

St. Mary Churches-Omro & Winneconne

www.stmarychurches.org

3rd Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2020

Lockdown

Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise

You can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet

The sky is no longer thick with fumes

But blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi

People are singing to each other

across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighborhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary.



All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality

To how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

The birds are singing again

The sky is clearing,

Spring is coming,

And we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

Brother Richard Hendrick, O.F.M. Cap.

Pastoral Leader: Sr. Pamela Biehl

920-379-1674

Pam.biehl@stmarychurches.org

Priest Celebrants:

Fr. Tom Long

Fr. Anil Polumari

Sacraments/Membership

To arrange for baptisms, weddings or to join call

St. Mary, Winneconne: 920-582-7712 or
stmarywinneconne@stmarychurches.org

St. Mary, Omro: 920-685-2258 or
stmaryomro@stmarychurches.org

Dear Parishioners,

3rd week of Easter - April 26, 2020

I was thinking the other day that we are all pretty good at spending 40 days preparing for Easter. We all know how to do Lent and work hard to make sacrifices and keep our Lenten promises during those 40 days. But then we get to Easter and we celebrate it as if it's a single day instead of a season of 50 days – **50 days to celebrate with great JOY because Jesus is risen and his resurrection changes everything for us.** We need to remember that Jesus wasn't in a rush to ascend to heaven. Instead he spent time appearing to his disciples, making them breakfast on the seashore, walking with them to Emmaus and preparing them for Pentecost when the Spirit would come upon them and give them the courage and strength they would need to proclaim the resurrection to the world!

Just as our prayer, fasting and almsgiving are a powerful witness for the world to see during the 40 days of Lent so our JOY should also be a powerful witness for the world to see during the 50 days of Easter!! And our world needs to see our JOY, especially during these days of crisis, as much as they need to see our fasting and sacrifice.

So, let's think about what practices we can do during these 50 days of Easter to cultivate more **JOY** in our life and in the lives of those around us. What can we do **EVERY** day to celebrate Easter, to rejoice that Jesus is risen and with us and to bring a little more **JOY** into the world that is suffering right now. Maybe it's as simple as:

- calling someone to see how they are doing
- singing an "Alleluia" with someone during the day,
- finding some fresh flowers to put in your living room,
- sending a card to a friend you can't go to visit these days,
- throwing some water balloons,☺
- taking time to do something fun together with your family,
- chalking Easter messages on your sidewalk or the one at church.

(If it rains, go back to church and chalk those Easter messages again & again!)

The important thing is to do something EVERY day to celebrate these 50 days of EASTER.

So, let's do it. We still have about 40 days left before Easter ends and we celebrate the feast of Pentecost.

And don't forget to smile so people can SEE your joy. Remember that joy is contagious so be sure to "infect" someone with JOY today!

You can start by sharing this little cartoon my brother sent me this week!

Sr. Pam



P.S. Please continue to make masks as they are desperately needed for health care workers, nursing home patients and the Veterans Home in King, WI. They can be dropped off at our churches. Go to www.sewionline.com for an approved pattern.

Good Friday Procession, 2020

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Sr. Pam, carrying a crown of thorns, walked a two-mile procession from each church down Main Street and back with a cross bearer leading (Jeff Huth-O and Rick Lee-W) and Rose Unser behind sounding the clapper. All prayed the Our Father and Glory Be along the way. Could this be a **new parish tradition?**



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Resurrection Cross



Pat's home



Phil and Molly's front door



"Ours is in our eating area. I assembled everything except the stamens on the lilies. My husband has way more patience than me. I think he did a good job! Hallelujah!" -Nancy



"I had the same thought and took this picture this morning - I have to give the credit to Mike (He seems to follow directions well if they don't come from me!) 🤖 Tracey

Spreading Easter Joy with Chalk



RESOURCE LISTING FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 26, 2020

SUPPORT OPTIONS

TUESDAY, April 28, 2020 via ZOOM 6:00pm to 6:45pm

Faith Over Fear: A discussion to address emotions, existential questions, and relational isolation resulting from COVID-19

Facilitated by: **Jen Wellhoefer, MS, Lpc**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75123094731>

Meeting ID: 751 2309 4731

Password: 9chvFD

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY, April 26, 2020 via ZOOM 5:00pm to 5:45pm

Alpha: Facilitated by: **Sr. Colleen Demro**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72673258010?pwd=cGRFdWRHaThjZlFobm9yT0hiYlhuQT09>

Meeting ID: 726 7325 8010

Password: 3MEL01



Instructions: View respective video before attending the Zoom meeting for discussion
April 26 – How Can I Resist Evil? <https://vimeo.com/261048592>

THURSDAY, April 30, 2020 via ZOOM (wk #2) 12:30pm to 1:15pm

Presence via Formed.org: A Four (4) Week Study of the Mystery of the Eucharist

Facilitated by: **Rose Unser**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/754807072>

Meeting ID: 754 807 072

Password: presence



Instructions: For discussion purposes, view respective video before Zoom meeting

Apr 30, 2020 12:30 PM <https://watch.formed.org/presence/season:1/videos/the-story-of-the-eucharist>

PRAYERS/DEVOTIONS

THURSDAY, April 30, 2020 via ZOOM 2:00pm OR 6:00pm

Rosary:

2:00pm Facilitated by **Rose Unser** - Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78111080394>

Meeting ID: 781 1108 0394

Password: rosary



6:00pm Facilitated by **Ron and Lawanda Jungwirth** - Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74921766533?pwd=VjJuemdRNWFMcTExUVRqdFovMnptUT09>

Meeting ID: 749 2176 6533

Password: rosary