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**April 21, 2024**

*4th Sunday of Easter*

**Sunday Masses**

10am & 8:00pm

**Thursday Daily Mass**

5:30 pm

**Confessions**

Thursday, 5:00 pm

Sunday, 7:30pm

**Pastor:**

Father Derek Wiechmann

fatherderek17@gmail.com

**Sacramental Minister:**

Father JohnPaul Igbokwe

igbokwejohnpaul7@gmail.com

\*In case of immediate need, call your parish office to reach a priest directly.

This Week's Happenings

**Tuesday (4/23)**

SCTCC Bible Study 8:30am

Peer Minister Meeting 4pm

Bible Study 5:30pm

**Thursday (4/25)**

Daily Mass 5:30pm

Student Meal 6pm

**Sunday (4/28):**

Mass: 10am & 8pm

Dear friends,

I found this article written on the Rite of Peace during Mass. I wanted to share it with you as it beautifully explains this important part during Mass. Peace be with you!

**Fr. Derek**

Continuing with the Rite of Peace, how do we exchange the sign of peace? For a little more background on this part of the Mass, the Diocese of Peoria teaches, "This prayer reaffirms the holiness of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. The Church, insofar as She is the Bride of Christ, is holy and without blemish. While the Church remains holy, Her members are prone to sin and error, and so we beseech our Lord to look upon His Church with favor and grant us the peace and unity of the kingdom of heaven. Upon asking our Lord for this peace, the priest extends this peace to the congregation as he says: 'The peace of the Lord be with you always!' [The people reply] 'And with your spirit.' [The Deacon or Priest then says: "Let us offer each other the sign of peace."] According to local custom, we exchange with one another a sign of peace. Typically, in the United States, the normative gesture is a handshake to those around us" (A Study of the Mass, p. 18).

**An Expression of Christian Community**

For more description of what happens after the words from the sanctuary, the Catholic Encyclopedia states, "It is then that the people of the assembled community turn to their immediate neighbors and exchange a greeting, a shake of the hand, or other sign of peace and friendship. This need not be an elaborate exchange. There are no ritual words to be said, some preferring to say: 'Peace be with you' or 'the Peace of Christ be with you' or 'God bless you.' The response may be equally simple. This kiss of peace, both as a sign of recognition of fellowship, respect, or friendship is essentially a sign of reconciliation, of expressing the mutual regard of Christian for Christian... St. Paul recognized this sign of peace as an expression of Christian community (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12). And St. Peter considered this greeting a sign of union with Christ, or Christ-like togetherness (1 Pt 5:14)" (Catholic Encyclopedia, p. 465).

While the deeper meaning of this gesture may be more clear for us, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal included a new paragraph addressing the practical gesture itself, which says, "As for the actual sign of peace to be given, the manner is to be established by the Conferences of Bishops in accordance with the culture and customs of the peoples. However, it is appropriate that each person, in a sober manner, offer the sign of peace only to those who are nearest" (GIRM, 82). So, what is the norm for us? While we don't have a defined standard, as mentioned previously, our typical local norm is a simple handshake with people that are nearby. Certainly, spouses, families, and others may have more intimate exchanges of peace such as a hug or a kiss. During times when people are being more cautious about illness and contact, a simple bow or a wave and a smile can be fine gestures of peace as well. Generally, I would encourage people to choose the sign that is comfortable for people around us. The main thing we want to remember is to make the gesture a real sign of peace, while at the same time not being too carefree or moving throughout the church, where we might risk being disrespectful to Jesus present on the altar (which is also why we shouldn't have conversations at this time).

"This rite of peace acknowledges a few things: forgiveness, humility and community. In Matthew, Chapter 5, our Lord taught us we must first be reconciled with one another before approaching the altar. We approach the altar to receive the Prince of Peace; His command is that we be peacemakers ourselves by forgiving others and asking pardon for our sins... It is also a gesture of the communal Spirit which resides in the Church. The gesture of peace signifies this 'ecclesial bond' that with Christ we are a community of believers and children of the same Father" (A Study of the Mass, p. 18). The next time you offer the Sign of Peace at Mass, whether a hug, kiss, handshake, simple bow, wave, or smile, think about what it truly means—what you truly want to offer to those around you—and how it helps prepare your heart for Jesus truly present in Holy Communion.

