AREA FAITH COMMUNITY

ST. ANDREW'S FAIRFAX, MN

ST. WILLIBRORD'S GIBBON, MN

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES WINTHROP, MN

Father Bruno OSB Parochial Administrator

R: 426-7125 C: 507-217-3054 sengudibird@hotmail.com

Danette Polzin Office Manager 507-426-7739

ffgw@centurytel.net

Kellie Sloot Area Religious Ed Coordinator

C: 320-583-6755 yesterdayskitchen@gmail.com

AFC Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm AFC Address: All Saints AFC, PO Box C, Fairfax MN 55332

AFC Website: www.allsaintsafc.org Diocese Website: www.dnu.org

Join Flocknote by visiting flocknote.com/asafc or text allsaints4 to 84576

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATORS

St. Andrew – Karen Guggisberg 507-426-7348

St. Willibrord – Genny Neyers 507-834-6659

St. Francis – Kellie Sloot 320-583-6755

National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-422-4453

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

Please contact Fr. Bruno at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding. No wedding date is final until approved by Fr. Bruno.

BAPTISMS: Please make arrangements for attending a baptism session with Father Bruno anywhere from one to two months prior to the date of the baptism of

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of New Ulm:

1-866-670-5163 (Confidential Counseling Services and Referral Information)

LITURGY SCHEDULE: In case of a funeral a regular scheduled morning Mass will be canceled that day.

Monday, March /	NO MASS		
Tuesday, March 8	8:30 AM	Fairfax	+Phillip Blumhoefer
Wednesday, March 9	8:30 AM	Gibbon	+Reynold & Janet Evenson
Thursday, March 10	8:30 AM	Fairfax	+Connie Domeier
		Eucharist Adoration following M	Mass
Friday, March 11	9:30 AM	Winthrop	+Patricia Carlson
Saturday, March 12	3:30 PM	Reconciliation prior to Mass	
	5:00 PM	Winthrop	+Richard & Verna Rein
Sunday, March 13	8:00 AM	Fairfax	+Walter Gregory
	10:00 AM	Gibbon	People of the All Saints Area Faith Community

First Sunday of Lent

What specifically will I do this Lent to take the focus off myself and put it on God and on others?



Readings for the Week of March 6, 2022

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 [cf. 15b]/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/

Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/

Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,

2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/

Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48 Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/

Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

There is nothing like a couple of good temptations to get our minds wandering away from God. Or, hopefully, to push us fleeing into God's arms as we seek protection against evil. **Temptation to sin is part of human existence**, and since Jesus was fully human, he too was tempted. The temptations we hear about in today's Gospel take place as Jesus begins his public ministry. These were not the only temptations he faced in his life. At the end of Lent, we will encounter the story of the agony in the Garden as part of the Passion narrative. Up until the very end, Jesus was tempted not to accomplish the Father's will. We may fail during these forty days. We may not live up to our baptismal faith. But we have the tools to keep trying: prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and the community of faith. We are in this together.

"If we show Him our inner wounds, our inner sins, He will always forgive us. It is pure mercy. LET US GO TO JESUS!" ~Pope Francis

The season of Lent has begun. My prayer is that you have chosen a good penance and that you are committed to your spiritual growth this season. I invite you to take part in other opportunities: weekday Masses, Stations of the Cross, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I encourage you to use these forty days of penance and prayer to deepen your relationship with the Lord and all the people he has placed on your journey of faith.

> St. Josaphat Patron of Ukraine Pray for us Pray for Peace

Fr. Bruno OSB

THERE ARE VERY FEW MASS INTENTIONS FOR ST. FRANCIS. If you have been thinking you would like a Mass offered for a deceased or a living relative or friend, you can always put a request in the collection basket with your name, the name of the person to be prayed for, whether they are deceased or living and your financial gift (typically \$10 per mass). Thank you.

