Tintoretto, *Christ and the Woman Taken in Adultery*, 1550. Oil on canvas. Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Antica, Rome, Italy.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
APRIL 3, 2022
Parish Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday | 8:30am-5:00pm  
Saturday & Sunday | by appointment only

Church Hours:  
Monday-Friday | Church doors are locked, except during Mass and Confession times.  
Saturday | doors unlocked 11am-8pm.  
Sunday | doors unlocked 7am-8pm.

Parish Staff & Committees:  
Pastor ........................................ Fr. Joseph Walsh  
In Residence ................................. Fr. Joseph Finn,  
.......................................................... Fr. Andrew Heaslip,  
.......................................................... Fr. Stephen Cooney  
Parish Secretary............................ Teresa Macias  
Music Director .............................. Jane Plettner  
Director of Religious Ed............... Muggs Koperski  
Knights of Columbus ................. John Franssen  
Altar Society ............................... Anne Schmidt  
Funeral Dinners ......................... Sally Williamsen  
Legion of Mary ......................... Calvin Kroon  
Seven Sisters Apostolate .............. Rachel Trevizo  
Restoration Chair ......................... Ted Czerniak  
Finance Council ......................... Bernice Polivka  
Rectory Cook .............................. David Nguyen  
Food Net Coordinator .................. Kathy Johnson  
Housekeeper .............................. Barb Janssen  
Pro-Life Coordinators .................. Marv Ward,  
.......................................................... Sue Kouma Johnson

Sunday Obligation Masses:  
Saturday 4:00 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm, 5:00 pm

Daily Masses:  
Monday - Saturday 12:10 pm,  
Monday - Friday 7:00 pm  
(See bulletin for changes)

Holy Day Masses:  
4:00 pm Vigil (day before Holy Day)  
7:00 am, 12:10 pm, 7:00 pm (day of Holy Day)  
(See bulletin for Christmas, New Years, & Holy Week)

Confessions:  
Saturday 11:00 am,  
3:00 - 4:00 pm, 6:00 - 7:00 pm  
Monday - Friday 11:30 - 12:00 Noon*  
(See bulletin for Christmas, New Years, & Holy Week)

Baptism & Marriage:  
Please contact the Pastor six weeks before the baptism date and six months before the wedding date.  
All parish/diocesan requirements must be met before the ceremonies take place.

Adoration:  
Our church doors remain locked during the weekdays, but parishioners may get a passcode for the keypad of the church for adoration daily between the hours of 9:00am – 4:00pm. Please visit or call the rectory for more information.

The Mission of St. Mary’s Catholic Church is to worship, serve, and build communion in Jesus Christ, with Mary our Mother and guide.
A short commercial before I begin my reflection in this weekend’s bulletin: kindly take the survey, if you haven’t already done so. This is a special moment of grace for our parish, a genuine effort to hear and express what we believe the Holy Spirit is speaking in our hearts. Help us hear what the Lord has put on our hearts. The survey is online (see stmarylincoln.org) or pick up a hard copy in the vestibule of the church. Surveys are due by April 10, 2022. Thank you.

Redemptive Suffering
I mentioned in a column a few weeks ago that my Lent included a book by Dr. Bob Schuchts entitled, Be Healed. In this book, he tells the story of his brother Dave, who contracted HIV/AIDS, likely associated with a long history of drug use. Dr. Schuchts was worried about how his brother would handle this suffering, even though Dave had experienced conversion in his life and had returned to his family and his Catholic faith. About three months prior to the final diagnosis of his disease, Dave announced that he would go off and die alone, not wishing to burden his family with this difficult death. Dr. Schuchts was relieved and edified when his brother announced to him the day before he received the confirmation of his AIDS diagnosis: “For a long time, I have been praying for a purpose, and I believe God is showing me this may be my answer. My purpose may be to become someone with AIDS, living for Christ.”

