



# February 22, 2026

## First Sunday of Lent

Sat, Feb 21, 5:00PM (St. Henry) Special Intention  
 Sat, Feb 21, 7:00PM (Holy Cross) † Norbert & Vivian Rohr  
 Sun, Feb 22, 8:00AM (St. Henry) For the People  
 Sun, Feb 22, 8:30AM (Sacred Heart) † Art Riestenberg  
 Sun, Feb 22, 10:00AM (St. Henry) † Renee Doll  
 Sun, Feb 22, 10:30AM (St. Lawrence) † Dave Frandsen  
 Tue, Feb 24, 8:45AM (St. Henry) † Joyce Doll  
 Tue, Feb 24, 7:00PM (Sacred Heart) Living & Deceased Christian Mothers  
 Wed, Feb 25, 8:30AM (St. Lawrence) † Vickie Rutten  
 Wed, Feb 25, 5:15PM (Holy Cross) No Mass  
 Thu, Feb 26, 8:30AM (Sacred Heart) † Elizabeth Mertes  
 Thu, Feb 26, 8:45AM (St. Henry) † Ray Schmitz  
 Fri, Feb 27, 8:30AM (St. Lawrence) Special Intention  
 Fri, Feb 27, 10:00AM (Perham Living) † Marilyn Siebels  
 Sat, Feb 28, 5:00PM (St. Henry) For the People  
 Sat, Feb 28, 7:00PM (Holy Cross) † Michael & Billy Loeffen  
 Sun, Mar 1, 8:00AM (St. Henry) Living & Deceased Members of Catholic Daughters Court St. Rita  
 Sun, Mar 1, 8:30AM (Sacred Heart) † Eugene Klinnert  
 Sun, Mar 1, 10:00AM (St. Henry) † George McLaughlin & † Ben Kieselbach  
 Sun, Mar 1, 10:30AM (St. Lawrence) † Frank & Jackie Lachowitz

**Financial Blessing for February 14th**

Adult.....	790.00	Plate.....	5.00
Votives.....	12.00		
		<b>Total.....</b>	<b>807.00</b>

*Thank you for remembering Holy Cross Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.*

**Financial Blessing for February 15th**

Adult.....	1,540.00	Plate.....	286.00
Youth.....	15.00	Elec. Transfers.....	195.00
Cen. MN Cath.....	17.00	Ash Wednesday.....	10.00
		<b>Total.....</b>	<b>2,063.00</b>

*Thank you for remembering Sacred Heart Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.*

**Financial Blessing for February 14th & 15th**

Adult.....	14,682.00	Plate.....	798.25
Children's Basket.....	86.00	Elec. Transfers.....	5,244.60
Other.....	147.00		
		<b>Total.....</b>	<b>20,957.85</b>

*Thank you for remembering St. Henry Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.*

**Financial Blessing for February 15th**

Adult.....	1,649.00	Youth.....	20.00
Elec. Transfers.....	220.00	Plate.....	625.00
Candles.....	109.00	Cen. MN Cath.....	68.00
Ash Wednesday.....	80.00		
		<b>Total.....</b>	<b>2,771.00</b>

*Thank you for remembering St. Lawrence Church with your Stewardship throughout the year.*



### Lenten Stations of the Cross

Sacred Heart: Wed. 8:00PM ( Rel. Ed.) & Thurs. after Mass  
 St. Lawrence: Wed. 6:30PM (Rel. Ed.) & Friday after Mass  
 Holy Cross: Wed. 5:15PM Feb. 25, Mar. 11, & Mar. 25  
 St. Henry: Fridays at 5:00PM  
 Perham Living: Thurs. at 11:00AM



**BULLETIN DEADLINE: Tuesday Noon**

# ST. LAWRENCE UPCOMING EVENTS

## ST. LAWRENCE



Faith Formation

**Wed., February 25:** All Grades; Stations of the Cross at 6:30PM followed by class.

**Wed., March 4:** All Grades; Stations of the Cross at 6:30PM followed by class.

**Wed., March 11:** All Grades; Stations of the Cross and Confessions.

**Stephanie VonRuden-Faith Formation Director**  
218-298-1050 or [steph@ncacc.net](mailto:steph@ncacc.net)



Thank You! Thank You! to all who bought chances on The Blackstone Grill and all of it's contents, and supported the St Lawrence Christian Women's fundraiser! The winner was Joe Lachowitz! Congratulations Joe!

