

SAINT WENCESLAUS PARISH

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2017

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 April 29-30:

Adult Envelopes	\$965.00
Collection Plate	\$329.83
Youth Envelopes	\$3.50
Additional Lenten Boxes Donations	\$13.52
Property Insurance Envelopes	\$1,080.00
Property Insurance Plate	\$191.00

The Fatima Angel's Prayer

In the spring of 1916, Lucia dos Santos and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto (ages 9, 8, and 6) were shepherding outside a small village called Fatima in Portugal. There in the pasture, a dazzlingly beautiful young man, seemingly made of light, appeared to them. He said, "Fear not! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me!" The angel knelt and bowed very low on the ground. The children did likewise and repeated his words three times:



*My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You.
I beg pardon of You for those who do not believe,
do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You.*

That summer, he appeared to them again in another place. He told them, in part, "Make everything you do a sacrifice, and offer it as an act of reparation for the sins by which God is offended, and as a petition for the conversion of sinners." Later, in the fall of 1916, the angel appeared a third and final time, holding a Host and chalice. He taught them this prayer:

*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
I adore thee profoundly. I offer thee the most
precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus
Christ, present in all the tabernacles in the world,
in reparation for all the outrages, sacrileges
and indifferences whereby he is offended.
And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred
Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of
Thee the conversion of poor sinners.*

The angel's visits were preparing the three children for the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary which would soon begin on May 13, 1917.

Parish Announcements:

Father on Spiritual Retreat

Fr. Feltes will be away on retreat this Monday, May 8th through Friday, May 12th. There will be no daily Masses at St. Wenceslaus on those days.

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Rolls Sales

This weekend, our Knights be will fundraising after our Masses to help mentally disabled youths.

Parish Property Insurance Collection

Last weekend's collection raised \$1,271 toward recouping our annual insurance bill, which this year came to \$3,938. Thank you for your generosity.

Fatima Grotto Rosary

Next Saturday, May 13th at 3:30pm before Mass, join us at our outside grotto to pray a Rosary on the 100th anniversary of the first appearance of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, in 1917.

Mercy Workers Roses Prep

This Friday, May 12th at 5pm our youth group will be preparing Mothers Day roses, with snacks and an Our Lady of Fatima movie to follow.

Pastoral Council Meeting

Our next meeting is next Sunday, May 14th at 6pm in the parish rectory.

Mass Schedule:

Monday, May 8 - Friday, May 12
No Daily Mass

Sat, May 13 – 4pm (5th Sunday of Easter) for:
Roger Martin by Evelyn Waller

Sun, May 14 – 10am (5th Sunday of Easter) for:
**The Living & Deceased of
St. Wenceslaus & Sacred Heart**

Upcoming Liturgical Roles:

Saturday, May 13th : 4pm

Lector: Brian Sipos
Ushers: Loyde Beers & Mike Beers
Servers: Any Available Servers

Sunday, May 14th : 10am

Lector: Chris Wolff
Ushers: Bob Fisher & Justin Fisher
Servers: Group D: Noah & Tommy Sprosty,
Nicholas Walz, Hunter Hagensick

Sunday, May 14th Rosary Leaders:

The Bill & Mary Turner Family

May Hospitality Activities:

First Communion (May 7th) Group #2
Confirmation (May 17th) Groups #1 & #3

The Case of the Prophet Caiaphas

Once word got around how Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead:

[T]he chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said, "What are we going to do? This man is performing many signs. If we leave him alone, all will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our land and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing, nor do you consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish." He did not say this on his own, but since he was high priest for that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation, but also to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to kill him. (John 11:47-53)

Caiaphas speaks the wisdom of this world, recommending evil means in hopes of a desired social end. Yet St. John notes that this earthly-minded high priest prophetically reveals the plan of heaven without knowing it — Jesus has come "to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28) Like Balaam in the Book of Numbers, Caiaphas prophesies despite himself.

After Jesus' Passion, death, and resurrection, the Sanhedrin convenes anew — this time to address the issue of the Apostles' continued ministry in His name:

Caiaphas is threatened by the vitality of this Messianic movement that won't die and stay dead. He fears the social rebellion and personal vengeance that its followers may seek out. Once again, the high priest's misplaced concerns unknowingly speak spiritual truths.

The Apostles indeed wish to bring the Savior's blood upon the Jewish leaders and everyone. When the Old Covenant was inaugurated, "[Moses] took the blood and splashed it on the people, saying, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.'" (Exodus 24:8) Likewise, in instituting his New Covenant, Jesus "took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Matthew 26:27-28)

And the Apostles' teaching is not merely filling the ancient Jerusalem found in the earthly Promised Land. In his later visions, St. John beholds "the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God" and he notes that God's people "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 21:2 & 7:14)

Recall what Joseph told to his brothers who had sold him away as a slave: "Even though you meant harm to me, God meant it for good, to achieve this present end, the survival of many people." (Genesis 50:20) Remember what St. Paul writes to the Christians in Rome: "We know that God works all things for good for those who love Him..." (Romans 8:28) The case of Caiaphas reminds us that even those who make themselves the enemies of God will be used as instruments to accomplish His ultimate will. At times this truth can be painfully inscrutable to us, but we trust that every evil, even the murdering of God, shall be turned to the good of those who love Him.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May:

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

How the Early Church Worshiped

As described by St. Justin Martyr in his First Apology in Defense of the Christians, written between 140 to 150 A.D.

"No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ. We do not consume the Eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

"The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: *Do this in memory of me. This is my body.* In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: *This is my blood.* The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

"On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

"On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The Eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.

"The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.

"We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration."