

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11, 2024

St. Michael's, Spalding—St. Theresa's, Ericson—Sacred Heart, Greeley

SUNDAY SCRIPTURES
February 18: Genesis 9:8-15
 Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9
 1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 1:12-15

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"You Can Make Me Clean"

Dear Parishioners, This Sunday, Mark tells the story of Jesus and the man with leprosy with moment-enhancing emotion. Maybe it was just that Mark had discovered that the time of

Jesus' life overflowed with moments of profound meaning and Mark dedicated himself to communicating them.

The Mediterranean culture in which Jesus lived was 'group-oriented', where people were connected to one another and lived communally. Yet, lepers became isolated outcasts, cut off from their physical and spiritual community. When the leper came to Jesus, he was doing something forbidden. Instead of respecting the law that relegated him to the margins of society, he knelt down in front of Jesus as to one who not only had the power to help him, but who could also exercise the freedom to do what the law would not and could not do: to accept and heal rather than banish him. Speaking with the audacity of someone who has no other options, the man summoned Jesus to reveal what he was all about: "If you wish, you can make me clean."

According to Mark, the man's request stirred Jesus to his depths. Even before he could speak, his hand was reaching out, touching the man's spurned and suffering body, transforming it with tenderness. Then pronouncing the words that explained his gesture and made his will effective, Jesus said, "I do will it. Be made clean." What gave this story its "thickness" was the man's vulnerable openness and honesty and Jesus' spontaneous tenderness. It is a beautiful story.

But, what does it tell those who do not suffer from leprosy? First of all, the story calls us to a recognition of all that we share with the leper. Since his condition was obvious, society ordered him to hide away from sight. We, on the other hand, are quite adept at hiding our weakness and the unsightly, sinful aspects of our life. Perhaps the worst of it is that we can hide them from ourselves, believing in the image we project rather than the truth of who we are. Our friend, the one-time leper, would remind us that Christ can only touch and heal what we bring before him; if we don't bring our genuine self, we will never truly encounter Christ. He might add that we never hear of Jesus reaching out and touching someone who was self-sufficient, but only those who knew they needed him. What is vital is the courage to place our truest self before God as well as the vulnerability to allow God to touch and transform us. Whether we ask for healing or forgiveness or inspiration, we can trust what Jesus said: "I do will it!"

With love and prayers, *Fr. Lawrence*

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT	02/10	4:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Bud Keber
SUN	02/11	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S SACRED HEART ST THERESA'S	† Fred & Alyce Glaser PEOPLE OF PARISH † Virgil & Lois Swett
TUE	02/13	5:30 p.m.	SACRED HEART	† Joe & Ethel Happ
WED	02/14	8:15 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	ST MICHAEL'S ST THERESA'S SACRED HEART ST MICHAEL'S	† Francis (+) & Annette Murphy † Clara Smith † Joe Nekoliczak † Lynda Diessner
THU	02/15	5:00 p.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S	† BJ & Jean Meyer
FRI	02/16	8:15 a.m.	ST. CATHARINE'S	† Kathleen Glesinger
SAT	02/17	5:00 p.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S	† Fr. Jim Murphy Happy Heavenly Birthday!
SUN	02/18	7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	ST. MICHAEL'S SACRED HEART ST THERESA'S	† Harold & Hazel Leslie † Patrick Ryan PEOPLE OF PARISH

COMMUNION SERVICES

SM at 8:00 a.m.
SH at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Father's Prayer Intention of the Month: FOR THE TERMINALLY ILL.

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Tuesdays, 12:00 noon.
Please email information to both SM and SH. Email addresses on front of bulletin.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew & Kimberly (Rieck) Enger married February 3rd at St Michael's.





PARISH MEETINGS

ST Altar Society: Sunday, Feb. 11 following Mass
School Board: Monday, Feb 12th, 7pm

Bring in your old palms to the churches this week. There will be containers at the back.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	WEEKLY	MONTHLY
St. Michael's (Dominican Center)	Thursdays, 6 p.m.--9 p.m.	First Friday, 24 hr, 9:00 a.m. All other Fridays 9 a.m.—3 p.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel		First Tuesday, 24hr, 9:00 a.m.
St. Theresa's		Last Sunday of month for Vocations, 10 a.m.