St Lawrence Café will not be open in March. We will reopen after Lent on April 8.



There are **Personal Care Bags** hanging in the hallway by the kitchen. Some are empty, some have a few items in them, and some only need one or a few items to complete the list attached to the bag. Please feel free to add needed items and check them off the list. Full bags of basic necessities will be collected and given to a variety of agencies in the area who give them to people in difficult circumstances who are in transition. Thank you for your generosity.

The 40 Days for Life Spring Vigil begins February 18 and runs until March 29. There are many opportunities to pray in front of the Moorhead abortion clinic. Please check [40daysforlife.com/en/moorhead](http://40daysforlife.com/en/moorhead) to sign up for vigil hours. All are invited to join Bishop Cozzens for the closing ceremony in front of the Moorhead Abortion clinic on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM. For more information contact Bonnie Spies, Sidewalk Counselor at 701-241-9574.



### Catholic Men's Conference

Final Call: Men's Conference this Saturday!

Don't miss the final opportunity to register for the 2026 Catholic Men's Conference happening this Saturday, February 28 at St. John's University. The cost is just \$40 or \$10 for young men ages 15-22. Register today at: <https://stcdio.org/event/catholic-mens-conference-2026/> and get fortified, strengthened, and coached to live the battle of life.

**Cemetery News** Rick Guck is the sexton of St Lawrence Cemetery. Please, contact Rick (218-849-5488) or the parish office (218-346-7729) with any questions regarding cemetery plots.

TAKE time for yourself this Lenten Season and plan to attend our Lenten Retreat --- "Praying for the Prodigal" which will be held Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Morris, MN and includes speakers, Jason Prigge and Roxane Salonen, the Chaplet to St. Monica, Mass, and of course, lunch. Fee is \$25 by March 2 or \$30 at the door. Feel free to invite your spouse and friends.



**Children's Collections:** The February Children's Collections will be designated for the New York Mills Backpack Program.



**Are you living the Be-Attitudes?** CENTRAL MINNESOTA KOINONIA is a weekend Catholic retreat program sponsored by the St Cloud Diocese and is designed for adults to help you on your faith journey. The next retreat is scheduled for March 20-22, 2026, at the TEC Center north of Little Falls, Minnesota. Cost of the weekend is \$70. Go to [www.centralmnkoinonia.org](http://www.centralmnkoinonia.org) for more information and to register for retreats.

### WINTER WEATHER POLICY

When school is cancelled due to weather, there will be no Masses, no Adoration, and offices will be closed at all the NCACC parishes. If school is two hours late, Adoration will begin at noon and all morning Masses will be cancelled, but evening Masses may take place, if weather permits. For any other weather related announcements refer to My parish app or the NCACC Facebook page.



<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Fr. Omar Guanche, E-mail: <a href="mailto:fatheromar@ncacc.net">fatheromar@ncacc.net</a></b>	<b>Em: 218-346-4240 *Press 7</b>
<b>Parochial Vicar:</b>	<b>Fr. Nathaniel Daubner, E-mail: <a href="mailto:fathernathaniel@ncacc.net">fathernathaniel@ncacc.net</a></b>	<b>Phone: 218-457-3984</b>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<b>Deacon Richard Quistorff; <a href="mailto:deaconrichard@ncacc.net">deaconrichard@ncacc.net</a></b>	<b>Phone: 720-688-1015</b>
	<b>Deacon Randy Altstadt; <a href="mailto:deaconrandy@ncacc.net">deaconrandy@ncacc.net</a></b>	<b>Phone: 218-457-0925</b>
<b>Business Manager:</b>	<b>Ann Koll; <a href="mailto:ann@ncacc.net">ann@ncacc.net</a></b>	<b>Phone: 218-346-4240</b>



