

Jesus said,
"I say to you, you are Peter,
and upon this rock
I will build my church,
and the gates of the netherworld
shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23, 2020



Saint Peter, undated
Conte Anton Maria Zanetti
Italian, 1680-1767
Chicago Institute of Art (CIC)

This blog by Deacon Ralph Poyo is very challenging as we look at our relationship to God and to the institutions we have created or are of part of in today's world. If God is taken out of the picture of our being, we are left with what we have created and that is flawed. How might we get back to the truth revealed and gifted to us by our God? Jesus died so that we could regain life with God. But when we choose to reject God, we choose life apart from Him and death. Therefore, choose God and live.

What Does the Truth Reveal? By Deacon Ralph

To live in a society requires us to create systems so that we all work together, supposedly for the common good. I have been around enough to see countries disappear and new nations form. I have seen people rebel against the current system of government in the hopes that they could create something better.

Before you begin to think this is going to be a political blog, let me turn the corner with one simple observation. Every system that man creates is fundamentally flawed because it is dependent upon the integrity of those who operate the systems. When you look at history, nations have fallen because they ultimately became so corrupt that they imploded.

Our country has a democratic republic that is governed by a rule of law and not by the will of a few in power, or a king, or a tyrant. When individuals serving in the government choose to subvert the law for their own benefit, agenda or power, we begin the journey toward implosion.

When the United States was established, our founding fathers were deeply formed in their Judeo/Christian roots where personal morality was paramount. This helps us understand the founder's motivation in establishing a nation that is, therefore, dependent on the integrity of all the individuals who are entrusted to honestly fulfill their oath of office.

But what happens when government officials and the people they govern no longer desire to follow God and His will for their lives? What if they choose to reject God's moral code and live by their own self-serving rules? What if they turn to other ideas that can remove God from the equation? Or create other religions not based on God, but on worldly pursuits like power, money or pleasure?

Here are a few current examples of how humanity is looking to other ideas or pursuits for their happiness.

Secular Humanism - There is no supernatural Creator God, and humanity is the highest form of being. If there is no God, then there are no absolute truths, and we are free to make our own rules for our own selfish purposes (relativism). It may be fair to say that individuals buying into secular humanism may have honest intentions, but when truth is removed, what's left? Perhaps a whole lot of deception.

(Continued on page 3)



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Whatever you bind on earth
shall be bound in heaven; and
whatever you loose on earth
shall be loosed in heaven.”

— *Matthew 16:19*

Readings for the Week

Mon: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Tue: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10-13; Mt 23:23-26

Wed: 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5; Mt 23:27-32

Thu: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-7; Mt 24:42-51

Fri: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11; Mt 25:1-13

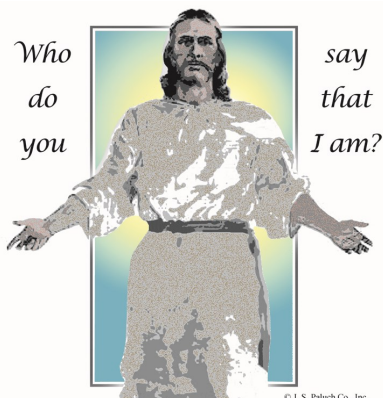
Sat: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-21; Mk 6:17-29

Sun: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

St. Boniface Catholic Church
551 Main Street, Stewart, MN 55385
Phone: 320-562-2344

St. Anastasia Catholic Church
460 Lake St SW,
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Phone: 320-587-6507

Emergencies at Night
Fr. Paul, 507-829-0965



This Week's Area Worship Schedule

DATE/TIME	LOCATION	INTENTION
<i>Eucharistic Adoration begins at 5am on Monday and concludes at 5pm on Friday</i>		
MONDAY, August 24 5pm, Mass	St. Anastasia	+Michael van Overbeke
TUESDAY, August 25 7am, Mass (live streaming)	St. Anastasia	+Judy Blazinski
WEDNESDAY, August 26 5pm, Mass	St. Anastasia	+Barbara Scott
THURSDAY, August 27 9am, Mass (live streaming)	St. Anastasia	+Leo & Elizabeth Cogley & family
FRIDAY, August 28 7am, Mass	St. Anastasia	+Chuck Nielsen
SATURDAY, August 29 3pm, Confessions 4:30pm, Mass	St. Anastasia St. Anastasia	+Rosemary Kretsch, +Lisa Schreiner
SUNDAY, August 30 6pm, Confessions 6:30pm, Mass	St. Boniface St. Boniface	
SUNDAY, August 30 7:30am, Mass 10:30am, Mass (live stream) 7:30pm, Mass	St. Anastasia St. Anastasia St. Anastasia	Special Intention +Barb Scott, +Ann Lewandowski For Our Faith Community

Baptism

We warmly welcome

Amelia Mae Eiden

daughter of Alexander and Rosemary, who was received into our faith on August 9, 2020 through the waters of baptism. May she continue to be nurtured by love of her family, the strength of our community and the presence of the Lord!

