

From the Pastor

September 20, 2026

Dearest Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This week the “*Living the Vocation to Holiness*” column is written by Fr. Kyle. He introduces us to our seven-year preparation for the 2,000-year anniversary of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This seven-year *pilgrimage* to the jubilee celebration of the Resurrection will follow the pattern of the “Seven Sorrows of Mary”. This is a familiar pattern for us in that we recognize our life itself as a pilgrimage with Christ along the “Way of the Cross” which leads us to the resurrection. No passion – no resurrection. No Good Friday – no Easter Sunday.

Following the Marian character of this pilgrimage, we will introduce reciting or chanting the seasonal Marian Antiphon at the end of Mass. Recitation or chanting has been determined by the character of each particular Mass. After some time for settling in, I am open to adjusting the choice between recitation or chant as people respond to the experience of it. So, do let me or your pastoral council representative know.

In those Masses where the antiphon is chanted there will be no closing hymn. There will be a postlude played to accompany the recessional movement. This is the pattern that is anticipated in the historical practice of the Roman Rite. Indeed, in the Missal and accompanying books published by the Church, one sees an *introit* (opening song), and *offertory* (offertory song), and a *communion* (the communion song) provided for...no concluding chant, antiphon, or hymn.

We will also introduce praying the “Seven Sorrows Rosary” at different times. Along with the familiar pattern of the rosary we all grew up with, this rosary gives us the opportunity to reflect with Mary on her seven sorrows, just as we reflect on the five mysteries in a typical rosary.

Finally, I’d like to give a shout out to Kay Megadance and her crew for a successful first dinner. It seems that students and stationary members alike enjoyed themselves. Also, thanks to JoAnn and her helpers for last weekend’s “Sunday Rolls”. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know more of our parish family members. These important parish building activities require a team effort. Give the office a call if you find yourself able to volunteer.

Pray Well!

Fr. Michael

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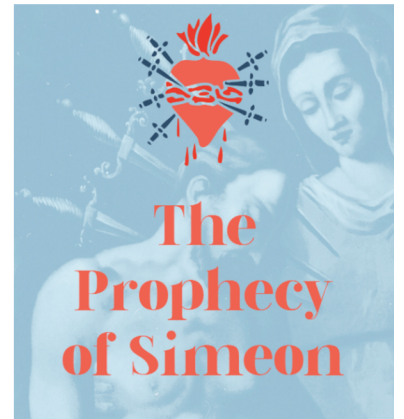
On Living the Vocation to the Holiness

In 2033, the Church will celebrate the 2,000th anniversary of the Resurrection of Jesus. This is being called the “Jubilee of Redemption” by Pope Leo XIV and many other Christian leaders. We want to prepare for this special time of grace for the Church and the world. Father Sedlacek is spearheading a personal and communal commitment for spiritual growth during these seven years in the Chippewa Valley.

Everyone is welcome to join us in this most important effort. In a capital campaign, many people give smaller amounts to achieve a common goal; so too, all of our prayers united together can bring about great graces for our families and community. Join us in praying that everyone in our community will grow closer to Jesus during this Spiritual Journey to 2033!

The preparation for the Jubilee will follow the Seven Sorrows of Mary— key moments of trial in her life that foreshadow or participate in the Passion of her Son. They are listed below. For the remainder of this year, we encourage you to pray with the first sorrow: the prophecy of Simeon.

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”



Each night, Simeon’s prayer is said by Catholic priests and religious: *Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.* With Simeon, we long to see Jesus, our Salvation. With Simeon, we find ourselves in the presence of Jesus (he at the Presentation, we at Mass). And with Simeon, we gaze upon Jesus’ mother, wondering at this sorrowful sword which pierced so deeply.

As part of this Jubilee preparation, we will introduce Marian antiphons, to be said or sung at the end of Mass and in your daily prayers.