**St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Rush Lake**  
46404 County Highway 14  
Perham, MN 56573  
Phone: (218) 346-7729 Fax: (218) 346-5946  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00AM-Noon  
Email: [sandi@ncacc.net](mailto:sandi@ncacc.net)  
**Parish Website: [sacredheartstlawrencecatholicchurches.com](http://sacredheartstlawrencecatholicchurches.com)**



# SACRED HEART UPCOMING EVENTS

**“Seeds to Grow”** Sacred Heart “Seeds to Grow” is for those who are sick, injured or are in need of financial assistance due to their medical circumstances. If you know of anyone who needs our help, please submit a request to Sacred Heart Church, Dent, or call Mary at 218-758-2032. Request forms are available on the Sacred Heart bulletin board.

**Catholic United Financial Meeting**  
**Date:** Sunday March 1  
**Time:** After 8:30am Mass  
**Location:** Sacred Heart Church Basement



**Navigating Your Grief Monthly Support Group**  
 No one should have to face grief alone. This group offers a safe, caring space to share, listen, and find support with others who understand. Whether your loss is recent or years past, you are welcome here.  
 Join our open group on the third Thursday of each month from 2-3pm in our Elevate Conference Room (318 6th Ave SW, Perham). The sessions will be hosted by Vivie Hospice. Registration is not required.  
 For more information or questions, contact Vivie at 320-759-4935 or trisha.zimmerman@vivie.org.

**Hearts of Mercy - Bishop's Annual Appeal:** Blessings to you as we enter this first week of Lent. If you have yet to see our 2026 Video, please take a moment to learn more about ministries that form agents of compassion and build the kingdom of God right here in Central Minnesota. You can use your smartphone or visit <https://youtu.be/IfuRqcZTnDI>



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Contact the Parish Offices**

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:** Diocesan Policy requires that the Pastor be contacted at least 6 months before the anticipated date of marriage to allow time for premarital inventory, instructions and planning.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** ½ Hour before Weekend Masses at Sacred Heart, St. Lawrence and Holy Cross; Third Saturday from 6:00PM– 7:00PM at Holy Cross. Tuesday & Thursday, 8:15AM-8:45AM; Saturday, 4:00PM—4:45PM (Before 5:00PM Mass) at St. Henry

**Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Offices**

**Trustees:** Brenda Aschnewitz & Jan Januszewski (Sacred Heart); Jack Werner & Andy Klinnert (St. Lawrence); Mark Halbakken & Lisa Hemmelgarn (St. Henry); Dawn Swanz & Jason Schik (Holy Cross)

**Northern Cross Area Catholic Community Pastoral Council Members:** Chelsey Hendrickx, Dawn Swanz, Dan Schik (Holy Cross); Brenda Aschnewitz, Mark Riestenberg, Kenny Moenkendick (Sacred Heart) Gina Cavanagh, Ken Guck, Jason Smith (St. Henry); Sandi Carrlson, Jack Werner, Caleb Carrlson (St. Lawrence)



**Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Dent**  
 36963 State Highway 108  
 Dent, MN 56528  
 Phone: (218) 758-2700  
 Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:00AM-1:00PM  
 Email: sandi@ncacc.net  
**Parish Website:** [sacredheartstlawrencecatholicchurches.com](http://sacredheartstlawrencecatholicchurches.com)



# FAITH Formation SACRED HEART

**Wed., February 25:** 1-11; 7:00PM; Stations @ 8:00PM.  
**Sat., February 28:** Grade 2 & Family; 9:00AM; First Reconciliation.  
**Wed., March 4:** Pre/K-11; 7:00PM; Stations @ 8:00PM.  
**Wed., March 11:** Pre/K-11; 7:00PM; Stations @ 8:00PM.

