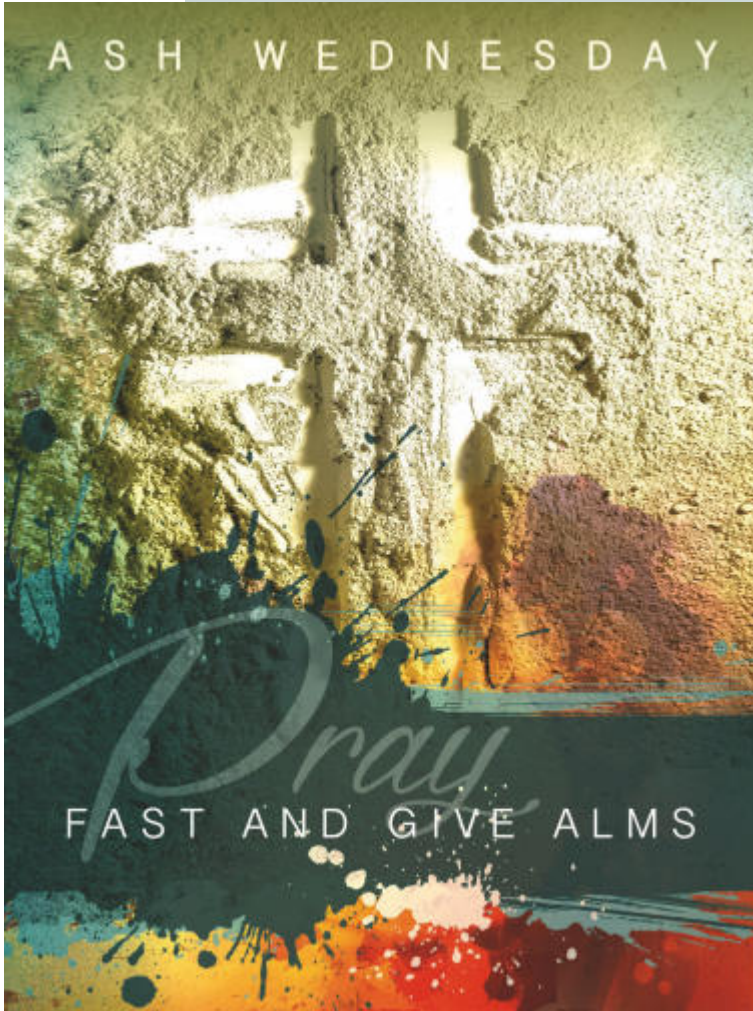




CHURCH OF ST. RAPHAEL

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019



Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

MARCH 6th - ASH WEDNESDAY

MASS TIMES:

- 8:00 am
- 12:00 pm
- 7:00 pm

LENT CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES:

This Lent at St. Raphael's, in addition to our regular schedule, we will be offering some additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Sundays, March 10th through April 14th, confessions will be heard from 3:00 - 4:00 pm. During these times, both Fr. Rudolph and Fr. Altier plan to be in their confessionals.

Because of these added confession times, we will not be having a Parish Penance Service during Lent.

MISSION STATEMENT

Faithful to the Teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, St. Raphael Parish and School promotes the Universal Call to Holiness for all the People of God.

WORSHIP

Weekday Masses
 Monday - Saturday: 8:00 am
 First Friday: 7:00 pm
 Extraordinary Form Latin
 Weekend Masses
 Saturday: 5:30 pm
 Sunday: 8:30 am, 10:30 am

CONTACT

Fr. Michael Rudolph, Pastor x 205
frmichaelrudolph@straphaelcrystal.org
 Fr. Robert Altier, Parochial Vicar x 206
frrobertaltier@straphaelcrystal.org
 Parish Email: info@straphaelcrystal.org
 Parish Phone: 763-537-8401
 Parish Office Hours
 Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation
 Weekdays: 7:30 - 7:50 am
 Saturday: 7:30 - 7:50 am,
 8:30 - 9:30 am, & 4:00 - 5:15 pm
 Marriage
 Please contact Fr. Rudolph.
 Baptism
 Please contact the Parish Office.

