

# Parish Life

## Two Parishes, One Mission



### *The Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem*

A woman who as living in Santarem, Portugal was upset that her husband was unfaithful. She decided to consult a sorceress who told her the price of her help was a consecrated host.

She went to Mass at St. Stephen and received the Eucharist on her tongue, removed it and wrapped it in her veil. Before she got out of the church the host began to bleed.

When she got home, she put the bloodied host in a trunk. A miraculous light emanated from the trunk that night. She went the next day she went to confession. The priest came and took the host back to the church. The church was renamed Church of the Holy Miracle and the host remains on display still today.

## Eagerly, Patiently, Prayerfully Waiting

### First Communicants and RCIA Candidate and Catechumen....

Please keep in your prayers our eight young friends who are eagerly awaiting their postponed First Eucharist as well as our Candidate and Catechumen who were to receive their Sacraments on the Easter Vigil. As soon as we are able to join as a community to celebrate Mass we will schedule the new dates!

Let us join together to wrap them as they prayerfully await the opportunity to receive their Sacraments.!

E-Breviary has provided a shareable code for the current Liturgy of the Hours. Aim your cellphone camera on the code to open the page.

Liturgy of the Hours  
Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!



coronavirus emergency  
www.ebreviary.com

Join us  
virtually  
for Mass...



St. Theresa/St. Kunegunda Mass  
And St. Peter the Fisherman  
On our Web Page!

## Central Message of Our Faith

Sometimes today we hear of people who complain that the Mass is not relevant for them. Sadder still are those who have ceased going to Mass altogether, perhaps even priding themselves on their 'independence'.

In the new liturgy we can have difficulties with the Mass which were not there long ago. The change to the vernacular has made us more dependent on the way Mass is celebrated. Nevertheless we must keep clearly in mind that, no matter how poorly the liturgy is carried out, the Mass remains the central mystery of faith and the table of the Bread of Life. What God sets before us in the Mass is much more significant than how people celebrate it. The same miracle of God's love for the ordinary people of this world is there waiting for us, just as it waited on our ancestors. If we do not appreciate it as they did, the difference is ultimately in us, not in the Mass.

Indeed this is part of the point in saying that the Mass is a mystery of faith. Understanding a mystery is not like understanding a problem in arithmetic or geometry. With religious truth the explanation can bring us only part of the way. A further appreciation of the mystery will come only by living it, not just by talking about it. Mysteries of faith are more like the parables in the Gospel. They show us up for what we are. The meaning is revealed only to those who live them, but is concealed from those who refuse to enter into them (Mt 13: 10-15)

Most likely that is why the Mass meant so much to our forebears. It was because they lived the cross in their daily lives that they could appreciate the sacrifice of the cross in the Mass. The Mass is indeed a great wonder, a stirring truth which can sustain us throughout our lives, but it is a hidden treasure that is revealed only toward God's little ones. So if you find yourself saying that the Mass for you is 'irrelevant', be careful! Do not point the finger at the Mass. IN the first place point the finger at yourself.

***From the Eucharist the Church draws her life. From this 'living bread' she draws her nourishment.***  
***(John Paul II)***

~Fr. Ron Serrao



### Act of Perfect Contrition:



The Holy Father has recently drawn attention to the fact that, before Easter, many faithful go to Confession to meet with God again. "However," he acknowledged, "many will say to me today: 'But, Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because one can't leave home? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want Him to embrace me, that my Papa embrace me . . . What can I do if I can't find priests?'"

"Do what the Catechism says," the Pope stressed, "it's very clear: if you don't find a priest to hear your Confession, talk with God, He is your Father, and tell Him the truth: 'Lord, I've done this, and that, and that . . . I'm sorry,' and ask Him for forgiveness with all your heart, with the Act of Contrition and promise Him: 'Afterwards I will go to Confession, but forgive me now.'"

"If you do all this," Francis said, "you will return to God's grace immediately. As the *Catechism* teaches," he reminded, "you yourself can approach God's forgiveness without having a priest at hand. Think: 'it's the moment!' And this is the right moment, the opportune moment. An Act of Contrition well made," Francis said, "will make our soul become white as snow." –

Pope Francis, Daily Mass Homily, Friday of the Third Week in Lent," 20 March 2020, catholicos.org

## Message to Men

**How Great are You:** As a man you were not made to be average but rather you are called to greatness. And as a husband and father, how serious do you take your job and what grade do you think you deserve? Are you doing A work or maybe C or less? Well the fact is you are needed at home and in the wider world to do great things within your family and the greater community. So the question is, what difference are you making in the world and in your family?



**Your Leadership is key:** Don't leave the family's faith life solely to your wife or the CCD teacher. Not only is that a major personal mistake, but it could be a disaster for your children. A popular study indicates the tremendous influence a father has on the religious practice of his children. In fact, it can be safely said that your faith life serves as a model for your kids well into adulthood. A father never stops being an example for his children.

**But it's not just for show:** If you want to be the example for your family and lead your wife and children to heaven, then you have to work on yourself first. Who are you, what do you stand for, do you know your faith, are you truly living and practicing your faith, are you here

to serve, do you put your wife and children ahead of yourself? You are called to be the real deal.