**Diane Sazama-Faith Formation Director**  
 218-849-7520 or email [woolvacres@arvig.net](mailto:woolvacres@arvig.net)

Please remember in your prayers our children who will receive their First Reconciliation on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at Sacred Heart: *Lexi Berry, Mila Helmeke, Emilia Honer, Ashton Hoppe, Ainsley Marsh, Laikynn Sazama, Neo Schlosser, Isabel Stenger, Miles Winter, and Caleb Wiskow.*



**CRS Rice Bowl**  
 Rice bowls are available at the church entrances. Please take one home and be generous. CRS works on our behalf to care for the poorest in our world and to end global poverty.

**Cemetery News** Tim Stoll (218-841-4251) and John Kratzke (218-758-2275) (Sacred Heart) and Mark Riestenberg (218-731-2867) (St Joseph) are the sextons of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Cemeteries. Please, contact them or the parish office (218-758-2700) with any questions regarding cemetery plots.

Congratulations to our Calendar Raffle winners this week. 2-18-26-Joe Tschida-\$50 and 2-20-26-Betty Murphy-\$100



**Fun Fair 2026**

We will be having our Fun Fair at the school on Sunday, March 15 from 11-2:30. We are in need of donations for our auctions and to offset expenses. If you are able to help, please let us know by contacting Jason at 218-346-6190 or [sthenryschool@arvig.net](mailto:sthenryschool@arvig.net). You can also just stop by the school as well. Thanks for your assistance, and we hope to see you at the Fun Fair on March 15.

Let's start thinking about the silent auction. The following items are the class theme baskets for this year: **PreK**-Lawn and Garden Basket; **K**-Family Game Basket; **1-MN** Fun Basket; **2**-Grilling Basket; **3**-Kitchen Basket; **4**-Man's Basket; **5**-Camping Basket; **6**-Cozy Coffee Basket

**Jason Smith, Principal**  
218-346-6190 or [sthenryschool@arvig.net](mailto:sthenryschool@arvig.net)



**Are you looking for a special way to help at church?** Have you considered helping decorate St. Henry for the Easter season? There will be pictures provided to show how the church has been decorated in past years, and the current chairs will help guide you through the process by meeting with you. If decorating your home is something that brings you joy, we would love to have your help! You don't have to decorate alone-there are always volunteers who step forward to place flowers, etc., but we really need a chairperson to oversee the process. If this sounds up your alley, please give the church a call or stop by the parish office.

**Join Us for a 3 Day Retreat for Catholic Men**  
**Men's Retreat: Let the Fire Fall - Embracing a Modern Day Pentecost**, March 13-15, 2026 at the Sisters of St Francis Retreat & Conference Center in Hankinson, ND. For more information and to register visit [www.ecclesiadomestica.net](http://www.ecclesiadomestica.net)



**For Sale:** 2020 Nissan Rogue with 32,000 miles for \$20,000. This car belongs to a former parishioner who was recently deported to Mexico. Contact Fr. Omar for details.



**Wed., February 25:** All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM  
**Wed., March 4:** All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM  
**Wed., March 11:** All Grades; 6:30-7:30PM

**Michelle Szama, DRE**  
218-849-9660 or [michelle@ncacc.net](mailto:michelle@ncacc.net)

**Pancake Breakfast**

Join us this Sunday, February 22nd in the St. Henry fellowship hall for a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice! 8:30AM-12:30PM. Free Will Offering. Hosted by the Perham Area Knights of Columbus.



**We are looking for people to commit to spending a scheduled hour a week with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at Adoration at St. Henry.** *We are looking for adorers for Mondays from 2-3pm and Wednesdays from 10-11am & 3-4pm. We are looking for a substitute for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4pm during the month of April.* If you would be interested in taking any of these time slots, please call the parish office at 218-346-4240.

**Catholic Schoolhouse**, a new local homeschool program, is currently registering families for the 2026/2027 academic year in Wadena. More than an academic co-op, Catholic Schoolhouse is a structured program meeting weekly for homeschoolers that includes chorus, two hours of classroom instruction, hands-on science, art projects, and opportunities for socializing after class. Interested families, please contact Morgan Roth at [morganroth0904@gmail.com](mailto:morganroth0904@gmail.com).

