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FROM THE PASTOR



The Seven Last Words, by Venerable Fulton John Sheen

The Third Word

Woman, behold thy Son.

An angel of light went out from the great white throne of Light and descended over the plains of Esdraelon, past the daughters of the great kingdoms and empires and came to a humble virgin of Nazareth, knelt in prayer, and said: "Hail, full of grace!" These were not words: they were the Word. "And the Word became flesh." This was the first Annunciation.

Nine months passed and once more an angel from that great white throne of Light came down to shepherds on Judean hills, teaching them the joy of a "Gloria in excelsis," and bidding them worship Him Whom the world could not contain, a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Eternity became time, Divinity incarnate, God a man, Omnipotence was discovered in bonds. In the language of St. Luke, Mary "brought forth her first-born Son and laid Him in a manger." This was the first Nativity. Nazareth passed into Calvary, and the nails of the shop into the nails of human malignity. From the Cross He completes His last will and testament. He had already committed His blood to the Church, His garments to His enemies, a thief to Paradise, and would soon commend His body to the grave and His soul to His Heavenly Father. To whom, then, could He give the two treasures, whom He loved above all others, Mary and John? He would bequeath them to one another, giving at once a son to His Mother and a Mother to His friend "Woman!" It was the second Annunciation! "Behold thy son!" It was the second Nativity! Mary had brought forth her First-born without labor in the cave of Bethlehem; she now brings forth her second-born, John, in the labors of the Cross. At this moment Mary is undergoing the pains of childbirth, not only for her second born, who is John, but also for the millions who will be born to her in Christian ages as "Children of Mary." Now we can understand why Christ was called "her First-born." It was not because she was to have other children by the blood of flesh, but because she was to have other children by the blood of her heart. Truly, indeed, the Divine condemnation against Eve is now renewed against the new Eve, Mary, for she is bringing forth her children in sorrow. Mary, then, is not only the Mother of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, but she is also our Mother, and this not by a title of courtesy, not by a legal fiction, not by a mere figure of speech, but by the right of bringing us forth in sorrow at the foot of the Cross. It was by weakness and disobedience at the foot of the tree of Good and Evil that Eve lost the title of the Mother of the Living; it is at the foot of the tree of the Cross that Mary by sacrifice and obedience regained for us the title of the Mother of Men. What a destiny to have the Mother of God as my Mother and Jesus as my Brother!

Prayer: O Mary! as Jesus was born to thee in thy first Nativity of the flesh, so we have been born of thee in thy second Nativity of the spirit. Thus thou didst beget us into a new world of spiritual relationship with God as our Father, Jesus as our Brother, and thou as our Mother! If a Mother can never forget the child of her womb, then, Mary, thou shalt never forget us. As thou wert Co-Redemptrix in the acquisition of the graces of eternal life, be thou also our Co-Mediatrix in their dispensation. Nothing is impossible for thee, because thou art the Mother of Him Who can do all things. If thy Son did not refuse thy request at the banquet of Cana, He will not refuse it at the celestial banquet where thou art crowned as Queen of Angels and Saints. Intercede, therefore,

to thy Divine Son that He may change the waters of my weakness into the wine of thy strength. Mary, thou art the Refuge of Sinners! Pray for us now prostrate at the foot of the Cross. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL NEWS:

St. Joseph School Parents' Club Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser Monday, March 23, 2026, 5:30 pm to 7 pm and Bingo from 6 pm to 7 pm.

ST. PAUL NEWS:

Come celebrate with us on Sunday, March 15th, with a special coffee and rolls after the 8:00 am Mass to honor our Confirmation candidates.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS:


We gratefully thank the John Geist Family and all volunteers for 20 years of dedicated service to our Catholic Cemetery. Your care and commitment have preserved this place of peace and remembrance. Special thanks to all who donated toward the new fence, and to the Foote Family for their generous gift of the ground for our cemetery's enlargement. Your support blesses our entire community.

AREA HAPPENINGS:

St. Mary's Altar Society, Grinnell, will host its St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Raffle on Sunday, March 15th, from 11:00 to 1:00, with a Free Will Offering.

Our Tithes from Last Week

Oakley: \$4,442.54.00 Angelus: \$808.00



We welcome all our guests to our parishes. If you have moved here, we encourage you to register on our website.



Follow us on St. Joseph Catholic Church and School



DAILY SCHEDULE

Sat 14 – 4- 4:45pm Confessions
5 pm Mass + Almetha Mendenhall
Sun 15 – 8:00 am Mass (Angelus) + Dennis Lindeman
9am Angelus Coffee and rolls to celebrate the Confirmandi
10:30 am Mass - Parishioners
Mon 16 – NO MASS
Tues 17 – 7am Mass + Fr. Charles Mueller
 7:30-8am Confessions
Wed 18 - 7:30am Mass (Angelus) + Jerry & Jeanie Gormley
 NO CCD Classes
Thur 19 – 7am Mass + Ernest B & Martha Knapp
 7:30-8am Confessions
 9am – 7pm Adoration
Fri 20 – 7am Mass + Loretta Schoenfeld
 7:30-8am Confessions
 7pm Stations of the Cross at both parishes
Sat 21 – 4- 4:45pm Confessions
5 pm Mass + Danny George
Sun 22 – 8:00 am Mass (Angelus) + Jean Rietcheck
10:30 am Mass - Parishioners

Confessions are available in Oakley: Tues., Thurs, & Fri. 7:30-8am. Saturday: 4-4:45pm. Sunday: 7:30am in Angelus and 10am in Oakley.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. Danny Lockhart	Mrs. Raye Kuhlman
Mr. David Manhart	Mr. Mason Sheetz
Mrs. Penny Pfeifer	Mr. Ethan Schwarz
Mrs. Cassie Shirley-Vice Chair	Mrs. Dana Charles – Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman	

ST. JOSEPH FINANCE COUNCIL

Mrs. Lisa Racette	Mr. Lewis Evins
Mrs. Dana Charles (Par. Co. Rep.)	Mrs. Susan Glassman
Mr. Tom Halbleib	

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mrs. Kim Munk	Mr. Courtland Osborne
Mrs. Casey Zerr - Secretary,	Mrs. Mary Urrego – Vice Chair
Mr. Russ Kahle	Mr. Jeff Kuhlman – Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman (Par. Co. Rep.)	

ST. PAUL PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL

Mr. Bernard Dickman	Mr. Mason Bixenman
Mr. Clem Fellhoelter- Chair	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Mar 21 st 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Mar 22 nd 10:30 am	Servers	Alexander B, Jethro & Thomas C.
	Lector	Bob Kuhlman		Lector	Brad Joseph
	Gifts	Mike & Aimee Zimmerman		Gifts	Mike & Katie Chrisler
	Hospitality	Mike & Cassie Shirley		Hospitality	Ethan & Maureen Schwarz

Sunday, Mar 22 nd 8 am	Servers	Natalie Bixenman
	Lectors	Ron Lager & Barney Dickman
	Gifts	Ron & Linda Lager
	Ushers	Larry Mense, Gary Ostmeyer, Joe Rehmer & Mark Rueschhoff