St A's School & Kids Depot

We know that many of you are trying to finalize plans for the new school year. St A's School is planning a complete in school learning program for P/K—Grade 6. If things change and it becomes necessary to return to at-home learning or switch to a hybrid learning plan—we have the programs ready to go. There are some openings in the school as well as in our Kids' Depot (daycare/latchkey). If we can be of any help, or if you have any questions, please call us. We'd love to talk to you! Financial assistance is available. School: 587-2490 Kids' Depot: 587-4760

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC AREA FAITH COMMUNITY
OF ST. ANASTASIA & ST. BONIFACE**

Parish & Community Events

What Does the Truth Reveal (cont)

Government - There are forms of government that seek to rule the people by being the total provider of all their needs. Such examples of this include communism, socialism, democratic socialism, and dictatorships. In these examples, the people are not free to do as they wish (within reason) but must obey the will of the government or pay severe consequences. Of course, if the government gives you individual rights, they can also take them away. Is it any wonder that so many people living under the rule of these governments are in search of the real freedom that the United States currently offers?

Science - Science has become the new "Standard for Truth". But what happens when scientists dishonestly alter their findings to support a political narrative they believe in or to make a large sum of money? Again, human dishonesty enters into the system and corrupts its integrity. When scientists cease to operate within the scientific method of reporting their observation and manipulate their findings to suit their narrative, science can no longer be trusted. A case of one bad apple spoiling the entire lot? Perhaps.

The critical core of all human systems rests squarely on the integrity of both the system and its members. If a building's foundation does not have the true dimensions needed to sustain the weight of the structure, the building will eventually fall apart. If government officials are not serving true to their oath of office but rather serve their own interest or agenda, the integrity of the government declines.

When Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God (original sin), humanity experienced a fracture, both within and between each person. Selfless love and care for the common good was replaced with selfish personal pursuits. When God confronted Adam and Eve with their sin, they avoided responsibility for their actions.

Instead of accepting the lack of a personal moral code as the cause for corrupted actions and systems, we are tempted to see the system as flawed and in need of replacement. Does it surprise us when we replace the system and still corruption exists? The consistency with which humanity has fallen into corruption provides us with the best evidence of our flawed human nature, and, therefore, a need to return to God. Only when humanity repents of their sinful disobedience and returns to God will they find the peace and care for the common good they search for.

Man was created by God to live with God in His truth. When people leave God and venture away from His truth, they enter into confusion, hatred, disarray, brokenness, sin and ultimately death at the hands of themselves.

There is no institution, political movement, system or political party that can repair what we are doing to ourselves. Only when each person turns back to God in humility and accepts responsibility for their own actions of rebellion, will God mercifully respond and help. When a nation chooses to repent and yield before God, He will come to their aid. But if they don't, they will lose their nation!

How do we know this is true?

Look at the Word of God. Read the history of the Israelites in the Old Testament. You will see an historical cycle of unity with God, a period of rebellion, a fall into calamity, a call to repentance (individual and corporate), and back to unity with God. Despite God's patient attempts to restore the Israelites, He eventually allowed the nation to be destroyed.

The Israelites are not only the chosen people of God but are also deeply loved by Him. He created them and us with a free will so that we are free to choose to love Him and others. But with that freedom and ability to experience love comes responsibility. When we misuse our freedom, God, like a loving parent, will hold us responsible for our actions. It is through our actions that we learn to trust each other. When we can trust each other, then love is free to flow between us.

How do we know God is trustworthy?

God's love is sacrificial. His love seeks the benefit of all, even at great personal cost to Himself. Jesus Christ proved that on the cross. He died so that we could regain life with God. But when we choose to reject God, we choose life apart from Him and death. Let us see God's truth exemplified in our actions by repenting and making this a national call to repentance, that we might save our republic from the implosion coming.

