

From the Pastor ~~

This weekend we say “good-bye” to **Deacon Adam**. It has been a wonderful gift to our parish to have him, even for such a brief time. His presence, his homilies and his work with the young people of the parish have been a blessing. I wish him well in the next phase of his discernment as he journeys toward priesthood.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus enters the synagogue and begins to preach and in the course of his time there casts out a demon. The discussion of those who witness this event has to do with who Jesus is and from where he derives his authority. In choosing the first reading to accompany this Gospel the Church wants us to reflect on a less familiar, but important, aspect of Jesus’ identity – he follows in a line of prophets like Moses. We are familiar with the Scriptures talking about Jesus as the Messiah and the fulfillment of the promise to David that his line would never end. We tend to forget that there are other promises that Jesus fulfills as well.

In his book, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Pope Benedict opens with a reflection on this promise to raise up a prophet like Moses. He writes, “*The Book of Deuteronomy contains a promise that is completely different from the messianic hope expressed in other books of the Old Testament, yet it is of decisive importance for understanding the figure of Jesus. The object of t his promise is not a king of Israel and king of the world – a new David, in other words – but a new Moses. Moses himself, however, is interpreted as a prophet. . . .In every age, man’s questioning has focused not only on his ultimate origin; almost more than the obscurity of his beginnings, what preoccupies him is the hiddenness of the future that awaits him. Man wants to tear aside the curtain; he wants to know what is going to happen, so that he can avoid perdition and set out toward salvation.*”

In our attempt to discern this future, society turns to many things – horoscopes, astrology, sooth saying, psychics. The Bible contrasts this approach with the very different way of Israel – the way of faith. The promise in Deuteronomy moves far beyond the prophet as soothsayer and presents a deeper definition. “*And there has not arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses whom the Lord knew face to face (34:10).*” This is what set Moses apart – that he conversed with God face-to-face and his importance lies in the fact that he spoke with God as a friend.

For us, Jesus becomes, not only a prophet like Moses, who speaks to God face-to-face, but is, in fact, our opportunity to do the same. In Jesus we encounter God and in his life and ministry we find our destiny – final union with God.

A Special Thanks to Deacon Adam McMillan for all he has done for our parish and school. He will be moving on to Harmony after this weekend.

Mass Intentions

**Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday – NO MASS
Saturday –7:00 p.m.– For All Our Parishioners**

SATURDAY – 7:00 P.M.

**Lec – DeAnn Kaplan
EM – Darlene Czarnowski
Cup – Jenny Deml
Servers – Michael Skala & Kelson Titus
Gifts – Scott Kubicek
Ushers – Joe Wondra & Chris Deml
Singing – Combo
Rosary – Bob Prokopec**

**January 25 – Adult - \$942, Off. - \$271, Decorating - \$10,
Crib money - \$3.01**

Welcome to Jayden Lucille Wencil, daughter of Wayne & Linnea who was baptized last Sunday. May she always remain faithful to her calling.

School News:

The St. Isidore School Board will meet on Thursday, Feb. 12th at 4:00 p.m. in the school library.

Faith Formation – The 5 year old through fifth grade students meet each Wednesday from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in St. Isidore School. The 6th, 7th & 8th grade students meet each Wednesday from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. in the church basement. The 9th & 10th grade students preparing for Confirmation meet each Wednesday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the church basement. **Confirmation will be Friday, May 1 at Sacred Heart.** All students are encouraged to attend each week.

2nd Grade First Holy Communion will be Saturday, April 18th at the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

***SEWING of quilts* will start on February 4th at 9:00 a.m. with a potluck lunch at noon. If anyone has material we can use for backs, tops, or in betweens please bring them anytime and put them in the basement. Hopefully, as few more people can join us for this worthwhile quilting project.**

Thursday, February 12th the Litomysl Pastoral Council will meet at 6:00 p.m. (note time) and the Litomysl Finance Council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the church basement.

Afternoon of Art – will be held Sunday, Feb. 8th at 2:00 p.m. at Bl Prairie High School. Featuring the 1 act play. Cost is \$5

Catholic Daughters Court Owatonna #1180 will benefit from the Lenten Fish Dinner on Friday, Feb. 27th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Owatonna KC Hall, 820 South Elm. Tickets -\$8 and kids 6 and under are free. Fried fish (all you can eat) or Baked Fish Plate. Tickets will be available after Mass starting next weekend. Excellent hot food! Come and bring a friend.