AREA CALENDAR

AREA PARISH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Mar 7 Angela Kiecker, Katherine McClain, Bryce Buboltz, Bill Sauter

Mar 8 Joe Volz

Mar 9

Mar 10 Kimberlyn Mikety, David Borth

Mar 11 Dick Scharfencamp, Jerome Rubischko, Travis Rubischko

Mar 12 Andrea Ochs, Pat Serbus, Tony & Paula Kachelmeier Anniv., Jack Haala, Johanna Jutz, Rich Busse, Abundio Banda

Mar 13 Andrea Ochs. Pat Serbus



KNOW A SAINT St. John Ogilvie – March 10

He was born in 1579 and raised a Calvinist. He was very impressed with the faith of martyrs and at age seventeen was received in the Catholic Church. He was later ordained into the Jesuits. His work was quite successful in bringing many people back to the catholic faith. He was arrested for this, sentenced to death and hanged at the age of 36. His life prompts us to be faithful to our elected leaders while at the same time remaining faithful to God's Word.

JOIN US EACH WEEK ON WEDNESDAY AT 8:30 PM as we pray the Rosary live on Facebook on the All Saints Area Faith Community page!

HOLY HOUR & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION You are invited to come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Eucharistic Lord. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in our AFC as follows:

St. Andrew's: 2nd Thursday of each month following 8:30 am Mass

St. Willibrord's: 1st Sunday of each month (7-8 pm Spring/Summer) (4-5pm Fall/Winter)

3rd Wednesday of each month following 8:30 am Mass

St. Francis de Sales: 1st Friday of each month 7-8 pm

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS last week to the collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe! If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

TODAY, OUR PARISH WILL TAKE UP THE 138TH ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution today. Thank you for your support.



Frank Ziegler St. Andrew's Casey O'Brien St. Francis de Sales **Arvina Schweiss** St. Andrew's Judy Farrell St. Andrew's Elsie Linsmeier St. Andrew

Millie Forst St. Willibrord's Lorraine Ravnaas St. Francis de Sales Adeline Roiger

Mary Schweiss St Andrew's

St. Andrew

Topic for THAT MAN IS YOU men's program – Week 18 – I Have Called You Friends. All men 18 and older are welcome. We meet on Thursdays at 5:45 am at CODE3 Bowling in Gibbon.

EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR –Sunday, March 6th, at St. Willibrord's, from **4:00 to 5:00 p.m.** Holy Hour will include the rosary, scripture readings, prayer, and time for silent meditation before the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone welcome!

THE LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE REQUIREMENTS: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are obligatory for members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards and thenorms on fasting from age 18 until age 59.

LENTEN FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY! Each morning during Lent we will read and reflect on the Gospel. We look forward to sharing this time with you on Facebook beginning on Wednesday, March 2nd (Ash Wednesday) on the All Saints Area Faith Community page. You can find and enjoy these reflections daily any time after 10 am on the All Saints Area Faith Community Facebook page or by visiting our website at www.allsaintsafc.org! So, grab your Bible, pour yourself a cup of coffee and meet us each morning for The Best Part!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 4th: Winthrop 7 pm lead by the men

Friday, March 11th: Gibbon 7 pm lead by the men

Friday, March 18th: Fairfax 7 pm lead by the men

Friday, March 25th: Gibbon 7 pm lead by the ladies

Friday, April 1st: Winthrop 7 pm lead by the ladies

Friday, April 8th: Fairfax 7 pm lead by the ladies

Friday, April 15th: Gibbon 12:30 pm lead by the students, Good Friday Service at 1 pm

"WINE AND DIVINE" St. Willibrord's CCW is again offering ALL the women of St. Willibrord's <u>AND</u> our Area Faith Community a relaxing and fun evening. You are invited to attend "Wine and Divine" night from 7 to about 8:30 p.m., on Sunday evening, March 6th, at St. Willibrord's church social hall. Bring a friend! The evening social includes Wine (wine tasting of several varieties), cheese & crackers, and "build your own cheesecake (with fresh berries)". Top that off with good conversation with other women (get to know some new faces) and closing with a faith inspiration presentation. You may win a door prize, and you will receive a thank you gift. Please RSVP to Berny at jbberger1972@gmail.com, or call/text (320) 583-7975 by March 2nd, if possible, so we have an approximate number to plan for. UPDATE: If there is a snow event, we will notify everyone that has RSVP'd and let you know that it will then be postponed to Sunday evening, March 13th. So please let us know this week if you planned on coming!

ST. FRANCIS WILL BE HOLDING A LIGHT MEAL following mass on March 12th. All are welcome.

ST. WILLIBRORD'S CUF CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS will be available until March 27th before and after 10 am Mass. \$52 Donation, 52 chances to win. Any questions, please call Carol at 834-6224. Thanks

THE BISHOP LUCKER LECTURE will be held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. The presentation entitled *That Your Joy Might Be Complete* will be given by Fr. Tom Knoblach. The presentation will also be live-streamed on the DNU website for those unable to attend in-person.

