

From the Desk of Father Reither

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

2560 "If you knew the gift of God!" The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.

2561 "You would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." Paradoxically our prayer of petition is a response to the plea of the living God: "They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water!" Prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation and also a response of love to the thirst of the only Son of God.

Today our Gospel reading from John gives us the beautiful story of Jesus and the Woman at the well. The Catechism sees in this Gospel passage a reflection of the life of prayer. During this season of Lent, we are called to grow deeper in prayer along with our acts of fasting and almsgiving, but what does growing deeper in prayer look like?

The most basic form of prayer, the one that most people are probably familiar with, is the prayer of petition, which in other words is a prayer asking for a specific thing. This is a beautiful form of prayer that recognizes our dependency on God. But prayer goes even deeper than that. More than seeing God as a providential provider, prayer can move us to encounter the Love which is none other than God himself. It is this kind of prayer which moves us from being servants to friends of God. "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." – John 15:15

To get to that stage, we must pass through a time of "purgation" as it is sometimes called. You may have noticed that after a time of falling away or being lax in prayer, it can feel difficult to enter into times of meditation or it can seem to feel dry or that nothing is happening when I pray. We might be tempted during that time to judge our prayer and think that we are doing something wrong. But in the times of dryness in prayer, the Lord is purifying our intentions and our faith. By persevering in those times of difficulty in prayer, our thirst for the things of this world can move to thirst for God who alone truly satisfies the human heart. In the end, our thirst for God in prayer touches the thirst of God himself. Remember it is in John's Gospel that in the moments before Jesus died, he spoke the words that have echoed down to our own day: "I thirst".

God bless,
Fr. Reither

ST. CHARLES PARISH NEWS

"Ask A Priest" Luncheon-March 15

Please plan to participate in and attend our first "Ask a Priest" event on March 15, after Mass! Father Reither will have an open session of answering questions that we submit to him. If you have burning questions about our faith and/or parish, Father will provide insight into all we ask.



Soup & sandwiches will be provided. Feel free to bring a dish to pass. If this interests you, please fill out the survey through the link or QR code below by March 8.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLStGc-Vbuy9zuHMsJAKF_ixrQ6mIWt9UH8wEHhyutCV
Egw/viewform?usp=dialog

CCD:

March 15: 8:15 AM Grades K-5
March 18: 6:30 PM Grades 6 & up
March 22: NO CLASS/confirmation retreat
March 29: Mass Participation

ST. CHARLES SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

No school on Monday, March 16, 2026

PTO:

Friday Night Fish - 3/20 from 5 pm - 7 pm. Thank you to those who came out even after the large snowfall to enjoy the fish and company! Looking forward to seeing you next week! Music offered by Tim Bohnenkamp. Drinks and desserts available.

Spring Carnival - April 26th from 10:30-1:30 pm. Any donations (prizes, baskets or goodies) can be dropped off at school or back of church labeled Spring Carnival. If you would like to volunteer to help reach out to Jessie at 608-780-1148. We are looking forward to another fun event for all! Raffle tickets will be available soon!

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE &

OUR COMMUNITY

Christm Mass | March 31st | St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse

The Christm Mass is one of the diocesan highlights at which the Bishop blesses the oils for the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism and the Anointing of the Sick, and consecrates the Sacred Chrism used in the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Orders. Priests also renew their priestly promises at this Mass, and the faithful pray for them. The Christm Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 31, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral in La Crosse. Please consider attending!

Lent: Keep First Things First: God's Unconditional Love for each Person

Personal sin is a part of our lives through selfishness; all of us miss the mark. We are reluctant to go to confession as it is difficult and humbling to look at our failures and faults. However, the first thing to do is realize and recognize all the good things God has given us. Spend a few minutes to look back, or notice what happened even today, and write down the special blessings that you received from God. It becomes easier to take our sins to Christ in the sacrament of confession when we examine our conscience in light of how much He loves us.

Remember, even the small choices we make in our daily life matter. We are invited to align ourselves with the kingdom of God through prayer, reflection, and cooperation with His grace received in the sacrament of reconciliation. Lent is an appropriate time to make a good confession.

Double Feature with Jason Evert Event | April 22, 2026 |St. Bronislava Catholic Church, Plover Let's come together to discover the beauty of God's plan for human love. A life-changing event for teens & adults (ages 13+). Event includes: Eucharistic Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Free resources for every attendee! Tickets \$25

Tickets: www.chastity.com/purified
Info: eventcoach@chastity.com
Doors open at 5:30pm