

## Sunday Mass Is a Necessity, Says Pontiff, Not Just a Rule

Going to Sunday Mass is not just a rule to follow, but rather an "inner necessity," said Pope Benedict XVI.

The Holy Father's comments centered on the mantra of the early Christian martyrs of Abitene: **"Without Sunday we cannot live."**

The Pontiff said: "Sunday has been transformed in our Western societies into the weekend, into leisure time.

"Leisure time is certainly something good and necessary, especially amid the mad rush of the modern world. Yet if leisure time lacks an inner focus, an overall sense of direction, then ultimately it becomes wasted time that neither strengthens nor builds us up.

"Free time requires a focus -- the encounter with him who is our origin and goal."

### The Meaning of Sunday

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, archbishop of Vienna, explained that there had been a movement in Austria to defend "Sunday from tendencies to empty this day of its meaning."

Recalling the example of the early Christians, Benedict XVI explained that for them Sunday Mass was not a "precept," but rather "an inner necessity."

"Does this attitude of the Christians of that time apply also to us who are Christians today?" the Pope asked.

The Holy Father answered: "Yes, it does, we too need a relationship that sustains us, that gives direction and content to our lives.

"We too need access to the Risen One, who sustains us through and beyond death. We need this encounter which brings us together, which gives us space for freedom, which lets us see beyond the bustle of everyday life to God's creative love, from which we come and toward which we are traveling."

But Sunday, said the Pontiff, also calls to mind the "the day of the dawning of creation."

He said: "Therefore Sunday is also the Church's weekly feast of creation -- the feast of thanksgiving and joy over God's creation.

"At a time when creation seems to be endangered in so many ways through human activity, we should consciously advert to this dimension of Sunday too."

# St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches

## Ashland



## Greenwood



1625 Adams Street, Ashland NE 68003

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM

7 Oak Street, Greenwood

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Rectory & Fax: 944-3554, CCD/Hall: 944-7509

Cell: 202-3782, stmaryashland@alltel.net

### Welcome to new parishioners,

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

### Confessions a half hour before Masses

Saturday 9:30-10:00 AM

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.

CCD & Youth Group each Wed. 7:15 PM

### Mass Schedule for this week

Sat.	Mar. 8	5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Arnold Vogler
Sun.	Mar. 9	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	+ Louise Kirkpatrick Fulton
Mon.	Mar. 10	9:00 AM	Ashland	Beatrice Prell
Tues.	Mar. 11	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Valentine Meduna
Wed.	Mar. 12	9:15 AM	Care Center	+ Dorothy Lococo
Thurs.	Mar. 13	7:00 PM	Ashland	+ Arnold Vogler
Fri.	Mar. 14	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Lucinda (Cindy) Pilcher
Sat.	Mar. 15	9:00 AM	Ashland	St Joseph
		5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Ben Holbrook
Sun.	Mar. 16	8:30 AM	Ashland	+ Gerhard Groenjes
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People

### St Patrick's Festival

St. Patrick Church, Lincoln,  
Sat. Mar. 15: Dinner 11-6,  
Carnival 11-4, Dance 7:30-  
11:30.

### Sharon Schaub

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### Waverly Physical Therapy

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**March 9, 2008**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Ministries for next weekend**

Sat. Mar. 15 - 5:00 PM  
 Servers: Kasuskes, Novotny  
 Acolyte: Craig Pease  
 Lector: Sandy Sheef

Sun. Mar. 16 - 8:30 AM  
 Servers: Adams, Rosenbaum, Survil  
 Acolyte: Dave Romans  
 Lector: Kathy Broz

Sun. Mar. 16 - 10:30 AM  
 Lector: Jon Sundermeier  
 Offertory: Krings

**Stewardship Thought**

**5th Sunday of Lent**

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified."

Every aspect of our lives — our gifts as well as our sufferings — can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves. See John 11:4

**Congratulations**

Anniversaries: Ron & Jeanette Bacon 3/13  
 Barb & Steve Novotny 3/14

Birthdays: Rod Reisen 3/9  
 Barb Suhr 3/9  
 Darcy Suhr 3/9  
 Eileen Thaden 3/9  
 Sandy Scheef 3/10  
 Mary Schuelke 3/10  
 Erin Haag 3/11  
 Eric Smits 3/11  
 Reece Brudny 3/12  
 Russ Curtis 3/13  
 Bill Yard 3/13

**Calendar for This Week**

Sun. Mar. 9, 9:30 AM **Coffee and Rolls** [note date]  
 9:30 AM **Easter Choir** Rehearsal

Wed. Mar. 12, 9:15 AM **Mass** at Care Center  
 7:00 PM **Lenten Penance Service**  
 7:00 PM **CCD** and **Youth Group**

Thurs. Mar. 13, 7:00 PM **Mass** at Ashland  
 7:30 PM **Altar Society** Meeting

Fri. Mar. 14 (Abstinence from meat)  
 5:30 PM **Field Trip** departure  
 6:00 PM **Stations** at Holy Family Shrine

**Parish Announcements**

**Lenten Penance Service** on Wed. Mar. 12, 7:00 PM (with CCD classes).

**St Mary Altar Society** meets Thurs. Mar. 13, 7:30 PM (after Mass). All ladies from should pick up their 2008 packets. Dues, again \$20 this year, can be dropped in the collection.

