

## PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

I am not a proponent of doing the minimum when it comes to living the Catholic Faith. The Church, however, does give us a list of minimums called the "Precepts of the Church" to see how we are measuring up against the most basic requirements asked of us.

Holy Week affords a time to consider these five precepts.

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

In the Mass, we place into God's hands who we are and what we have. God accepts them, transforms them into Himself, and then places himself into our hands. It's the best deal we're going to get, so don't trade it cheaply. Intentionally skipping Sunday Mass is a serious sin.

2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.

This is generally interpreted to mean if you have committed serious sin you must confess once a year. But as this is a continuation of Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an indispensable tool for living a holy life.

3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season. This isn't a problem today, as nearly everyone comes forward to receive Communion. In centuries past, however, the practice was reversed. Very few felt themselves worthy to receive, some taking the Eucharist only at their first communion and at the very end of their life. The Eucharist is to be revered, but it's also remedial, the source and summit of our hope!

4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. We have very few of these: Lenten Fridays, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. But it speaks to a larger point: are we willing to do a little penance for a greater spiritual good?

5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

No, I'm not asking for more money! The Church has much greater needs than financial ones. It needs us to be as holy as possible. It needs us each to be curious enough about God to engage Him in prayer, study, and service. The Church needs us to support it by volunteering for parish ministries and instructing and raising our children in the intentional discipleship of Jesus Christ. Each of those and more are crucial needs in the Church.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

Fr. Seth

## OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### THE WEEK OF 3/11/18

St. Mary's \$1649	Budget (\$1,900) -\$251
Sacred Heart \$1014	Budget (\$900) +\$114
Visitation \$377	Budget (\$400) -\$23
St. Sebastian \$891	Budget (\$400) +\$491

### SECOND COLLECTION - Catholic Charities

St. Mary's \$403	Sacred Heart \$305
Visitation BVM \$190	St. Sebastian \$81

## LONGITUDE

2018 Mar 18 SUN:

11:00am, Lenten Speaker: Sr. Karolyn Nunes, FSGM, St. Mary's Church, Cinnamon Rolls to follow in Parish Center.

2018 Mar 21 Wed:

Fr. Seth will be away, no morning Mass at Sacred Heart.

2018 Mar 23 Fri:

7:00pm, Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's, New Berlin

March 29, Holy Thursday:

7:00pm, Visitation BVM, Alexander

March 30, Good Friday:

Second Collection: Holy Land

7:00pm, St. Sebastian, Waverly

March 31, Holy Saturday:

8:00pm, St. Mary's, New Berlin

April 1, Easter Sunday:

Second Collection: Seminarians

8:00am, Sacred Heart, Franklin

9:30am, St. Sebastian, Waverly

11:00am, Visitation BVM, Alexander

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vernon & Mary Hemberger, Jack Glisson, David Hermes, Charles & Alice Walk, Nancy Flach, Cecelia Peters, Roseanne Hartley, Calyssa Richie, Dale Fitzpatrick, Mary McCray, Carl Bertolotti, Heather Boudreau, Don & Margaret Laughery, Jane Ryan, Jean Knight, Tina Green, Sy & Judy Haber, Donna Reichart, Presley Kerber, Joyce Henn, Olivia Loving, George Eck, Opal Sutera, Theresa Yates.