

# Dear Padre,

## How does a priest keep the confession of a grievous sin by someone he knows from affecting their personal relationship?

One of a priest's most sacred responsibilities is the confidentiality of the confessional. This confidentiality encompasses everyone—even the priest and penitent outside the confessional. A priest is not allowed to discuss the confessed sin with the person outside the confessional unless permission is granted for further counseling.

The confessor is also forbidden to use any knowledge gained through the sacrament of reconciliation to restrict the penitent. For instance, if a pastor's bookkeeper confessed he was embezzling money, the pastor could not use the knowledge acquired in the confessional to fire the person.

Priests generally try to forget the specific sins parishioners confess to us, and it really isn't that difficult. Contrary to what many think, a parishioner's sins do not rush into my mind when I speak to him or her.

We have all sinned, done things we are ashamed of, things we wouldn't want anyone to know about, things we wouldn't want others to define us by. This knowledge and the grace of the sacrament help us look past the mistakes of others and recognize Christ within them.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Reconciliation itself is a benefit that the wisdom of the Church has always safeguarded with all her moral and legal might, with the sacramental seal....It is indispensable for the sanctity of the sacrament and for the freedom of conscience of the penitent...that the sacramental conversation will remain within the secrecy of the confessional.

ADDRESS TO APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, MARCH 29, 2019



## Calendar

**Monday**  
MAY 10  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 16:11-15  
Jn 15:26-16:4a

**Tuesday**  
MAY 11  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 16:22-34  
Jn 16:5-11

**Wednesday**  
MAY 12  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1  
Jn 16:12-15

**Thursday**  
MAY 13  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 18:1-8  
Jn 16:16-20

**Friday**  
MAY 14  
St. Matthias, Apostle  
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26  
Jn 15:9-17

**Saturday**  
MAY 15  
Easter Weekday  
Acts 18:23-28  
Jn 16:23b-28

**Sunday**  
MAY 16  
Ascension of the Lord  
Acts 1:1-11  
Eph 1:17-23  
or Eph 4:1-13  
or 4:1-7, 11-13  
Mk 16:15-20



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 9, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)  
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
1 Jn 4:7-10  
Jn 15:9-17

## God's Call

The story about Cornelius shows that God's call is not restricted by our likes and dislikes. Cornelius was a Roman, a citizen of the nation that was occupying Israel. More than that, he served in a military that exercised harsh control over the inhabitants of the land. A man like this would not have been loved by the Jews of the day. However, Cornelius recognized Peter as a representative of God, and his fundamental faith opened him to the gift of the Holy Spirit. All those who were listening to Peter's words were then baptized. They were then one with the community of believers.

Faith, baptism, and incorporation into the community of believers are offered to Jew and Roman alike. They are offered today to those who are members of our own religious, racial, or ethnic groups and those who are not; those who are socially or politically vulnerable, and those with power. The issue is not who does God favor, but who favors God.

The Gospel story reinforces this point. It insists that God's love for us is the foundation of everything. We are told: "Love one another as I love you" (John 15:12). God's love is all-inclusive. So should our love be all-inclusive. If God's love is for all, it follows that we are all favored by God—all chosen and cared for by him. This includes even those who might be our political adversaries, or who might exercise exacting authority over us, or who cherish different religious ideas. Imitating God's love requires that we will goodness to others—even those with whom we disagree or who have caused us harm.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Pray that you might be able to accept the goodness of people with whom you disagree socially, politically, even religiously.
- ★ You belong to a believing community. Think of how this has strengthened your faith.