1. Review the New Testament passages which feature a "holy kiss" or "loving kiss" as a greeting within the early Church (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thes 5:26; 1 Pt 5:14). Ask the intercession of those in the Communion of Saints who have shared this gesture throughout Church history for peace within the Church today and the extension of Christ's peace in our mission to the world.
2. As part of your preparation the next time you participate in Mass, pray Psalm 122, which celebrates the gift of worshipping in God's "house" and includes the phrase, "Peace be with you."

## Parish Prayers

† Jacob Olson  
† Carrie Ahrens  
† Michael Dale  
Serenity Sabin  
† Shawn Preisler  
Helen Trisko  
† Don Teff, brother of Bonnie Stachowski  
Glenda and Ron Prom Family  
† Arleen Boyd, Mother of Glenda Prom  
† Parisa  
Skip & Pati Rothstein  
† Julie Gabrielson  
† India Faith Krueger Wasilowski

## College Student Gift Bags

Donations needed to make our college student gift bags. We are looking for candy, snacks, chips, juice pouches, etc. Please drop off your donations at the front desk by April 22nd.

## Community Prayer for Peace - Sunday, April 28th, 4 pm

Wondering what to do in this time of great violence, uncertainty and heartbreak over what's happening in places like Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, and our own communities? Join with others in praying for peace, at the Sartell Community Center (850 19th St. S Sartell). We will gather and then walk around Lake Frances. Sponsored by the following churches: First United Methodist, Celebration Lutheran, St. Francis Xavier Catholic & Central MN Catholic Worker. For more information contact Molly Weyrens 320-828-4465.

## Nominations for Parish Council

The Parish Council is collecting nominations for 2 permanent member positions. You may nominate someone you would like to see on the Parish Council, or you may nominate yourself if you are interested. Ballots are on the ends of the pews and available in both entrances. They may be placed in the collection baskets or dropped off at the front desk.

Nominations will be collected until April 22nd and then nominees will be contacted. Two peoples; names will be picked out of a basket in mid-May, to begin their tenure on the Parish Council in August 2024.

For those of you who may be new to Newman, the Parish Council, with the pastor as presider, is responsible for the pastoral care of the parish. This group discerns what needs to be changed or developed in the parish to make it more faithful to what God is calling it to be. Members serve a three-year term and this year, 2 members have completed their terms.

## Memorial Day Flower / Decoration Rules for Assumption, Calvary, and Sacred Heart Cemeteries

Memorial Day will be observed on Monday, May 27, 2024. With gratitude and respect for those who have served in our nation's military to preserve peace and freedom, Memorial Day is a time to honor our deceased veterans.

One common and beautiful way to do so is with flowers on the burial places of those we remember. Cemeteries are glad to accommodate this act of remembrance and hope.

To assure good order for all, cemeteries have rules for what is permitted and appropriate. Below you will find the rules for the three diocesan cemeteries of Assumption and Calvary in St. Cloud and Sacred Heart in Sauk Rapids. (For other cemeteries, whether parish-based or civil, please contact the management of each cemetery through the parish or the county where it is located.)

### Memorial Day Rules:

**Vases can be turned over for use on the Saturday before Memorial Day (that is, on May 25). Additional flowers may be placed on graves two days prior to Memorial Day (on Saturday) but must be removed within three days after Memorial Day (by Thursday, May 30). All remaining flowers will be disposed of by the Cemetery. Small United States flags welcomed two days before and through Memorial Day and must be reclaimed by those placing them.**

For further questions, please see the full list of rules and regulations for the diocesan cemeteries found on the diocesan website, [www.stcdio.org](http://www.stcdio.org) under the Offices tab, or call the Cemetery Office at 320-251-5511. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Valet Parking

During the road construction project this spring and summer, we will be offering Valet service to those who may need it. Just pull up to the front door and someone will park your car for you, and then after Mass will go get it for you. If you would like to volunteer to help out with this service, please contact Warren Christie at [wbchristie56@gmail.com](mailto:wbchristie56@gmail.com) or 320-493-5404.

## Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. Derek Wiechmann [fatherderek17@gmail.com](mailto:fatherderek17@gmail.com)  
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**Campus Ministry Director:** Philip Shefveland—  
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**Office Assistant/Peer Minister:** Kalli Terhaar—  
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**Peace & Social Justice Coordinator:** Kevin LaNave—  
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**Parish Office:** 320-251-3260  
**Cluster Website:** [spiritandsaints.org](http://spiritandsaints.org)