeth Terry, Lori (Hughes) Wilcox, Gary Noland,

Raymond Schmidt, Cindy Archuleta, Carol Iron
Prayer Intentions: for the members of our parish family who are serving our country in the armed forces.

For the Faithful Departed: Pete Swingle, Robert Loewenstein, Tom Doherty, Dennis Hammersmith, Dwayne Kruckenberg, Luke Hendricks, Fern Beckerman, Omah Tatera, Agnes Eck, Larry Traffas, William (Bill) Hitchcock, John Ditgen, Dave Rausch, Albert Blahut, and the souls in Purgatory. May they rest in perfect peace, Amen.

Parish News:

PETE SWINGLE FAMILY BENEFIT: Sunday, March 26- 11:00 – 1:00 -- Pulled pork with all trimmings – St Peter's Parish Hall- Willowdale. Free will offering
Sponsors: *St John Church, Zenda; St Peter Church, Willowdale; Zenda United Methodist*

St John the Apostle: Tacos-to-go. \$3.00 Sunday, March 26. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 1218 Main-K of C Hall. Fund raiser for NCYC -- 620-770-6024 for pre-orders
Also- Sunday, April 2, May 7, May 28

Lenten Luncheon ML: March 28 (noon) First Christian Church – Rodney Worsham gives the message

PENANCE SERVICES FOR EASTER:

Wednesday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. St Boniface;

**Wednesday, April 5, 5:30 p.m. St John the Apostle;
7:30 p.m. Holy Rosary**

Do not let the Lenten season pass by without receiving this Sacrament. The Sacrament of Penance takes place in the framework of a *communal celebration*. We prepare ourselves together for confession and give thanks together for the forgiveness received. Personal confession of sins and individual absolution are inserted into a Liturgy of the Word with readings and a homily, an examination of conscience and a thanksgiving in common. This communal celebration expresses more clearly the ecclesial character of penance.

Parish School of Religion:

Holy Rosary: Kristen Eck presentation – 7:00 p.m.

St John the Apostle: March 19 & March 26 - No CLASS

St Boniface: Penance Service-- March 29 6:30 p.m.

HOLY ROSARY: Kristen Eck, daughter of Darryl and Margie Eck, will be at Holy Rosary on Wednesday evening, March 29th, at 7:00 p.m. to talk about her near-death experience this past summer during a kayaking trip. She will also talk about losing her friend Brian Bergkamp, who was studying to be a priest. Brian gave his life to save hers. Everyone is welcome! We will hold the event in the dining area.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY WAY OF THE CROSS:

Thursday, March 30-6:00 p.m. at St John the Apostle, Kiowa

K OF C FISH FRY: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Each Friday of Lent at 412 N Main, Sharon

Special Meeting of Pastoral Council: Saturday, April 1, immediately after 5:00 p.m. Mass at Sharon

Meat-less in Penance and Solidarity: Our desire is that Friday be a day of Penance and that we have in it some experience of solidarity with the truly hungry of the earth.

ST. BONIFACE SENIORS - ALTAR SOCIETY
SCHOLAR SHIP APPLICATIONS. Contact Marilyn Traffas for form- return to Marilyn or Ruth Schmidt by April 2nd.

ST. BONIFACE SENIORS – KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: Contact Kenneth Ricke for form and return by April 9th.

CAROL IRON: Thank you for the many prayers! Tests and results seem most favourable.

VOCATION VIEWS: The Lord looks into the heart. What does he see? We are given the gift of sight and insight. Look into the heart with love. (*1 Samuel 16:6-13 & John 9:1-41*) If you think God is calling you to be a priest, contact Fr. Wesley Schawe at 620-227-1533 or www.dcdiocese.org/vocations.

STEWARDSHIP: The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

ABSOLUTION from sin is offered by the priest acting *in persona Christi*, "in the person of Christ." The real power of the sacrament is this incarnational moment, as the healing power of Christ in his forgiveness is given a real face and a real voice in the person of the priest. One can pray to God to ask forgiveness anytime, and all are encouraged to do so as a means of seeking and finding forgiveness for minor everyday faults (*i.e., venial sins*), but only in the sacramental celebration is that gift of forgiveness offered in such concrete form. The priest's prayer of absolution states, "***Through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.***" This makes clear the prayer for God's gifts ("**of pardon and peace**"), but the declaration, "***I absolve you.***" is far more powerful than an invocation or request for forgiveness. The power to offer absolution has its roots in Jesus' giving the authority to forgive to the Apostles (*see Mt 16:19; Jn 20:23*). The process of seeking, receiving, and celebrating God's mercy and forgiveness is meant to be source of joy. It is difficult to admit one's faults, and sometimes even more difficult to ask forgiveness. Pope Francis, however, reminds us that it need not be something to fear, because the Lord is always ready and eager to bestow his healing love:

Whenever we take a step toward Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace." How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.