

March 1, 2009 First Sunday of Lent

Rev. Tom Kuffel	St. Stephen Church	207 N. Union POB 57	Exeter, NE 68351
St. Patrick Church	305 East M Street, McCool	POB 57	Exeter, NE 68351
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Daily Mass Schedule

Bulletin now on our website

Date	Time	Place	Intention	By	Feast Day
Mon. March 2	7:30AM	Exeter	Sophie Kosmicki	Dean & Kathy Due	
Tue. March 3	7:30AM	Exeter	Jerome Harre	Ed & Donna Mark Family	St. Katherine
Wed. March 4	7:30 AM	McCool	Gary Otoupal	John & Jane Seigel	St. Casimir
Wed. March 4	7:00 PM	Exeter	Adeline Geiger	Gerry & Vicki Geiger Family	St. Casimir
Thu. March 5	10:30 AM	Care Center	Emma Coates	The Family	
Fri. March 6	7:30 AM	McCool	Tom Becker	Ed & Donna Mark Family	First Friday
Sat. March 7	9:15 AM	Exeter	Fr. Kelly		

March 8, 2009 Second Sunday of Lent

March 7	5:00 PM	Exeter	Cathie Harre	Bethine Leif	
Acolyte-Mark	Lector-Pat	Servers-Elliot & Robert	Usher/Collection/Gifts Bob & Pat Becker		
March 8	8:30 AM	Exeter	For the Parish		
Acolyte-Brad	Lector-CCD Children	Servers-Nolan & Cameron	Usher/Tess	Gifts-CCD Children	
March 8	10:00 AM	McCool	Don Codr	Codr Family	
Acolyte-John	Lector-Jane	Servers	-Brett & Terry	Usher/Collection/Gifts-Dennis & Joan	

St. Stephen	
Church Support	\$1007.00
Loose Plate	109.00
Children	1.00
Total Collected	\$1117.00
Number of Envelopes	\$1-5(4) \$6-10(11) \$11-20(12)
	\$21-40 (11) \$41 + (5)

St Patrick	
Church Support	\$903.00
Loose Plate	59.00
Total Collected	\$962.00.00
Number of Envelopes	\$1-5(1) \$6-10(6) \$11-20(7)
	\$21-40 (5) \$41 + (4)

Announcements: Exeter Stations of the Cross Sunday 7:00 pm.

CYO: this week at Exeter at 7:00PM. CCD: Sunday at the Parish Hall. Youth Choir Practice Today till 11:30.

Parish Council: We will have a meeting in April sometime after Easter.

Altar Society: Ma. 7th Board Meeting, 10:00 @ Parish Hall. Please Pay Your Dues. These can be put in the collection.

February Raffle Basket was won by Darleene Becker and the TV Raffle was won by Don Krejci.

Knights: Meeting Monday March 2nd @ Parish Hall, 7:30 PM. Please come to help us prepare for our fish fry.

Bible Study: None this week.

Happy Birthday: Bob Harre Wed. March 4th and James Becker Thurs. March 5th.

Gala Information: If you would like a Tax Credit for anything you donated for the Gala please put a note in the collection to let us know. Thanks to all who helped with our Gala, especially Bob and Pat Becker the Co-Chairs of the event, it was a great success. I want to personally thank the parish for this wonderful event. As a Community of believers we can do great things for our parish and faith. May God bestow his blessings for all your efforts. We are working on final numbers so stay tuned for the details.

McCool

Holy Hour Today after Mass...Stations of the Cross Thursday 7:00 pm.

CYO: CYO this week at Exeter at 7:00 PM.

Bible Study: 8:00 AM at McCool.

Altar Society: We need a President. If you would like to be a leader of our parish, please contact Connie White or Fr. Kuffel.

Parish Council: We have completed our painting of the Church and the electrical upgrade. Our parish will now pass inspection and our insurance will be kept. Our next project will be to redo the duct work in the Church. We will remove the duct work from the sacristy and put vents in the floors. The cost is \$700.

Please Pray for Seminarian: *Russell Stewart Montgomery from Lincoln, NE. He is in Pre-Theology 2 and is studying at St. Gregory the Great.*

Prayer Intentions: *Karen Pelz, Fr. Larry Gyhra, Susan Perkins, Frances Pracheil, Bruce Jeffs, Jerome Smith, Jenny Beekman, Tracy Harter, Jay Luzum, Lois Ann Kuska, Nancy Jo Galusha, Jim & Marilyn Bors, Greg Yound, Dorothy Schmidt, Judy Yeck, Wally (Gator) Neemann, and Military -Sgt. Jason A. Hood Stationed in Iraq and Rob Coffey soon to be in Iraq. Newly Elected Archbishop Dolan of NY.*

Local Announcements:

March 6 - 8, 2009 **Retreat** at Villa Regina Motherhouse. \$20.00 call 477-5232 or sr.mary-michael@cdolinc.net
Marian Sisters Discernment **Retreat** Mar 13– Mar 14 Waverly Sr. Melissa at (402)786-2750.

Fish Fry-Fri. Feb. 20 through April 3--St. Joseph School Gym, York NE. \$7.00 Adults, \$4.00 Children

Exeter Cemetery Board wishes to ask for your help on the Trees for Nebraska project. They are trying to replace dying trees in the cemetery and have a grant for 10,000.00 but need to match the funds by donations or labor in order for them to receive the money. Any donations or questions contact JoDee Mika.

March 15 McCool School Fundraiser at Stone Creek.

Sunday March 15-Girls Religious Awards ceremony-Cathedral of the Risen Christ 2:00 pm

Ham Loaf Dinner-Sunday March 15th 11-1 @ Friend United Church of Christ \$7.50 adults, \$3.50 children

Diocesan Canoe Trip for juniors and seniors in high school in July. www.lincolnyouthministry.blogspot.com

Utica Senior Center Potato Bake, Sun. March 8th 11-1

Pope Benedict: You were called to freedom, says St. Paul. At all times, freedom has been humanity's great dream, since the beginning, but particularly in modern times. Yet, what is freedom? How can we be free?

I refer to St. Paul's exhortation to not use freedom as an opportunity for the "flesh that this "flesh" refers to "the absolutizing of the power of the ego. The Ego that wants to be all and have everything for itself. In short, the absolute Ego, which does not depend on anything or anyone, seems really to possess freedom. I am free if I do not depend on anyone, if I can do everything I wish. However, this is not freedom but rather the degradation of man.

True freedom asserts itself in service. We are free if we become servants. To reduce oneself to the flesh, apparently raising oneself to the rank of divinity introduces the great lie. This goes against the truth of our being. Our truth is that we are creatures, creatures of God and we live in relationship with the Creator. We are rational beings, and only by accepting this relationship do we enter into truth, otherwise we fall into falsehood and, in the end, are destroyed by it.

We as creatures depend on God, Who loves us. Thus, our dependency demands that we stay in his love. To be dependent is true freedom. And because of our relationship with God, we see Him, we orient ourselves to God so we know God, and know the will of God. To know God, we, to insert ourselves into his will. that is, to love God is to enter increasingly into the realm of his truth.

To be free means we serve each other in truth. Each person has a relationship with the truth which is to serve God by serving others. Human freedom is, on one hand, to be in the joy and great realm of the love of God, but it also implies being only one thing with the other and for the other. Only a shared freedom is human freedom and in being together we can enter the symphony of freedom. We must respect truth: Freedom against truth is not freedom. To serve one another creates the common realm of freedom. By participation in the sacraments, by listening to the Word of God, the Divine Will, the divine law really enters our will, our will identifies with his, they become only one will and thus we are really free, we can really do what we will, because we love with Christ, we love in truth and with truth.

"Through fasting and praying, we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God."
—Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 Lenten

Nation Right to Life

Please support LB 675, the strongest, most protective ultrasound bill. A window to the womb—that is what ultrasound technology has given to us and to mothers all across this country. We can now see the living unborn child in real time, up close and personal. We can see the baby's beating heart, winning smile and the fact that he is, indeed, a baby boy or she is a baby girl, as the case may be!

Two ultrasound bills have been filed. One of the bills just maintains the status quo. We need more than that. Business as usual is unacceptable when unborn lives are at stake. Your help is urgently needed! Please contact your State Senator TODAY and ask that they cosponsor LB 675. www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators

Fasting means to eat only one full meal with two smaller meals, which together do not equal the full meal. No snacks or eating between meals allowed. Fasting obliges all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.

