

“Forgiveness” by Fr. Scott Hurd

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When we forgive others, we benefit ourselves. As with Dativa Ngaboyisonga [whose father and aunt were tortured and killed in front of her in Rwanda] we may benefit those we forgive. For instance, it may be that those who have hurt us are terribly sorry for what they’ve done. They’re wracked by guilt and wish that they could reverse the hands of time and undo what they did. **If we forgive them, we release them from the prison of regret and shame.** Should we be in a relationship with them, our forgiveness can bring healing and hope for a better future. By refusing to forgive, on the other hand, we keep those who’ve hurt us locked in prison. We may even do this intentionally, as a way of punishing. We purposely deny them peace. And we deny ourselves peace as well.

By extension, we also deny peace to those around us. When we fail to forgive, we’re likely to become embittered, cynical, resentful people. We create a climate of negativity around us. Misery loves company, and our misery will make our company miserable too, before it drives others away. And those who can’t get away, such as members of our own family, may “catch” our misery. Misery is infectious; it can spread like cancer. Pope John Paul II put it very well: “What sufferings are inflicted on humanity,” he exclaimed, “because of the failure to forgive.”

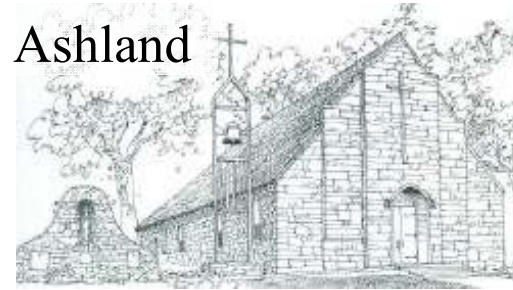
It’s especially important that we forgive for the sake of our families. Our failing to forgive a spouse, an ex-spouse, a relative, or an in-law can shatter a family’s cohesion, or, if it’s already been shattered, prevent some of the pieces being put back together again. We force people to “take sides.” We slander, gossip, and even sabotage attempts at peacemaking. We drive wedges between those who once may have been close. Holidays and big events like weddings and graduations become occasions of anxiety and dread instead of togetherness and joy. Kids sense the tension and become agitated or withdrawn. And they pick up our bad lessons and come to follow our example.

We need to model forgiveness for children in particular, so they can grow into forgiving adults. Forgiveness doesn’t come naturally to us. Like love, it needs to be learned. Most of all, it needs to be learned at home. That’s why the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Paragraph 1657) describes the family as a “school” of forgiveness.

I’ve witnessed the truth of this at a retreat I’ve attended with my family for several summers. One entire day is devoted to forgiveness. After a morning presentation, everyone writes a letter to each member of his/her family, asking forgiveness for the things he/she has done. In the evening, at a special ceremony, the letters are exchanged. Sibling apologize to their brothers and sisters. Spouses apologize to each other. Children apologize to parents. Parents apologize to their children. Tears are shed and hugs are given. It’s a powerful experience, and a powerful lesson.

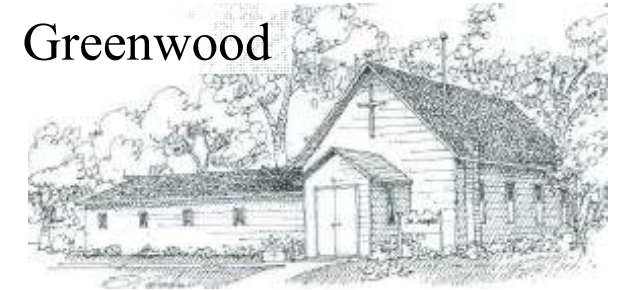
St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches

Ashland



1625 Adams Street, Ashland NE 68003
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM

Greenwood



7 Oak Street, Greenwood
Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Rectory & Fax: 402-944-3554, Preschool & Hall: 402-944-7509

Cell: 402-202-3782, stmaryashland@windstream.net

View the weekly bulletin & monthly calendar at our **website:**

home.windstream.net/stmaryashland

Confessions a half hour before Masses

Saturday 4:00-4:50 PM St. Mary

Sunday 8:00-8:20 AM St. Mary

10:00-10:20 AM St. Joseph

Any time by calling the rectory.

Welcome to new parishioners,
 please call the rectory to register or
 for information on any of our parish
 activities and organizations.

Mass Schedule for this week

Sat.	Apr. 6	8:00 PM	Ashland	Rosemary Powell
Sun.	Apr. 7	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	+ Dorothy Maher
Mon.	Apr. 8	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Wolk & Wemhoff Family
Tues.	Apr. 9	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Hubert & Alice Muff
Wed.	Apr. 10	9:15 AM	Care Center	+ Doris Fong
Thurs.	Apr. 11	9:00 AM	Greenwood	
		6:30 PM	Ashland	+ Elodia Medina
Fri.	Apr. 12	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stander
Sat.	Apr. 13	9:15 AM	Oxbow	
		5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Gerhard Groenjes
Sun.	Apr. 14	8:30 AM	Ashland	+ Pat Estey
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People

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607 N 21st St
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 Parishioner



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 Don Fick ~ Audrey Williams

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April 7, 2013

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Ministries for Next Weekend

Sat. Apr. 13 - 5:00 PM
Servers: Craven, Kasuske
Acolyte: Ricardo Chairez
Lector: Mace McGinley
Sun. Apr. 14 - 8:30 AM
Servers: Lyons, Washburn
Acolyte: Todd Survil
Lector: Karen Stille
Sun. Apr. 14 - 10:30 AM
Lector: Jon Sundermeier