PAROCHIAL VICAR'S LETTER



As we have seen, there are many ways to violate the First Commandment. In the last article we considered the aspect of human dignity and how failing to act according to our dignity or failing to recognize the dignity of another and treat a person with that dignity violates this commandment because we are made in the image and likeness of God.

I mentioned last month that I was going to approach the same issue but from a different perspective. Little did I know, when I wrote the last article, that I would be preaching on the subject a week later. So, some of this may be redundant for those who heard the homily a few weeks back, but it is always good to be reminded of the truth.

When we look at the first chapter of the Book of Genesis we are told that the Lord decided to create us in His own image and likeness and that He created us male and female. Original sin caused a great deal of trouble in the relationship between men and women. We even see in Genesis 3 that these kinds of problems are among the effects of Original Sin.

Even with the inherent struggles, both men and women could have recourse to the Lord and seek His grace and guidance in their relationship. But the devil's latest tactic is to remove God from the equation. This did not begin with any kind of malice from the human side, but it began with Charles Darwin positing a theory regarding evolution. Darwin was a man of faith when he began his research, so there was no bad intention on his part at all.

Unfortunately, as time went on, some people realized that if one could focus solely on evolution, it would write God out of the equation. This gained even more traction with the presentation of the "Big Bang" theory. Not only was there no malice on the part of the person who developed this theory, but it was developed to prove there is creation and, therefore, there is a Creator. This theory was developed by a Catholic Priest, Fr. Georges Lemaitre who wanted to demonstrate to Albert Einstein that creation has a beginning and, therefore, there is a God Who created it all. As we know, his theory has been used to try to "prove" that God does not exist.

Fr. Lemaitre's theory has stood up to testing, but Darwin's theory has not. Some people in the world of science have taken a very unscientific approach to push an agenda. Rather than following where the facts lead, they have rejected the facts because they demonstrate the opposite of what they want to believe. The humorous thing about this is they make fun of us for having faith when their theory requires more faith than what has been believed from the beginning.

Over the past several decades, many scientists have lost their jobs, not for denying the theory of evolution, but for even questioning it or presenting any other option, such as, Intelligent Design. I was heartened to see that just within the past few weeks over 1000 scientists have signed a statement questioning the theory of evolution. These are all people with PhD's in

various branches of science. Among those who signed this statement are professors from Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, and other leading Universities.

Having said all of this we need to make a clear distinction between micro and macro evolution. There is an abundance of evidence for micro-evolution, but there is virtually no evidence to support the ideas of macro-evolution. Macro-evolution is the idea that one species evolved into another species, for instance, fish becoming amphibians which became mammals which eventually became human. Micro-evolution is essentially adaptation. For instance, it can be demonstrated scientifically that every human person came from two human persons; every dog came from one pair of dogs, etc.

Over the centuries there has been a lot of adaptation to the point where skin color, hair color, body size and shape, etc. have made us look very different. But the differences do not imply in any way that there is an inequality in persons or that one is better than another. This, we believe, because we are all made in the image and likeness of God.

Those who believe in macro-evolution, on the other hand, believe we came from some kind of "primordial soup" in which protozoa evolved into ameba and then through billions and billions of mutations, those ameba eventually became human. Of course, we cannot assume we are the end of the chain; somewhere along the line we will evolve into some new variety of species.

What this means is that evolution is random and there is no God involved. We are not made in the image and likeness of God; rather, we are each chance products of an evolutionary chain that links us back to the stuff in the primordial soup. In other words, we have no dignity as persons that is any different from the ameba or any other species in between. This also means we are not the product of love because it is merely random.

