

Good Morning Parish Family, Second Sunday of Lent.

The Fatherhood of God! What a mysterious yet simple thing! Some people will say the essence of Christianity IS the Fatherhood of God: that God is our Father and we are His sons in the Son. Scott Hahn calls this “the master idea of the Catholic religion.” Is that an oversimplification? Some scholars say that the Coming of the Kingdom is the central idea of the gospel. Mark quotes Jesus after the arrest of John (Mk1:15), saying “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.” In any case, when we reflect on either of them, we can look forward with great joy to our own resurrection, to our deepest desire: heaven itself, forever.

The Our Father is the prayer that Jesus himself gave us. I read somewhere that the Our Father is most commented upon passage in all of scripture. St. Teresa of Jesus herself dedicates the last 16 chapters of her “Way of Perfection” to the Our Father. Bl. Angela of Foligno, the great mystic of the Middle Ages, said that one day she was suffering intensely from great anguish of soul. Then she heard the voice of Our Lady suggesting that she recite humbly the Pater Noster. So, she did, and immediately her soul was filled with consolation and peace. The Our Father is called the perfect prayer. St. Augustine tells us there is nothing we can say in prayer that is not already contained in the Our Father. The theme of “Father” runs through the entire prayer.

God fathers his family through covenants, which are sacred family bonds. In fact, a covenant establishes a family. Scott Hahn explains salvation history in terms of six major covenants: five Old Testament covenants, and, when the time is fulfilled, one New Covenant, the worldwide international family of God.

Beginning with Adam, and on through Old Testament history, God brought salvation to us through covenants. By his covenant with Adam, God created a nuclear family. Then he created a wider family through Noah. Through Abraham, God created a tribal family. That gift to Abraham was actually three separate covenants. He had already promised Abram land, descendants, and a worldwide blessing. Then, later, he upgraded those promises into oaths. An oath creates a covenant family. In God’s covenant with Moses, He created a nation, a national family. He also fulfilled his oath to give the descendants of Abraham the land he had promised. In his covenant with David, he created a kingdom family, and also fulfilled his promise that this royal kingdom would never end, because one of David’s descendants, Jesus Christ, would be on the throne forever. Finally, he created his new and final covenant, through the Paschal Mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. With this covenant Yahweh fulfilled his last promise to Abraham, a worldwide blessing. This final covenant fulfilled all the Old Testament covenants, and all the Old Testament promises. God created the Catholic Church, the worldwide, international, family of God. Our family.

Lent is a call not just to “give up something” but, more importantly, to “give something for the poor.” Wherever you live in the parish, there are poor families within walking distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Your almsgiving in the St. Vincent de Paul envelope will help the poor to celebrate the grace of God’s love this Easter.

SOUP SUPPERS & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Soup Suppers started February 16th at 6:00 pm. They will continue every Friday until March 22nd. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Come enjoy the company of your church family and stay afterward for stations of the cross.



MASS INTENTIONS

Please join us in praying for these intentions 2/8-2/15. If you would like a Mass said, please call the office at 360-629-3737.

2/22 St Cecilia Parishioners

2/23 Patricia Donner (RIP)

2/24 (9am) Stanley Innes

2/24(5pm) Least remembered Souls in Purgatory

2/25 (9am) Pete Caviezel (RIP)

2/25 (11am) Barbara & Tom Kato (RIP)

2/26 Ryder Family (INT)

2/27 Lynn Steffen (INT)

2/28 Holy Souls in Purgatory

2/29 Vance Ryder (INT)

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**Office Hours
8:00am-2:00pm
Mon-Thurs
Office Phone
360-629-3737**



LENTEN MISSION TALK IN ARLINGTON

There will be a Lenten Mission at Immaculate Conception Arlington on **February 27th** at 7:00pm. 1200 E 5th Street, Arlington, WA 98223. Fr. Tyler Johnson will speak about the Sacraments related to death.

LENTEN MISSION AT ST CECILIA'S

Our mission at St. Cecilia's will be with Fr. Matthais of the Immaculate Heart, O.C.D. The theme of his talks will be "Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist and tapping into His transforming power in our prayer and Sufferings."

Feb 29 Thursday: 6:30 Benediction, 7 pm Holy Mass with Mission Homily on Encountering JESUS in our SUFFERINGS.

Mar 1 Friday: 6:00 Soup Supper Followed by Stations of the Cross 7:45 Mass With a Mission Homily on Encountering JESUS in our PRAYER. We will have the Marian Procession & Rosary following Mass, and an opportunity for Scapular Enrollments at the end of Procession.

March 2 Saturday: 5pm Mass after the Mass with the Mission Homily on Encountering JESUS THE HEALER There will be a Eucharistic Procession for Healing.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Dinner in the Parish Hall on Saturday, March 16 the after the 5 p.m. Mass. Tickets are \$20 per person, \$40 per couple, or just \$50 for your entire family. Your ticket entitles you to an evening of fellowship, food, and fun featuring an entertaining MC, live Irish music, a delicious corned beef dinner with potatoes and cabbage, complimentary beer and wine (donations gratefully accepted), and dozens of wonderful raffle prizes valued at over \$8,000. These prizes include two gas BBQ grills, a smoker, a camp tent, a 6-piece 18v power tool set, a nostalgia popcorn cart, jewelry, toys for the kids, and many other things too numerous to mention here. Tickets are being sold after all Masses. There are just 120 seats available, and they are going fast, so buy your tickets today! Proceeds go to the many charitable endeavors the Knights support here in our community.



ST CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

A DISCALCED CARMELITE PARISH

Mass Schedule:

February 25, 2024

Saturday Vigil 5pm **Sunday** 9am & 11am

Daily Mass Mon-Sat 9am

St Joseph Mass First Wednesday of the month. Rosary at 6:30 pm, Mass at 7:00pm

Reconciliation Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday after the 9:00 Mass, except 3rd Friday.

February 25, 2024t



By Carl Bloch

CARMELITE
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SPIRITUALITY

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Director
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