Job Opening

Substitute teachers

Qualifications

- MN Teaching license or Substitute License or
- Bachelor's Degree
- To apply please send letter of interest and resume to: principal@stanastasia.net

Faith Formation

Trust

Keys hold great significance for those who carry them. They represent the trust and authority of the owner when given to another person. We may give our house key to a trusted friend to take care of our matters while we are away. We may give keys to someone responsible for maintaining or working in a particular building. Keys to vehicles are given to people who have proven themselves responsible drivers. The readings today focus on this kind of trust—the trust that conveys authority and responsibility. In the first reading, the symbol is specifically that of a key; but the second reading and the Gospel also speak of trust and leadership as they refer to the earthly church that Jesus established.

St Monica (332-387) Aug 27

She had smiles for the neighbors, though her husband found her religion and the charity it inspired annoying. She made tearful prayers in private for a son, outwardly

self-assured but, as his mother knew, inwardly restless, and whose girlfriend of a dozen years had borne his child out of wedlock. Though not the first or last such mother and son, Monica and Augustine are the Church's most famous, so we keep their feast days back to back, with Monica's, fittingly, first. To Rome she followed Augustine, then to Milan, where years of prayer—and nagging—finally bore fruit in his conversion by Saint Ambrose. For six months, mother and son enjoyed the blessing of rediscovering each other. Just in time! On the way home to North Africa, Monica took sick and died near Rome. No child who has mourned a parent can read, unmoved, Augustine's tender account, in his *Confessions*, of Monica's last days. At this time of the year, when parents watch apprehensively as children leave for school, may Monica's perseverance and Augustine's long-prayed-for conversion ease anxiety and kindle hope.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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Social Concerns

School Supply Drive

Common Cup is holding its annual School Supply drive from now till mid August. We are not quite sure what the school year will look like yet, but whatever form it will take students will still need the usual kinds of things: notebooks, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, folders, rulers, pens, folders, etc.

In addition—should we be able to provide in school classes either full or part time—there are many new safety/cleaning protocols to help keep everyone safe and healthy. Teachers are asking for help in stocking their classrooms with Kleenex, disinfectant wipes & sprays, paper towels, hand sanitizers, etc. If you can help provide any of these items, they will be much appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off in the hospitality area, the parish office at St Anastasia or at Common Cup.

Wheels of Mercy

Christ the King Church's Wheels of Mercy program provides bikes for those without working vehicles or driver's licenses. As of July 18 they had distributed 34 bikes/helmets/locks. Any used road worthy adult or young adult bike will gratefully accepted. (small repairs can be made by their volunteers) Thank you for your consideration!

Our sponsor of the week is
RE/MAX Results.

Please show your appreciation by
patronizing their business.

St Anastasia Fall Festival September 12 & 13, 2020

Yes, St Anastasia will be celebrating Fall Festival 2020! Like everything else about the year 2020, it will be a little bit different than it was before. But we are still planning on some fun, games, and good food! Here are some of the upcoming events:

Raffle Tickets: Yes, there will be a raffle. Ticket prices remain the same as last year—\$5 each or \$60 for 12 tickets. The drawing for prizes will be at 2pm Sept 13. Winners will be posted on the website and on Facebook by 3pm. They will be notified by phone on Monday morning, Sept. 14.

(5) \$100 prizes

(4) \$200 prizes

(3) \$300 prizes

(2) \$500 prizes

(1) \$1,000 prize



Many Thanks to those who are turning in their raffle tickets early—You're the best!

Saturday Nite: Our wonderful KCs are going to have their grilled burgers, chips, cookie & a drink and available after the 4:30 Mass. It will be a drive thru set up, so no worries about social distancing!

Chicken Dinner: Well, of course we are going to have our chicken dinner! Seriously, how could it be the Fall Festival without the chicken dinner? But, due to COVID 19 and new food serving restrictions now in



place, we are going to make some changes.

We will have a pre-ordered drive thru meal pick up that you can enjoy at home or at a picnic area of your choice. We can offer a pay on line option if you are more

comfortable paying that way.

This year we are offering a special kids' meal of chicken strips, tater tots and a cookie. Milk included.

White Elephant Sale: We will not be hosting a White Elephant Sale this year. The logistics space allocation and Covid 19 standards have made it impossible. Our Thanks to the ladies of the CCW for working extra hard to put on their August Rummage Sale and Farmer's Market. It gave us some fun fall activities!

