

The Hymns
Saturday, March 20th, 2021

Entrance

The Glory of These Forty Days

1. The glory of these forty days
We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, by whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed.

2. Alone and fasting Moses saw
The loving God who gave the law;
And to Elijah, fasting, came
The steeds and chariots of flame.

Offertory

Renew Me, Lord

1. O God, I seek safe harbor in this storm,
a place of peace in which my soul can form
the inner strength to follow day by day
your will for me unceasingly.
Renew me, Lord, I pray.

2. O God, I seek new vision, clear and strong,
that once again the sign that all along
you held before these eyes, once turned away,
I now may see more faithfully.
Renew me, Lord, I pray.

3. O God, I seek to serve but you alone,
for deep within my spirit you have sown
the gift of faith which calls forth bold display:
love undeterred in deed and word.
Renew me, Lord, I pray.

4. O God, I seek from time to time the joy
afforded those whose daily deeds employ
the work of love giv'n freely, come what may.
O Charity, come, dwell in me.
Renew me, Lord, I pray.

Communion

The Jesus Song

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me,
have mercy on me.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me,
have mercy on me.
Amen.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
You are the Son of the Living God.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.

Meditation

Nada te Turbe

Nada te turbe, nada te espante
Quien a Dios tiene, nada le falta
Nada te turbe, nada te espante
Solo Dios basta

Sending Forth

Rain Down

Refrain
Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love on your people.
Rain down, rain down,
rain down your love, God of life.

1. Faithful and true is the word of our God.
All of God's works are so worthy of trust.
God's mercy falls on the just and the right;
full of God's love is the earth.

2. We who revere and find hope in our God
live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.
God will protect us from darkness and death;
God will not leave us to starve.

The Hymns

Sunday, March 21st, 2021

Entrance

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days,
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,
And close by you to stay.

2. As you with Satan did contend,
And did the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in you to fight,
In you to conquer sin.

3. As you did hunger bear and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and always live
By your most holy word.

Communion

Ah, holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon
thee?

Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;
I crucified thee.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is
offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath
suffered.
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,
not my deserving.

Sending Forth

Led by the Spirit

Led by the Spirit of our God, we go to fast and
pray
With Christ into the wilderness; we join his
paschal way.
"Rend not your garments, rend your hearts.
Turn back your lives to me."
Thus says our kind and gracious God, whose
reign is liberty.

Led by the Spirit, we confront temptation face
to face,
And know full well we must rely on God's
redeeming grace.
On bread alone we cannot live, but nourished
by the Word
We seek the will of God to do: this is our drink
and food.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 21, 2021

Reading I Ez 37:12-14

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. (7) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to my voice in supplication.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,

LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,

that you may be revered.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

I trust in the LORD;

my soul trusts in his word.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,

let Israel wait for the LORD.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

For with the LORD is kindness

and with him is plenteous redemption;

And he will redeem Israel

from all their iniquities.

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Reading II Rom 8:8-11

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

Verse Before the Gospel Jn 11:25a, 26

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;

whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.

Gospel Jn 11:1-45

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill." When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot

with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **(At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

Sunday, March 21

8:30am @ St. Theresa: Intention of Celebrant

9am: Parishioners of St. Anthony, St. Theresa & Our Lady of the Valley

10:30am: Private Intention by Frazier Family

11am: ✚Stanley Cibulskis by Paul & Marlene Sibley

Monday, March 22

8:30am: Living & Deceased Family & Friends of Ed & Janice Stratman

Tuesday, March 23

8:30am: Jerry & Deb Bank

12:15pm: ✚Anna Waszak by Paul & Marlene Sibley

Wednesday, March 24

8:30am: ✚Phyllis McCormick by Kim Slifka

*****NO 12:15PM MASS

Thursday, March 25

8:30am: ✚Budi Herdianto by Laura Veronica

*****NO 12:15 PM MASS

Friday, March 26

8:30am: ✚Kennion Frazier by Deacon Rick & Jody Moser

*******NO 12:15 PM MASS**

6pm @ Our Lady of the Valley: Special Intention by Bank Family

Saturday, March 27

5pm: +Frank Waszak by Paul & Marlene Sibley

5pm @ Our Lady of the Valley: +Bernie Majusiak by Knights of Columbus #4031

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO USE THE RESERVATION SIGN-UP LINKS THAT ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE (stanthonycody.org) to ensure you will have a seat for the Holy Week Liturgies!! Ushers will be checking names at the door.

