SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Pope Francis declared this Sunday, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 26th), to be the Sunday of the Word of God in order to promote a closer relationship with holy scripture and its dissemination in the world. Pope Francis wrote the following in his apostolic letter Aperitif llls "Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God."

"With this Letter, I wish to respond to the many requests I have received from the people of God that the entire Church celebrate, in unity of purpose, a Sunday of the Word of God. It is now common for the Christian community to set aside moments to reflect on the great importance of the word of God for everyday living. The various local Churches have undertaken a wealth of initiatives to make the sacred Scripture more accessible to believers, to increase their gratitude for so great a gift, and to help them to strive daily to embody and bear witness to its teachings. The Second Vatican Council gave great impetus to the rediscovery of the word of God, thanks to its Dogmatic Constitution Dei Verbum, a document that deserves to be read and appropriated ever anew. The Constitution clearly expounds the nature of sacred Scripture, its transmission from generation to generation, its divine inspiration embracing the Old and New Testaments, and the importance of Scripture for the life of the Church. To advance this teaching, Pope Benedict XVI convoked an Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2008 on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church", and then issued the Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini, whose teaching remains fundamental for our communities. That document emphasizes in particular the performative character of the Word of God, especially in the context of the liturgy, in which its distinctively sacramental character comes to the fore. It is fitting, then, that the life of our people be constantly marked by this decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithful witness.
Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God.”
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FIGHT FOR LIFE**
The More Life Baby Bottle Campaign will conclude next weekend, February 1st and 2nd. Please return your baby bottles to the vestibule of the church. The idea is to fill them to the brim with as many coins, bills or checks as you would like to support the cause of life.

**CANDLES AND THE BLESSING OF THE THROATS NEXT WEEKEND**
We have a unique occurrence this year: Feb. 2nd falls on a Sunday. This is Candelmas, which means we have a unique ceremony at the very beginning of Mass that takes an additional 5-15 minutes. It’s at this Mass that we celebrate the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple by the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. It’s a long tradition in our faith to have a procession with candles at the beginning of this Mass, which means we will begin Mass in the vestibule and process into the church. Furthermore, Feb. 3rd is on Monday this year, and the U.S. bishops have permitted and encourage Catholics to receive St. Blaise’s throat blessing at Feb. 1-2 Masses. At the end of those Masses, instead of the normal blessing, we will conclude with the people coming forward to receive the Blessing of the Throats, asking St. Blaise’s intercession to avoid any illness of the throat.

**CATHOLIC CURSILLO MEN’S RETREAT**
The next Cursillo is Feb. 20—23. The 3-day weekend is the start of the Cursillo journey. Those interested in attending must be a stable, adult-aged Catholic who can validly receive the Sacraments. It is suggested that recent converts should wait 2 years before attending. It starts on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Francis in Independence. It concludes Sunday by 8:00 p.m. Those attending the weekend must be able to attend the entire weekend and will stay at the facility. A free will donation is taken up on Sunday to cover the costs of the weekend. Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. Money is never to be a reason for someone to not attend Cursillo. If you are interested in attending, please contact the parish office.

**ST. BRIDGET TO BEGIN HAVING FIRST FRIDAY EVENING MASS**
We will begin having Mass on the first Friday of every month at St. Bridget, beginning in February (Feb. 7th). It will be at 6:00 p.m. with confessions preceding it from 5:25 p.m.—5:55 p.m. See the holy card inserted in this bulletin for information on the First Friday Devotion.

**WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS**
Our parish has recently been blessed with new family members: Alisha and Byron Fuller; Sara, Darren, Addis- son, Charlotte and Graham Doherty; Robert and Don- na Clark; Deklan, Brianna and Daxton Kennedy; and Luke, Kathleen, Hannah, Thomas and Andrew Yager. We are thrilled to have you with us! Please introduce yourselves to other parishioners at church and at parish functions.

**PLU PRECAUTIONS** Hand sanitizer is available in the vestibule. It is perfectly acceptable to refrain from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace.

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**
Go Chiefs! What an exciting time for our area with the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl next Sunday, February 2nd. The Lay Clergy is holding their yearly Souper Bowl before the Super Bowl on February 2nd. While you are purchasing food and drinks for your Super Bowl party, please remember those who are hungry. Please bring canned goods to church with a dollar bill (or a $20 if you’d rather!) secured in rubber band around the can.

**LENT WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES**
Thinking about what to do for Lent this year? Prayer, fast- ing and almsgiving are the cornerstones of this season of prayer. Watch for our Lenten program in your email or via our social media and spend some time with Catholic Charities as part of your Lenten observance. We will have stories, reflections and ways to express your faith through serving others. Contact Nancy Butters, Development Manager at 816-659-8266 or nbutters@charities.com to assure that you are on our email list!