Scavenger Hunt: Purchase a St Anastasia Fall Festival sign for \$10. Place it in a easily visible spot at the front of your house by Aug 30. Between August 30 and Sept 9, keep your eyes peeled and your notebook handy. As a family, write down the address of every sign you spot around town. (Some will be just a bit outside of the city limits!) Turn your list in to the parish office by 5pm, Sept 10. Top spotters win fabulous prizes! Any age can play! **DON'T GET LEFT OUT**—the signs are selling really well. And thanks to our marvelous donors **THE PRIZES KEEP GETTING BETTER!**

Please Keep In Your Prayers

Nicole Glesener John Kemper Sandy Jerabek Margie Navara Maureen Reiner
Barb Olson Jenny Trettin Irene Carlson Al Cotter Delores Beich Clinton Gruett
Otto Levno Kami S. Roger Steintl Nancy Kottke Belinda Bureke Delores Muetzel
Gloria Pohlmann Eric Haffley Wendy Stoll Sr Carmen Sonnek Teri Niemeyer
Betty Gunderson Darlene Artmann Terry Bisbee Sheryl Mose Marilyn Reinarts
Mary Anne Kerkuliet

and:

All those in the military, serving our country at home and abroad.

Our health care workers, grocery/pharmacy store staff, delivery drivers, school staff, police & fire departments, teachers, etc who show us a new meaning of service to the community.

All those suffering with illness, loneliness, and depression.

All those who are making extra efforts to be of service to their family, friends and community.

For a clear path in our troubled times.



Letters from Heaven

Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Simon Peter said to Jesus,
"You are the Messiah, the Son ...



O _ _ _ _ _ ."

Answer: *of the living God*

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St. Boniface

Total Contributions for:

St. Anastasia

Contribution Budget 2020-21	\$800,000
July 26 Contributions	\$11,238
Total Contributed so far	\$738,8452
Total Budgeted so far	\$775,545
Average weekly given	\$14,201
Average weekly amount needed to make the budget:	\$15,385

DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL

DMA received for St A's

		Parish
Goal	Total rec'd	Portion
\$43,021.51	\$46,467.00	\$9,293.00

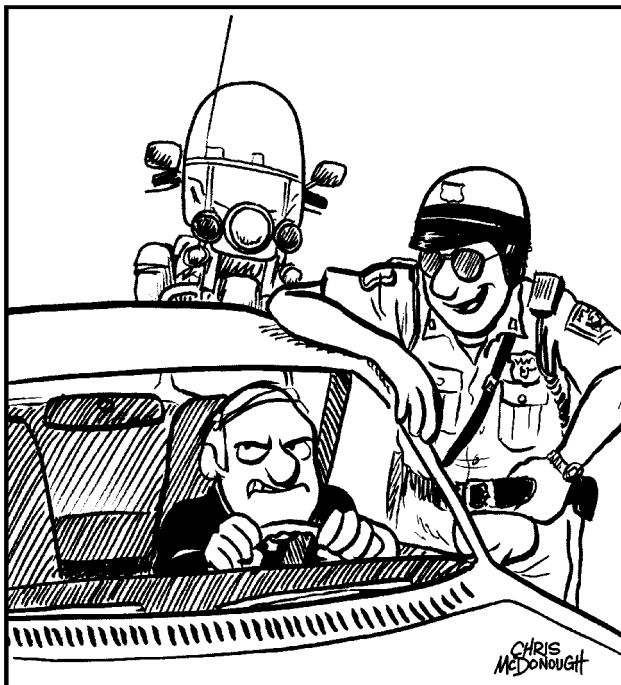
DMA received for St B's

\$4,168.75	\$4,701.00	\$ 940.00
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TRY ONLINE GIVING AT ST A'S!

Online Giving is a secure way to give to the parish. Manage your account and donations by computer, tablet, or smart phone. Go to www.stanastasia.net, and click on the Online Giving icon to find out more. You can download the free App in the App Store, Google Play Store, or go to OLGapp.com. Register by entering our church ID of 78.

Pastor Al™



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"Hey, Pastor Al. Ironical, ain't it? I mean, both of us with the power to hold men bound or forgive them."



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General Information

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at 3pm on Saturday at St. Anastasia or by appointment.

Marriages

Contact the Area Faith Office at least 6 months in advance of the planned wedding date. Couples complete a premartial inventory and are required to attend an approved pre-marriage program.