For two years, Dave lived this life, with purpose and conviction. Often, when family members would ask if they could help him, Dave would give a thumbs up and say, “Fiat.” Dave died on March 25, 1992. That is the day we celebrate the Annunciation, and another disciple’s response to the invitation of the angel Gabriel. Mary’s “Fiat” was her willingness to allow the whole reality of her motherhood to happen, not only the silent night of His birth, but her being present during his trial, His agony, His death. “Fiat” is God’s will be done, and our participation in His will, His work and the redemption He achieved for the whole world, for all time, for everyone, through His suffering.

This is what the Church means when it speaks about redemptive suffering. Dave wanted to be an example, a witness of living with HIV/AIDS and to offer this journey as a participation in the life of Christ for the salvation of the world. He took his fallen human condition and re-framed it into a spiritual participation, a spiritual gift of grace and mercy for his family, for his community, for however God desired to use it with redemptive and sanctifying effect.

If “Fiat” can work for the Mother of the Lord, and for the man with HIV/AIDS, how can it work for us? It begins with accepting who we are in the providence of God, that is, our station in life, our role in the various communities, relationships and circumstances that make up our life. Almost without exception, suffering will be part of our journey. “In the world you will have trouble,” Jesus reminded us, on the night before He died. Suffering is not a good, it is an evil. We resist it, and often, without thinking, we flee it, or medicate it, or allow it to depress us. Suppose we accept it instead, and live it in faith, mustering as much as possible a confidence in the goodness of God, allowing Him to be in charge. We confidently say and live, “I trust you” and we accept the hardship we are experiencing, knowing that it matters, knowing that it will bring grace to our good intentions. In this way, our “Fiat” gives purpose to the suffering, and strengthens us to bear all things for the sake of Christ, and to fill up what is lacking in His suffering for the salvation of His Body, which is the Church (see Col. 1, 24).

To say “Fiat” to our baptism is to say yes to suffering. It was the way of the Lord. It is the way of His disciple. But it is powerful too. It is redemptive; it is transformative. It makes us like Christ and gives purpose, meaning and victory to our lives.

Fr. Walsh
MEMORIES

April 9/10 (Palm Sunday)
Saturday, 4:00 pm
Acolyte: Ron Grose, Ryan Regnier
Reader: Pat Walbrecht
Narrator: Ron Grose

Sunday, 8:00 am
Acolyte: Sam Sisco, Bill Green
Reader: Steve Daly
Narrator: Rosemary Jones

Sunday, 10:00 am
Acolyte: Randy Ksionzek, Chris Hanzl
Reader: Margaret Scheideler
Narrator: Bernice Polivka

Sunday, 12:30 pm
Acolyte: Paul Edwards, Marv Ward
Reader: Kathy Johnson
Narrator: Al Allen

Sunday, 5:00 pm
Acolyte: Tim King, Ron Grose
Reader: Mike Kluck
Narrator: Bev Thompson

Parish Support

MARCH 20
Weekly Envelopes $1,337.00
Loose Plate $2,053.02
Faith Direct $6,085.82
Collection Total $9,475.84

Parish eGiving—Sign up Today!
Enroll online at faith.direct/NE1128
or
Text “Enroll” to 402-226-1026
or
Use the QR code for easy donating!
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11


Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56


CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What did the Arc of the Covenant hold?

Answer: The Tiber of the Lord.

ST. BENEDICT THE AFRICAN | APRIL 4

St. Benedict the African (1524-1589), was born in San Fratello, Sicily to Cristoforo and Diana Manasseri, Africans who had been taken as slaves. Some accounts claim that because of his parents’ loyal service that Benedict was given his freedom at birth, other sources say that his freedom was granted when he turned 18. At 21 Benedict joined a society of hermits living under the rule of St. Francis of Assisi. Eventually he succeeded his friend, Jerome Lanze, as their leader. When the Pope disbanded the independent hermit society, Benedict joined the Order of Friars Minor and he was sent to Palermo, to the Franciscan Friary of St. Mary of Jesus. There Benedict worked in the kitchens and despite being illiterate and a lay brother (not a priest), he also served as Master of Novices, and as Guardian of the Community. St. Benedict was known throughout his life as a brilliant cook under whose hands food seemed to multiply miraculously, a healer, and a spiritual leader with profound understanding. He is recognized as the patron saint of African Americans.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday: St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
Wednesday: NA
Thursday: NA
Friday: NA
Saturday: NA