**A NOTE FROM FATHER VOGEL**

Last weekend there was a base camp that I attended. It’s purpose is to help us in the parishes create inten- tional disciples of Jesus Christ that have a missionary zeal. It’s part of our calling since our Baptist to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to those around us. They had a number of golden nuggets in that presenta- tion, also producing graphs showing the rapid decline of Mass attendance across almost every parish in the diocese. The graphs presenting the decline started from 1976 to the present day.

It is no secret that across the globe, church as a whole has greatly diminished as being important in so many people’s lives. We all have relatives and friends that grew up Catholic and have stopped going to church al- together.

We have to recall that in the midst of evangelizing oth- ers, we ourselves need to be inflamed with the fire of God the Holy Spirit. It was this Flame that pushed the 12 Apostles at Pentecost to preach about our Lord Je- sus Christ to the world, and we are called to do the same from the moment of our Confirmation. The few Catholics in the world that still go to Mass on a regular basis on the weekends, many of them attend simply to fulfill an obligation and nothing more. Mass is us realiz- ing the necessity of God’s Mercy for us as we hear sal- vation stories or travel the Word in the Scripture readings and then encountering God’s re-creation of His Sacrifice on the Cross being made present on our Altar.

It doesn’t matter if you are a devout Catholic or a fallen away Catholic, there are two factors that have been consistent in bringing renewal and fervor in our Catholic Church that is shown in our Faith’s history. It is our de- voteion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and our devotion to Mother Mary.

St. John Bosco, an incredible holy man, had a famous devotion to Mother Mary. The interpretation of the dream is the Catholic Church that is shown in our Faith’s history. It is our de- voteion to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, and our devotion to Mother Mary.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

INTENTIONS, READINGS, ANTIPHONS

Saturday, January 25
5:00 p.m. † Patty Ruth (Bible Study)

Sunday, January 26
The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. St. Bridget Parishioners
Is 8:23-24, 31-32 | Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14 | 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 | Mt 4:12-23 or Mt 4:12-17
ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 66 (65): 4
All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 34 (33): 6
Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.
Or: Jn 8: 12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
† Deceased
Confessions prior to weekday and Sunday Masses
Rosary prayed 30 minutes prior to weekend Masses
Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed prior to Tuesday morning Mass

REPORTING ABUSE
The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:
1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at (816) 812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org. If the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City — St. Joseph.
The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Services Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at (816) 392-0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 96 (95): 1, 6
O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendor, strength and honor in his holy place.
COMMUNION ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 34 (33): 6
Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.
Or: Jn 8: 12
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
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24-HOUR EUCHARISTICADORATION
JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2
Sign up sheets are in the vestibule for 24-hour adoration on the fifth Friday of the month. There are times available from Friday, January 31st at 5:00 p.m. through Saturday, February 2nd at 4:00 p.m. Two adorers are needed during each hour. Won’t you spend some time with our Lord?

CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY FAMILY
St. Bridget Sons of Mercy Knights of Columbus Council will host our first annual Consecration to the Holy Family event, January 27th through February 2nd. We invite each family in the parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family and to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God’s love through his Church. We will hand out special prayer cards at Masses on January 26th and 26th. On this prayer card, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Families will be asked to do special things together during the week, to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family. Families are encouraged to do at least one thing together, every day that week. Examples of family activities could be to:
Pray the Rosary, attend Mass during the week, read bible stories, reach out to a distant family member, receive the sacrament of confession, eat at least one meal together every day, fast from something for one week (this could be fasting from a food or an activity that you would normally enjoy), recite the special Prayer Card together at least once a day.
Bring your prayer cards to Mass the weekend of February 1st and 2nd. Prayer cards will be read together at both Masses, concluding the Consecration to the Holy Family!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Saturday, January 25
4:30 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, January 26
7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass
5:00 p.m. Confirmation
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. EDGE Middle School Youth Group

Monday, January 27
No Mass

Tuesday, January 28
8:25 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. Confessions
8:25 a.m. Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet
9:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday, January 29
5:25 p.m. - 5:55 p.m. Confessions
6:00 p.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. SOR beginning with Mass
6:30 p.m. That Man Is You
6:30 p.m. Women of Faith

Thursday, January 30
8:25 a.m. - 8:55 a.m. Confessions
9:00 a.m. Mass
After Mass - 8:00 p.m. Adoration

Friday, January 31
4:30 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Saturday, February 1
4:30 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, February 2
7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Confession
7:30 a.m. Rosary
8:00 a.m. Mass
5:00 p.m. Confirmation
6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. EDGE Middle School Youth Group

This Week at St. Bridget Parish