Blooming Prairie after prom fundraiser – Pancake breakfast, Sunday, Feb. 1st at the Servicemen’s Club, serving 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Gary Richards Benefit, Sunday, February 1st from 8:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the American Legion in New Richland, MN. There will be a Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. Gary was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrigs disease), as this time there is no cure.

Fr Tom Cook will give a talk entitled, **“In Search of St. Paul.”** On Sunday, Feb. 8th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church. This is part of “The Call To Be Catholic” speakers series. Fr Cook, pastor of 3 parishes in the western part of our diocese, is well known to many in Owatonna as a very knowledgeable and dynamic speaker. His talk is very timely, since the pope has declared this year to be “the year of St. Paul,” in celebration of St. Paul’s 2000th birthday. Free will offering suggested.

St. Valentine’s Day Spa
Inviting all ladies ages 18-118 to be “LOVED & LIFTED” on Saturday, Feb. 14, 8:15 a.m. – noon at St. Edward’s Church, Austin. \$15 includes breakfast, fellowship, speaker and chocolates.
Registration forms available online at www.austincatholic.org
Register by Feb. 4th, e-mail: Jtanderson7@fmwildblue.com

“ARE YOU HAPPY?”
Jeff Cavins will come to Sacred Heart on February 15. He is recognized both nationally and inter ationally as an exciting public speaker who has a deep love for Jesus Christ. Over the past several years, Jeff has developed an extremely useful and practical interactive Bible Timeline study. This study has been offered to parishioners over the past several years here at Sacred Heart and St. Joseph’s Parishes.
Please place this date and time on your 2009 calendar: February 15, Jeff Cavins 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Social Justice Valentine dinner to follow.

The Advisory Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Club of Blooming Prairie invites all to attend our Annual February fundraising auction Saturday, February 21, at the Blooming Prairie Servicemen’s Club beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Sledding Party _ Sunday, Feb. 8th, 2 – 5:30 p.m. We’ll meet at the church parking lot at 2:00 p.m. and carpool to the Owatonna Country Club. After sledding, we’ll come back to church for supper (\$1/person). Parents will need to sign a permission form for kids under 18, so please contact Troy Anderson if interested in attending at 363-1701, or e-mail yorte21@hotmail.com

T.E.C. Retreat – Adrian will host Pathways TEC #52, Feb. 14-16th. The 3 day TEC retreat is open to people ages 16 and up. Adults are encouraged to attend. It begins on Friday morning & ends Sunday afternoon. The 3 days unfold an exciting presentation of the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ, as participants journey through DIE Day, RISE Day, and Go Day. contact Troy Anderson if interested in attending at 363-1701, or e-mail yorte21@hotmail.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend

Marriage is a journey! A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pizzazz to your journey. Whether you’ve been married 1 year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. Upcoming weekends will be held Feb. 13-15, at Shalom Hill Retreat Center near Windom or March 13-15, in Marshall. For more information or to register contact Jeff & Rondi Kodet at 507-644-3523 or jrek@redred.com or visit our website at www.wwmeSection8.org

“Created and Redeemed”, an 8 week series on Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, will begin on Monday, Feb. 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Owatonna. The series features outstanding presentations by Christopher West. Contact Sharon Stiles at 507-456-0977 or Andrew Lynch at 507-412-1633 for information & to register.

“Rachael mourns her children; she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more...” (Jeremiah 31:15)
If you or a loved one have had an abortion, you may be feeling overwhelmed and burdened. Whatever the pain, you are not alone and there is hope. PROJECT RACHAEL can help. You will be provided with sensitive, confidential counseling to share your grief and receive support and healing. Call Catholic Charities at Owatonna – 455-2008.

Thanks

Thank you to the Women’s Council for the Christmas box of Goodies and the prayers, when I was in the hospital.

...Edward Simon

Thank you to the Women’s Council for the nice Christmas Box of goodies. It is very much appreciated.

...Mary Starman

Matthew Rysavy, working with the musicians from our sister parish in Mozambique, has put together a CD recording of some of their liturgical music. The cost is \$8 with \$5 of that to be forwarded to benefit our sister parish. If you would like a CD contact Peggy Rysavy at church or call 451-2978.

Did you remember to pick up your Adult Envelopes from the back tables in church? Please use them each week as you thank God for His Blessings that week. (Write the amount on the outside of the envelope.)

Do you know someone who cannot attend Mass because of age, illness or infirmity? Please tell them about the Sunday Televised Mass, a service of the Diocese of Winon’s Communications Office. The Mass may be seen on KTTC-TV, Channel 10 in Rochester at 9:00 a.m. or KEYC-TV, Channel 12 in Mankato at 7:30 a.m. Consult your local cable listings for cable channel numbers.