

# Fr. Simon Sez

## VISITING PRIEST CELEBRANT & FR. SIMON CON-CELEBRATING

**F**r. David Axtmann (retired in Highmore) will be the celebrant this weekend and next weekend with me con-celebrating. He will be offering confessions before all of the Masses. We welcome Fr. David!

## PALM SUNDAY MASSES NEXT SUNDAY

**N**ext weekend, there will not be any confessions before weekend Masses. Fifteen minutes before each Mass, Altar servers need to be robed and ready for instructions. We will begin with palm processions.

## BEGINNING & EXISTING ALTAR SERVERS

**I**trained existing and new Altar servers. Since there are significant differences in the previous ways, all Altar servers are required to have training. If any existing Altar servers still need training, please let the parish secretaries know. I will be having Altar server training before all of the Holy Week special liturgies.

## NEWS PAPER ARTICLE INTRODUCING FR. SIMON

**S**heila Ring wrote an excellent article introducing me to the Onida area in the "Onida Watchman" newspaper Thursday, March 24, 2022. (See [www.onidawatchman.com](http://www.onidawatchman.com).)

## DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS MASS ATTENDANCE PROJECT

**A**s a project for the past few years, our diocese has asked the parishes to take Mass attendance. We took the following Mass attendance:  
**St. Pius X Parish**

51 (March 13), 62 (March 20) & 47 (March 27)

### Sacred Heart Parish

60 (March 12), 71 (March 13), 43 (March 19), 98 (March 20), 41 (March 26), 100 (March 27).

Thank you all for your participation at Mass and those who did the counting.

## LENT REGULATIONS FOR CATHOLICS



**A**ll Fridays throughout the year, especially during Lent, are penitential days. Abstinence: All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Fasting: All those who are 18 or older, until their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is one full meal and two lesser meals without eating between meals. Jesus said to the disciples of John and the Pharisees: "But the days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day." (Mark 2:20)

## Something New: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Fifth Sunday of Lent



Isaiah 43:16–21  
Psalm 126:1–6  
Philippians 3:8–14  
John 8:1–11

The Liturgy this Lent has shown us the God of the Exodus. He is a mighty and gracious God, Who out of faithfulness to His covenant has done

"great things" for His people, as today's Psalm puts it.

But the "things of long ago," Isaiah tells us in today's First Reading, are nothing compared to the "something new" that He will do in the future.

Today's First Reading and Psalm look back to the marvelous deeds of the Exodus. Both see in the Exodus a pattern and prophecy of the future, when God will restore the fortunes of His people fallen in sin. The readings today look forward to a still greater Exodus, when God will gather in the exiled tribes of Israel that had been scattered to the four winds, the ends of the earth.

The new Exodus that Israel waited and hoped for has come in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Like the adulterous woman in today's Gospel, all have been spared by the Lord's compassion. All have heard His words of forgiveness, His urging to repentance, to be sinners no more. Like Paul in today's Epistle, Christ has taken possession of every one, claimed each as a child of our heavenly Father.

In the Church, God has formed a people for Himself to announce His praise, just as Isaiah said He would. And as Isaiah promised, He has given His "chosen people" living waters to drink in the desert wastelands of the world (see John 7:37–39).

But our God is ever a God of the future, not of the past. We are to live with hopeful hearts, "forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead," as Paul tells us. His salvation, Paul says, is power in the present, "the power of His resurrection."

We are to live awaiting a still greater and final Exodus, pursuing "the goal, the prize of God's upward calling," striving in faith to attain the last new thing God promises—"the resurrection of the dead."

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