

# Dear Padre,

## Are the readings at the beginning of Mass equal to the celebration of the Eucharist?

The Mass is celebrated in two major parts: the **Liturgy of the Word** and the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**. These parts complement each other in a balance of word and sacrament. In his 2004 apostolic letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine* (Stay With Us Lord), Pope St. John Paul II described these complementary elements. Using the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus on the night of Easter Sunday, the Pope likened the two parts of the revised liturgy to these disciples' journey. First, Christ breaks open the word for them, preparing their hearts with an interpretation of the Scriptures. Then, they recognize Christ as they break bread.

The Liturgy of the Word, proclaimed and preached well, allows time for silence and reflection on the wisdom offered. It becomes the necessary overture for the celebration of thanks and praise and the gift of the sign and sacrament to follow. Parishes are called to take the Liturgy of the Word most seriously and to bring it to a new level of proclamation. Pope St. John Paul II admonished all involved, but especially preachers, to cherish the word and preach it so the depths of the mysteries celebrated may be recognized and received into the burning hearts of Christians. In this context, the Scripture readings are given a prominence they didn't have in the older Roman rite. ●

From *The Eucharist: 50 Questions from the Pews* by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, PhD (816994), © 2009 Liguori Publications

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*In a divided and troubled world, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk together in unity. The earth will rest, justice will prevail, the poor will rejoice, and peace will return once we no longer act as predators but as pilgrims. No longer each of us for ourselves but walking alongside one another. Not greedily exploiting this world but cultivating it and protecting it.*

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 7, 2025



MILAN ZIVKOVIC/SHUTTERSTOCK



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 8, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16



## That Our Wounds Might Be Quickly Healed

ANN M. GARRIDO

**S**ome years ago, I took a crash course in chaplaincy. Chaplains are often called on to accompany people through life's gloomier seasons—be it in a hospital, in a nursing home, in prison, or following a disaster. As you might imagine, our training involved sessions on how to best alleviate the isolation and despair many people experience in these places and situations. Pray with people? Invite them outside into nature? Make sure physical discomfort is mitigated? All of these are good practices, my chaplain supervisor emphasized, but research indicates that the quickest way to lift the heaviness many feel is to get them involved in alleviating the suffering of others.

I suspect neither Isaiah nor Jesus would have been surprised by this research. In today's first reading, Isaiah says that if we feed the hungry and give shelter to the homeless, if we clothe the naked and care for our family members in need, we will know what it means to have light in the midst of darkness, and our gloom will melt away as if under the noonday sun. Similarly, Jesus describes our good deeds as being like light, meant to be shared generously with others.

In recent years, we have seen an uptick in depression and anxiety, even among the young. We can be tempted to focus more inwardly on our own lives, our own griefs and shortcomings. Self-awareness is certainly a good trait to have! But, perhaps counterintuitively, today's readings remind us that our "wounds shall quickly be healed" more readily when we focus on the needs of others. ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### Reflect

**Why does helping another lift our own spirits?**



**"Your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed."**

ISAIAH 58:8

Office hours are Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am—5:30 pm.

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-0567 or Father David at 920-228-1814. Thank-you.

St Mary's Mass schedule in Black Creek: Saturdays @ 4 PM, Sundays @ 8 AM, Tuesday—Friday @ 7:30 AM

Father David Greskowiak—Administrator

Sunday 2/01/26 = \$1,116.00 Attendance = 91

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

02/08/26—Don & Mickey Hartleben by Lori Mackowiak

02/15/26—Remembrance of Robert Letter by Lucille Letter

02/18/26—12:00 PM—Open

6:30 PM - Remembrance of James Krings by The Krings Family

Mass Servers –

02/08/26—Malachi Gray, Beau Diemel, Jared Peters

02/15/26—Jamesen Boerst, Landon & Natalie Fischer

02/18/26—12:00 PM—OPEN 6:30 PM—Youth

Ministers of the Word –

02/08/26—Kevin Peeters

02/15/26—Troy Wegner

02/18/26—12:00 Noon—Randy Short 6:30 PM — Youth

Hospitality

02/08/26—Karen VanLanen, Bernie Weier, Charlie Herb

02/15/26—David Nowak, Anita Wegner, Pam Wetts

RE NEWS: Wed. Feb 11th 6:30pm RE Class and new server training.

Wed. Feb 18th 6:30pm Ash Wed Mass. Attendance will be taken. Parents please attend with your students.

Wed. Mar 4th 6:30pm RE Class. 2nd grade Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father David.

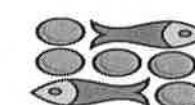
**Chili Dump February 15th after Mass** Free Will offering will go to Safe Haven Domestic Abuse Shelter in Shawano.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday, February 11 4—6 PM

Saturday, February 14 9—11 AM

Thank you for all the donations so far this year!!



Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry is asking for your help in filling our Spring Baskets for our families. Since these are distributed in March, we thought we would have a "green" theme. We are asking for cans of "green" vegetables, such as beans and peas. You can just put them in the cart in the front vestibule at any time! Thanks very much.

Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026: **April 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; May 25; August 30; September 20(Picnic), 27; October 4, 18, 25; November 15; Deer Hunter's Mass, Thanksgiving, 29; December 13, 20, Christmas Day, 27, and New Years.** You may contact the office.

Happy Birthday!