Baptisms

Contact Fr Paul Wolf, 320-587-6507, to schedule a baptism and the necessary preparation. The pre-Baptism program helps parents take an active role in their child's Baptism. It provides reflection and instructions for parents as they assume their new responsibility as the primary teachers of their child.

Hospital Visitation

If you, or anyone you know, is hospitalized or ill at home, notify the Area Faith Office to arrange for visitation.

Prayer Requests

You may list your prayer intentions in the Book of Communal Prayer at the rear of the church.

Prayer Chain

St. A's has a prayer chain that prays for any needs you have. Anyone can call with a prayer request, and anyone can be a part of the prayer chain. If you would like to participate or ask for prayer support, call Janet Hall at 320-455-7927 email 3furballmom@gmail.com.

New Parishioners

Please register! Call or stop by the Area Faith Office.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation)

Considering becoming fully Catholic? Call Fr Paul Wolf, 320-587-6507.

Coffee Sales

Coffee from San Lucas, Guatemala is available in the Area Faith Office during business hours. Cost is \$10 per bag.

Area Bulletin Deadline

Tuesdays, 12pm, at St. Anastasia.

KC Picnic Shelter Rental at St. A's

Call Mark Lewandowski, 320-583-0357.

Adoration Hotline

For the latest changes to the Adoration schedule call 320-484-7126.

Area Faith Community Leadership

STA Administrative Council

Chair: Jim Fahey

usually meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month
Sept 15, 7pm St Anastasia parish office

STB Administrative Council

Chair: Mark Maiers

Sept 21, 9am St Boniface church basement

Cemetery Committee

Chair: Jeff Lehn

Oct 8, 3pm St Anastasia parish office

School Advisory Committee

Chair: Jason Jennison

usually meets on the 1st Tuesday each month
TBA, 7pm St Anastasia

Home & School Association

Chair: Shannon Visser

usually meets on the 3rd Thursday each month
TBA, 6:30pm St Anastasia library

Worship & Outreach Committee

TBA, 7pm St Anastasia parish office

Maintenance Committee

Sept 15, 5pm St Anastasia parish office

Social Concerns Committee

TBA, 6pm St Anastasia parish office

STA Council of Catholic Women

TBA, 9:30am St Anastasia hosp. kitchen

STB Council of Catholic Women

TBA, 6pm St Boniface basement

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight: Mark Maiers

Sept 2, 8pm St Anastasia cafeteria

Knights of Columbus Squires

TBA, 5pm St Anastasia hosp. kitchen

Area Faith Community Staff

Fr. Paul Wolf, Pastor

507-829-0965 (cell) pwolf@stanastasia.net

St. Anastasia Parish Staff

320-587-6507

Diane Pedersen

Beth Hauth, Music Co-Ordinator

Merriane Miller, Bookkeeper

Jason Corby, Development Director

Donna Conrad, Secretary

Kevin Scott, Facility Manager

320-583-0807 (cell)

St. Boniface Staff

Millie Navara, Administration

Merri Schaufler, Contributions

320-562-2463

320-562-2245

mmnavara@embarqmail.com

St. Anastasia School

Betty Jodzio

Marilyn Schreiner, Secretary

320-587-2490

320-587-2490

principal@stanastasia.net

secretary@stanastasia.net

Kids' Depot Daycare & Preschool

Michelle Nies, Director

320-587-4760

depot@stanastasia.net

Religious Education & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Eckstein, RE Dir, St Anastasia

Karen Maiers, RE Dir, St Boniface

Jake Burmis, YM Director

320-234-6129

320-833-6020

320-587-6507

religioused@stanastasia.net

karenmaiers1@gmail.com

youthmin@stanastasia.net

St. Anastasia Cemetery

Mike Schall, Manager

1 mile north of Hutchinson on Highway 15

320-583-7199

mgschall@mediacombb.net

St. Boniface Cemetery

Richard Navara, Manager

1 mile south of Stewart on City Rd 7

320-562-2128

rnavara@embarqmail.com

TO REPORT ABUSE: If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy (priest, deacon or bishop), and you need to talk with someone about abuse, exploitation, or harassment, please contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator or the Bishop's Delegate in Matters Pertaining to Sexual Misconduct, 1421 6th Street North, New Ulm, MN 56073; phone: (507) 359-2966.