

March 17, 2019
2nd Sunday of Lent

St. Leo Catholic Church
330 W. 8th Street
Palmyra, NE 68418
(402) 780-5535
Emergency Calls Only: (402) 202-7685

St. Martin Catholic Church
125 W. 3rd Street
Douglas, NE
(Please send mail to St. Leo Church)

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

Fr. Adam Sparling, Pastor

Mass Intentions

Mar	18	Mon	8:00 am	St. Leo	Mariella Sorensen (Swanda)
Mar	19	Tues	NO	MASS	HERE
Mar	20	Wed	8:00 am	St. Martin	+Jerry Smith
Mar	21	Thur	8:00 am	St. Leo	+Gary Ossenkop
Mar	22	Fri	8:00 am	St. Leo	+Dr. Prasanta Banerji
Mar	23	Sat	4:00 pm	St. Leo	Leona Cowles (Swanda)
Mar	24	Sun	8:30 am	St. Martin	+Sandy Masek
Mar	24	Sun	11:00 am	St. Leo	People of our parishes

CALENDAR ITEMS

- **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY:** March 22nd, 29th and April 5th from 5-8pm at St. Paulinus in Syracuse. Serving Carp, Pollock, Catfish nuggets, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, and dessert. Handicapped Accessible.
- St. Teresa Parish in Lincoln is excited to have Dr. Vern Steiner present a Lenten scripture study from 7-8:30 in the church. Babysitting is provided. \$20 for all four classes or \$35 per couple suggested donation. All are welcome! Register online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054CA4A92CA46-lenten>.
"BEHOLD, THE LAMB": LENT AND THE LAMB OF GOD
*March 21–*The Lamb as God's Provision*; *March 28–*The Lamb in God's Passover (Part 1)*; *April 4–*The Lamb in God's Passover (Part 2)*; *April 11–*The Lamb as God's Perfect Offering*
- **The Palmyra Fire and Rescue Soup Supper has been reschedule to March 23 from 5-7pm @ the Senior Center.**
- **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 ranaebrien@gmail.com.
- A Single Ladies Introductory Session is being held April 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. at John XXIII Diocesan Center. Learn how to chart with Creighton Model; includes a particular emphasis on reproductive and gynecological health. Must preregister at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/single-ladies>
- **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@spps.edu We hope to see you there!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thank you to those parishioners who came last Monday to our first open forum for strategic planning! Our next open forum will be April 2nd beginning at 7:30pm in Divine Mercy Hall. Your participation is highly encouraged and needed! Together we can plan for a bright future.**
- **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.

YOUR RESPONSE TO THE LORDS BLESSINGS

March 10, 2019

	Adult	Youth	Plate
St. Leo	\$ 1357.50	\$ 0	\$61
St. Martin	\$ 426.80	\$ 0	\$35

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

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!!!!

- **GREAT RESOURCE FOR LENT! 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> 

Weekly thought:

Let me try to connect last Sunday’s readings with this Sunday’s. You will recall the Gospel last week was about the Temptation in the Desert. The desert or wilderness is the place of struggle, the place of despair, the place of isolation, the place where our problems threaten to overwhelm us, whatever those problems may be in each of our individual lives. It is the place where we are tempted to believe that God has abandoned us, where it is necessary for us to “go it alone” if we are to survive. In the wilderness of our struggles, Satan tries to convince us that God becomes secondary, no even more, that He becomes unreal, no longer counts, disappears. What is at stake is much more than a sin. What is at stake is faith itself; the choice to believe that God does count and can be counted on.

This week we come to the familiar account of the Transfiguration. In the Transfiguration experience, the glory of Jesus’ divine nature is allowed to shine forth and overwhelm His human nature. Peter, James and John saw His glory and Peter confesses that it is good for them to be there. And when the cloud comes, though they are frightened, they enter it and in the cloud they hear the voice of the Father.

Going back to last week’s Gospel, you might ask, “How can I remain faithful” in the face of the many wildernesses I experience in my life, death, sickness, addictions, job-loss, the breakdown of relationships? How do I remain faithful in the face of the scandals that are rocking the Church? How do I remain faithful when leaders (bishops) cared more about “image” than about the pain and damage done to the innocent young of our faith communities? How do I remain faithful in such a wilderness? The Transfiguration gives us the answer. It is by an experience of the person of Christ in His glory. And in entering into that experience, you experience the presence of the Father as well. Where is that experience for you. It is certainly in prayer, the time we spend alone with God. It is certainly in our service to one another, in seeing Christ in the other. But most especially, for us as Catholics, it is the encounter with the Risen and glorified Christ in the Eucharist. We encounter the person of Christ in the most powerful way in the Eucharist and in Holy Communion. To meet the Christ of the Transfiguration is to receive the Eucharistic Christ and to receive the Eucharistic Christ is to be strengthened in faith for the struggle that is the wilderness of our lives.

This reality is even alluded to in the Transfiguration narrative itself. When Moses and Elijah appear, in conversation with Jesus, we are told what that conversation was about. They were conversing about His exodus that He was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. This “exodus,” of course was His very own death. Like the Master, it is only in our encounter with the glorified Lord that we will be able to pass through our own individual “exoduses” to the life of glory. This week, why not try to deepen that “encounter” with Jesus by attending daily Mass a few times. You may be surprised by the power it has.

Please join in on praying the Stations of the Cross this lent!

- Stations of the Cross will be Friday evenings alternating between St. Leo and St. Martin’s at 6pm.
 - St. Martin: 3/29; 4/12
 - St. Leo: 3/22; 4/5

To help you and your family dive deeper into the mystery of lent please consider using our parish subscription to FORMED.org as a resource (contact me if you need help). Also, Dynamic Catholic has Lenten materials available with inspirational videos, practical tips and encouraging stories. It is a 40 day program to help make you the-best-versions-of-yourself. You can access those at DynamicCatholic.com/lent. These are just two of the many resources to help make this lent more meaningful rather than just “that Catholic stuff” us “crazy’s do”.

For Lent, prayerfully consider not just “giving up” something but also “adding” to your prayer or almsgiving.

A blessed and sacrificial lent to you all!! God Love You!

~ Fr. Sparling