

"Help Me to Understand Your Word"

Pope Benedict XVI answers the questions of youth.

Simone, age 21, asks: How can I understand what I read in the Word of God?

I shall answer by stressing a first point: it must first of all be said that one must not read Sacred Scripture as one reads any kind of historical book, such as, for example, Homer, Ovid or Horace; it is necessary truly to read it as the Word of God, that is, entering into a conversation with God.

One must start by praying and talking to the Lord: "Open the door to me". And what St Augustine often says in his homilies: "I knocked at the door of the Word to find out at last what the Lord wants to say to me", seems to me to be a very important point. One should not read Scripture in an academic way, but with prayer, saying to the Lord: "Help me to understand your Word, what it is that you want to tell me in this passage".

A second point is: Sacred Scripture introduces one into communion with the family of God. Thus, one should not read Sacred Scripture on one's own. Of course, it is always important to read the Bible in a very personal way, in a personal conversation with God; but at the same time, it is important to read it in the company of people with whom one can advance, letting oneself be helped by the great masters of "Lectio divina".

For example, we have many beautiful books by Cardinal Martini, a true master of "Lectio divina", who helps us enter into the life of Sacred Scripture. Nevertheless, one who is thoroughly familiar with all the historical circumstances, all the characteristic elements of the past, always seeks to open the door to show that the words which appear to belong to the past are also words of the present. These teachers help us to understand better and also to learn how to interpret Sacred Scripture properly. Moreover, it is also appropriate in general to read it in the company of friends who are journeying with me, who are seeking, together with me, how to live with Christ, to find what life the Word of God brings us.

A third point: if it is important to read Sacred Scripture with the help of teachers and in the company of friends, travelling companions, it is particularly important to read it in the great company of the pilgrim People of God, that is, in the Church. ...

I think that we should learn to do three things: to read it in a personal colloquium with the Lord; to read it with the guidance of teachers who have the experience of faith, who have penetrated Sacred Scripture: and to read it in the great company of the Church, in whose liturgy these events never cease to become present anew and in which the Lord speaks with us today.

Thus, we may gradually penetrate ever more deeply into Sacred Scripture, in which God truly speaks to us today.



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St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches

Ashland



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

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Greenwood



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

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.

CCD & Youth Group each Wed. 7:00 PM

Confessions a half hour before Masses

Saturday 4:20-4:50 PM St. Mary
Sunday 8:00-8:20 AM St. Mary
10:00-10:20 AM St. Joseph
Any time by calling the rectory.

Mass Schedule for this week				
Sat.	Nov. 8	5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Ben Holbrook
Sun.	Nov. 9	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	+ Ed Sobetski
Mon.	Nov. 10	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ George & Sylvia Wemhoff
Tues.	Nov. 11	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Joe & Jane Mullaney
Wed.	Nov. 12	9:15 AM	Care Center	+ Dorothy Lococo
Thurs.	Nov. 13	9:00 AM	Ashland	Altar Society
		No evening Mass		
Fri.	Nov. 14	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Jerry Proctor
Sat.	Nov. 15	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Fr. Ronald Patterson
		5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Maurice Current
Sun.	Nov. 16	8:30 AM	Ashland	+ Gerhard Groenjes
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People

November 9, 2008

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ministries for Next Weekend

Sat. Nov. 15 - 5:00 PM
 Servers: Holbrook, Survil
 Acolyte: Andy Lichtas
 Lector: Dennis Holbrook

Sun. Nov. 16 - 8:30 AM
 Servers: Kresak, Stille
 Acolyte: Gene Kresak
 Lector: Karen Stille

Sun. Nov. 16 - 10:30 AM
 Lector: Jeannine VanLaningham
 Offertory: Schweigart

Our Return to the Lord, Nov. 1-2		
	St. Mary	St. Joseph
Adult:	\$ 1,092.00	\$ 230.00
Plate:	\$ 73.32	\$ 28.00
Children:	\$ 5.00	
Holy Day:	\$ 85.00	\$ 27.00
Weekly Budget:	\$ 1,587.49	\$ 390.59

Readings and Celebrations this week:

November

10 Mon Ti 1:1-9 / Lk 17:1-6
 Saint Leo the Great, pope and doctor

11 Tue Ti 2:1-8, 11-14 / Lk 17:7-10
 Saint Martin of Tours, bishop

12 Wed Ti 3:1-7 / Lk 17:11-19
 Saint Josaphat, bishop and martyr

13 Thu Phlm 7-20 / Lk 17:20-25
 Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin

14 Fri 2 Jn 4-9 / Lk 17:26-37

15 Sat 3 Jn 5-8 / Lk 18:1-8

[St Albert the Great, bishop; Blessed Virgin Mary]

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 Prv 31:10-31 / 1 Thes 5:1-6 / Mt 25:14-30

Stewardship Thought

As we pray today for an increase of spiritual gifts, we are reminded by the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship: Good stewardship of the Church "means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all, while using one's own gifts to serve the community of faith."

