

SAINT WENCESLAUS PARISH

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

Parish Announcements:

A New Pastor

Effective June 29th, St. Wenceslaus & Sacred Heart Parishes will have a new pastor: Fr. Anandan Rajendran (or Fr. Rajen.) At that time, Fr. Feltes will begin a new assignment at two parishes in the Bloomer, WI area. Fr. Rajen is from India and has previously been a pastor while serving in our diocese about five years. Fr. Feltes will miss you and predicts that your new priest will enjoy these good parishes and their people as much as he has.

Life Guardians Mother's Day Roses

This weekend, our local pro-life group is selling roses after Mass. Suggested donations: \$3 for 1 rose, \$5 for 2, and \$25 for a dozen.

Pastoral Council Meeting

Our next meeting will be held this Sunday, May 14th at 6pm in the parish rectory.

Confirmation Mass

This Wednesday, May 17th at 7pm, Bishop William Callahan will visit our parish to celebrate our youths' Sacrament of Confirmation.

Family Photos

Our parish will photograph families June 8th-10th for a new parish directory. Schedule your free session now at: tinyurl.com/Pix-Times

Father Victor Feltes, Pastor
P.O. Box 109, Eastman, WI. 54626
Rectory ☎ (608) 874 - 4151
victorfeltes@gmail.com

Saturday Evening Mass 4PM - Sunday Mass 10AM
Confession Available Before Every Mass

Contributions from May 6-7:

[These totals will appear in the next bulletin]

Mass Schedule:

Mon, May 15 – 8am (St. Isidore the Farmer) for:
Walter Pauer by Eric Pauer

Tue, May 16 – 6:30pm (Easter Weekday) for:
**LaVerne DuCharme
by Lonnie & Jane Achenbach**

Wed, May 17 – 7pm
Confirmation Mass

Thr, May 18 – 8am (Easter Weekday) for:
Jack & Norma Slama

Fri, May 19 – 8am (Easter Weekday) for:
Loyde Beers

Sat, May 20 – 4pm (6th Sunday of Easter) for:
Mike Kilburg by Florence Kilburg

Sun, May 21 – 10am (6th Sunday of Easter) for:
The Souls in Purgatory

Upcoming Liturgical Roles:

Saturday, May 20th : 4pm

Lector: Roger Wall
Ushers: Ron Colson & Charles Linder
Servers: Any Available Servers

Sunday, May 21st : 10am

Lector: Donnie Fisher
Ushers: Sam Tesar & Dan Sprosty
Servers: Group E: Andrew Deegan, Lucas
Kramer, Carson & Cohen Redman

Sunday, May 21st Rosary Leaders:

The Don & Toni Lenzendorf Family

May Hospitality Activities:

Confirmation (May 17th) Groups #1 & #3

The Two Passovers

From a 5th century A.D. Easter homily

The Passover we celebrate brings salvation to the whole human race beginning with the first man, who together with all the others is saved & given life.

In an imperfect and transitory way, the types and images of the past prefigured the perfect and eternal reality which has now been revealed. The presence of what is represented makes the symbol obsolete: when the king appears in person no one pays reverence to his statue.

How far the symbol falls short of the reality is seen from the fact that the symbolic Passover celebrated the brief life of the firstborn of the Jews, whereas the real Passover celebrates the eternal life of all mankind. It is a small gain to escape death for a short time, only to die soon afterward; it is a very different thing to escape death altogether as we do through the sacrifice of Christ, our Passover.

Correctly understood, its very name shows why this is our greatest feast. It is called the Passover because, when he was striking down the firstborn, the destroying angel passed over the houses of the Hebrews, but it is even more true to say that he passes over us, for he does so once and for all when we are raised up by Christ to eternal life.

If we think only of the true Passover and ask why it is that the time of the Passover and the salvation of the firstborn is taken to be the beginning of the [Jewish] year, the answer must surely be that the sacrifice of the true Passover is for us the beginning of eternal life. Because it revolves in cycles and never comes to an end, the year is a symbol of eternity.