**CCD Field Trip to Holy Family Shrine** for Stations of the Cross on Fri. Mar. 14, 5:30 PM departure. Therefore, there will not be the regularly scheduled Stations. All are invited to join us for the **6:00 PM Stations at the Shrine**.

**Easter Choir rehearsals:** Sun. Mar. 9 and Mar. 16 at 9:30 AM at St. Mary (following the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass), and Sat. Mar. 22, 7:15 PM before the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary's.

**Easter Pilgrimage** of Historic Churches on Mon. Mar. 24. Join a Pilgrimage led by Fr. Gary Coulter to visit several churches in SE Nebraska and NE Kansas on Easter Monday. We will depart from St. Mary's in Ashland at 8:00 AM, have Mass and prayers during the day, lunch at Valentino's, and return by 5:30 PM. Cost is \$20 per person (and \$6 for lunch buffet). Make your reservations early by calling 944-3554 or emailing stmaryashland@alltel.net.

**Knights of Columbus** will be selling sausages after the Masses this weekend.

The **Combined Collection** gives you a chance to support 7 worthwhile causes with one donation. Extra envelopes are available in the back of Church. Please be generous.

**Community Announcements**

**Annual Passion Play**, 7:00 PM Fri-Sun. Mar. 14-16 and 3:00 PM Sat. Mar. 15 at Southview Baptist Church 3434 S 13th St, Lincoln.

**Diocesan Announcements**

Creighton Model **Natural Family Planning** intro sessions on Tues. Mar. 18 & Mon. Mar. 31 at 7 PM. Call 488-2040 for info.

**Lenten Adult Series** on "Famous Catholics" at St Teresa Church, 36th & Randolph, Lincoln. Mar. 10, 7:30 PM: Fr. Kelly on "Pope Benedict".

**St. John Nepomucene School** in Weston: Kindergarten Roundup on Mon. Mar. 10, 7 PM. Pre-K Roundup on Tues. Mar. 11, 7 PM.

**Men's Spiritual Conference**, Sat. Mar. 15 at St. Joseph Church, Lincoln, 9AM-4PM. Famous speakers, Mass with the Bishop, on "Being Catholic 24/7". \$20 registration includes lunch www.stjosephmensgroup.org or 432-3571.

**St. Patrick, Lincoln** Annual St. Patrick's Day Festival on Sat. Mar. 15. Meal 11-6, Kids Carnival 11-4, Dance 7:30-11:30 PM.

**Holy Week Retreat** for single young women (age 17-35) at the Waverly Good Counsel Retreat House, Mar. 20-22. Low cost. 786-2750.

**Love and Life Program** for Parents/Teens (age 13-16) on human sexuality, chastity and virtues on Sat. Mar. 29, 10AM-2PM at Bl John XXIII Center in Lincoln. Reservation required at 488-2040 (\$25 per family, includes lunches).

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France** in honor of the 150th Anniversary, sponsored by Lourdes High School June 17-25, 2008. Visit Lourdes, Paris, and Mont St. Michel, Notre Dame Cathedral, Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, and the Normandy beaches. Base price is \$2,749 per person (all inclusive). For more information, please contact Lourdes Catholic School, Nebraska City at (402) 873-6154.

**Wahoo Light of the World Retreat**

Is postponed due to scheduling conflicts - look for it to be rescheduled this summer.

**Our Return to the Lord, Mar. 1-2**

	<u>St. Mary</u>	<u>St. Joseph</u>
Adult:	\$ 1,535.00	\$ 470.00
Plate:	\$ 91.50	
Children:	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00
Masses:	\$ 110.00	\$ 10.00
Rice Bowl:	\$ 18.97	
Catholic Press:		\$ 13.00

**Please pray for this week's Seminarian:**

Ryan Salisbury, from St. Cecilia, Hastings NE College 2 at St Gregory the Great Seminary.

**Readings and Celebrations this week:**

March

10 Mon Dn 13:1-62 / Jn 8:1-11

11 Tue Nm 21:4-9 / Jn 8:21-30

12 Wed Dn 3:14-20, 91-95 / Jn 8:31-42

13 Thu Gn 17:3-9 / Jn 8:51-59

14 Fri Jer 20:10-13 / Jn 10:31-42

15 Sat 2 Sm 7:4-16 / Rom 4:13- 22  
 / Lk 2:41-51a

St Joseph, husband of Mary

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

Mt 21:1-11  
 Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Mt 26:14-27:66

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