**Community Outreach Ministry** has an urgent need for beds of any size for families in our area. Please call Cindy Olson at 218-849-8658 if you have these items.

**Text App to 55321**  
to download our parish app!  
Search for "Northern Cross Area Catholic Community"



**Cemetery News** Mike Johnson (St. Stan) (218) 849-0501 and Ron Berns (St. Henry) (218) 298-0545 are the sextons of St. Stan and St. Henry Cemeteries. Please contact them with any questions regarding cemetery plots.

**St. Henry's Catholic Church of Perham**  
234 2nd Ave SW  
Perham, MN 56573  
Phone: (218) 346-4240  
Email: [chelsey@ncacc.net](mailto:chelsey@ncacc.net)

# HOLY CROSS NEWS

Adoration is held on the third Saturday of the month at 6:00PM.



Please watch the bulletin for changes in the Wednesday Mass schedule as during Lent when Stations of the Cross are scheduled Mass will not be offered.

**Holy Cross Fish Fries will be February 20th & 27th.** Sign up sheets are out if you are able to help.



Easter lilies can once again be ordered in memory or in honor of someone. Cost is \$10; forms are on the table in the entry.

Whist at St. John's (Corliss) Tuesday at 1:00PM.

Cards will be played every Thursday at 1:00PM.



Please pray for those in need of healing in our parishes: Joyce (Huebsch) Bauer, Kathi Schmitz, Keith Friedsam, Dave Hammers, Sue Kalinoski

**All military personnel, especially:** Derick Burr, Greg Hirschey, Sandra Silbernagel, Nicholas Melz, Miguel Martinez, Noah

Zeleny, Tyler Van Watermulen, Andrew Schlosser  
*Always remember in prayer our leaders in faith, especially: Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Patrick Neary, Bishop Emeritus Donald Kettler, Dcn Randy Altstadt, Dcn Richard Quistorff, Fr. Omar Guanchez, and Fr. Nathaniel Daubner.*



### Holy Cross Faith Formation Schedule

**Wed., Feb 25:** Class 4:15-5:15PM; Evening Class 6:40-7:40PM

**Wed., Mar 4:** Class 4:15-5:15PM; Lent Confessions for grades 3-6.

**Wed., Mar 11:** Class 4:15-5:15PM; Evening Class 6:40-7:40PM

Thank you to everyone who attended our Valentine's Day dinner. A big thank you to Jacob and Jana Hendrickx for donating the ground beef. An additional thank you to the extra volunteers who helped with clean up. It was a huge success raising \$697.08 for the Holy Cross Youth.



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH**  
 Meals prepared by Holy Cross Parishioners  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH\***  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH\***  
 Meals prepared by St. Henry Parishioners

\$15-Adult  
 \$7-Children 6-12  
 Free-Children 5 & Under

**5:00pm-7:00pm**  
 St. Henry's School Gym

**MENU:**  
 FISH, BAKED POTATO, VEGETABLE,  
 COLESLAW, FRENCH BREAD,  
 BARS & BEVERAGES

**DINE IN OR TAKE OUT**  
 To pre-order your take-out,  
 call 218-346-4240 from 8:30am-1:00pm!

\*This event is eligible for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1,000.  
 Your local Member Advisor:

Sexton for Holy Cross cemetery is Edgar Hendrickx who can be contacted at 298-2434 or 385-3850.

**OFFICE HOURS: (HOLY CROSS):** Call Faye Hendrickx: (218) 385-3850

**(SACRED HEART):** Monday & Thursday : From 9:00 AM-1:00PM, (218) 758-2700

**(ST.LAWRENCE):** Tuesday & Wednesday: From 9:00 AM-12 Noon, (218) 346-7729

**(ST. HENRY):** Monday-Friday: From 8:30 AM—1:00PM, (218) 346-4240

**Holy Father's Prayer Intention for February**  
**For children with incurable diseases**

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

<b>New School Capital Campaign Update</b>	
<b>Complete Project</b>	\$8,100,000.00
<b>Pledged</b>	\$8,347,752.00
<b>Pledges to be Received</b>	\$373,134.00
<b>Received</b>	\$7,974,618.00
<b>Monies Received 02-15</b>	\$1,762.00
<b>Households Contributing</b>	350

