

February 24, 2019
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Leo Catholic Church **St. Martin Catholic Church**
330 W. 8th Street 125 W. 3rd Street
Palmyra, NE 68418 Douglas, NE
(402) 780-5535 (Please send mail to St. Leo Church)
Emergency Calls Only: (402) 202-7685

www.stleoandstmartin.com Email: stleopalmyra@gmail.com

Fr. Adam Sparling, Pastor

Mass Intentions

Feb	25	Mon	No Mass	Please	join for Fr. Zitek's funeral more info below.
Feb	26	Tues	8:00 am	St. Leo	+Kenny Moller
Feb	27	Wed	8:00 am	St. Martin	Cara Erickson (bday)
Feb	28	Thur	8:00 am	St. Leo	+Jim Condon
Mar	1	Fri	8:00 am	St. Leo	+Sandy Masek
Mar	2	Sat	4:00 pm	St. Martin	Randy Holdsworth Family (Moller)
Mar	3	Sun	8:30 am	St. Leo	+Chris Pedersen (Connelly)
Mar	3	Sun	11:00 am	St. Leo	People of our parishes

OUR RESPONSE TO THE LORDS GENEROSITY TO US
February 17, 2019

	Adult	Youth	Plate
St. Leo	\$ 954	\$ 0	\$10
St. Martin	\$ 400	\$ 11.60	\$37

Amount needed to balance 2018-2019 budgets:

St. Leo: \$5,498/month or \$1,271/week

St. Martin: \$3,852/month or \$893/week

"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Thank you to those who give!

Weekend Masses:

1st, 3rd & 5th (Odd Sundays) **2nd & 4th** (Even Sundays)
Saturday 4 PM at St. Martin Saturday 4 PM at St. Leo
8:30 AM at St Leo Palmyra 8:30 AM St Martin Douglas
11:00 AM at St Leo Palmyra 11:00AM St Leo Palmyra

Confessions:

Saturdays: 3:30 PM-3:45 PM
Sundays: 8:00 AM-8:15 AM
 10:30 AM-10:45 AM

Adoration:

