



Dear NAM Parishioners,

With my father's death last week, I am still wrapped up in the celebration of his life. I was blessed to be with him for four days after Christmas. We had Mass three days in his room giving him Viaticum via a straw with a few drops of the Precious Blood, I anointed him, gave him the apostolic blessing and said the prayers for the dying for him. We prayed Rosaries, Chaplets and Breviary. I gave him his last yogurt and applesauce. Two days later, he could not swallow. He had been bedridden for 15 months and yet never complained. He still had his mind but no short term memory. Parkinson's is a tough way to go, but his attitude was excellent. He could eat three meals a day until the last couple of weeks. He had an awesome caregiver throughout who prayed with him and would show him Livestream Mass, devotionals and play classical music.

My brother wanted to have an Irish Wake. It worked out well with six priests attending (Fr. Winter traveled from Minden, NE) so we divided up the prayers and rosary decades so each priest had one. His body was placed in the corner of the living room with fifty folding chairs facing him. The mortuary brought large candles and a crucifix and we had a nice framed photo of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. After the prayers, there was plenty of food and drink to celebrate in true Irish style.

The funeral was at my parents' home parish of Visitation at 5141 Main Street, KCMO where they belonged for 64 years. I was pretty certain that I would not get emotional since this was a long expected death and finally a relief for the suffering to be over and Eternal life begun. It was a very different feel than with my mother's funeral. I was fine until I walked down the main aisle following the cross and a dozen priests, listening to the beautiful singing of Amazing Grace (which dad loved), surrounded by hundreds of family and friends. I saw my aunt/Godmother, the last of that generation, and she reached out crying "I am so sorry" and I lost it. It was tears of joy and it only got worse with each of the four stanzas to the song. It was a good cry and I was ready to celebrate and give thanks to Almighty God in the funeral Mass for my father. He was a good husband to my mother. He was a wonderful dad for me and all my siblings. He was such a devoted uncle and grandfather to 19 grandchildren. We were blessed to have him for 90 years.

I have been to four other funerals for wonderful fathers in the past week. Each one of them was an outstanding father to four, five or six children. They each had unique jobs and talents, loving children and grandchildren, wonderful wives and devotion to the Catholic Church. They also were blessed to receive the sacraments before they died. They did their level best to raise their children. There are lots of similarities in these families. My hope is that the next generation and the following are also good fathers. It is not easy. I think that computers and social media can bring out the worst. Also, more people seem to be neglecting their regular practice of the faith.

Deacon Ralph Poyo will come to NAM on February 19-23 to preach a Parish Mission. We will have a chance, right before Lent, to get into small groups and get a real boost in our faith. I hope you can join us.

May the Souls of all the faithful departed, Rest in Peace.

FBC

Welcome to our new parishioners who registered in the month of December:
Israel & Marlene Alvarez, Souks & Jenna Boutmahavong, Zach & Ellie Fischer, Alan Goodenberger, Laurene Hahn, Kiefer & Amanda Musiel, Patrick & Jessica Redmond and Ike Reeb.
We hope you feel at home in our parish!

Let the Word of God illuminate your new year with an **online or in-person class** from the Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies. January "Short Courses" include: *Introduction to the Bible I: What It Is and How We Got It* (January 10-14); *Reading Scripture with the Fathers of the Church* (January 17-21 – online and in-person); and *Introduction to the Bible II: What It Says and How to Read It* (January 24-28). Classes are in Lincoln and run Monday-Friday from 9:30-11:30am. Learn more and register at www.EmmausInstitute.net.



Women of Martyrs is partnering with Martyrs Men for a **Candle Lit Rosary** on **Monday, January 17** at 8:00 p.m. in the church. We will pray the rosary together as a Parish community, light a candle for each prayer and form a lighted rosary on the



Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, in Waverly, situated amongst the rolling

hills of eastern Nebraska, offers the ideal atmosphere for a peaceful and fruitful time of recollection and deep prayer. Just as Jesus instructs His disciples to escape the noise of the world and "come away to a deserted place and rest awhile," so, too, does He invite you to retreat in a calming silence to better know and love Him.

Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House offers a wide variety of retreats that will allow you to return to your daily life refreshed and spiritually strengthened. Retreats are available in-person and online, with NAM paying half of the cost of your retreat. Please click on the link to schedule your retreat today; goodcounselretreat.org.

January 2022

February.....

North American Martyrs Parish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus	11 6:30 p.m. Altar Society Meeting	12 6:00 p.m. CCD Class 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	13 6:30 p.m. RCIA	14 7:00 p.m. Card Night Parish Hall	15 7:30 a.m. Martyrs Men
16	17 8:00 p.m. Women of Martyrs Candle Lit Rosary	18	19 6:00 p.m. CCD Class 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	20 6:30 p.m. RCIA	21	22 7:30 a.m. Martyrs Men 7:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off 8:00 p.m. Pok-er Tournament
23	24 6:00 p.m. Grief Support	25	26 6:00 p.m. CCD Class Priest Visit 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	27 6:30 p.m. RCIA	28	29 7:30 a.m. Martyrs Men 10:00 a.m. Walk for Life
30	31	1-February	2 6:00 p.m. CCD Rosary 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	3 6:30 p.m. RCIA	4 First Friday	5 7:30 a.m. Martyrs Men
6	7 Waverly Bed Making	8 6:30 p.m. Altar Society Meeting	9 6:00 p.m. CCD Class 6:00 p.m. Bible Study	10 6:30 p.m. RCIA	11	12 7:00 a.m. Church Cleaning 7:30 a.m. Martyrs Men 10:00 a.m. Women of Martyrs Soul Core



School Calendar

January 17	No School
January 23	6:30 p.m. 8th grade Parent Meeting
January 28	Book Fair
January 31	7:00 p.m. Light the night
February 1	Learning Fair
February 4	CSW Dance



CCD Calendar

January 5	Class 6-7:30 p.m.
January 12	Class 6-7:30 p.m.
January 19	Class 6-7:30 p.m.
January 26	Priest Visit
February 2	All CCD Rosary
February 9	Class 6-7:30 p.m.