VATICAN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBIT OF THE EUCHARISTIC Miracles of the World St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville, MN will host the exhibit March $4^{th} - 13^{th}$, 2022, in the parish center. This exhibit includes 126 historically documented Eucharistic miracles that have occurred in various countries since the Last Supper. These are visible proof of Jesus Christ's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. All are welcome including members of other faiths. Free admission. For more information, please call Sarah at 651-675-7440. St. Ann Catholic Church is located at: 313 W 2^{nd} St, Janesville. The exhibit will be open as follows:

Friday, March 4th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 5th from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, March 6th from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, March 7th-11th from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 12th from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday, March 13th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH IN SLEEPY EYE will be holding their Sausage Dinner on Sunday, March 6th, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This will be a drive through only.

LENTEN-40 DAYS OF GIVING DURING THE 40 DAYS OF LENT this year at Our Savior's (Central & United Methodist) we are asking for donations to the NUMAS Haus. Following is a "Wish List" of items they are in need of. Items can be dropped when the church office is open (Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday mornings) and on Saturday and/or Sundays during worship. The collections for NUMAS Haus will start Saturday, March 5th and end April 10th, 2022. NUMAS provides emergency shelter and support services to homeless women and their children (ages 13 and under) in the Brown County Area. Wish list includes: gift cards for grocercies and clothing such as Walmart, CashWise, HyVee or Walgrens, baby wash/shampoo, baby lotion, infant Tylenol and Ibuprofen, Chamber dollars, monetary donations. Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING

	St. Andrew's	St. Francis's	St. Willibrord's
Adult	1,578.00	1,050.00	985.00
Loose/Youth Plate	180.00	99.00	37.00
Funeral-Hall/Choir	80.00		
Maintenance	2,370.60		
Catholic Relief Services	2.00		
Building Fund		20.00	
Coffee Hour (Food Shelf)		57.00	
Votive Lights	84.00		6.00
Central & Eastern Europe			10.00
TOTAL	\$4,294.60	\$1,226.00	\$1,038.00

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Please continue to pray for the following military personnel who are members of our parish families and are serving full time or active duty in the military: MSG William R. Schmidt, SSG Jeff Ziegler, Ryan E Lawrenz, SGT, Sgt. Chris Levinske, Amber Lindberg, Sgt Kenneth Coleman, SFC Timothy R. Green, Spc Adam Nosbush, Lt. Col. Steven Weber, Jackie Rieke and Pvt Jordan Lindmeyer, SGT Colin Jackson, CSM Rebecca (Zitzmann) Booker

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wednesday, March 9, 2022: Class Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 16, 2022: ClassMarch 4th - WinthropWednesday, March 23, 2022: ClassMarch 11th - GibbonWednesday, March 30, 2022: ClassMarch 18th - FairfaxSat/Sun April 2nd & 3rd, 2022: Rice Bowl WeekendMarch 25th - Gibbon

RICE BOWL PROJECT Our AFC students will have a chance to make a difference this Lent! During Lent, we are called to give special attention to our relationship with God. Through opportunities to deepen our prayer, practice fasting and give alms, we meet our Lord and encounter our sisters and brothers around the world. Lenten Rice Bowls were sent home with all students. Families are asked to make a donation to CRS Rice Bowl to help communities in other countries overcome hunger and malnutrition. Rice Bowls will be collected at a student Mass on the weekend of April 2nd & 3rd. Thank You! May your Lent be filled with Blessings as you prepare for Easter!

CONGRATULATIONS to all and a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this a special time for our confirmands! We also appreciate Fr. Bruno, Msgr. Grams and Dcn. Osborne for their fine example of faith and spiritual leadership! O GOD, HOW AWESOME YOU ARE!