[Jesus said,]  
"Love one another  
as I love you.  
No one has greater  
love than this,  
to lay down  
one's life for  
one's friends."  
JOHN 15:12-13





St. Mary's Church  
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church  
Bridgeport, NE 69336

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese

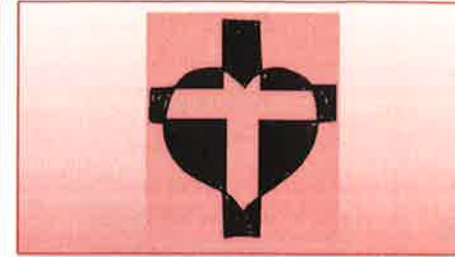
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: [allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com) Website: [www.smasscatholics.org](http://www.smasscatholics.org)



Sacred Heart Church  
Bayard, NE 69334

**ALL SOULS**  
617 P STREET  
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336



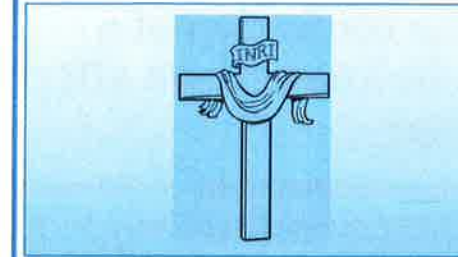
**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$1185.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$40.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1225.00
FLOWERS	\$20.00
SEMINARY	\$10.00
ASCENSION	\$10.00
TOTAL	\$1265.00
BUILDING FUND	\$10.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3615.00
BALANCE	\$2,431.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SACRED HEART**  
1003 AVE B  
BAYARD NE 69334



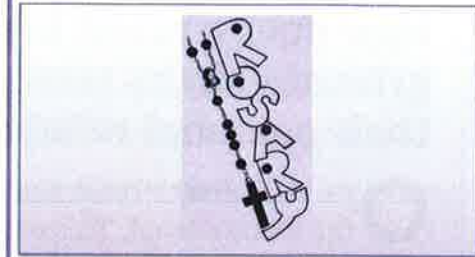
**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$560.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$297.00
SUBTOTAL	\$857.00
MASS STIPEND	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$897.00
BUILDING FUND	\$15.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$2915.00
BALANCE	\$1,992.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SAINT MARY'S**  
718 FRANCIS ST  
DALTON NE 69131



**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$140.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$33.00
SUBTOTAL	\$173.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 0.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6439.00
BALANCE	(\$303.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

Today's Scripture passages declare the profound truth that those who believe in Christ are to obey his commandment of love – "Love one another as I have loved you." When we celebrate today as Mother's Day, let us remember with gratitude that it is generally our mothers who practice the *agápe* love of Jesus.

In the first reading, Peter teaches us that God shows no partiality in His love and that there are no boundaries to abiding in love. God loves everyone, both the Jews and the Gentiles, and He wants everyone to be saved through His son, Jesus. That is why God welcomed the Roman centurion Cornelius as the first non-Jew to become a Christian. The reading tells us how God also allowed the Gentiles who heard Peter's speech to receive the same Holy Spirit and His gifts that Peter's Jewish audience had received on the day of Pentecost. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 98) also directs our attention toward God's marvelous love and kindness in offering salvation to the whole world. In the second reading, John defines God as love and explains that He expressed His love for mankind by sending His son to die for us humans "as *expiation for our sins*." This Divine love gives us the command as well as duty to love one another as we have been loved by God. Since God has loved us first, we can and should love God in return, love ourselves properly, and love one another. After telling the parable of the vine and branches, Jesus, in today's Gospel, teaches the disciples that are to obey his commandment of love just as Jesus has obeyed his Heavenly Father's will by fulfilling His commandments and remaining inseparably bonded with his Father. Jesus' unconditional, forgiving, selfless, sacrificial love for us must be the criterion of our love for others.

We need to cultivate an abiding and loving friendship with Jesus and to express it in our relationships with others by loving them and showing them trust, faithfulness, equality, forgiveness, joy and sacrifice. We need to be persons for others: Jesus demonstrated the love of God, his Father, for us by living for us and dying for us. Hence, as Jesus' disciples, we are to be persons for others, sacrificing our time, talents and lives for others.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

**Fr. C. P. Varghese**

Pastor

**SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
05/10	Monday	No Mass Today		
05/11	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Mary Lou Weitzel
05/12	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
05/13	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Rosa Devier
05/14	Friday	12.00 PM	Bayard	Patricia Fithugh
05/15	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Don Devier
05/16	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	People of God
05/16	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Mary Lou Weitzel