While the Church has not outright condemned the theory of evolution, it does condemn the idea that the whole person evolved from lower forms of life. In other words, we must believe God created the human soul and infused it into us. The soul cannot evolve and our personality resides in the soul. We are persons because we have a mind and a free will; these are the two faculties of the soul. We are not products of chance; rather, we are persons willed by God because He loves us. Our souls are immortal which makes them different from any other species.

Our immortal human soul is not only what makes us persons, it is also what gives us our dignity. That dignity is inviolable and it will remain for eternity. We must reject anything that violates human dignity because it is a rejection of God who gave us this dignity when He created us in His own image and likeness.



PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office: 763-537-8401

PRIESTS

Pastor
Fr. Michael Rudolph (x205)
Parochial Vicar
Fr. Robert Altier (x206)

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

Business Administrator
Ginny Metzger (x202)
Part-Time Administrative Assistant
Sue Kubovec (x201)
Administrative Assistant/
Bulletin Editor
Marie Nachtsheim (x222)
Social Needs Coordinator
Bunny Arseneau (x214)
Crisis Pregnancy Hotline (x500)

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation Coordinator
Mike Gerads (x211)
Faith Formation Assistant
Sarah Gerads (x211)
Youth Ministry
& Confirmation Coordinator
Anna Scherber (x210)
RCIA Coordinator
Mary Jo Smith (x511)

WORSHIP

Prayer Line (x528)
Bulletin Prayers for the Sick (x523)
Adoration Coordinator
Betty Kreuter (763-537-1399)

SCHOOL

School Office: 763-504-9450

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dale Hoffmann, Sharon Hedman, Mike Vecellio, Roselyn Lawrence, Betty Kreuter, Rose Pistilli, Scott Gregory & Mario Chavez.

Pastoral Council Meetings

If you would like a particular item on the next Parish Council agenda please contact Fr. Rudolph.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Contributions.....	\$15,042.55
Budget	\$20,809.00
Building Fund	\$1,307.00
Budget	\$2,600.00
Mr. J. Scholarship Fund.....	\$127.00

PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 3

- **9:45 am Rosary Talk - Fr. Altier, Marian Hall**
- **3:00 pm Monthly Parish Holy Hour, Holy Spirit Chapel**

Monday, March 4

7:00 PM The Wild Goose Study Group, Marian Hall
7:00 PM Via Dolorosa, Choir Room

Tuesday, March 5

9:00 AM Dorcas Quilters, Marian Hall
9:45 AM Navarre Bible Study, Fr. Fenelon Room
10:00 AM Fountain of Life Prayer Group, Choir Room
6:30 PM Fundamentals of Catholicism Fr. Fenelon Room

Wednesday, March 6

9:00 AM MCCW (MN Council of Catholic Women), Fr. Fenelon Room
7:00 PM RCIA Class, St. Raphael Room
7:00 PM Adult Choir, Choir Room

Thursday, March 7

7:00 PM Bell Choir, Church
7:00 PM St. Raphael Prayer Group, Marian Hall
7:00 PM Cana Family, St. Raphael Room

Friday, March 8

9:00 AM English Class, St. Thérèse Rm.

Saturday, March 9

8:30 AM English Class, St. Thérèse Rm
8:30 AM Holy Name Society Meeting, Choir Room
8:30 AM Rosary Society Meeting, Fr. Fenelon Room

Sunday, March 10

8:15 AM Parish Library Open
10:00 AM Monthly Rosary, Church

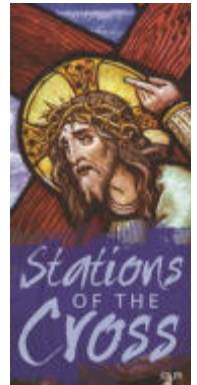


STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join us for Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.

Stations will be held in the main church at:

- 1:00 pm
- 6:30 pm



**Fr. Jacques Philippe
Church of St. Raphael
Saturday, March 16th
7:00 pm**

Come hear Fr. Jacques Philippe speak on *Inner Peace* Saturday, March 16th. Fr. Philippe is a prominent internationally known spiritual director and author.