Sundays prior to 11:00 am
Mass

*Any time by appointment

CALENDAR ITEMS

- **Both St. Leo's and St. Martin's** are offering **FREE** for the taking an unassembled snowman. I assure you they make great gifts so feel free to pick up one for your friends and take it to them!
- **The Palmyra Fire and Rescue Soup Supper has been reschedule to March 23 from 5-7pm.**
- **MOTHER/DAUGHTER PROGRAM** "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" for girls age 10-13 and their mother will be held **Sunday, March 3, 2019** from 1 - 4 p.m. at John XXIII Diocesan Center. This program is designed to educate girls on growing up and becoming a woman. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$20 per mother/daughter or \$30 per family. To register, visit <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/mother-daughter-program> Questions? please call Jen Davis at 402-261-6375 or email jmdavis17@gmail.com
 - The parish will cover the registration fee for any parishioners who wish to attend this wonderful opportunity. Please contact Fr. Sparling if interested.
- **ASH WEDNESDAY MASS MARCH 6TH** – Ash Wednesday Mass will be 6pm at St. Leo's.
- **FATHER/SON PROGRAM** "In His Image" for boys age 10-14 and their father will be held **Sunday, March 17, 2019** from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at John XXIII Diocesan Center. This program is designed to educate boys on growing up and becoming a man. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$20 per father/son or \$30 per family. To register, visit <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/father-son-program> Questions, please call the NFP Offices 402-473-0630 or email naturalfamilyplanning@cdolinc.net
 - The parish will cover the registration fee for any parishioners who wish to attend this wonderful opportunity. Please contact Fr. Sparling if interested.
- **Immaculee Ilibagiza Retreat:** Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide and author of the book "Left to Tell", will bring her message of forgiveness, healing, and hope to all who attend her retreat at St. Mary's Catholic Church 343 N Monitor St. West Point, NE, **March 22-23, 2019**. Doors open at 4:00 pm on Friday, with retreat beginning at 5:00 pm and ending at 9:00 pm, continuing again at 9:00 am on Saturday and concluding at 12:30 pm. All that will be required of attendees of all faiths is a listening ear and an open heart, as Immaculee will be giving four separate talks throughout the two-day period. Cost is \$57 for one, or \$76 for two. For details, tickets, and registration, visit www.immaculee.com and click on "next retreat", or contact RaNae O'Brien at ranaeobrien@gmail.com.
- **Save the Date for Sunday, April 7th!** St. Gregory the Great Seminary is holding its first Benefit Banquet to help support the seminarians and various projects at the Seminary. The "Table of St. Gregory" will begin at 5:00 p.m. with sung Vespers (evening prayer) presided by Bishop Conley, followed by cocktails and Open House, and concluding with a plated dinner at 6:30 p.m. served by the seminarians. To make reservations or to find out more information, please call the Seminary at (402) 643-4052 or email us at: events@sggs.edu We hope to see you there!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Strategic Planning Open forum RESCHEDULED** - Due to the inclement weather the open forum scheduled for this past Tuesday was cancelled and has been rescheduled for Monday, March 11th beginning at 6:30pm in Divine Mercy Hall. Please mark your calendars as every parishioner's participation is wanted and needed!
- **MASS INTENTIONS:** If you have a family member, friend, fellow parishioner, or petition that could use some prayers please consider having a Mass, the supreme prayer given by our Lord, offered. The suggested donation is \$10 per Mass. Checks should be made payable to: St. Leo Stipend Account.
- **GREAT RESOURCE! FORMED.org** — programs, eBooks, movies, and talks that will entertain, engage, and inspire them with the beauty and wonder of their faith. FORMED is an on-line Catholic resource treasure trove. The parish pays for an annual subscription for you to use to grow in our beautiful faith. If you have not signed up for it yet, go to www.formed.org -- enter the parish code **KN4A9J** -- enter information required -- create a password -- search through and enjoy the material.
- **E-Tithe!** Parishioners can now contribute to the Church via check, credit or debit card by going to our website and clicking the "Give Now" (or by going to <http://giving.parishsoft.com/stleo>). As always you can still give via cash or check in your envelope anytime. THANK YOU!
- **Attention Amazon users!** If you do please consider using AmazonSmile for your purchases! If you do and select St. Leo Catholic Church of Palmyra as your charitable organization a portion of your purchases will be given back to the parish Religious Education Program. Or go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0537439>
 - **We received a donation of \$26.03 thanks to your purchases made between Oct 1 to Dec 31, 2018 using AmazonSmile. That brings our rebate total to \$41.22 for the current fiscal year. Keep up the good work!**
- **St. Martin and St. Leo stocks the shelves of the Western Otoe County Food Pantry in February** Thank you for your support to the Western Otoe County Food Pantry! Your donations make a difference to those who depend on the extra help to feed their family. The "most-needed" items this month are: canned meat, canned salmon, hot cocoa, frozen or bottled orange juice, oatmeal (regular or instant). Frozen items (marked as Food Pantry) can be left in the freezers at St. Leo Divine Mercy Hall or St. Martin. Just let Janet or Maureen know you have left a frozen item and we will transport it to the Pantry.



➤ **Southern Nebraska Register & Retired Priest Envelope** – Please note two envelopes in your mailed packets—the collections for the Southern Nebraska Register newspaper and the Retired Priests (helping our current retired clergy). Suggested donations for each are \$20.00 per family for the Register and \$30.00 per family for the Retired Priests. If your generosity and means allow higher amounts it would help assist those who unable to meet the suggest amounts or cover those who simply decline the invitation. Many thanks!!!! [If you have no envelopes please just put in any plain envelope and mark it with your name and the intent of the donation.] Update:

- St. Leo's has collected \$510 towards covering the \$2,415 assessment paid to the diocese for Priest retirement this fiscal year so far (St. Leo's is assessed \$345 a month). Also, St. Leo's is assessed \$47.50 a month for the Southern Nebraska Register subscriptions and have paid a total of \$332.50 this fiscal year so far and has collected donations of \$60 to help cover those expenses.
- St. Martin's has collected \$507 towards covering the \$1,610 assessment paid to the diocese for Priest retirement this fiscal year so far (St. Martin's is assessed \$230 a month). Also, St. Martin's is assessed \$31.25 a month for Southern Nebraska Register subscriptions and have paid a total of \$216.25 this fiscal year so far and has collected donations of \$150 to help cover those expenses.

