



Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel
A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA
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February 2023 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org or www.peterandpaulchapel.org

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CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All Worship Services Are Held at 2:00 PM Every Sunday, Unless Otherwise Noted

February 5, 2023: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

***Blessing of Throats at this Mass**

February 12, 2023: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2023: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2023: First Sunday of Lent

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Diocesan Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, Ed.D., 314.650.1487, domcarl@charter.net

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact +Fr. Bob.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

Sunday Scripture Reflections

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

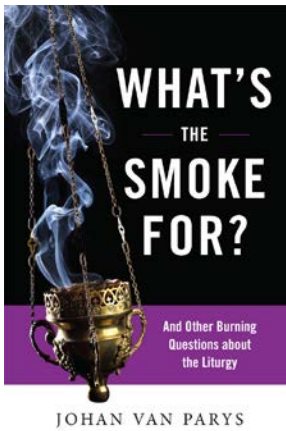
February 5, 2023 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time: In today's Gospel, Jesus urges: "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds" – and Isaiah spells out some of these deeds in the first reading. In the second reading, St. Paul treats a different topic: the wisdom of God is far superior to secular wisdom. In either case, God's criteria are quite different from ours. "Make known to me your ways, Lord! (Psalm 25:4)." (Isaiah 58:7-10, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16)

February 12, 2023 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time: A wisdom theme runs through today's three readings. The second century (B.C.) Jewish Scribe Ben Sira proclaims: "Immense is the wisdom of the Lord." St. Paul describes God's wisdom as "mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages." When Jesus repeats, "But I say to you...", he reveals himself as wisdom incarnate, perfecting the Law given on Sinai. Lord teach us wisdom; help us to live uprightly. (Sirach 15:15-20, 1 Corinthians 2:6-10, Matthew 5:17-37)

February 19, 2023 – 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time: This Sunday's first reading and the Gospel remind us to love our neighbor as ourselves, with Jesus pointedly expanding the concept of *neighbor* to include our enemies! If we have a problem with this, St. Paul sets us straight with his reminder in the second reading that each of us is a temple of God. (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23, Matthew 5:38-48)

February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday: Today is the first day of the Lenten season. Today, we set our course for a forty-day journey. Do we see this as an "acceptable time" for more serious prayer, a well-chosen penitential act, and some specific gift of alms to charity? Whatever we choose, we will keep between our heavenly Father and ourselves, offering him our whole heart. (Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)

February 26, 2023 – First Sunday of Lent: Jesus spent forty days in the desert preparing for the ministry that awaited him. When he was tired and hungry, the devil approached him. Jesus triumphed over the temptations by trusting the word of God. May our eyes always be open to the will of God by our obedience to his word in Scripture. (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11)



Dear Johan,

A new season of Lent is approaching. And Easter will be here before we know it. I want to do it well this time around. What should I know?

Gentle Reader-

Yours is an important, though rather broad, question. I will see what I can do in the allotted space.

The paschal cycle (Lent and Eastertide) is the heart of the liturgical year. Together with the incarnation cycle (Advent and Christmastide) it celebrates the two great mysteries of our faith: the incarnation or the mystery of God becoming human and the paschal mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The paschal cycle comprises a time of preparation (Lent) and a time of celebration (Eastertide). The hinge between these two is the Sacred Triduum.

The word *lent* comes from the Old English *lencten*, meaning springtime. In Germanic languages, a derivation of this word is still used to refer to springtime. Its use for the preparation time leading up to Easter is somewhat peculiar. Other languages use much clearer nomenclature such as “The Forty Days” and “The Time of Fasting.” These seem to offer a more apt description of this liturgical season.

Lent is characterized by two major theological movements and three Lenten disciplines. The first and foremost movement is toward baptism. The catechumens, known as the elect after the Rite of Elections celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent, are preparing for the sacraments of initiation. Their movement is toward the baptismal waters. The baptized participate in the second movement, which is toward reconciliation, as we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Easter mysteries worthily. The three great Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving assist us in our journey toward baptism or reconciliation.

Lent culminates in the Sacred Triduum, the sacred three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. You will note that there actually are four days and not three. In order to reconcile the four days and the three you simply have to know that we calculate in liturgical time, that is, from sunset to sunset. Thus, the Sacred Triduum begins with sunset on Holy Thursday and runs through sunset on Easter Sunday. On Holy Thursday we remember how Jesus commanded us to celebrate the Eucharist and to wash one another’s feet. In other words, he told us to pray and to serve. On Good Friday we remember Jesus’ death and venerate the cross. On Holy Saturday we wait in silence for the arrival of dusk when we engage in the most important liturgy of the entire year: the great Easter Vigil, when we celebrate the mystery of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection and our incorporation into that mystery by virtue of our baptism.

The fifty days of Eastertide are a time of unending joy and continued celebration. This poses a bit of a challenge as we love to prepare for a feast, but we really don't know how to celebrate, let alone for fifty long days. That's why Lent is such a great success, and Easter at a great loss. So maybe, if you really want the paschal cycle to be the best ever, you might want to concentrate on celebrating Easter for fifty days rather than one day or maybe two.

Two feasts punctuate Eastertide: Ascension and Pentecost. On Ascension Thursday, which is traditionally celebrated forty days after Easter, we remember the ascent of Christ into heaven. It is also the day when we celebrate that Christ promised the Holy Spirit to all his followers. The novena or nine days of prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit begins the next day.

On Pentecost, which comes from the Greek for fiftieth day and is indeed celebrated fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. From this day on, the apostles and their missionary successors have spread the message of Jesus to the world. Therefore, this feast also celebrates the birth of the church and its vital and diverse nature.

And here you have it in a nutshell: the paschal cycle described in 650+ words. I hope you will find some of these words helpful as you prepare for a fruitful celebration of the paschal mystery.

© 2015 Order of Saint Benedict, Collegeville, Minnesota. Excerpted from *What's the Smoke For? And Other Burning Questions about the Liturgy* by Johan van Parys

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From the Pastor's Desk
+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

Blessing of Throats: Our Annual St. Blaise Blessing of Throats will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023. Everyone is welcome to receive this blessing. *"Saint Blaise was the Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the fourth century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts, he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His cult spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the eighth century, he has been invoked on behalf of the sick, especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat."* (From *The Book of Blessings*.)

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Parishioner Birthdays: None this month!

Parishioner Anniversaries: None this month!