<b>Readings for the Week</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18	Mt 25:31-46
<b>Tuesday</b>	Is 55:10-11	Mt 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jon 3:1-10	Lk 11:29-32
<b>Thursday</b>	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25	Mt 7:7-12
<b>Friday</b>	Ez 18:21-28	Mt 5:20-26
<b>Saturday</b>	Dt 26:16-19	Mt 5:43-48
<b>Sunday</b>	Gn 12:1-4a	2 Tm 1:8b-10
	Mt 17:1-9	



**Holy Cross Catholic Church of Butler**  
 57189 Co. Hwy 62 New York Mills, MN  
 Phone (218) 385-2201 or (218) 385-3850  
 Email: faye@ncacc.net

**Parish Website:** <https://www.parishfaith.com/holy-cross---butler>

Please let the advertisers know you saw their ad in the bulletin.

 <p>100 Jake Street, Perham, MN (218) 346-5175 www.SchoenebergerFH.com</p>	<p>ALL CREATURES VETERINARY HOSPITAL 905 Jenny Ave, Perham, MN 56573 218-346-PETS (7387)</p> <p>Dr. Raeanne Tisdell-Covington, DVM Dr. Ciarrin Sailer, DVM Dr. Darl Enga, DVM Dr. Lani Vincent, DVM</p> <p>allcreaturesperham.com</p>		
 <p>EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS WITH HIGHER QUALITY PRODUCTS AND SERVICE</p>	 <p>117 East Main Street   Vergas, MN 56587 218.849.2509</p>	 <p>Perham Dairy Queen 802 - 3rd Ave SE 218-346-4070</p> <p>Marc &amp; Mike Winjum U.S. Pat. Off. Am.D.Q. Corp. Copyright, 1989 Am. D.G.</p>	 <p>218-346-3900 OWNERS: GREG, TONY, JONNIE, COLE &amp; RYAN "ROO" SCHMITZ</p>
 <p>218-346-4688 Cell: 218-298-1477</p>	 <p>218-346-6200 Over 42 years of Service</p>	 <p>3D RENDERING AVAILABLE! CALL US ABOUT YOUR UPCOMING PROJECT 218-298-0676</p>	 <p>Solving local water problems since 1984.</p> <p>Lake Country RainSoft 231 Main St West, Ottertail, MN 56571 218-367-7873 * 1-800-450-1212</p>
 <p>From our family to yours.</p>	 <p>Becky King Rep since 2005 (218) 841-4600 BKing@catholicunited.org</p>	 <p>Knights of Columbus Perham Area Council 1773 Join the Knights at kofc.org/joinus</p>	 <p>Preschool to 6th Grade 218-346-6190</p>
<p>CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT ST. RITA PERHAM, MN</p> <p>Serving the community for 105 years</p> <p>TO JOIN, CONTACT REGENT LEANNE STOLL AT 218-758-3050</p>	<p>FLORENCE HAMMERS RENTAL PROPERTIES Perham, MN 218-346-6770</p>	<p>FIVE STAR STORAGE East Industrial Park, Perham Secure Location, Rodent Deterrent Call for your inside or secure outside storage needs. 218-346-7925</p>	 <p>255 3rd Ave SE Perham, MN 56573 218-346-6250 www.overlandinsurance.com</p>
 <p>5:30 am - 3 pm (Mon-Sat) 8 am - 2 pm (Sun) 136 W. Main St Perham (218) 346-5920</p>	 <p>Open 24 hours a day 7 days a week</p> <p>Keystone Inc. 211 Market Drive Perham, MN 56573 Phone: 218-346-6750 Fax: 218-346-0752 thefreshplace.com</p>	 <p>www.hci-mn.com 218-346-2195</p>	<p>ROHDE INSURANCE SERVICES Writing all lines of insurance.</p>  <p>WESTERN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF MINNESOTA 218-739-3295</p> <p>Mickey Rohde, Dianne Rohde-Szarke &amp; staff</p>
 <p>218.346.3530   218.346.2138 EsserPlumbingandHeating.com</p>	 <p>Water Treatments Reverse Osmosis Bottled Water Softener Salt</p> <p>Quality &amp; Service at an affordable price! www.BenHolzerUnlimited.com Call Adam or Char at 218-346-6445</p>		