Trinity Buboltz, Keeley Case, Taylor Haas, Brynn Busse, Alexandra Kretsch, Alyssa Lagerwall, Grissely Puentes, Madalynn Nachriener, Stacy Guzman, Isabelle Vos, Kendal Reinhart, Kayln Hellendrung, Jeana Schroeder, Kaylee Felska, Briana Roche, Lincoln Werner, Nathan Sandgren, Lydia Nachreiner

ST. WILLIBRORD'S - GIBBON

Sunday, March 13th-10:00 AM

Lector: Jerome Petersen **Dist:** Jerome Petersen **Servers:** Brooklyn & Lincoln Werner, Regie Mattes **Ushers:** Greg Hartmann, Tom Lindmeyer, Nick Stadtherr **Gifts:** Wade & Jennifer Werner **Sacristan:** Rose Forst

Sunday, March 20th-10:00 AM

Lector: Amy Weber **Dist:** Grace Rubischko **Servers:** Kyler & Mirra Sjogren, Kitzelin Morales **Ushers:** Greg Hartmann, Tom Lindmeyer, Nick Stadtherr **Gifts:** Julie Ahlbrecht, Leyla Ahlbrecht **Sacristan:** Kathy Bruns

Sunday, March 27th-10:00 AM

Lector: Alan Neyers Dist: Geneva Klover Servers: Taylor Haas, Sophia & Ella Nachreiner Ushers: Greg Hartmann, Tom

Lindmeyer, Nick Stadtherr Gifts: Joey & Patty Bastian Sacristan: Jeannine Grosam

THANK YOU – We both wanted to share our sincere thanks to the church of St. Willibrord's, the planners, the people who helped set up and prepare the delicious meal, our family and all our friends for acknowledging our years of marriage at the church service on February 12th. We have been priviledged enough to have spent 57 happy and joyous years together. It has been the most wonderful journey so far, and it was made even more special by the celebration that St. Willibrord's gifted us and the kind words spoken by all.

"WINE AND DIVINE" St. Willibrord's CCW is again offering ALL the women of St. Willibrord's <u>AND</u> our Area Faith Community a relaxing and fun evening. You are invited to attend "Wine and Divine" night from 7 to about 8:30 p.m., on Sunday evening, March 6th, at St. Willibrord's church social hall. Bring a friend! The evening social includes Wine (wine tasting of several varieties), cheese & crackers, and "build your own cheesecake (with fresh berries)". Top that off with good conversation with other women (get to know some new faces) and closing with a faith inspiration presentation. You may win a door prize, and you will receive a thank you gift. Please RSVP to Berny at jbberger1972@gmail.com, or call/text (320) 583-7975 by March 2nd, if possible, so we have an approximate number to plan for. UPDATE: If there is a snow event, we will notify everyone that has RSVP'd and let you know that it will then be postponed to Sunday evening, March 13th. So please let us know this week if you planned on coming!

ANNUAL DEANERY 1 SPRING GATHERING will be Thursday March 17th at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in North Mankato. Registration starts at 5 p.m., Mass is at 5:30, followed by a nice meal and a speaker. This year Nicollet County Attorney Michelle Zehnder Fischer will be the keynote speaker discussing her many roles in Criminal Justice, Human Services, Fraud Prevention, Child Support, Education and Schools. CCW covers the \$10 registration fee, and we will carpool together to North Mankato. Please let Berny know by March 14th, if you can go – call or text 320-583-7975, or email at ibberger1972@gmail.com These are always inspiring events – please check it out!

MARCH FOOD DRIVE: is the month that our area food shelves rely on our assistance and generosity. Please note the containers/displays for collecting food, paper products, etc. All monetary donations or checks can be made out to "Sibley County Food Share" and placed in the collection basket marked "Food Shelf" during this month. Please respond to the Gospel's call to help those in need. Let us help our food shelves provide food for people in our geographical area. Thanks for being Christ's hands and heart.

All are invited for coffee and rolls/brunch after Mass on Sunday, March 6th. Donations accepted for our local food shelf.

ST. WILLIBRORD'S PRAYER CHAIN – If you have a prayer need, we have a group of parishioners that will join in prayers for your needs, whatever that may be. Please call Berny Berger (834-6321) or Genny Neyers (834-6659) to add someone to our list. The request can also be shared with Augustana Lutheran church's prayer chain, as we are connected in this mission. We are also looking for anyone who wishes to join our prayer group, which functions through email prayer requests. Please let us know if you can join in our prayer efforts!

WORD AMONG US - Lenten Book of Daily Mass readings is available in the church entryway. They were provided free of charge by the company, so please take a copy if interested!

