

SAINT WENCESLAUS PARISH

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 16, 2016

Parish Announcements:

World Missions Sunday Collection

This weekend's 2nd collection is for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to support the work and witness of priests, religious, & laity in mission churches. (See Pope Francis' letter on back.)

Coffee & Rolls Sunday

Join us this Sunday after 10am Mass for refreshments & fellowship in Msgr. Baer Hall.

Sacred Heart Smorgasbord

Next Sunday, October 23rd, Sacred Heart's chicken, ham, & meatball feast will be served from 11am to 1pm in the Wauzeka parish hall. Adults cost \$9, kids age 6-10 are \$5, under 6 eat free, and carryouts cost +50¢. Come also for the county store, fish pond, raffle drawing, and basket raffle.

Next Week's Visiting Priest & Wauzeka Mass

Next Sunday, October 23rd, the Mass in Wauzeka will be celebrated at 10am for their parish feast. In Eastman, Fr. Larry Berger will offer Sunday morning's Mass at the usual time.

Little Flowers & Little Women's Tea Party

These group's annual tea party is set for next Sunday, October 23rd from 1:30 to 3:30pm. The Little Women will need to be there about an hour ahead of time to set up.

Chris Padgett in PdC

Next Sunday, October 23rd, popular Catholic speaker Chris Padgett will entertain youth in St. Gabriel's school basement from 12:30 to 2:30pm. Call Mary Stoeffler at 563-329-0149 for details.

Men of the Cross Conference

Next Saturday, October 22nd, to our 2nd annual diocesan men's conference at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Marshfield. Registration is \$30 per person online or \$40 at the door. A lunch is included. Visit menofthecross.org.

Lifesavers for Life Drive

Next weekend, the Knights of Columbus will sell Lifesaver candies after the Masses at St. Wenceslaus to support pro-life activities.

Upcoming Liturgical Roles:

Saturday, October 22nd : 4pm

Lector: Brian Sipos
Ushers: Art Wall & Derek Wall
Servers: Any Available Servers

Sunday, October 23rd : 10am

Lector: Donnie Fisher
Ushers: Tim Sprosty & T.J. Sprosty
Servers: Group F: Isaac Kramer, Andrew Deegan, Nicholas Walz, Tucker DuCharme

Sunday, October 23rd Rosary Leaders:

The Bill & Mary Turner Family

October Hospitality Activities:

Church & Hall Cleaning	Group #1
Coffee & Rolls (Oct 16 th)	Group #2

Pope Francis on World Mission Day Missionary Church, Witness of Mercy

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which the Church is celebrating, casts a distinct light on World Mission Sunday 2016: it invites us to consider the *missio ad gentes* [mission to the nations] as a great, immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this World Mission Sunday, all of us are invited to "go out" as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom, and experience in order to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love. She is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel and to proclaim mercy in every corner of the world, reaching every person, young or old.

When mercy encounters a person, it brings deep joy to the Father's heart; for from the beginning the Father has lovingly turned towards the most vulnerable, because his greatness and power are revealed precisely in his capacity to identify with the young, the marginalized, & the oppressed (see Deut 4:31; Ps 86:15; 103:8; 111:4.) He is a kind, caring, & faithful God who is close to those in need, especially the poor; he involves himself tenderly in human reality just as a father & mother do in the lives of their children (Jer 31:20.) When speaking of the womb, the Bible uses the word that signifies mercy: therefore it refers to the love of a mother for her children, whom she will always love, in every circumstance and regardless of what happens, because they are the fruit of her womb. This is also an essential aspect of the love that God has for all his children, whom he created & whom he wants to raise and educate; in the face of their weaknesses and infidelity, his heart is overcome with compassion (Hos 11:8.) He is merciful towards all; his love is for all people & his compassion extends to all creatures (Ps 144:8-9.)

Mercy finds its most noble & complete expression in the Incarnate Word. Jesus reveals the face of the Father who is rich in mercy; he speaks of mercy and explains it by the use of comparisons and parables, but above all he himself makes it incarnate & personifies it. When we welcome and follow Jesus by means of the Gospel & sacraments, we can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, become merciful as our heavenly Father is merciful; we can learn to love as he loves us and make of our lives a free gift, a sign of his goodness. The Church, in the midst of humanity, is first of all the community that lives by the mercy of Christ: she senses his gaze and feels he has chosen her with his merciful love. It is through this love that the Church discovers its mandate, lives it & makes it known to all peoples through a respectful dialogue with every culture & religious belief.

This merciful love, as in the early days of the Church, is witnessed to by many men & women of every age and condition. The considerable & growing presence of women in the missionary world, working alongside their male counterparts, is a significant sign of God's maternal love. Women, lay & religious, and today even many families, carry out their missionary vocation in various forms: from announcing the Gospel to charitable service. Together with the evangelizing & sacramental work of missionaries, women, & families often more

adequately understand people's problems and know how to deal with them in an appropriate and, at times, fresh way: in caring for life, with a strong focus on people rather than structures, and by allocating human & spiritual resources towards the building of good relations, harmony, peace, solidarity, dialogue, cooperation, & fraternity, both among individuals and in social & cultural life, in particular through care for the poor.

In many places evangelization begins with education, to which missionary work dedicates much time & effort, like the merciful vine-dresser of the Gospel, patiently waiting for fruit after years of slow cultivation; in this way they bring forth a new people able to evangelize, who will take the Gospel to those places where it otherwise would not have been thought possible. The Church can also be defined as "mother" for those who will one day have faith in Christ. I hope, therefore, that the holy people of God will continue to exercise this maternal service of mercy, which helps those who do not yet know the Lord to encounter & love him. Faith is God's gift & not the result of proselytizing; rather it grows thanks to the faith & charity of evangelizers who witness to Christ. As they travel through the streets of the world, the disciples of Jesus need to have a love without limits, the same measure of love that our Lord has for all people. We proclaim the most beautiful & greatest gifts that he has given us: his life & his love.

All peoples and cultures have the right to receive the message of salvation which is God's gift to every person. This is all the more necessary when we consider how many injustices, wars, & humanitarian crises still need resolution. Missionaries know from experience that the Gospel of forgiveness and mercy can bring joy and reconciliation, justice and peace. The mandate of the Gospel to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20) has not ceased; rather this command commits all of us, in the current landscape with all its challenges, to hear the call to a renewed missionary "impulse," as I noted in my Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel."

This Jubilee year marks the 90th anniversary of World Missionary Day, first approved by Pope Pius XI in 1926 and organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith. It is appropriate then to recall the wise instructions of my Predecessors who ordered that to this Society be destined all the offerings collected in every diocese, parish, religious community, association, & ecclesial movement throughout the world for the care of Christian communities in need and for supporting the proclamation of the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. Today too we believe in this sign of missionary ecclesial communion. Let us not close our hearts within our own particular concerns, but let us open them to all of humanity.

May Holy Mary, sublime icon of redeemed humanity, model of missionaries for the Church, teach all men, women, & families, to foster and safeguard the living and mysterious presence of the Risen Lord in every place, he who renews personal relationships, cultures, & peoples, and who fills all with joyful mercy.

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