Frs. Clark & Heston are available for Confessions throughout the week and on Saturday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call the Office soon to schedule a time.

COLLECTION FROM MARCH 14, 2021

Cody	\$3,715.00	Online	\$ 947.50
OLV	\$ 181.00	St. Theresa	\$ 100.00
Family Fund	\$ 142.00	Online	\$ 70.00
Catholic Relief	\$1,392.00	Flower Fund	\$1,065.00

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED. Your generosity is very humbling.

Online Giving is easy to use. Give a one-time gift or schedule a reoccurring donation. No more writing checks or needing to have cash on hand! You may donate to the Offeratory, Family Fund, Boiler Fund & Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Easter Flower & Easter Sunday. Visit our church website, stanthonycody.org, and click the Online Giving link. Your support throughout the year helps sustain our church.

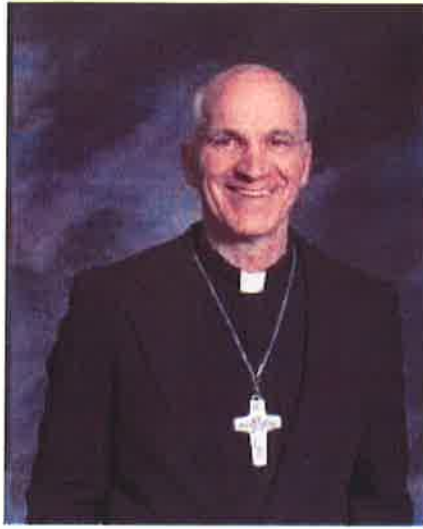


PLEASE remember to pray for our dear church family members that are living in the Long Term Care Center and Brookdale: Mary Ann Metzger, Sylvia Gates, Marilyn Meyer, Jeanne Pomajzl, Stacy Jourdan, Donna Brown, Nellie Grosz, John Case and Rose Schutzman. Let us also pray for their families.

stanthonycody.org illustrations © 2017 stanthonycody.org

We are all encouraged to be active in our community and to stay apprised of proposed legislation-- especially those which affect the dignity of life and family. Please visit our Diocesan website at <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/legislative-liaison-and-catholic-social-teaching> to stay abreast of the

2021 Legislative session.



Upcoming Ordinations

The Diocese of Cheyenne would like to announce the Diaconate Ordination of Seth Hostetler, to be held Friday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Name Church in Sheridan.

(This ordination will be livestreamed and attendance is by invitation only)

In addition, the Diocese is blessed to celebrate the Priestly Ordinations of Deacons Dan Kostelc and Linh Vu on Thursday, June 24 at 6 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Cheyenne. (More information will be provided in the June issue of the *Wyoming Catholic Register*.)

Parish Modifications

To provide for the pastoral needs in the northeastern corner of the Diocese of Cheyenne, St. Anthony's Parish of Upton was merged into Corpus Christi Parish in Newcastle. Furthermore, the mission of St.

Matthew's in Hulett, part of the Corpus Christi Parish, was merged into St. Matthew's Parish in Gillette. St. Matthew's Parish in Gillette now incorporates all of Campbell County and the western part of Crook County, and Corpus Christi Parish in Newcastle now incorporates all of Weston County and the eastern part of Crook County.

Friday, March 19 is the Solemnity of St. Joseph. Because it is a solemnity, abstinence from eating meat is not required.