ST. WILLIBRORD'S CUF CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS will be available until March 26th. Please contact Mike Rein on Saturdays after 5 pm Mass. Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING - ST. WILLIBRORD'S CHURCH

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Giving July 1st, 2021-March 2nd, 2022

 Income
 \$74,669.58

 Expenses
 \$64,328.80

 Net Gain/Loss
 \$10,340.78

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – WINTHROP

Saturday, March 12th-5:00 PM

Lector: Wendy Lang Eucharistic Ministers: Brent Lang Servers: Quinn Schmidt, Riley Hacker, Megan Hacker Gifts: Tyler & Emilee Stehr Ushers: Barb Pagel, Mike Rein, Gary & Mary Renner Money Counters: Barb Pagel, Gary Renner Sacristan: Gary & Mary Renner

Saturday, March 19th-5:00 PM

Lector: Bob & Laurie Kaukola Eucharistic Ministers: Lorie Schauer Servers: Kayla Felska, Brynn Busse, Alan Banda Gifts: Harry & Kellie Sloot Ushers: Barb Pagel, Mike Rein, Gary & Mary Renner Money Counters: Barb Pagel, Gary Renner Sacristan: Gary & Mary Renner

Saturday, March 26th-5:00 PM

Lector: Barb Pagel **Eucharistic Ministers:** Kevin Lauwagie **Servers:** Will Lang, Jose Farias, Jossue Farias **Gifts:** Joel & Lynn Majeski **Ushers:** Barb Pagel, Mike Rein, Gary & Mary Renner **Money Counters:** Barb Pagel, Gary Renner **Sacristan:** Gary & Mary Renner

ST. FRANCIS WILL BE HOLDING A LIGHT MEAL following mass on March 12th. All are welcome.

MARCH FOOD DRIVE: is the month that our area food shelves rely on our assistance and generosity. Please note the wooden box container at St. Francis for collecting food, paper products, etc. All monetary donations or checks can be made out to "Sibley County Food Share" and placed in the collection basket marked "Food Shelf" during this month. Ideas: Peanut butter, Canned soup, Canned fruit, Canned vegetables, Canned stew, Canned fish, Canned beans, Pasta, Rice. Thank you for being Christ's hands and heart.

ST WILLIBRORD'S CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL MATCHING GRANT FUNDRAISER If any of our St. Francis' families would be interested in purchasing a raffle ticket, please contact Mike Rein after Mass. Ticket donation is \$52 for 52 chances to win \$500, \$200 and \$100. Thanks so much.

ST. ANDREW'S – FAIRFAX

Sunday, March 13th-8:00 AM

Lector: Mike Beranek Dist: Maria Davila & Lidia Gonzalez Servers: Nathan & Zach Sandgren, Bernardo Davila Ushers: Mike Vait, Dennis Weinzetl, Jason Weinzetl, Pat Schreiner Gifts: Paul & Jan Simonsen Sacristan: Brenda Runck/Brenda Frank

Sunday, March 20th-8:00 AM

Lector: Jody Busch **Dist:** Mary Ann Dummer **Servers:** Elyiana & Kayln Hellendrung, Hailey Weinzetl **Ushers:** Brenda Frank, George Wendinger, Jim Prax, Tom Nachreiner **Gifts:** Joe & Becky Vos **Sacristan:** Chuck Marlowe/Carol Gregory

Sunday, March 27th-8:00 AM

Lector: Pat Buboltz **Dist:** Myron Schweiss **Servers:** Keydon & Kobe Buboltz, Annika Nosbush **Ushers:** Dave Borth, Randy Boehm, Kevin Schweiss, Frank Ziegler **Gifts:** Dennis & Jean Weinzetl **Sacristan:** Mary Ann Dummer, Kathy Schroeder

CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL Meeting on Tuesday, March 8th 2022 at 6:30 in church basement.

LENT/EASTER NEEDS We are in need of oil bearers and anyone willing to have their foot washed. Please call Danette by April 1st (507-426-7739). Thank you.

MARCH FOOD DRIVE For many years, March in Minnesota has been designated as Minnesota Food Share Month. It is a time when nearly every Food Shelf in the state makes an all-out effort to raise as much food and money. Bringing in as much food as possible in March, will help to serve families in need. You can help by bringing your food in which both entryways of the church will have containers. If you wish to donate money, you may put cash into an envelope and mark it Food Shelf and place it in collection basket during the month of March. Food and money will be collected up through March 31st. Thank you in advance for being Christ's hands and heart.