Congratulations

Marriage Anniversaries this week:
 Joel & Diane Starns

Birthdays this week:
 Don McCarty
 Steve Novotny
 Amy Reisen
 Alex Smith
 Donna Daugherty
 Leah Egeberg
 Jim Neneman
 Danny Boes
 Chris Craven
 Ben Stille
 Stephanie Dolan
 Dennis Jeffrey
 Shari Styskal
 Dave Hoffman
 Joe Lyons

Calendar for This Week

Wed. Nov. 12, Lifeline Screening
 9:15 AM Mass at Care Center
 7:00 PM CCD and Youth Group

Thurs. Nov. 13, 9 AM Mass at Ashland
 7:00 St. Mary Altar Society Meeting

Parish Announcements

St. Mary's Ladies: the **Altar Society** will meet this Thurs. Nov. 13 at 7:00 PM to bake pies. All ladies are invited to come make pies for Matt Talbot Kitchen and VFW Food Bank.

Donations for **Virtue Media** go to airing effective, compassionate, and educational Sanctity of Life commercials. Extra envelopes are available and can be mailed directly to Virtue Media. Thank you for your generosity.

10 Minutes that could save your life! St. Mary's will host a **Lifeline Screening** this Wed. Nov. 12, ultrasound vascular tests and osteoporosis screenings - detecting potentially serious conditions not detected in routine check-ups. Call 1-800-324-1851 for a daytime appointment. *The screening is almost full, so call Monday.*

Thank you for supporting the **World Mission Collection**, helping the Church's effort to bring the Gospel to all the world. To date, St. Mary Ashland \$305, St. Joseph Greenwood \$75.

Community Announcements

Ithaca United Methodist **Spaghetti Supper & Bazaar** today, Sun. Nov. 9, 4-7 PM.

Koesters Family Benefit, this Fri. Nov. 14. 9:00 AM Bake Sale at the American Legion. 5:30-8:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner at VFW with silent auction, music, drinks, raffle till 11:00 PM.

Diocesan Announcements

St. Mary David City **Harvest Festival Bazaar** on Sun. Nov. 9, 11 AM-3 PM Turkey Dinner, Silent Auction, Games, Raffle and more.

Lincoln **St. Teresa Parish Bazaar** on Sun. Nov. 9, 11-4 (616 S 36th St). Lunch, games, etc.

Waverly Retreat House has upcoming weekend retreats: for men Nov. 21-23 by Msgr. Perkington, for girls Dec. 5-7, for men Dec. 11-14, and for men and women Dec. 19-21. These retreats are open to all, contact Fr. Coulter for financial aid. Call 786-2705 for registration info.

Natural Family Planning Intro Session in Lincoln on Tues. Nov. 18, 7 PM. 488-2040.

Rachel's Vineyard - Forgiven but not set free? Confidential Catholic healing retreat for post-abortive women, men, grandparents, etc., Nov. 14-16th near Omaha. \$160 covers all lodging and meals. For information or questions, contact helpingrachel@yahoo.com or 402-871-4812.

Magnificat will host a dinner for women of all faiths on Sun. evening Nov. 16, 4:30 PM at Beacon Hills, 5353 N 27th St, Lincoln. Yvonne Hottovy will share her faith story as a wife and mother of 4. Send \$15 to Magnificat, 5500 L St, Lincoln NE 68510 (Student price \$10) or call 476-1880. Deadline is Wed. Nov. 12.

Catholic Coffee House adult faith series at Bl. John XXIII Center in Lincoln, Nov. 16, 6:30-8:00 PM, on "St. Paul the Apostle". Free.

St. Joseph Lincoln **Holiday Fair**, Sun. Nov. 23, 8AM-1PM brunch; games, booths to 2:30PM.

A Special **Wedding Anniversary Sunday Mass** for those celebrating their 1, 5, 10, 20, 25, 40, or 50+ years of marriage will be Nov. 30, 3 PM at the Lincoln Cathedral. Call 488-2040 to register for a reception with Bishop Bruskewitz.

National **March for Life** trip to Washington D.C. for HS Juniors and Seniors, Jan. 22, 2009. Call 488-2040 for info, dates and costs.

Nebraska Respite Network helps caregivers deal with their task and stress by providing them a needed break and time for themselves. If you are a caregiver in need of services, or an individual who like to make a real difference in your neighborhood, call toll free 1-866-737-7483.

Pregnant and don't know what to do? There are options - call the **Option Line** at 1-800-395-HELP or visit www.pregnancycenters.org.

Please Pray for our Seminarians

Pray this week for Jason Doher from St. Patrick, Lincoln. In College 2 at St. Gregory the Great.