**Stewardship**  
HOSPITALITY • PRAYER • FORMATION • SERVICE

**Stewardship as a Way of Life:**

*"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'"*

*Matthew 4:10*

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.



*You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*

**Matthew 4:10**

Bishop Patrick Neary said in a homily last year “We must die before we die” That line stayed with me. Dying to oneself is something we don’t practice during Lent only, but during our lifetime. If we want to be raised with Christ to eternal life, we must die to our passions and sinful habits, take up our cross and follow Jesus! I pray that your Lenten practices may be of much spiritual benefit for you and those around you.

Lent is a special time to develop a stronger willpower. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert where He was tempted by Satan. Jesus didn’t fall in any of the devil’s traps and by doing so He taught us faithfulness to God the Father.

We all face temptations and those who love the Lord know that the clean of heart will see God. A saint of the Church, St Francis de Sales, teaches us about how to fight temptations. In his writings, he affirms that seeking God’s help is primordial. Without God’s help we will fail. He also said that we should diligently resist small temptations as well as large temptations. Small sins lead to greater sins! The saint said that we should not waste time arguing with the devil. He doesn’t deserve that attention. Just give him the same answer Jesus gave him “Get away, Satan.” Also, being occupied in holy things is of big help. They say: “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop, and idle minds are his playground” Volunteering and serving others make a difference in our spiritual life! Another piece of advice is to be able to share our struggles with a spiritual director. The devil doesn’t want us to talk about the evil desires of our hearts with anybody, because he knows that Confessing our evil desires gives us power over our sinful inclinations. This is proof that the Sacrament of Confession is a tremendous blessing for our sanctification and salvation. Let us take advantage of it!

Finally, we need to pray often and attend Mass. The Lord will help us to resist temptations, but we need His grace and divine assistance. The Holy Mass is the ultimate source of His sanctifying grace.

Let us be more determined in saying No to temptations and be faithful to God with all our being!

Fr Omar

\*\*\*\*\*

This Lent will be a bit challenging for me at a personal level. My two sisters will leave the US along with my nieces and brother-in-law due to the expiration of their temporary work permit. As much as they would like to continue their American dream journey, present laws make it impossible. They're grateful to God for the opportunity of working in the US for the last two years and for the wonderful people they have met here. I am grateful for our brief period of time together and for the good memories. Separation hurts but God is our strength and our shield, and He will open new doors somewhere else. Please know that we appreciate the friendship of the parishioners that have welcomed us with warmth and kindness. It's a sign of God's presence among us!

On the other hand, I would like to share some great news. Fr Leo Moenkedick plans to retire next summer, and he wants to move into our ACC. He told Fr Nathaniel and I that his plan is to help with Masses. It will be so wonderful to have his help! As I said previously, The Diocese is projecting to have only one priest here in the future; and having a retired priest living in one of our parish houses and willing to offer Masses is a gift from heaven. May God bless him and keep him healthy!

Finally, I just want to tell you that there is a high probability that I will be going on a pilgrimage this Fall. A friend told me that Fr Rocky, the director of Relevant Radio, will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October. It's one of my dream trips and I am seriously thinking of signing up for this one. A pilgrimage with Fr Rocky and a bunch of good Catholic Radio listeners sounds very good to me. Check it out if you are interested (Relevant Radio website).

Again, I wish you all a very good Lenten season. Pray more, give more, resist all temptations with the help of the Lord and know that God is near to those who love Him with a sincere heart.

  
Fr Omar Guanchez  
Pastor