Please see the home page of the parish website at: <https://straphaelcrystal.org/> for more details about this event.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 4

8:00 AM Palmer West
Construction

Tuesday, March 5

8:00 AM + Jackie & Paulie Tubisz

Wednesday, March 6

8:00 AM + Jeanne Trombley

Thursday, March 7

8:00 AM Joe Villeneuve

Friday, March 8

8:00 AM + Delores Malerich

Saturday, March 9

8:00 AM Nicholas Trombley
5:30 PM St. Raphael Parishioners

Sunday, March 10

8:30 AM P.E.S. Sisters
10:30 AM + Roman Utecht

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of March 3, 2019

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
[cf. 2a]/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7
[11a]/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14
and 23 [23b]/Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab,
12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6
[40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25

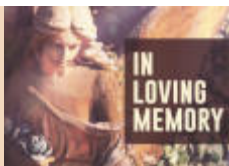
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19
[19b]/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
[11ab]/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11,
12-13, 14-15 [cf. 15b]/Rom 10:8-13/
Lk 4:1-13

©LPi

Rest in Peace
Edward H. Bebo



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

*"A Holy Hour is not a devotion; it is a sharing in the work of redemption."
~Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen*

Eucharistic Adoration Contact
Betty Kreuter 763-537-1399

Thank you, and God bless all adorers and substitutes who give an hour of prayer to preserve the gift of Perpetual Adoration at the Church of St. Raphael!

If there are parishioners, neighbors or visitors of St. Raphael's who have not yet made a commitment to pray one hour each week or to be added to the Substitute List, please consider beginning at this time of the Liturgical Year – Lent. There are many more adorers needed as aging and illness occur. There is also the fun of travel and visiting friends and relatives that requires a substitute for an hour of prayer.

Currently, there are two hours on Saturday afternoon that need new adorers. They are 2:00 to 3:00 pm and 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Please direct questions about Perpetual



Adoration or about becoming a committed adorer to Betty at the above number. To become a substitute adorer, please contact Barb McCalley at 763-971-8460. Adoration Commitment forms may be found at the church doorways and on the sign-in counter of the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Completed forms may be placed in the designated envelope on the sign-in counter.

Please check the parish website <https://straphaelcrystal.org/> for information on weather related closures of the chapel.

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Lorraine Boehm & family
Dave Bouley
Dolores Boyle
Louise Buckman
Andrew Eisenzimmer
Allen Evenski

John Herbes
Nichole Iverson
Kevin Long
David McMillen
Norb Meier
John Noe

Anthony Smith
Lynn Tupy
Mary Lou Wensman
Jeff Woodruff

To add a name for a six week period, please call 763-537-8401 x 523

Welcome Newly Baptised
Marie Therese Hejna



THE POWER OF THE HOLY ROSARY

SUNDAY, March 3rd ~ 9:45 AM ~ MARIAN HALL

Please join us for the next talk on The Power of the Holy Rosary by Fr. Altier. In these talks, Father presents the History of the Rosary, the Promises of the Rosary, How to pray the Rosary, and How to meditate on the Mysteries of the Rosary.

In the words of Sister Lucia dos Santos of Fatima.....

".....there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary."

Rosary Society - Disbursements Meeting

The annual Rosary Society Disbursements meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 9** at 9 am in the Father Fenelon Conference Room. All requests for funds from the Rosary Society must be submitted using the [Disbursement Request Form](#) and placed in the Rosary mailbox on or before Monday, March 4. Forms can be found on the Parish website, or you can pick up a form in the Parish Office. All board members and persons requesting funds (or their representatives) must attend the meeting. Any questions regarding money requests, please contact Anne at 612-860-1454.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY

This Saturday, March 9th, will be the regular monthly rosary, Mass and meeting of the Holy Name Society. The rosary begins at 7:30 am, followed by Mass at 8:00 am. We sit in the first three pews on the left side of the north wing. Our meeting will immediately follow the Mass in the Choir Room. Refreshments will be served at the meeting. One does not need to be an inducted member to attend. All are welcome!

