

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2016

Ash Wednesday Masses

Ash Wednesday Masses February 10:
8 am and 6 pm at St. Peter
9:30 am and 7:15 pm at St. John

Coffee Hour at St. Peter

Come for treats 'n joe after Mass Sunday!

2015 Tax Statements

If you would like your 2015 offertory statement for tax returns, call the office.

Bring Your Flip Flops

All parishioners are invited to the free annual Parish Swim on February 7 at the SUNY Delhi pool from 1 to 4 pm.

Book Group Thursday

The Book Group will meet this Thursday the fourth at Hilda's Place at 4 pm. All are welcome~ start the year off with lively literary discussion, join us.

Shrove Tuesday Dinner Cancelled

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner will not be held this year as a result of poor attendance last year.

Lent Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent beginning February 19 at 6 pm at St. Peter and St. John the Baptist.

OFFERINGS

St. John: \$1,894
Holy Family: 179
St. Peter: 1,284

Year of Mercy Actions I

Pope Francis has called for an array of concrete actions during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The first: Sacred Scripture

The Pope has asked for all to steep themselves in the Word of God through reading and meditating on the Sacred Scriptures. The Pope wrote: "In order to be capable of mercy, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God [by] rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the Word that comes to us."

Ordinary Time Sunday readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke, often referred to as "the Gospel of Mercy."

Walton Schools Weekend Backpacks

Please help fill backpacks for students in need who otherwise would not have food on the weekend. Items may be dropped at Townsend Elementary School, Ogden Library, or United Presbyterian Church:

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| - peanut butter (16 oz) | - tuna |
| - peas, gr. beans, corn, carrots (8 oz) | - pork/beans (11 oz) * |
| - soup: chick, tomato (10 oz) | - popcorn * |
| - oatmeal (individual packet box) | - single serve cereal |
| - pasta, ravioli, beefaroni (individual) | - Ramen noodles |
| - granola, fruit 'n nut bars | - raisin box, small |

* most needed at this time

Marriage Moments

Susan Vogt

This scripture is used at weddings:

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury ... It endures all things. Love never fails. 1 Cor. 13:4-8

Make it live again in your marriage, no matter how long you have been wed.

Marriage Encounter

Take time for your marriage March 11 to 13. Call 518.279.3243 for info.

Heavenly Father,

I invite You to make Yourself at home in my heart.

Send my roots deep into the soil of Your marvelous love.

Grant me the power to understand its scope ~ its width, length, height, and depth.

Allow me the privilege of experiencing and recognizing that love every day.

And Lord, as You teach me more about Your love for me, please fulfill the promise that accompanies a deeper understanding of this gift . . . fill me with the fullness of life and power that comes from You alone. Amen

Family Perspective

Bud Ozar

Mary and Joseph must have been proud when their village "all spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at His words." They probably felt shame when the same people drove Him out of town. Like Mary and Joseph, the highs and lows of parenting are our path to being a Holy Family.

Parenting Pointers

Susan Vogt

It's cold outside. Have a memory party inside. Pull out old photographs and enjoy. Maybe organize those loose photos.

Reflecting on the Word

God's words point us beyond Jeremiah to Jesus. Like Jeremiah, Jesus was consecrated in the womb and sent as a "prophet to the nations." Like the prophets before Him, Jesus faces hostility: the crowd in His hometown synagogue quickly turns on Him, apparently demanding a sign, some proof of divine origins that He is more than "the son of Joseph."

The sign He gives them is that of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. From their colorful careers Jesus draws two stories. In each, the prophets bypass "many ... in Israel" to bestow God's blessings on non-Israelites who had faith that the prophets were men of God. "None...not one" in Israel was found deserving, Jesus emphasizes.

His point isn't lost on His audience. They know He's likening them to the "many...in Israel" in the days of the prophets, and they try to shove Him off the cliff. As He promised to protect Jeremiah, the Lord delivers Jesus from those who would crush Him.

Jesus is sent to proclaim God's gift of salvation not exclusively to one nation or people, but to all who realize in faith that from the womb God alone is their hope, their rescuer, their "rock of refuge."