REVISED SERVING GROUPS list can be picked up in the church.

ST. ANN'S FUNERAL GROUP 4: Kristin Palmer, Pat Buboltz

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING – ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Giving July 1st, 2021 – March 2nd, 2022

Income \$ 149,378.59 Expenses \$ 104,525.90 **Net Gain/Loss** \$ 44,852.69

As you prepare for Lent, please see the attached article on by Bishop Lucker that he wrote for Lent as the bishop of New Ulm in 1977 (forty-five years ago). This article on fasting appeared in our diocesan paper.



A word from the Bishop.....



We modern Christians have lost the spirit of penance and self denial. We Americans have so much. All our needs and desires are catered to. We think that we have a claim on abundance, rich food, big cars, fancy clothing, lovely homes, expensive vacations, and plenty of leisure and entertainment.

I confess that this same spirit has entered my life. I am affected by it. I have to reject that spirit. I have to let Jesus Christ be the center of my life. Everyday I must say, "You are my Lord. I want to follow you. I want to do your will."

During this season of Lent the Church calls us to repentance. As we come to receive the ashes on our foreheads we hear the words of Jesus as he began his public ministry: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand. Reform your lives and believe in the gospel." (Mk. 1:15)

This is a constant theme of the Christian message. Jesus called his disciples and he calls us to change our lives, to repent of our sins, to take up our cross and follow him.

Jesus said, "Unless you repent you shall all likewise perish." (Lk. 13:3) "Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. ...my yoke is easy and my burden light." (Mt. 11:29-30) "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day and follow in my steps." (Lk. 9:23) "Anyone who does not take up

his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." (Lk. 14:27)

The message is clear. We are all called to repentance. We are called to do penance. One of the time-honored methods of doing penance is fasting.

As Jesus began his public life he was led by the Spirit into the desert where he fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt. 4:1-2) In imitation, the Church calls us to fast during the forty days of lent. We are invited to do it willingly, freely accepting the invitation of Jesus to conversion of life and voluntary penance.

I discovered the power of fasting a few years ago. I was on a team of people conducting a weekend Cursillo. I received letters of support from peole who told me that they were praying for me and the team during the weekend. Several said, "I offer two days of fasting," or "I will fast one day a week for the next month," or "I will fast for a whole day without any food at all." I really felt the power of that penance. I was deeply moved by the loving concern. I have written similar letters to people. They told me how much they meant to them.

When I came to New Ulm, many people told me that they would pray for me. Some said that they would fast. One wrote to tell me that she was fasting for a week for me. Such a thing does something to you.

Fasting means that we freely deny ourselves in our eating or drinking. It can be done in many ways. The traditional fast in the Church involves eating only one regular meal a day with two lesser snacks. Another way is to fast from all food for twenty-four hours. One could fast by eating nothing between meals. This is a common way to fast and is a restriction on habitual nibbling. Another way is just to eat less or to refrain from something that we really like such as desserts, drinking, going out to eat.

Fasting brings the soul to do the will of God. It opens us to listen to the word of God. Fasting helps us to be under the power of God and not under the power of food. I tell my stomach when to eat; my stomach does not tell me when to eat.

Jesus tells us so clearly to give to the poor, to pray and to fast with the same purity of intention. That is, we do it not to attract attention but out of love of God. He says, "When you fast (he doesn't say If you fast), you are not to look glum as the hypocrites do. When you fast, see to it that you groom your hair and wash your face. In that way no one can see you are fasting but your Father who is hidden; and your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you." (Mt. 7:16-18)

"Fasting is not a substitute for anything else but nothing else is a substitute for fasting. Fasting does not change the will of God but it brings you into a place where you can experience things that are in the will of God that you could not otherwise experience." (Derick Prince)

By fasting a person can put himself in a condition where God can work in him. It helps us to see our dependence on God. It is a humbling process; we can see ourselves more clearly as we really are.

Although fasting is done individually and in silence there is also a time to fast in community. We gain strength and support from one another. I believe that such a time is now, when fasting is at such a low ebb in the Church. We should tell one another when we fast in order to give encouragement to each other.

I confess that during the last few years fasting has not had an important place in my life. I plan to change that. With God's grace I am going to fast this Lent — every day. I am going to offer my fast for the spiritual renewal of the people of the Diocese of New Ulm.