STUDENT DAY AT THE CAPITOL MARCH 4TH & MARCH 14TH 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Student Day at the Capitol is a wonderful day for students Grades 7-12 to learn about the pro-life movement and to practice lobbying their state legislators to support pro-life bills.

Student Day takes place at the Capitol and a nominal fee of \$10 includes a pizza lunch and adult supervision.

Encourage your student to attend!

Call 612-825-6831 or go online to MCCL.org for more information.

SENIORS!

Thursday, March 14th Annual Day of Prayer Kings House Retreat Center Buffalo, MN

Theme: "Be Patient in Affliction." Join us as we reflect on the reality that patience is a process of human growth, challenging us to let go, to surrender to God's love and walk in the Light of Christ. This day includes Conferences, Reconciliation, Mass, Adoration, lunch & transportation. Cost: \$59. Please complete an RSVP form with a check payable to St. Raphael's Church, and turn in form and check at the parish office. Forms are available in the parish office or on the circular stand in the east gathering place. **RSVP deadline MARCH 4TH.**

If you have questions, please call Sharon Reinert at 612-242-3200.

ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

The next meeting of the Rosary Society is on Saturday, March 9th at 8:30 am in the Fr. Fenelon Room. All women of the parish are welcome to attend!

[ONGOING EVENTS AT ST. RAPHAEL](#)

"THE WILD GOOSE" (14-part series on the Holy Spirit) Study/Discussion Group meets **Monday evenings 7:00-8:00 pm in the Marian Hall.** Come to any or all of the sessions led by parishioner Shawn Horn.

BEAUTY, TRUTH, GOODNESS: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF CATHOLICISM

Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Fr. Fenelon Room. January 12-April 2. Twelve week course covering the basic teachings of the Catholic Faith presented by Fr. Altier. Come to any or all of the sessions.

LENTEN YOUTH RETREAT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Seeking Answers to Life Questions about Faith and Morality

**Saturday, March 23rd: 9:30 am-5:30 pm
Maternity of Mary Church
1414 Dale St. N., St. Paul, MN**

Cost: \$15.00 per participant

This one-day retreat will include lectures by Fr. Robert Altier, break-out sessions led by young adults, Q&A, lunch, praise & worship music, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, optional vigil Mass and much more! Don't miss this opportunity to enter more deeply into your Lenten journey with Jesus. Parents, register teens at www.LentenRetreat.com

Encounter the Holy Spirit

Lenten Retreat

Based on "In the School of the Holy Spirit" by Jacques Philippe

St. Michael Catholic Church

Cost: \$20.00

Friday, March 8th (7-9 pm): Stations of the Cross, Talk, Adoration

Saturday, March 9th (8 am-3 pm): Confessions, Mass, Talks, Prayer, Music, Adoration. Breakfast and Lunch are provided.

Register now at:

WWW.HOLYSPIRITACADEMY.ORG/ENCOUNTER

Speakers:

Fr. Michael Becker, Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, Fr. Jim Livingston

COMING SOON TO A COMMUNION RAIL NEAR YOU...

One of these days you should notice kneeling pads installed along the entire length of our communion rails. They have been ordered but the date of arrival is unknown. What's the purpose of these pads? Well, they speed up the process of receiving Holy Communion. When people come up for Communion, they will spread out side by side along the Communion rail and wait until the priest or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion arrives to give them Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament or a blessing. One of our parishioners from Africa told me this is common practice where she came from. A few parishes in our Archdiocese do this too. I ran the idea by our Pastoral Council and everyone thought it was a good idea. As now, you will still be able to receive Holy Communion kneeling or standing, on the tongue or in the hand. – Father Rudolph

YOUTH MINISTRY

CONTACT

Questions about the Youth Ministry Programs?
Please contact Anna Scherber at 763-537-8401 x210
or at ascherber@straphaelcrystal.org.