February 8 Gary Urban; 9 Collin Guyette; 11 Wendy Meeuwsen; 13 Mason Herb; 16 Jean Short; 18 Nicholas Renner; 19 Crystal Short; 20 David Burch, Mary Ellen Peeters, Natalie Fischer; 21 Violet Martin, Gregory Strayer; 22 Stanley Heinemeyer; 25 Shelly Stascak; 26 Pat Stammer; 27 Irene Jarek, Andrew Vanrite; 28 Eleanor Couch, James Jarek, Brody Maroszek, Megan Urban



## 2026 Bishop's Appeal

Kick-Off Weekend

### “Be the Light”

#### Be the Light for Our Community

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. -Matthew 5:14-16*

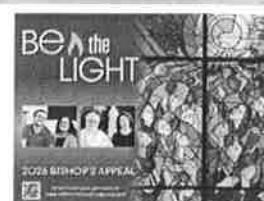
Dear Friends,

Jesus calls us to *Be the Light*—a light that brings hope and healing to those around us. The Bishop's Appeal helps make this possible through Catholic Charities, faith formation at St. Lawrence Parish, and even more ministries that support people across our Diocese.

We invite everyone who is able, to please participate in the Bishop's Appeal. Our parish goal this year is **\$14,805.00**. If you have already given, thank you so much. If you haven't given before, I invite you to please consider making your first gift this year. Every gift makes a difference. Those who are able may want to join the Crozier Society with a gift of \$500 or more, which helps these ministries to reach even more people.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. You may have received materials and a pledge card at home in the mail. If you have not, we have materials at the entrances of the church. You can also visit [www.catholicfoundation.org/give](http://www.catholicfoundation.org/give).

Thank you for helping St. Lawrence Parish and our Diocese share the light of Christ.



### National Marriage Week / February 7-14, 2026

Join us in celebrating National Marriage Week from February 7-14!



National Marriage Week is a special time to reflect on the beautiful gift of the sacrament of matrimony. This year's theme from the USCCB is **"Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose"**, inviting couples to strengthen their bond and deepen their lifelong commitment to each other. Materials are available.

### Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

18 February 2026



7:30 A.M.	St. Mary's	Black Creek
12:00 P.M.	St. Lawrence	Navarino
4:30 P.M.	St. Mary's	Black Creek (with Religious Ed families)
6:30 P.M.	St. Lawrence	Navarino (with Religious Ed families)

### Reflection on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: *"5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Sunday February 8, 2026"* found on the "Young Catholics" website—[young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com):

#### A Light in the Darkness

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A reminds us that faith is not just about personal belief. It is also about action. The reading from Isaiah shows that caring for those in need is a key part of following God. Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and helping those who are suffering are all ways to bring light into the world. This passage connects closely to the Corporal Works of Mercy. It teaches that true worship of God includes working for justice. Faith is not just about prayers and rituals. It is about using the gifts we have to help create a better society.

Isaiah also warns against harsh words and judgment. When people speak with anger or hate, they add to the darkness in the world. But when they act with love, their light shines through. Love and kindness push back against the negativity that surrounds us.

The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A calls us to be a light for others. When people care for those in need, they show the world what God's love looks like. They make the world a brighter place, and they help others see hope in the darkness.

#### Salt and Light

The gospel for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A uses two simple but powerful images: salt and light. Salt brings out the best flavor in food. Light makes things clear and bright. Jesus tells his followers that they should do the same in the world.

Being a Christian is not just about personal faith. It is about making a difference. Good actions glorify God. When people live with kindness, honesty, and love, they bring out the best in others. They help spread the message of Christ.

Jesus also gives a warning. If salt loses its flavor, it is no longer useful. In the same way, if Christians do not live out their faith, they are not fully being who they are called to be. They cannot just talk about faith. They have to live it. The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time... is a call to action. It reminds people to be a good influence on the world. By living with love and purpose, they can help bring the light of Christ to others.

#### Faith Over Fear

The second reading for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A speaks about faith and weakness. Paul admits that he came with fear and trembling. He did not rely on fancy words or human wisdom. Instead, he let God's power shine through him. This is an important reminder for anyone who feels uncertain about their faith. It is easy to feel too weak or unprepared to share the message of Christ. But Paul shows that God does not need human strength. He works through those who trust in Him.

Faith is not about being perfect. It is about trusting in God even when things seem difficult. Paul did not try to impress people with his knowledge. He simply focused on Jesus and let the Spirit work through him. The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A encourages people to put their faith in God, not in their own abilities. Even in weakness, they can still be a light to others. Trusting in God's power can bring courage and strength in any situation.

### Registration for Camp Tekakwitha

Registration is open for summer at Camp Tekakwitha for our parish youth! If you're looking for a Catholic summer experience spent soaking up God's great creation through outdoor adventure, blessed fun and great community, Camp Tek is for you! Please visit [www.camptekakwitha.org](http://www.camptekakwitha.org) or call 715-526-2316 for further information and joining us this summer. Summer Camp brochures are available at the entrances of the church.

### Banns of Marriage

Congratulations to Max and Tiffany Fisher who were united in the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony yesterday, 7 February. We pray for them as they begin their new life together. Congratulations Max and Tiffany!

### Rite of Sending

Next Sunday, 15 February, during Mass, we will have the *Rite of Sending Catechumens for Election* for Tiffany Fisher as she takes this next important step to be received into the Catholic Church through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) process. Tiffany and her sponsor—Jean Fisher, will then be going to St. Francis Xavier Cathedral that afternoon to be presented to Bishop David Ricken during the *Rite of Election*. Let us keep Tiffany in prayer as she continues on her journey of faith.

During the season of Lent, we will plan to have to have the Stations of the Cross on Sundays after Mass. We will start on Sunday, 22 February, and will continue to offer it on the Sundays of Lent, if enough people are willing to stay and participate in it.