I will need encouragement. Will you join me, if not every day, then on some days of Lent? I would welcome letters from you saying that you are also trying to observe Lent in this way.

St. Paul said, "We preach Christ crucified — a stumbling block to Jews and an absurdity to Greeks; but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (I Cor. 1:23-24)

The cross of Christ seemed foolish to the people of his time. But it has become a banner of hope and a sign of our faith. Doing penance for our sins, fasting and abstinence have become foolishness in our day. But it is a source of strength and power. It opens us to listen to the Lord. It puts bodily comfort in its true perspective. It unites us to the suffering and death of Christ.

My prayer is that this Lent will be for you a time of renewal and that Easter will be for you a glorious resurrection. With St. Paul, "I pray that he will bestow on you gifts in keeping with the riches of his glory. May he strengthen you inwardly through the working of his Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life. Thus you will be able to grasp fully, with all the holy ones, the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love." (Eph. 3:16-18)

God bless you all.

+ Raymond a. Lucker

+Raymond A. Lucker Bishop of New Ulm

2022 Lenten Opportunities (Please save & post!)

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd- Mass Schedule

Winthrop – 8:30 am Fairfax – 5:30 pm Gibbon – 7:00 pm

Area Communal Penance Services

Sunday, March 20 – 2:00 pm (Winthrop) Sunday, March 27 – 2:00 pm (Gibbon) Sunday, April 3 – 2:00 pm (Fairfax)

Stations of the Cross (Friday nights)

<u>Winthrop – 7:00 pm</u>	<u>Gibbon – 7:00 pm</u>	<u>Fairfax – 7:00 pm</u>
March 4th – Men Lead	March 11th – Men Lead	March 18th – Men Lead
April 1st – Women Lead	March 25th – Women Lead April 15th – Students Lead	April 8th – Women Lead
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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday	Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday
April 9, Saturday	April 14, Thursday	April 15, Friday	April 16, Saturday	April 17, Sunday
Winthrop – 5:00 pm	Winthrop – 5:00 pm	Gibbon - Stations of	Fairfax – 8:00 pm	Winthrop – 8:00 am
	Fairfax – 7:00 pm	Cross –12:30 pm		Gibbon – 10:00 am
April 10, Sunday	(Repose of the Holy	followed by Good		
Fairfax - 8:00 am	Eucharist after each	Friday Mass – 1:00 pm		
Gibbon – 10:00 am	mass)			

Spanish Masses/Stations - St. Andrew's Church

Masses – March 6th & 20th, April 3rd & 17th – Sunday – 12:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration/Holy Hour Times

Gibbon: March 6th (Sunday) 4:00-5:00 pm, March 16th (Wednesday) after 8:30 am Mass

& April 3rd (Sunday) 7:00-8:00 pm

Fairfax: March 10th (Thur.) after 8:30 am Mass

Holy Thursday-April 14th: Winthrop (after 5:00 Mass) 6:00-10:00 pm & Fairfax (after 7:00 Mass) 8:00 pm-midnight

Diocesan Opportunities

THE BISHOP LUCKER LECTURE will be held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 7:00 pm at the Church of St. Catherine in Redwood Falls. The presentation entitled *That Your Joy Might Be Complete* will be given by Fr. Tom Knoblach. The presentation will also be live-streamed on the DNU website for those unable to attend in-person.

CHRISM MASS-Thursday, April 7th, 7:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm

Area Faith Opportunities

LENTEN FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY! Each morning during Lent we will read and reflect on the Gospel. We look forward to sharing this time with you on Facebook beginning on Wednesday, March 2nd (Ash Wednesday) on the All Saints Area Faith Community page.

54 DAY ROSARY NOVENA 6:00 am daily beginning March 3, 2022 "LIVE" on the All Saints Area Faith Community Facebook Page. This rosary commitment is new for the lenten season.

Lenten Enrichment/Outreach

- * Donate to Area Food Shelves. Please be generous!
- *"Operation Rice Bowl" save money during Lent and give to the poor, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services
- * Do some volunteer opportunity in your parish promoting this service
- * Visit some parishioners/neighbors/friends in our healthcare centers or homes during Lent
- * Help at area food shelves, especially during the month of March
- * CM School/GFW School call school offices for possible volunteer opportunities
- * Healthcare Centers call any care centers for ways you can give service to our senior members