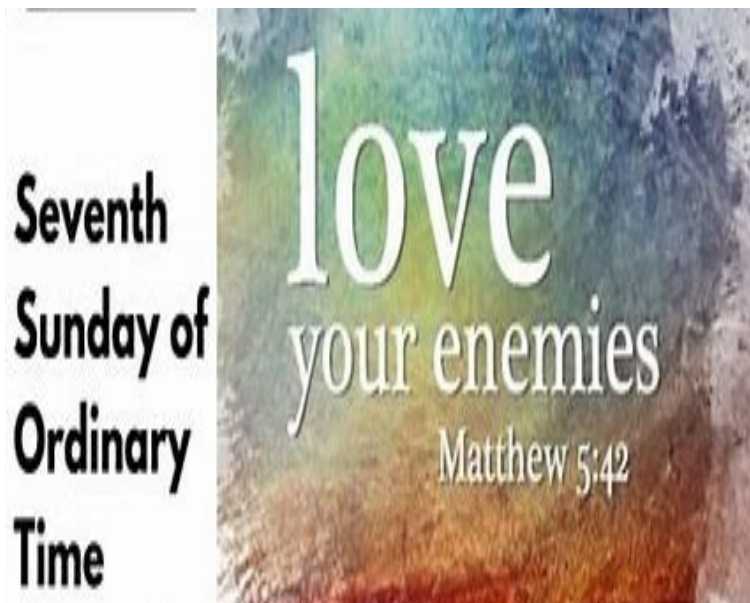




ST. BARTHOLOMEW, TREMPPEALEAU



ST. MARY'S, GALESVILLE



Sunday Bulletin

February 19, 2023
Year A

Parochial Administrator: Father Sebastian Saleth Pitchai

Phone: 608-534-6652

Deacon Kent Jacobson

Contact Parish office at: **St. Bartholomew, 11646 South Street, Trempealeau 54661**

Our website: www.saintbartholomew.net

Emails: Fr. Sebastian - ssebastian@diolclergy.org

Secretary: Cherie - secretary@stmstb.diolcparish.org

Parish Councils

St. Bartholomew Parish

Finance: Dan Lilla, Ed Smith, Roger Amundson, Marlene James, Larry Sonsalla, Tom Greylak, Patty Behan, Kris Krett, Laurelle Lettner, Joe Plunger.

Pastoral: Cherie Schwertel, Darlene Schlessner, Roger Amundson, Daniel Lilla, Rebecca Lamberty, Al Joyce, Candice Guenther, Kay Richtman.

St. Mary Parish

Finance: Tom Ladwig, Dave Mueller, Becky Harris, Sandy Salsman, Bruce Reedy, Roger Betthausen, Don Teska,

Pastoral: Kent Jacobson, Dave Mueller, Cindy Baer, Alice Baldini

It Ends with Me

In today's Gospel the Lord is teaching us, by His grace, to break the cycle of hatred & vengeance. When someone harms me, I get angry. Sometimes I might try to get back at them. But if I do that, Satan gains a second victory bringing anger & vengeance up a notch. Because then the one who harmed me will most likely try to get even. So, the cycle continues. Satan loves this.

Break the cycle! The Lord has sent us onto the field to turn the game around. He wants us to execute the "it ends with me" play, just as He did. We break this cycle by taking the hit & not returning it. By loving our enemy, we break the cycle of hate. By refusing retribution, we rob Satan of a double victory.

Recall the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, & toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. ... The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

Christ, living in us, wants to break the cycle of hate & violence. He's not merely telling us to stop being so thin-skinned, He's describing the change that'll happen to us as we allow His grace to increasingly transform us. To the degree that we're transformed, we'll not seek to get even. We'll leave that to God.

"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Only a transformed mind & heart is able to "LOVE YOUR ENEMY." This is the acid test, the hallmark of a true Christian. Note that the Lord links this to being a true child of God. A Christian is called to fulfill the Law & exceed it. This does.

But don't make love an abstraction. The Lord is talking about real transformation. It happens to the degree we give Jesus' permission to live His life in us. As we do, we will good & do good to them who hate us, just as Jesus did.

So don't sentimentalize this love. Jesus loved His enemies but didn't coddle them. He spoke truth to power, often forcefully & uncompromisingly. We're to do the same, speaking the truth in love to everyone, great or small, with understanding & compassion, willing to take the consequences of doing so for His sake.

Finally, the Lord says, *"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."* Nothing less will do. How could there be anything less when Christ lives His life in us?

Jesus wants the downward spiral of hatred & vengeance to end with me. When, on account of His grace, I don't retaliate, I break the cycle. When I don't escalate the bitterness or return the spite, when I refuse to allow hate to take possession of me, the cycle ends with me. Only God can do this in & for me.

But He does do it. The promise of our Lord is true. He has said it & He will do it—if we let Him.

God bless! Deacon Kent

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

	<u>SBT</u>	<u>SMG</u>
Envelopes	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 656.00
Plate	133.00	136.03
Electronic Dep	486.90	197.40
Youth Envelopes	<u>5.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>
Total Offering	\$ 2,324.90	\$ 994.43

Counters: Judy Kowalewski, Kathy Kujak

Intentions February 20 — February 26

Monday: NO MASS

Tuesday: 6:00 p.m. St. Mary

Exposition and Confession at 5:00 p.m.

+ Natlie Grant

Ash Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Pete, Betty & Monica Knepper

Ash Wednesday: 6:15 p.m. St. Bartholomew

All the Children of Our Parishes

Ash Wednesday: 6:15 p.m. St. Mary

+ Robbie Sacia

Thursday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

Exposition and Confession at 9:00 a.m.