ST. MICHAEL'S	SACRED HEART	ST. THERESA'S
LECTOR Feb 14: 8:15 am -SA; 7:30 pm- R.E. Feb 17: Youth Feb. 18: Jean Herrera	LECTOR Feb 14: Matt Pfeifer Feb. 18: Youth	LECTOR Feb 14: Leslie Scott Feb. 18: Lori King
EMHC Feb 14: 8:15 am—SA; 7:30pm—R.E. Feb 17: Ed & Mandy McCarthy, Ryan & Katy Seamann Feb. 18: Stacey Bauer, Joe Seamann	EMHC Feb 14: Susie Lammers, Rachele Nekoliczak Feb. 18: Dierks Nekoliczak, Patty Harris	EMHC Feb 14: Jean Nordhues, Judy Ita Feb. 18: Jean Nordhues, Shelby Kasselder
HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Feb 14: 8:15 am—SA; 7:30pm—R.E. Feb 17: Youth Feb. 18: Bob Koenig, Bill Spelic, Jeremiah & Kara Seamann	HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Feb 14: Shawn O'Connor family Feb. 18: Youth	HOSPITALITY MINISTERS Feb 14: Sharon Swett, Joyce Bos Feb. 18: Mark & Angela Smith
ALTAR SERVERS Feb 14: 8:15 am—SA; 7:30 pm—R.E. Feb 16: 7pm: Stations of Cross: Adam Glaser & Nolan Carraher Feb 17: Elizabeth, Elora & Greg Glaser Feb. 18: Alex Carlin, Preston Glesinger, Camryn Carraher	ALTAR SERVERS Feb 14: Caden Straka, Kain Wood, Jack Ryan Feb. 18: Youth	CHURCH CLEANING February: Helen Plugge, Pauline Marker, Emily Norell
MUSIC MINISTRY Feb 14: 8:15 am—SA; 7:30 pm -Dan Walsh Feb 17: Matt & Linda, Kelly, Addie Feb. 18: Therese & Denise	MUSIC MINISTRY Feb 14: Chuck Sweeney Feb. 18: Youth	PRAYER CHAIN Call: Helen Plugge, Sue Patrick
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> SM CDA Rosary, Thursdays, before Mass, 4:30 in the chapel. </div> 	ROSARY Feb 14: Chuck Sweeney Feb. 18: Youth	ROSARY For Vocations—Sundays 10:00 a.m. prior to Mass. Thursday morning Communion Service 9:00 a.m. followed by Rosary and Adoration. 
SACRISTAN Feb 14: Mary Ann McQuillan Feb. 18: Jackie Nekoliczak	COLLECTION COUNTERS Feb. 18: Pat & Shelly	Religious Education Sundays, 10:00 a.m. before Mass
ASSISTED LIVING Feb 18: Vicki Goodrich		
THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION	THE LORD'S PORTION
February 4	February 4	February 4
Envelopes \$ 3,050 ACH/online \$ 2,155 Plate \$ 331 Children's \$ 24 Weekly total \$ 5,560	Envelopes \$ 1,851 ACH/online \$ 150 Plate \$ 263 Children \$ 14 Weekly total \$2,278	Envelopes \$ N/A Plate \$ Children's \$ Weekly Total \$
Total July 1st to date <u>\$167,491</u>	Total July 1st to date <u>\$94,095</u>	Total July 1st to date <u>\$ 30,906</u>

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."
- 1 Corinthians 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "Am I doing this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"

SM—First Reconciliation:
 Congratulations to Eli McCarthy, Ireland McManaman, Lacey Weltruski, Clara Keber & Adaline Hendrickson. We continue to pray for them as they discover the peace and amazing love of God's forgiveness.



Thank you to SA Parents for all the gifts, prayers & support for Catholic Schools Week. Raffle winners are: \$1000 to Mark & Julie Bloom; \$500 to Ed Bauer; and \$300 to Ray Bauer. Congratulations! Thanks to those who supported the raffle and online auction. It was a big success.

	SA HAPPENINGS
Mon Feb 12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday; 7pm School Board mtg.
Tue Feb 13	Conference Quiz Bowl@Heartland Lutheran; HS Girls Charger BB SubDistricts.
Wed Feb 14	8:15 All School Mass-Ash Wednesday; Lent begins; Valentines Day; 3:30-5:30 Lego League Practice
Thur Feb 15	HS Girls Charger BB Sub-Districts
Fri. Feb 16	No School -Parent Teacher Conferences; 6:00 BJV, 7:30 BV HS Boys Charger BB vs. Central Valley@ CR

SM/St. Anne
February Church Cleaning: Circle of Joy
Side B: Lori Carraher -Prefect
Rotation: Trust , Peace, Faith
February Men's Club Team #5: Ed Bauer, Troy Kleffner

LUCKY DAY CALENDAR LOTTERY WINNER

Our Sunday, February 11th winner of \$250 is Kitty Carlin of Spalding. Our February 14th Valentine winner of \$50 is Josh Heimbuch of Provo, UT Congratulations!!



