

St. Lawrence Catholic Church & St. Mary Catholic Church

113 S. 6th St. ~ Milbank, SD 57252

804 - 3rd Ave. - Wilmot, SD 57279

www.stlawrencemilbank.org

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent



DeRouchey's Delight...



Dear Faith Family,

Happy Lent!

Challenged with the address – “Happy Lent” when so much seems to have been taken from our lives over these past weeks? Yet, have you taken the time to count your blessings?

Were you a family that went to church on Sunday and never talked about your faith throughout the week since Father and the religious education teachers did that for your children? Now, what great opportunities you have in sharing the Word of God with one another and seeking out the understanding and teachings of the Word as a family! Maybe you are sharing with each other the importance the liturgies are to you personally.

Were you a family that took your education opportunities for granted? Now, what a great time to spend with our children in grasping the new education concepts that they were learning and how you can share with them by being part of the distant learning available through school and the parish.

Have you ever experienced the loss of freedom due to war or natural disasters? Though the loss of freedom that we are experiencing now is temporary, we may want to reach out to those who may have lost greater freedoms in their lives, especially our veterans who have dedicated so much of their lives for our freedoms.

May we, as a family, take time to truly reflect on all that we are missing and then thank God for all that we have. We, as a faith family and as a nation, have been truly blessed with so much. In the temporary loss of some of our freedoms, may we appreciate all that we sincerely have and be willing to share with one another that which we deem to be valuable.

This Sunday the Church symbolizes the joy in the experience one has with their encounter with Christ. I would like to share a simple military story with you that demonstrates that encounter with Christ through another:

This story is told about a soldier during combat. He was drinking heavily and was a constant menace to his comrades. His commanding officer had had him on the carpet several times. But on this occasion he was ready to throw the book at him. Said the colonel to his lieutenant, "I have given him every break." The officer responded, "Sir, you have punished him and it hasn't worked. Why not forgive him?" The colonel accepted the advice. To the soldier he said, "I have punished you many times. Punishment has not worked. This time I am going to forgive you. Your many offences will be removed from your personnel folder." The soldier, who had expected a court martial, broke down and wept. More to the point, he never drank again.

This was probably the first and perhaps last time the commander acted in this merciful and indulgent fashion. However, such a procedure, luckily for us, is standard operating procedure on the part of God. Today's parable clearly underlines this point.

Lent is a time of seeking the forgiveness of God. Though at times it is difficult to admit that one made a mistake – has failed - the grace that God extends to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation is truly amazing. Come join in the grace that cleanses one's soul of their sins.

*“Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.” Romans 12:11-12*

Daily Readings - March 23 - 29

Monday - *St. Turibius of Mogrovejo* - Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54
Tuesday - Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16
Wednesday - *The Annunciation of the Lord* - Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38
Thursday - Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47
Friday - Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday - Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53
Sunday - Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

Meet Maria Ana



Maria Ana and her brothers receive one meal a day at school, so that they can focus on achieving their dreams.

How was education important for your future?
How can you/we ensure that all young people have a chance to be educated?
Visit crsricebowl.org for more.



SCHOOL NEWS ~ Teachers will be busy on Monday preparing for learning to start via eLearning. We will have information coming out soon about our first pick up date. Please check your emails for more details.

Please continue to pray for our students and staff as we travel these uncharted waters.

The parish office recently got some Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy CDs in. They are \$14 each. If you would like one, please contact the parish office.

Justice Scholarship ~ Applications are in the gathering space of both churches. The completed application is to be returned in a sealed envelope to the Parish office by April 3rd.

Soup Suppers would not be complete without dessert. A great big thank you to Betty Mead, Tammy Mach, Molly Sweeter, Laura Maag, Joyce Hermans & Delores Nordquist for baking bars for our soup suppers!

The Daughters of St. Mary of Providence are celebrating 100 years in Milbank this year, and will mark the occasion in June. Working with the sisters who are currently serving here, the Grant County Review will publish a history covering their 100 years of service to the community. Comments and memories are being sought from community members to include in the publication. If you have a favorite story or memory about a past or present Sister you would like to share, please send it to the Grant County Review. You can send them by mail - Grant County Review, P.O. Box 390, Milbank, SD 57252; by email - gcreview@itcmilbank.com or call 605-432-4516 and ask for Debbie.

The deadline to submit items is May 1.

Prayer for Our Nation

God our Father, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people. Send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the "culture of death". Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.