Next Sunday: Holy Week begins; Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

CHURCH BELL SCHEDULE

April 4-8

09:00 O Come and Mourn With me
12:00 At The Cross Her Station Keeping
15:00 O Sacred Heart
18:00 Have Mercy Lord On us

TITHING VS. STEWARDSHIP

Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for “ten.” The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can’t take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours … all belongs to God.
Stations of The Cross are every Friday during Lent in the Church at 6:30pm before the 7pm Mass.

FISH FRI—Join us for our last Fish Fri of the Season on April 8th in Flynn Hall from 5-7pm. We will be serving Baked or Fried Fish, Mac-n-cheese, Tuna Casserole, with a choice of potato, pickle, rye bread, drinks, and dessert.

Divine Mercy Novena Schedule
Begins Good Friday 11:50am
Holy Saturday 8:15pm
Easter Sunday 12:15pm
M-Sat. 11:50 am
Closing Divine Mercy Sunday at 2:30pm

Do you like to sing but aren’t able to commit to a weekly choir rehearsal? Do you like cantors to help sing at every Mass? Please consider becoming a cantor! Currently cantors practice about half an hour before the scheduled Mass time to practice the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation and verse, and the hymns being sung at the Mass. The ability to read music is not necessary. If you’re interested or want more information, please contact Music Director, Jane at 402-440-1895. A voice message can be left or send a text message. She’d love to hear from you!

Prayer for Foodnet: Please keep St. Mary’s Foodnet endeavors in your prayers. The prayer we most often offer for our work is titled For Peace and authored by St. John Paul II: Mary, Queen of Peace, save us all, who have so much trust in you from wars, hatred and oppression. Make us all learn to live in peace, and educate ourselves for peace, do what is demanded by justice and respect the rights of every person, so that peace may be firmly established. Amen

Please keep in your prayers:
Ernie Polivka, Alice Gyhra, Zerita Hendricks, Ray Navratil, Ida Gomes, Richard Fischer, Duane Thoene

St. Mary History 101
The picture to the left, is St. Mary’s first Easter with Floral (peace lilies) arrangements. Notice the dark finish for the furnishings, and the pulpit was on the right-hand side. In 1949, the interior of the Church was redone. The altars were refinished in ivory with gold trim, walls and ceiling repainted, new flooring, and throne replaced, as can be seen in the picture to the right.

SAINT MARY’S PARISH NEWS
St. Patrick and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Schools in Lincoln are seeking a K-8 elementary music teacher for the 2022-23 school year. This full-time music position is shared between the two Lincoln Schools. Applicants must have or be able to obtain a current Nebraska teaching certificate. To apply, please send an email with resume and references to both Kristine-Placek@cdolinc.net and Jennifer-Tran@cdolinc.net.

St. Joseph School is seeking faith-filled, dynamic teachers for full-time teaching positions in: Jr. High English, Jr. High Social Studies, and PE. Send resume and references to kevin-naumann@cdolinc.net. Also seeking a PT Cook. Contact Dorothy Urbanovsky at 402-560-3192 or Dorothy-Urbanovsky@cdolinc.net.

Pro-Life “Save the Dates”

April 12 - 4th Annual Eucharistic Procession at Planned Parenthood from 2 pm to 3 pm.
April 15 - Stations of the Cross in front of Planned Parenthood from noon to 1 pm.

Cathedral of the Risen Christ is seeking a full-time Facilities & Grounds Manager. Will be responsible for inspecting, maintaining, repairing & renovating parish and school buildings and grounds. Send cover letter, resume and references to dkeiter@crchrist-parish.org.

Cathedral School has the following open teaching positions available: full time Technology Teacher, full time PE Teacher, and full time Paraeducator. Interested applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and references to angela-miller@cdolinc.net.