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 11, 2024

LENTEN RESOURCES: Look for the Word Among Us booklets, Little Black books, CRS Rice Bowls for giving to the poor, Pray it Forward scrolls to pray for a household in your parish, or think about ordering 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory by Dynamic Catholic. Another idea...say the 3 O'Clock Prayer of Divine Mercy daily. Prayer cards are available at church or can be found on our Parish App. Let's enter into the Season of Lent and receive the beautiful graces of God.

Knights of Columbus 1st, 2nd & 3rd Degree is February 11, Super Bowl Sunday, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Spalding. It begins at 3pm.

Knights of Columbus 1st, 2nd & 3rd Degree is next Sunday, February 18th at Greeley Sacred Heart Church, following 9am Mass. Any questions, please call Allan Rolf 308-223-0477.

Families in Faith are invited to

Pray It Forward for Lent, rather than just "giving something up". Prayer Scrolls have been prepared, each with name and address of a member family. These will be available at Ash Wednesday Masses. Please take one and pray for them during Lent. Sending a card at Easter, sharing your prayers is highly encouraged.

LOST: Black key fob, please call the office if found.
497-2662

SH—Anyone who would like to use the Rectory in Greeley, please contact Matt Pfeifer, 308-737-6468 or Angie Pfeifer, 785-410-7285.

KC #13584 Friday Fish Fry begins February 16th in Spalding; 5:30—7pm, \$12.00 per plate. Funds will go towards St. Michael's Utilities. **KC Sacred Heart** Friday Fish Fry's will begin February 16th also. Please join us.

Knights of Columbus District Free Throw is February 11, Super Bowl Sunday, at St Michael's Parish Center, Spalding. Doors open at 12:30. Shooting starts at 1pm. Need more info? Please call 308-223-0477



Hospice Volunteer Training:

Valley County Health System Hospice is planning on holding Hospice volunteer training in Ord every Wednesday afternoon, beginning March 6th for four consecutive Wednesdays. The training will be given free of charge and will be held at the VCHS Hospice office. For more info or to register, call Joey Cadek @ 308-728-4315. *Volunteering can be such a rewarding experience.*



Spirit Catholic Radio's 2024 Spirit "Silver" Celebration Dinner will be held Saturday evening, February 24, 2024 at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, IA! This year, our special keynote speaker will be **Dr. Ray Guarendi**. He is the host of "The Dr. Is In" that can be heard weekdays at Noon on Spirit Catholic Radio and he is a frequent guest on our Spirit Mornings show. **General Admission is only \$50 per seat.** Social hour is 6pm, with dinner & the program 7pm. His talk is entitled "Reclaiming the Culture begins with Me". Please make your reservation by February 16, 2024. To purchase tickets or to obtain more info visit: spiritcatholicradio.com/dinner



The Grand Island Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will hold their Spring Assembly on Monday, April 15 through Tuesday, April 16 at Broken Bow. Keynote speaker is Katie Stiba, a nine-time Catholic Press Award-winning columnist. Katie will speak on Monday evening with a topic relatable to young families. She will speak again on Tuesday and expand her conversation to focus on how extended family (grandparents, etc.) effect the holiness of ordinary families. Assembly reservation cost is \$50. Make your own room reservations at Cobblestone Hotel and Suites or Boarders Inn and Suites in Broken Bow. Rooms for double queen beds or single king beds are \$100 per night per room. Use code CDM when making hotel reservations. Join us for an inspirational, fun and faith-filled 2 days!

From the Catholic Diocese of Grand Island....
Don't miss out on this Eucharistic Revival Opportunity!

We invite YOU to journey with us to the National Eucharistic Congress.
July 17-21, 2024

The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Make history by joining others from across our diocese and the country to be part of the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years. You will travel by bus to Indianapolis, IN for a 6-day experience of personal revival.

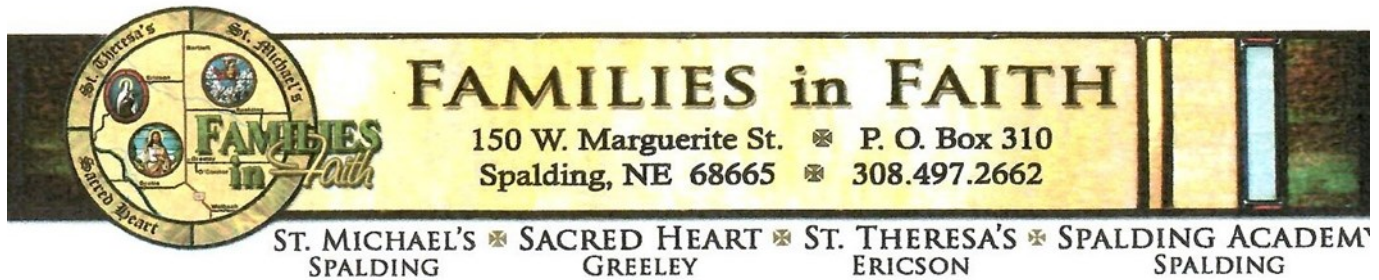
Cost: \$750 Per Adult Double Occupancy
Get Registered NOW!