Stewardship Corner

“Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believed,” Jesus says in today’s Gospel.
For those who have not seen to believe, however, we must be good stewards of our faith, living it joyfully and sharing it generously.
Then, in our time too, “men and women in great numbers” will be “added to the Lord.”
See John 20:29; Acts 5:14

Congratulations

Anniversaries:

Chuck & Janice Reisen
Helen & Fred Fankhauser

Birthdays:

Walt Del Vecchio
Steve Cerveny
Kevin Hofferber
Jackie Fudge
Hayden Hanna
Teresa Chaffin

Calendar

Sun. Apr. 7, 9:30 AM Coffee & Rolls, Children Choir
1:50 PM Divine Mercy DVD
3:00 PM Exposition and Chaplet
Tues. Apr. 9, 9:30 AM Bible Study
Wed. Apr. 10, 9:15 AM Mass at Care Center
7:00 PM CCD Religious Ed
Thurs. Apr. 11, 6:30 PM Mass at Ashland
7:00 PM Altar Society Meeting
Sat. Apr. 13, 9:15 AM Mass at Oxbow
Sun. Apr. 14, 4:00-7:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner
Plan ahead: First Holy Communion is Saturday April 20th at the 5:00 PM Mass.

Our Return to the Lord, Mar. 30-31

Table with 3 columns: Item, St. Mary, St. Joseph. Rows include Adult, Plate, Easter, Weekly Budget, Catholic Social Services, Holy Land, Combined Collection, and Flowers.

Thank You for your generosity.

Readings and Celebrations this week:

April 8 Mon The Annunciation of the Lord
Is 7:10-14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4-10 / Lk 1:26-38
9 Tue Acts 4:32-37 / Jn 3:7b-15
10 Wed Acts 5:17-26 / Jn 3:16-21
11 Thu Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr
Acts 5:27-33 / Jn 3:31-36
12 Fri Acts 5:34-42 / Jn 6:1-15
13 Sat [Saint Martin I, Pope and Martyr]
Acts 6:1-7 / Jn 6:16-21
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 5:27-41 / Rv 5:11-14 / Jn 21:1-19

Parish Announcements

Thank You to all the ladies who assisted with the funeral luncheon for Billy Schuelke.
Thank you for the many donations that filled the Catholic Social Services (CSS) Donation Trailer, helping the needy in southern Nebraska.
Today, Apr. 7 is Divine Mercy Sunday. To learn more about this devotion, a DVD on the life of St. Faustina will be shown at 1:50 PM, followed by Exposition, the Chaplet and Prayers at 3 PM. Confessions available from 2-3 PM.
Everyone is invited a Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by CCD on Sun. Apr. 14, 4:00-7:30 PM at St. Mary. Many volunteers are also needed to serve, bake, cook, clean and of course EAT!!! Contact Cheryl 402-944-7692 or Tanya 402-944-2167 about volunteering.

St. Mary Altar Society meets this Thurs. Apr. 11, 7:00 PM in Ashland (after 6:30 PM Mass).

Be sure to turn in any Rice Bowls for Catholic Relief Services, Coin Boxes for Missionary Childhood Association (CCD students), and Combined Collection envelopes from last month.

Community Announcements

Saunders Co. Senior Coalition: a free Resource and Health Fair Thur. Apr. 11, 8AM-Noon, Civic Center Gym, Wahoo.
Saunders Medical Auxiliary annual Benefit Buffet & Auction, Thurs. Apr. 11, 5:00-6:30 PM at the Starlite Ballroom. Live auction at 6 PM.

Diocesan Announcements

St. John School, Weston Garage Sale Wed. Apr. 17th, 3-6 PM, Thurs. 18th, 9AM-6PM, Fri. 19th, 9AM-3PM. Lunch also available.

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land will have a Holy Hour on Sun. Apr. 14, Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln at 3:00 PM, led by Fr. Scott Courtney. Pray for peace and for the Christians in the Holy Land. All are invited to join in this unified prayer opportunity.

Catholics Come Home program for inactive Catholics of all ages who are no longer practicing the faith. A chance to be heard and have a priest and supportive team listen, help them understand what happened, and offer encouragement along the way back. Sundays from 2:00-4:30 PM: Apr. 14, 21, and 28. Blessed Sacrament School, 1725 Lake Street, Lincoln.

Healing Hearts Support Sessions for those who have recently lost a loved one, to assist Catholics in the grief process. The sessions will be held on six weekly Monday evenings beginning Apr. 8, 7:00-9:00 PM, at Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center, 37th & Sheridan Blvd. Cost: \$15.00. To register, please call 488-2040.

Consider a Marriage Encounter Weekend to enrich your lives and revitalize your marriage. April 12-14 in Omaha or Aug. 2-4 in North Platte. To register or for more info, contact Pat & Janelle at 308-946-3568 or pbjbben@yahoo.com

Still hurting after an abortion? God has forgiven you; but you can't forgive yourself? Confidential, caring Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for post-abortion healing: women, men, and couples. April 26-28, near Omaha, \$180 per person. Email: helpingrachel@yahoo.com or call 402-253-9936 for more information.

Summer Camps 2013

See www.dioceseoflincoln.org or call 488-2040
• Leadership Camp: for boys entering grades 6-9, July 14-20 or July 21-27
• SKY Camps: for all students entering grades 6-9, nine 3-day camps will be held in May and June.
• Marian Camp: for girls entering grades 6-9, June 27-30th, contact: 402-786-2750.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for April

General intention: that the public, prayerful celebration of faith may give life to the faithful.
Mission intention: that mission Churches may be signs and instruments of hope and resurrection.