The First Apparition at Fatima

From the account of Blessed Lucia (1907–2005)

The morning of May 13th, 1917, three young children led out their flock to pasture near Fatima, Portugal. They let the sheep to graze as they played in the pasture land sprinkled with the occasional oak tree. After having their lunch about noon they decided to pray a rosary, although in a somewhat truncated fashion, saying only the first words of each prayer. Then, they were startled by what they later described as "lightening in a clear sky." Thinking that a storm might be approaching they debated whether they should take the sheep and go home. Preparing to do so they were again surprised by a strange light. This is Blessed Lucia retelling of what transpired next:

"[W]e began to go down the slope driving the sheep towards the road. When we were half-way down, near a holm oak there, we saw another flash of lightening, and after a few steps we saw on a holm oak [a small one lower on the hillside] a lady dressed in white, shining brighter than the sun, giving out rays of clear and intense light, just like a crystal goblet full of pure water when the fiery sun passes through it. We stopped astounded by the Apparition. We were so near that we were in the light that encircled her, or which she radiated, perhaps [4 or 5 feet] away.

"Please don't be afraid of me, I'm not going to harm you."

Lucia responded for all three, as she would throughout the apparitions. *"Where are you from?"*

"I come from heaven."

The Lady wore a pure white mantle, edged with gold and which fell to her feet. In her hands the beads of a rosary shone like stars, with its crucifix the most radiant gem of all. Still, Lucia felt no fear. The Lady's presence produced in her only gladness and confident joy.

"And what do you want of me?"

"I want you to return here on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months, and at the very same hour. Later I shall tell you who I am, and what it is that I most desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time."

"And shall I go to heaven?"

"Yes, you will."

"And Jacinta?"

"She will go too."

"And Francisco?"

"Francisco, too, my dear, but he will first have many Rosaries to say."

For a few moments the Lady looked at Francisco with compassion, tinged with a little sadness. Lucia then remembered some friends who had died.

"Is Maria Neves in heaven?"

"Yes, she is."

"And Amelia?"

"She is in purgatory. Will you offer yourselves to God, and bear all the

sufferings He sends you? In atonement for all the sins that offend Him? And for the conversion of sinners?"

"Oh, we will, we will!"

"Then you will have a great deal to suffer, but the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you."

Lucia relates that as the Lady pronounced these words, she opened her hands, and we were bathed in a heavenly light that appeared to come directly from her hands.

"The light's reality cut into our hearts and our souls, and we knew somehow that this light was God, and we could see ourselves embraced in it. By an interior impulse of grace we fell to our knees, repeating in our hearts: *'Oh, Holy Trinity, we adore You. My God, my God, I love You in the Blessed Sacrament.'*"

The children remained kneeling in the flood of this wondrous light, until the Lady spoke again, mentioning the war in Europe, of which they had little or no knowledge.

"Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war."

After that she began to rise slowly in the direction of the east, until she disappeared in the immense distance. The light that encircles Her seemed to make a way amidst the stars, and that is why we sometimes said we had seen the heavens open."

The days that followed were filled with excitement, though they had not intended it that way. Lucia had warned the others to keep their visitor a secret, correctly perceiving the difficulties they would experience if the events became known. However, the joy of seven year old Jacinta could not be contained, and she rather promptly forgot her promise and revealed all to her mother, who patiently listened but gave it little credence. Her brothers and sisters piped in with their questions and jokes. Among the interrogators only her father, "Ti" Marto, was immediately inclined to accept the tale as true. He believed in the honesty of his children, and had a simple appreciation of the workings of God, such that he became the first believer in the apparitions of Fatima.

Lucia's mother, however, believed her own daughter to be the instigator of a fraud, if not a blasphemy. Lucia would quickly learn what the Lady meant when she said they would suffer a great deal. Maria Rosa was unable to get Lucia to recant, event under threats. Finally she hauled her before the parish priest, Fr. Ferreira, with no better success. On the other hand, Lucia's father, who was not especially religious, was practically indifferent, attributing all of it to the fancies of women. The next few weeks, as the children awaited their scheduled appointment with the lady in June, would reveal that they had few believers, and many detractors in the local community.

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Visit EWTN's *100 Years of Fatima* website, from which this text is drawn: tinyurl.com/EWTNFatima