More info: gidiocese.org/eucharistic-revival

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sr. Charlene Vogel who passed away Tuesday. She was a devoted Dominican Sister & teacher at Spalding Academy for many years. May she rest in peace.

FEBRUARY: In least developed countries 1 in 4 children ages 5-17 are engaged in labor detrimental to their health and development. Forced labor of children is also in the USA. Pray for these children. **Alliance to End Human Trafficking**-Founded and Supported by **US Catholic Sisters** **7575 Grand River Ave.1-1009, Brighton, MI 48114**





Dear Parishioners,
 This coming Wednesday, we will begin **the Season of Lent**.

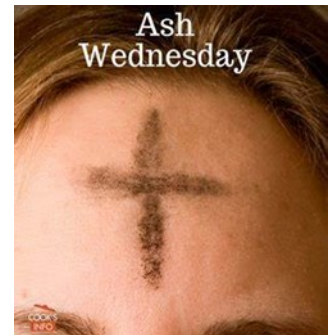
We begin this holy season by receiving ashes on our foreheads in the sign of a cross.
Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule" (February 14th):

8:15 a.m.: Mass at St. Michael's Church (School Mass)

12 noon: Mass at St. Theresa's Church

6:00 p.m.: Mass at Sacred Heart Church

7:30 p.m.: Mass at St. Michael's Church



With God, we will rise from our ashes, but without Him, we are dust.
As we humbly bow our heads to receive the ashes,
we are reminded of this truth: We are the Lord's; we belong to Him
 (Pope Francis)

The Season of Lent lasts forty days in imitation of the time, Jesus spent in the desert before inaugurating his public ministry. It is a beautiful time for all of us to know and imitate our Lord Jesus Christ, who overcame all the temptations by keeping His gracious God at the center of his life.

But what do we do during these forty days?

What is the purpose of imitating Jesus' time in the desert?

St. Augustine says, "The entire life of a good Christian is in fact an exercise of Holy Desire. You do not see what you long for, but the very act of desiring prepares you, so that when God comes you may see and be utterly satisfied." What St. Augustine is telling us is not that we have to annihilate our desires. On the contrary, our desires are too small. We look for fulfillment in things this world offers, but God wants us to have much more, God's very Self. During this season of Lent, we undertake some practices that intensify our desire, that is, our longing for God. Jesus speaks about them in the Gospel: **Prayer, fasting and almsgiving**.

Prayer	Prayer helps us to reach out to God. Prayer is the foundation of the Christian: It opens the way to eternal life.
Almsgiving	Almsgiving helps us to reach out to others. St. Cyprian says, "Be earnest in righteous works and frequently apply yourself to almsgiving, by which souls are freed from death."
Fasting	Fasting helps us to reach out to ourselves. It cleanses the soul, raises the mind, renders the heart 'contrite and humble', and quenches the fire of lust.

Stations of the Cross

St. Michael's Church, Spalding:	Fridays of Lent at 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church, Greeley:	Fridays of Lent at 5 p.m.
St. Theresa's Church, Ericson:	Friday, March 1st & Friday, March 8th

What is the Purpose of Lent?

Of course, Lent prepares us for the great celebration of Holy Week that begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem where he celebrated his Last Supper before his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

In our Lenten journey toward Easter, let us remember the One who 'humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being. It is a time to reconsider the path we are taking, to find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends. Lent is not just about the little sacrifices we make, but about discerning where our hearts are directed. This is the core of Lent"

We need to free ourselves from the clutches of consumerism and the snares of selfishness, from always wanting more, and from a heart closed to the needs of the poor. Jesus on the wood of the cross burns with love, and calls us to a life that is passionate for Him, which is not lost amid the ashes of the world; to a life that burns with charity and is not extinguished in mediocrity.

Lent is a time to "Pause", "See" and "Return" to the tenderness of God.

*With prayerful wishes,
Fr. Lawrence Vadakkan*

Communal Reconciliation

Sacred Heart Church, Greeley:	Wednesday, March 13th 2024, at 7 p.m.
St. Theresa's Church, Ericson:	Sunday, March 17th 2024, at 12 noon
St. Michael's Church, Spalding:	Wednesday, March 20th 2024, at 7 p.m.

Knights of Columbus: Fish Fries

St. Michael's Church, Spalding:	Feb. 16th, 23rd, & March 15th, 22nd.
Sacred Heart Church, Greeley:	All the six Fridays in Lent
St. Theresa's Church, Ericson:	Friday, March 1st & Friday, March 8th