Register for any youth events on the St. Raphael youth website:
www.straphaelyouth.com

OPEN YOUTH ROOM

Open youth room is a time of fellowship, fun, & games.

Junior High: March 5th from 2:20 - 5:00 PM

Senior High: March 6th from 5:00 - 6:45 PM

All Grades: March 22nd from 6:00 - 10:00 PM

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (ROC)

These nights are required for all 9th-10th graders.

Ash Wednesday Mass: March 6th at 7:00 PM in the
main church

Life Night Youth Group: March 13th from 7:00-8:15 pm in
Marian Hall.

CORE TEAM UPDATE:

Core Team Meeting: March 3rd from 6:00-9:00 PM in
Marian Hall.

REBOOT

Wednesday, April 17th ~7:00-9:30 pm

St. Michael Church - St. Michael, MN

Chris Stefanick, an internationally acclaimed author, speaker, and television host, who has devoted his life to inspiring people to live a bold, contagious faith, will be speaking.

The cost of this event is \$25.

For more information about this event, please contact Anna Scherber at the Parish Office x 210.

Tickets will be sold in the East Gathering Area before and after all Masses every weekend until the tickets are sold out.

SCHOOL NEWS



Please consider supporting our school by purchasing SCRIP gift cards for buying your groceries, gas, meals out, and apparel. We get a percentage back on each SCRIP card you buy. For your shopping

convenience we have a variety of gift cards available to take home today. We invite you to stop by the SCRIP desk in the Upper East Gathering Area and pick up your gift cards today. If we don't have what you are looking for, place an order and you will get it next week. Thank you for supporting our school!

SCRIP Desk Volunteers:

March 9th:	5:30 pm Mass:	Sheryl J.
March 10th:	8:30 am Mass:	Jodi E.
	10:30 am Mass:	Erin R.

EXTREME FAITH CAMP
June 22-26, 2019 // Big Sandy Camp in
McGregor, MN
Open to all 6th-8th Grade students
Don't miss the best week of summer!
The pre-registration form can be found on
our youth ministry website.
www.straphaelyouth.com

**Friday
Night
Live**
March 15, 2019
NEW TIME: 6:00-9:00 PM
Open to all 6th-8th graders!
This night is free and will
include dinner, games,
teaching, prayer, & fun!
Bring your friends!

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES:

Saint Agnes School - High School Open House

530 Lafond Avenue, St. Paul

Sunday, March 10, 2019 ~ 1:00 pm

Visit www.SaintAgnesSchool.org for more information.

Benilde-St. Margaret High School Open House

2501 MN-100, St. Louis Park

Thursday, March 14, 2019 ~ 8:30-10:00 am

Visit <https://www.bsmschool.org/> for more information
and to register for open house.

Schwan's Cares Catholic School PHT Fundraiser
Help us raise money with delicious food delivered to your door!

When you order by March 14th, a percentage of your order will be contributed towards our fundraising goal!

Here are two ways to support us:

ORDER ONLINE:

1. Visit schwans-cares.com/c/43143
2. Click "Shop Now"
3. Select team member (if applicable)
4. Start Shopping!

ORDER BY PHONE:

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide when ordering,
Campaign ID 43143 and,
Fundraiser ID (if applicable)

See additional information out on the Parish/School Websites.



"...be doers of the word, and not hearers only." James 1:22

How are you living out your faith? One way to respond to the Gospel call to serve the poor, support life and strengthen faith is by partnering with the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation (CSAF). By doing so, you help hundreds of thousands of people in need: the hungry, the orphan, the sick, suffering, dying and grieving. You assist in ministering to the imprisoned, evangelizing Catholic youth and college students, and strengthening families. You enable the sacraments to be provided to Catholics young and old alike.