+ Tom Kelleher

Friday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

* For the Living and Deceased Members of SBT PCCW

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Richard Pampuch

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. St. Mary

+ George & Dorothy Walski

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. St. Bartholomew

+ For the Poor Souls in Purgatory

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. St. Bartholomew

+ Eileen Konkel

Sunday: 10:30 a.m. St. Mary

All the People of Our Parishes

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY, Feb. 25

ST. MARY- 4:00 p.m.

Ushers: Butch Vaughn, Volunteer

Lector: Sheila Collom

ST. BARTHOLOMEW - 5:30 p.m.

Ushers: Phil Palzkil, Volunteer

Server: John Severson

Lector: Doreen Backler

Communion Minister: Suzanne Lane

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY Feb. 26

ST. BARTHOLOMEW - 8:30 a.m.

Ushers: Jason Hilton, Scott Lamberty

Servers: Reagan Lamberty, Jaylen Hilton

Lector: Anne Bagley

Communion Minister: Marlene James

ST. MARY- 10:30 a.m.

Ushers: Bruce Reedy, Sheryl Reedy

Lector: Ellen Karow

ATTENTION ST. BARTHOLOMEW PARISHIONERS

- ◆ **Congratulations to Sadie Virginia Gappa**, daughter of Dylan & Caitlin Gappa who was baptized on Saturday, February 11, 2023.
- ◆ **Stations of the Cross** all Wednesdays of March at 7:00 p.m. Starting on March 1.
- ◆ We will be having server training: Father would like us to identify dates/times and he will coordinate to get someone to help with the training. You can call the office with this information, 608-534-6652.
- ◆ Need prayers for any health or anxiety issue - big or small. Contact the prayer chain, Doreen Backler, 608-534-6118 or Ethel Ouellette, 608-534-6520.

ATTENTION ST. MARY PARISHIONERS

OUR MISSION: To love God, love others and go make disciples!

- ◆ **Finance Council** meeting on Tuesday, February 28 in the sacristy at 7:00 p.m. after Mass and Soup Supper.
- ◆ **SOUP SUPPERS:** Will start Tuesday February 28, after the 6:00 mass. Everyone is welcome. Every Tuesday during lent: February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28. St. Mary's PCCW hosts these events. There is a sign-up in the entry of the church for help. Our mission this year is for Father Muthu's project in India to repaint and repair the hostel where 50 students are living while they are getting their technical education. Father Muthu is now in charge of this hostel. When Father Antony was reassigned, this was one of the priests who did mass for our churches.
- ◆ **NEED GOD'S HELP?** Contact St. Mary's Prayer Chain, Ellen Karow 582-2688 or ekarow@hotmail.com.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ITEM FOR YOU.

- + Parish culture is what we do each week, with at least one other person (or more), outside of Mass.
- + Am I intentionally engaged weekly with friends (not just committees) in Jesus' mission, which is our mission?
- + Am I just a pew warmer, just doing Mass and then my thing, or am I living as His disciple and doing His thing?

- ◆ **BIBLE STUDY:** Week 4 of 9, *When Were the Gospels Written?* with Dr. Brant Pitre, on Monday, February 20 from 6:15-7:30 PM, St. Mary's Rectory.
- ◆ **LIVING WATER Prayer Community** open prayer meeting this Sunday evening at 6:00-7:30 PM. Following the Prayer Meeting, *Serving the Poor - Christmas 1972*, with Fr. Rick Thomas.
- ◆ **OCIA: SYMBOLON** Session 1.7 The Holy Spirit & the Life of Grace, Thursday Feb. 23, 6:15 PM, Rectory.
- ◆ **COME** to the **STATIONS of the CROSS & ADORATION** during Lent, Fridays beginning 02/24/23, 6:00-7:00 PM, because we want you to encounter Jesus. Your heart was made for Him and will be restless until it knows Him.
- ◆ **DEEPEN YOUR LOVE OF GOD & friendship** with Him. **During Lent** the Church will be open for you to spend time with Him, 12:30-2:30 PM, Tuesdays through Fridays.

COMMUNICATION TO ALL

- ◆ **Welcome for Fr. Sebastian.** Potluck meal to welcome Father on Sunday, March 12 at noon. All are welcome from both parishes. Bring a dish to pass and visit with Father and our parish community.
- ◆ **February 22, Ash Wednesday Lent begins.** Masses: St. Bartholomew **10:00 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.** and St. Mary's is at **6:15 p.m.**
- ◆ **SOUP SUPPERS:** Will start Tuesday February 28, after the 6:00 mass. Everyone is welcome. Every Tuesday during lent: February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28. St. Mary's PCCW hosts these events.
- ◆ **Bible Study** is on February 25th and March 11th from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at St. Bartholomew's church hall.
- ◆ **Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner** at St. Bridget's, Ettrick on Sunday, March 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ◆ **Retrouvaille: Final Chance to Sign Up:** Are you struggling in your marriage? When the old ways aren't working, the Retrouvaille Program helps couples restore their marriages and rebuild loving relationships. Retrouvaille offers hope and healing for hurting marriages. Costs are affordable and no couple is turned away because of limited finances. If you are wondering if this program is right for you or a loved one, find more information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions at HelpOurMarriage.org or call toll-free: 1.877.922.HOPE (4673). The next program begins on March 3-5.
- ◆ **Lenten Regulations** The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. Lenten regulations are as follows:
 1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.
 2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

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Next meeting is on
Tuesday, March 14



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With gratitude,
the Roman Lilla Family



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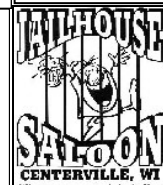
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**St. Mary's PCCW
is planning a
Mardi Gras event
Tuesday, Feb. 21**

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