**Become the real deal:** Dedicate yourself to learning and practicing the faith. If your faith life consists of going to weekly mass or to mass on occasion, then it's probably fair to say you have room for growth in this area. The learning and deepening of your faith doesn't stop when you get confirmed, but only when you breathe your final breath on this earth. So if you're not dead yet, there is always more to learn.

**How can I learn more about my faith and become the man I should to be:** The good news is there are other men who are working on becoming better men, better husbands, better fathers, and striving to live a holy life. These men are taking the time to learn more about Jesus and his Church, and working on becoming the man God is calling them to be. These men are your brothers in faith and are here to support you on the journey to heaven. Consider spending some time with these men and getting to know them a little better.

The Men's Group meets on and off throughout the year on Wednesday mornings at 6:30am at St Theresa's. Watch for information in the bulletin. You can also email Dale Maternoski at [dlmater@outlook.com](mailto:dlmater@outlook.com) and get added to the Men's Group email distribution list where information is shared on a regular basis. All men are welcome.

~Dale Maternoski

## Listen to this Podcast!

"You should listen to this podcast!" That is a statement that I use on a weekly, if not daily, basis. My favorite time of the day to listen to a podcast is when I am in the car or at the gym. During these times, I used to press the search button continuously, trying to find something worthwhile to listen too, rarely finding it and always settling for something mediocre. With podcasts, I can feed my soul with whatever it needs that day.

A few of my current playlist favorites are; A podcast for Catholic Women and Catholic Sprouts. Finding time to have deep conversations isn't always easy, but adding a podcast to my daily routine rejuvenates my soul and that is time well spent.

~Kira Bender



### ANCHORED IN THE LORD

[anchoredinthelord.org](http://anchoredinthelord.org)

"These are the homilies of Father David Neuschwander. Fr. David was ordained a priest on June 1st, 2014 at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior, Wisconsin."



### CATHOLIC STUFF

[catholicstuffpodcast.com](http://catholicstuffpodcast.com)

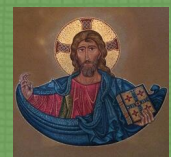
This podcast is hosted by five priests out of the Denver area and is a "lighthearted exploration of various prominent and obscure Catholic topics."



### BULLDOG CATHOLIC

[bulldogcatholic.org/homilies](http://bulldogcatholic.org/homilies)

Archive of the homilies of Fr. Mike Schmitz. This website also contains other resources from the UMD Newman Center.



### Catholic Inspiration

[studyprayserve.com](http://studyprayserve.com)

"Fr. Andrew Ricci, offers inspirational podcasts of homilies and talks given from a variety of pastoral settings. Fr. Andrew is currently the rector of the Cathedral of Christ the King in Superior, WI."



## Ministry, more than just serving

Imagine if you discovered a good friend surprised you by thoroughly washing and detailing your vehicle. Wow! Imagine you had absolutely no idea of what they had planned, and it's not a special occasion. Is your heart filled with gratitude? Do you then begin planning how you will thank them? If we want to respond to such a human act, how should we respond to Jesus? How do we thank Him for all the gifts, big and small, that He gives us every single day?

I choose to show my gratitude by serving Him in various ways. Some of those ways are at Mass, as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector and Greeter at St. Kunegunda. You haven't seen me in those roles yet because I'm not on the schedule until after Easter. Until



them, I'm privileged to be helping prepare our RCIA catechumen which requires attendance at St. Theresa.

My husband, Jeff, and I recently moved to Sugar Camp from Missouri. We left a thriving Parish community and were involved at multiple levels. We look forward to that same sense of community here! We are getting involved, getting to know one another, and getting inspired by the Spirit. Catholics are called to live in communion. Holy Communion unites us with Christ, the Saints, our loved ones who have passed, and with each other. We leave Mass by being sent on mission to witness our faith to others. Each of us has a role to play as part of the Body of Christ. I come to Mass to be nourished and strengthened for this mission! If Mass is so important, I should be willing to serve in the roles needed during Mass. Why should I assume others will take care of the logistics for me?

I am not overly graceful, I will make mistakes, and I will likely even embarrass myself at times as I serve in one capacity or another. But I'm confident you will not hold it against me! There is little risk in getting involved, and the rewards are infinite. I personally thank all of you who say "yes" to serving, singing, ushering, and ministering in a variety of ways. Thank you for setting examples for the young in our parish. Thank you for making the celebration of Mass more meaningful. Thank you for welcoming us into your community.

*~Amy Banken*

## Plenary indulgence for those who offer certain prayers for an end to the pandemic

This indulgence is available for as long as the pandemic lasts to any member of the faithful who meet these requirements:

1. Performance of the work specified in the Indulgence with the intention of gaining an indulgence:
  - Offer one of the following "to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself":
    - A visit to the Blessed Sacrament or Eucharistic adoration
    - Reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour
    - Recitation of the Holy Rosary
    - Pious exercise of the Way of the Cross
    - Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
2. Meeting these three conditions, or having the sincere intention to fulfill them as soon as possible:
  - a. Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
  - b. Reception of Holy Communion
  - c. Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.
3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.



*~USCCB*