The CSAF is an independent non-profit focused solely on supporting 20 designated outreach ministries and nothing else. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining in the good work being done. Simply connect via your mobile device to csafspm.org, or complete a paper pledge form and drop it in the collection basket or mail it directly to the Foundation's office in Plymouth, MN. Thank you from the many ministries of the CSAF. Together, we're transforming lives by God's grace.



Enjoy this wonderful site! It is **FREE** and **EASY** to register!

Follow a few simple Steps: Go to formed.org.

Enter our parish Code **YZG3V4** on the homepage.

Create an account with your user name/email & password.

Start enjoying the best Catholic content for kids and adults (eBooks, movies, CD's, and devotions in English and Spanish) all in one place!!

2019 LENTEN LECTURE SERIES AT ST. AGNES

535 Thomas Avenue, St. Paul, MN

Schuler Hall ~ Following 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

The Church of Saint Agnes hosts its annual Lenten Lectures every Friday evening in Lent following 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross. This year's theme—"Great Spiritual Doctors of the Church"—features presentations on six masters of the Catholic interior life and how they contribute to the Church's understanding of the spiritual life of the faithful. Spend this Lent brushing up on Catholic spirituality with a wonderful line-up of speakers from the Saint Agnes community and beyond. Free and open to the public; light refreshments served. All talks in Schuler Hall.

- **March 8th St. Augustine**
Presented by Dr. David Deavel
- **March 15th St. Catherine of Siena**
Presented by Sr. Mary Margaret O'Brien, OP
- **March 22nd St. Teresa of Avila**
Presented by Sr. Teresa Christi Balek, OP
- **March 29th St. John of the Cross**
Presented by Elizabeth Kelly
- **April 5th St. Francis de Sales**
Presented by Dr. Kevin Ferdinandt
- **April 12th St. Thérèse of Lisieux**
Presented by Fr. Robert Altier

Church of St. Agnes, St. Paul, MN 651-925-8800



SAINT OF THE DAY - SAINT KATHERINE DREXEL

Katherine was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 26, 1858, the second of three children. Her parents were very wealthy; her father was an international banker. They were very generous with their money. They opened their home to the poor of the city three days a week, had a clinic in their house for the sick, and gave away large amounts of money to those in need. They were also devout Catholics; every day the whole family went to Mass and practiced half an hour of mental prayer. When Katherine was in her twenties, both of her parents died, first her step-mother and then her father. He left one tenth of his vast estate to charity and divided the rest among his three daughters. A Benedictine monk, Bishop Martin Marty, approached the Drexels about the plight of the many American Indians who were living in extreme poverty and asked for their assistance. The sisters went to Rome and met twice with Pope Leo XIII. Katherine asked him to send more missionaries to the Indians. The Holy Father encouraged her to be a missionary herself. At first, she was resistant to his suggestion because from a young age she had wanted to join a contemplative religious order. But when she returned to the USA, she went to visit Bishop Marty's territory in the Dakotas, escorted by Father Joseph Stephen, the director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions. The dire poverty of the Indians there, as well their leader Chief Red Cloud, made a deep impression on Katherine and her sisters. She resolved to assist them with her portion of the inheritance. A friend of the family, Bishop O'Connor, suggested to Katherine that she start a new religious congregation that would have as its apostolate "people of color." So, on February 12, 1891, she made her vows, along with thirteen other women, as the first Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Over the course of her missionary life, Katherine founded 145 Catholic missions, which included twelve schools for Indians and fifty for African Americans. She also opened a teacher's college in Louisiana, which eventually became Xavier University in New Orleans. It was one of the first schools of higher education in the U.S.A. to admit people who were not of European descent. Mother Drexel's desire for the contemplative life was fulfilled when, in 1935, she suffered a severe heart attack and spent the next twenty years in prayerful retirement. She fell asleep in the Lord on March 3, 1955. Saint Katherine Drexel, pray for us! (Excerpted and adapted with permission of the Publisher from *Butler's Lives of the Saints, New Full Edition* ©Paul Burns 2003, Published by Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN)

www.washburn-mcreavy.com

Washburn - McReavy

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