Wyoming Catholic Ministries Foundation has two openings:

- * **Administrative Assistant** - provides clerical support, bookkeeping services, and donor relations services to advance the programs and day to day activities of the organization.
- * **Director of Development** - conducts major gift fundraising activities to meet both the short and long term funding needs of Catholic ministries.

St. Joseph Children's Home has an opening for:

- * **Director of Spiritual Wellness** - coordinate ministry and direction sensitive to the spiritual backgrounds of each resident and work to further enhance the appreciation of spiritual values among staff.
- * **Director of Hispanic Ministry** - The Diocese of Cheyenne has an opening for Director of Hispanic Ministry. The Director of Hispanic Ministry, in close collaboration with the Director of Pastoral Formation, assists the Diocesan Bishop in cultivating lay leadership and directing a Pastoral Hispanic Ministries Plan for the Diocese of Cheyenne. The Director of Hispanic Ministry will be located in Casper. Candidates must be bilingual (Spanish and English), conversational and written.
- * **El Diocesis de Cheyenne tiene una vacante para un Director del Ministerio Hispano.** En estrecha colaboracion con el Director Diocesano de Formacion Pastoral, el Director ayuda al obispo a fomentar el liderazgo laico y dirigir un Plan para el Ministerio diocesano de Pastoral Hispana. La oficina del Director Diocesano del Ministerio Hispano estara en Casper. Los candidatos deben ser bilingues (espanol e ingles), conversacional y escrito. Envia una solicitud, cart de presentacion, y resumen por correo, e-mail, o a la oficina diocesano antes del 30 de abril de, 2021 a: Tammy Skala, la Directora de Recursos Humanos,

Diocese de Cheyenne, 2121 Capitol Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001, tskala@dioceseofcheyenne.org, 307-638-1530 - La descripción completa y aplicación están en nuestro sitio web: <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/job-openings>

Application Process: Visit <https://dioceseofcheyenne.org/job-openings> for complete job descriptions and application. Submit an application, letter of interest and a resume by mail, email or in-person by March 31, 2021 to: Tammy Skala, Human Resource Director, Diocese of Cheyenne, 2121 Capitol Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001, tskala@dioceseofcheyenne.org; Tel: 307-638-1530.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please look at the schedule for available Holy Hours. Ideally, each hour should have at least 2 Adorers. Prayerfully consider spending one Hour in the presence of our Lord.

Open Holy Hours are: Monday: 9am, 11am, 2pm, 3pm & 6pm; Tuesday: 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5pm & 6pm; Wednesday: 10am, 2pm & 5pm, Friday @ 1pm

Please call the Office for additional information, 587-3388.

If you want to advertise in the bulletin, please call the Parish office at 587-3388.

 <p>LOVERA INSURANCE HEALTH LIFE DENTAL 307.578.7531 Individuals ~ Families ~ Self-Employed 1501 Stampede Ave Cody, WY 82414 loverainsurance.com</p>	 <p>A JACK OF ALL TRADES Handyman Service James Hernandez II 307-272-3737 James2_jat@gmail.com</p>	 <p>KEA Electric Licensed Master Electrician 307-250-3168 2013 Newton Ave Cody, WY 82414 tommyk307@live.com</p>
 <p>MUSIC LESSONS GUITAR, PIANO, UKULELE, VOCAL ACCOMPANIST & VOCALIST MASSES & SPECIAL EVENTS MUSIC THERAPY Patricia Worthington 307 213 0229</p>	 <p>Chuck's Lawn Care, INC - For all your custom lawn and tree care - Mowing • Aerating • Power Raking Lawn Fertilization • Weed Control Seasonal Yard Cleanup • Snow Removal Tree and Shrub Care • Insect Control CHUCK DURM P.O. Box 1928 • Cody, WY 82414 307.699.7386 • 307.527.7386</p>	 <p>Serenity Pregnancy Resource Center New Address! 1826 Stampede Ave Cody, Wyoming 307.213.5025 Services Offered Pregnancy Tests Referrals & Resources Ultrasound Prenatal Classes Pregnancy Options Post Abortion Healing Counseling Groups All of our services are free and confidential.</p>



Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

DECREE

Since March of 2020, we have been in the midst of a global pandemic caused by Covid-19. Countless people have become ill, and many have died from the virus. The widely accepted medical opinion is that the virus is highly contagious and spread by droplets and aerosols. Face masks, sanitizing hands, distancing from others, and avoiding large gatherings helped to reduce the spread of the virus. Over the last month, the number of new cases and deaths have declined. Even so, the danger for infection remains, especially when people gather in large groups for extended times. Thus, coming together for meetings, prayers, or the liturgy of the Eucharist can result in people being infected and even dying. This is especially true for vulnerable individuals. Although effective vaccines are being administered, it will take several months for the general public to be immunized. Furthermore, variants of the Covid-19 virus may be more contagious and virulent. It may not be safe for some individuals to be at Mass. Also, limitations on the numbers of people who can safely gather could prevent others from participating.

Considering this, I hereby extend to all the faithful in the Diocese of Cheyenne the dispensation from the obligation to celebrate the Eucharist on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation through Wednesday, June 30, 2021 (see canons 87 §1; 1245). Those who have been fully vaccinated, who are well, who do not have underlying health conditions or are in a high-risk category, and who do not have significant anxiety of becoming ill by participating in Mass, should join their parish in celebrating the Eucharist, while observing the precautions in place.

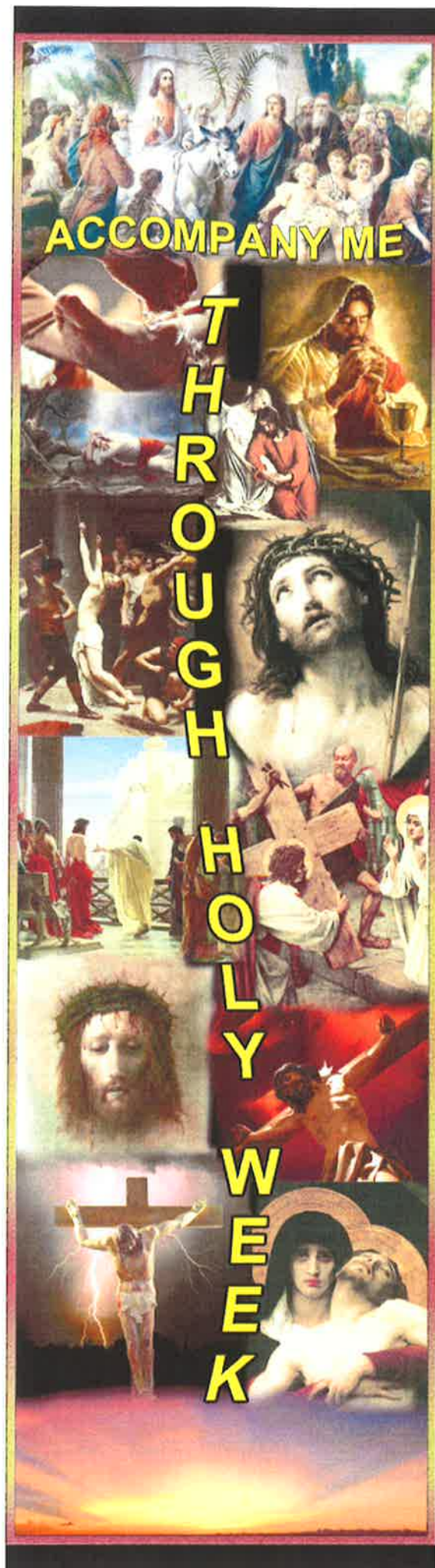
To those who use this dispensation due to sickness, compromised health issues, or another good moral reason, be assured of our prayers, and know that we need your prayers. I urge you to keep holy the Lord's Day: Participate in a live-streamed Mass, meditate on the Sunday readings, spend time in praying the Rosary or other devotions, meditate on the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, and practice the spiritual or corporal works of mercy.