Abstinence means eating no meat, and no soup or gravy made from meat. Abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14. Sickness, hard manual labor, pregnancy, etc. automatically excuse a person from these obligations. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that these are serious obligations. In cases of doubt or question, the priest who hears a person's confession should be consulted.

As we face financial struggles, we learn the hard lessons of greed. We face economic turmoil because people were greedy. That is why to be financially free; we have to confront greed first. That means our financial plans are driven by our life plan.

Financial Times

What is your life plan? Many people struggle with financial planning because they have not determined their values, goals, and morals by which they are going to live. Today, society is motivated by greed. It promotes it, and we are seduced by it. However, if we have values and goals, it is easier for us to avoid the trappings of greed and the false joys that it offers. Our life plan begins with our walk with the

"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.... he took one of his ribs and

closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. (Gen. 2:18 ff)

God created man and woman to be one: to be one in body, heart, mind, and soul. Adam was so joyous to see Eve because Adam was united bone to bone and flesh to flesh to this woman. He is so enthralled that Adam seems to forget God even though he is created in God's image and likeness. Without a primary focus on God, Adam makes a mistake. In the very next chapter, Adam disobeys God and eats the fruit of the tree. Instead of listening to God, truth, he listened to Eve, passion. This was a tragic event in history. Instead of being free from shame and sin, they were humiliated by their nakedness and cursed with condemnations.

Christian marriage needs to deal with each of these curses so as to remedy them. To the woman God said:

Marriage Makers: Scripture's Definition.

Lord. That means we support the values of family, marriage, education both of your children and yourself, parish, community and country. In other words, **your life's goals should drive your plan, not the other way around.**

To begin, we have to decide if we are Christian. If we decide that we are Christian, Catholic by denomination, we have decided to live by God's providence – not by the standards and values of the world, our neighbor, or even children. We commit to being a faithful witness and steward using the gifts and talents that God has entrusted to us for the fulfillment of our goals and values we have chosen to live by.

"I will intensify the pangs of your childbearing; in pain shall you bring forth children. Yet

your urge shall be for your husband, and he shall be your master" (Gen 3:16). No longer would she be free. She is condemned to be a slave to her husband. This can be a common feeling for many wives. They feel as though they are a slave and they complain about the oppression that men cause. Yet, her duty is to not become a slave, but to become a wife and mother who serves out of freedom and love. This as we know is not easy.

Men too were condemned. They are to toil and labor. To the man God said: *"Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat, "Cursed be the ground because of you! In toil shall you eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you, as you eat of the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face shall you get bread to eat, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dirt, and to dirt you shall return" (Gen 3:17 - 19). Men work and become infatuated by their work even to the point of being addicted to it. Instead they are to be responsible to their commitments, first to God, their wives and children, then to their work and hobbies.*

In our social settings, we fear suffering, sorrow, and

Five Pillars: Spontaneous Offer It Up

solitude. We fight and battle to protect ourselves from afflictions, even to the point of sinning. This mentality contrasts the mentality of Christ. Yes, He did fear suffering and death, but He did not shy away from it. He embraced it.

As we have been told many times to offer it up, we face the same struggle that Jesus did in the Agony of the Garden. Most of our sufferings as well as Christ's were not horrific – just inconvenient. We get impatient, angry, cowardly, depressed, and a host of other emotions when we are faced with suffering. Yet, if we pray with docility, we will be able to use our sufferings for the salvation of our soul and the souls of others. Our prayer life dramatically changes when we make up what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, which is our experience of them.

Once we taste the type of suffering and

rejection that Jesus faced, we experience the unconditional love He has for us. We love and trust Him because we sense and believe the love He has for us. This dramatically changes our faith experience. No longer is it something mental or ritual it is true piety: a reverence for our loving God.

When Jesus was dying on the Cross, He gifted Himself unconditionally out of love, into the hands of the Father to bestow forgiveness upon us sinners. When we exemplify the unconditional love of Jesus in our own lives by accepting our sufferings and trials, even if they are sinful, and uniting them with Christ's sacrifice they are redemptive for our souls and others.

All we need to do to convert suffering into grace for the redemption of souls is to offer it up to the Father as our gift of self.