Father's Funny:

A man went to visit his 90 year old grandfather in a secluded, rural area of the state. After spending the night, his grandfather prepared breakfast for him consisting of eggs and bacon. He noticed a film-like substance on his plate and he questioned his grandfather....are these plates clean? His grandfather replied.... those plates are as clean as cold water can get them so go on and finish your meal. That afternoon, while eating the hamburgers his grandfather made for lunch, he noticed tiny specks around the edge of this plate, and a substance that looked like dried egg yolks...so he asked again.....are you sure these plates are clean? Without looking up from his hamburger, the grandfather says....I told you before, those dishes are as clean as cold water can get them, now don't ask me about it anymore! Later that afternoon, he was on his way out to get dinner in a nearby town. As he was leaving, Grandfather's dog started to growl and would not let him pass.... Grandfather, your dog won't let me out. Without diverting his attention from the football game he was watching, Grandfather shouted, COLDWATER, GET OUT OF THE WAY!!

Note from Father:

I can always tell when it gets close to Lent because I begin to get calls from people who would like some Spiritual Direction as well as others who want to talk over and get some consultation and discuss things on their heart for lent. Let me assure you it is humbling and uplifting for me as a spiritual father to know people are preparing well for the penitential season of lent. I cannot lie it makes me a proud father.

The truth is that while God works through me in helping them, he also works through them to help me. It is such a consolation what God's children can learn from one another if their hearts do not become hardened. Many more times than not the answers we seek in prayer or the consolations we could have in life are only prevented by the limitations we impose. As human beings, when things don't go our way we have a tendency to avoid, ignore, refute or minimize those we hold in opposition. In the long term it really doesn't matter who is right or wrong. Time and experience will usually determine that. What does matter is that as that time passes we can't gain it back. We miss out on opportunities, on friendships and other various relationships, on consolations and answers, all because we have denied ourselves the means or the instrument God placed in our lives to use. As one of those who recently visited me said, "it has taken me awhile to figure out that what I needed to hear doesn't always have to be from someone I like."

What I would encourage each of you to take up for consideration this coming Lent is a deeper awareness that many times the answers sought were present in the person being placed at a distance, the Mass that was missed, the confession of sins we have never made, the sins we haven't or simply don't want to acknowledge, the noise of hearing oneself talk instead of open listening or the prejudices, bias and barriers we have in place. I recently came across this message on social media which drew me into deep meditation which I think is worth sharing with you: **"Judas Iscariot had the best pastor, the best leader, the best adviser, the best counselor...Yet he failed. The problem is not the leadership or the parish you go to. If your attitude or character doesn't change or your heart doesn't transform you will always be the same."** To be Catholic, a disciple of Christ, means we don't – attend or not attend; are a part of or not part of; support or not support because we either like or dislike our leaders. They too are sinful just as you are. The evil one works hard to pull people away and help them rationalize their reasons to make judgments based on such. Rather, we are Catholic disciples because of our relationship with Jesus Christ. We place our faith and trust in Him not mammon.

We have lost a shepherd:

I ask you to please join the Bishops, Priests, Religious and the lay faithful of the Diocese of Lincoln in praying for the happy repose of the soul of Fr. Brad Zitek who passed away this past Thursday. Father Zitek was born in Lincoln on June 21, 1960. He was ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ on May 27, 1989, at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln by Bishop Glennon P. Flavin.

During his time of active priestly ministry, Father Zitek served as the assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish in David City, St. Mary Parish in Nebraska City, and St. Peter Parish in Lincoln. He taught religion at Lourdes High School in Nebraska City and St. Andrew School in Tecumseh. He also served as pastor at St. Anthony Church in Steinauer, St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Seward, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in North Platte, St. Joseph Parish in Superior, Sacred Heart Parish in Nelson and St. James Parish in Cortland. Father Zitek had been assistant Director of Camp Kateri.

The Rosary for Father Zitek will be prayed Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at St. Joseph Church in Lincoln. The funeral Mass for Father Zitek will be held Monday, February 25, 2019 at 10:30am at St. Joseph in Lincoln. The burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln. A luncheon will be served at the parish following the funeral.

I ask that although you might not know Father Zitek you please pray for his soul and if at all possible go to the Rosary or Funeral Mass. As he was a priest serving our diocese we should all come together to pray and mourn for the loss of one of our shepherds.

May God continue to greatly
bless you all!! God Love You!

~ Fr. Sparling

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402-488-2142.



Habits worth getting into to grow spiritually:

- + Attend a weekday Mass
- + Pray the rosary as a family each week or day
- + Say the meal time prayers
- + Offer a Divine mercy chaplet for someone
- + Read Scripture or another Spiritual work
- + Choose and do a work of mercy each day
- + Make a Holy Hour before the tabernacle
- + Start a Bible study
- + Help sponsor and create opportunities for parish community building
- + Make use of our FORMED.org subscription
- + Let go and let God!!!!!!