May we see this time as an opportunity to grow in dependence on the Lord and to develop a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist. As we participate in the paschal journey of Christ's death and resurrection, let us pray for one another, especially the sick, those who have died, medical professionals, and those adversely affected by the pandemic. Know of my prayers for you.

Given in Cheyenne, on March 10, 2021.

Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler DD, STL
Bishop of Cheyenne

Jean M. Chrostoski
Chancellor



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - March 27th & 28th

Mass & Distribution of Palms

St. Anthony, Cody Sat., Mar. 27th @ 5 pm
 St. Anthony, Cody Sun., Mar. 28th 9 & 10:30 am
 St. Theresa, Meeteetse Sun., Mar. 28th @ 8:30 am
 Our Lady of the Valley, Clark Sat. Mar. 27th @ 5 pm
 Taize in Church & Live-Stream on Facebook: 7 pm

HOLY THURSDAY - April 1st,

Mass of the Lord's Supper

St. Anthony, Cody @ 7 pm
 Our Lady of the Valley, Clark @ 7 pm

GOOD FRIDAY - April 2nd

Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord

St. Anthony, Cody @ 1 pm
 St. Anthony, Cody - Living Stations of the Cross @ 2 pm
 Our Lady of the Valley, Clark @ Noon

HOLY SATURDAY - EASTER VIGIL April 3rd

St. Anthony, Cody @ 8:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY MASS - April 4th

St. Anthony, Cody - 9 am (also live-stream) & 10:30 am
 St. Theresa, Meeteetse @ 8:30 am
 Our Lady of the Valley, Clark @ 12:30 pm
 Latin Mass - St. Barbara, Powell @ 11 am

PLEASE NOTE:

1. For Confessions - Call for an appointment @ 587-3388
2. Reservations are required for all Liturgical Services.
Please go to apaduacoody.org to sign up.

Church of St. Anthony of Padua

1333 Monument Street, Cody

Located behind the Buffalo Bill Center of the West



LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Good Friday, April 2, 2021, St. Anthony's Catholic Church

An outdoor portrayal of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ following the 1pm Veneration of the Cross.

Masks required.

VIACRUCIS

Viernes Santo, el 2 de Abril en La Iglesia de San Antonio

Acompáñanos a recordar la Pasion de Cristo despues de la Veneracion de la Cruz a la 1 de la tarde. Mascara es requerida.



St. Anthony Religious Education Tidings

Plan to Accompany Jesus during Holy Week!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Kindergarten through 5th Grade will meet on, Wednesday, March 24th . Class time is 4:00pm to 5:15pm.

Middle School and High School Classes will meet on Wed, , March 24th .

Class time is 6:30 until 8:00 pm.

Grade 6th will meet in the Parish Center.

Grades 7th through 12th will meet in Brady Hall.

There will be NO Religious Education Classes on Wednesday, March 31st, because of Spring Break!

ALL STUDENTS & TEACHERS must wear masks at all times unless, and until, given permission to remove them by the Teachers - once safe-distancing is achieved. Some classes, depending on the number of students and the room size, will have to keep the masks in place.

IF YOU DO NOT want to wear a mask, please, do not attend.

FORMED.ORG

We, as a parish, have subscribed to **FORMED.ORG. The Catholic Faith on Demand.**

The Parish has already paid for this wonderful resource.

To join Formed.org,

- ✓ go to *formed.org*
- ✓ choose "Sign Up"
- ✓ choose join a parish
- ✓ type in the zip code
- ✓ choose St. Anthony of Padua, Cody
- ✓ enter your email
- ✓ pick your program. "That's it!"



Link: whole-40-making-a-spiritual-plan-for-lent.html

The Living Stations of the Cross

The Living Stations of the Cross will be on Good Friday, April 2, 2021 following the 1 p.m.

Veneration of the Cross.