Parenting: The Natural School

Many people state that we learn by what others do rather than what they say. I am not sure that is quite true. Rather, we educate through the intrinsic relationship of being and doing. Therefore, the kind of example which educates is not necessarily "perfect" example, but the example of the person who is really striving to do better.

Are you as a parent trying to do better than yesterday? If not, your example is teaching your children the values of a quitter and loser. If children are going to develop, parents have to live the six areas of life to better themselves: 1. Physical, 2. Personal, 3. Social, 4. Educational, 5. Relational, 6. Spiritual. We have to develop healthy habits in each of these categories to ensure our own development which in turn will exemplify to our children the life we want them to live.

The problem with children today is not children, but educators and adults. We have to set the example by exemplifying our own betterment day by day.

Sinful Imprudence First Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Sin as defined by the Catechism "is an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is a failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods" (CCC 1849). The definition of sin is unlike sin itself for when we sin rarely do we design a strategy to sin, but rather we react irrationally, form bad habits, and satisfy our selfish desires. Very few people are that crass and coarse as to commit premeditated sin.

We sin because of blindness. Blinded by our passion, emotion, excitement, and our arrogance, we fail to follow what is reasonable, truthful, and right. Sin ultimately is an act of imprudence. "Prudence is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it (CCC. # 1806). Prudence is as St. Thomas Aquinas states is "right reason in action" (CCC. # 1805). Imprudence, then, rejects sound judgment; it reacts rashly and recklessness. Sin is an impulsive reaction, which disregards the future consequences of an action and looks to the immediate gratification. Goodness, on the other hand, is a well thought out reaction which firsts considers the long term and immediate consequences of a decision. Prudence is the escort of goodness in

that it controls our passions, emotions, and excitement so we not only act with human reason, but more importantly, we accord ourselves to divine judgment.

Repentance applies prudence so we no longer destroy our relationships. Yes, sin destroys relationships. The root of sin is pride. We place ourselves, desires, or wants above everyone else. We use people when we sin and in so doing, we break, hurt, and damage others and ourselves. Repentance corrects our broken relationships and gives us insight how to transform our pathetic wills into strong and dynamic ones. This means we have to recognize our own sinfulness and also the sinfulness of the world. The world influences us and we have to be careful as to how influential the world will be.

Sin is social and personal. Wwe live in a society that promotes social sins. Unlike ages past were sin was considered evil and everyone acknowledge and affirmed the right or wrongness of an action, today we live in a society that debates and disputes right and wrong. We live in an imprudent society that easily claims the rightness or wrongness of an action depending upon your personal taste and sense. We no longer live in a character-motivated society, but rather live in a society that promotes the personal and practical fulfillment of each individual. Rights are no longer absolute morals for each person has their vision and image of rights. They have become personal; they are no longer universal.

Many social standards are subjective rather than objective and many people believe that what is subjective is private and what is private is socially acceptable. Private actions no longer influence public practices. Yet, as we investigate social sin, we find out that what appears to be private and personal is really public and popular. What one does in private becomes accepted by others! No longer can we merely say what is private is personal and fails to affect the public. In reality, what is private becomes public for people promote what they do privately.

Personal sin is a direct offense against God. *"Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him"* (I Jn 2:4). Through sin, we reject his truth and place our needs, wants, and wills first. Rarely do we think about being wrong when we sin, but in reality we let our imprudence control us rather than God's truth. Naturally, we place our truth first. This thinking produces habits and habits produce vices because they disregard the balance between God's truth and human truth. God truth is supreme; human truth is secondary. Prudence sees the reasonableness and rationality of God's ways. When we see the reason behind God's rules, we accept them not as commands and demands, but as a style of living that removes the hatred, envy, anger, lust, greed, gluttony, pride, and slothfulness that seems to overcome us. Prudence breaks the cycle of sin and corrects our way of thinking. With prudence, we experience freedom, see truth, and we live wise lives, which are influenced by integrity, veracity, and sincerity.

Converted from sin, we no longer let others influence us, but we through our strength influence others. We become a source of prudence for others and they see our lives completely transformed and attractive for we do not indulged in fantasies and impulses, but live on virtue and grace.

"Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile." Wilfred Grenfell