We're looking for volunteers to help set up one of the 14 Stations. We're also looking for middle school and high school students who would like to participate in the outdoor, still-life portrayal of the Passion.

If you would like to volunteer,

please contact Laura Veronica at (307) 899-4576.



Cramming for Finals

Dcn. Rick Moser
(Wyoming Catholic Register 2004)

Your insides are churning, your stomach's acidic with coffee and your brain is about to explode. It's late, you're tired and you're preparing for a test. Perhaps, just perhaps, you're trying to get all the facts in front of you for one last time; you're merely refreshing your mind; putting it all together. That would be called studying. But, equally possible, you're trying to learn it all at the last minute. That is called cramming.

Surprisingly, when we cram, we may actually pass the test the following day. However, in reality, we flunked the course. We learned enough of the material to pass the test, but that knowledge was put in short-term memory. It disappears in short order, just as everything in RAM disappears when we turn off our computers.

Why do we tend to do this; we know it's important to study and to learn. After all, that is our "job" as a student. Well, we have other things to do with our time. I could list some, but we all know them. And, it's so much easier to procrastinate about things that aren't fun and exciting.

Many of us tend to do the same thing in our spiritual life. We put learning our faith, practicing our faith and embracing our faith on the back burner during the "best years" of our lives. We don't want to subjugate our selfish pursuits, our materialistic ways and our individualism. But, then, when we face death or old age, we begin to "cram for finals." Surely, we will pass the test because the Mercy of God is absolutely unlimited. But, just as in school, we have truly failed the course. We didn't use our lives for the purposes for which God gave them to us. What great good didn't we do? We missed out on the joy of learning how much God loves us. We missed out on the joy that would have been ours if we had lived our lives unselfishly and cared for others as we cared for ourselves. We failed to leave the legacy of our faith with our children; instead, we potentially leave a legacy of materialism, individualism and relativism that may take a lifetime for them to overcome, if in fact, they know to try.

The sole reason we're here is because God wanted us to be here; he wanted to love us. God loves us everyday, all day, completely. His Son, Jesus, gave everything He had for us. He gave Himself all day, every day, from His birth to His death and beyond. He still gives us His whole being everyday in the Eucharist. He is our God, our creator, our Savior and now He is even our food. He doesn't sit on a throne; He washes our feet, even today. He loves us and protects us from our birth through eternity. He made us to love Him and be grateful to Him every day. He didn't intend for us to do our own "thing" our whole life and then, when the end is in sight, fall on our faces in fear - pleading for His mercy. He will be merciful to us but we have flunked the course of our life by failing to live out its very purpose.

A final thought about this final matter: we don't always get notification on the bulletin board of life that the course is ending. Sometimes, it's early and sometimes it's fast. We can't cram for finals if we have no warning.



"BEING CATHOLIC" **Class & Discussion**

Join us for a Lively Class and Discussion of the Catholic Faith. This week's discussion will be **"The Easter Vigil and living the Catholic Faith and loving the Catholic Faith."**

All your questions will also be answered. This next class will be on Thursday, March 25th, from 6:00 - 7:30pm. in the Joan of Arc Room in the Parish Center. Classes will be led by Deacon Rick Moser.

Please Join us, No Strings Attached!

**Please join our Music Director, Patricia
Wormington, for an evening of
Taizé on Palm Sunday Evening, March
28th at 7:00pm in the Church**

Taizé Prayer is a distinctive style of meditative prayer developed by an ecumenical community of monks in rural France. This quiet, moving reflective prayer combines elements of the Church's traditional Liturgy of the Hours with elements of contemplative meditation. A typical Taizé prayer service incorporates periods of silence with meditative readings from Scripture, prayers of praise and intercession, and the frequent repetition of simple, contemporary chants based on the Psalms or other parts of Scripture. Short songs or chants, repeated over and over, create a meditative environment and express basic realities of faith which can be easily grasped by the mind and the heart. The result is to gradually move prayer from the head to the heart.





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