

Fr. Simon Sez

Visiting Priest Celebrant & Fr. Simon Con-celebrant: Fr. David Axtmann (retired in Highmore) is the celebrant this weekend with me con-celebrating and preaching the homily. He will be offering confessions before all of the Masses while I am training the Altar servers. We welcome Fr. David!

Holy Week Services & Altar Server Training: Please check our Holy Week schedule on our parish bulletin pages. I have extra confession opportunities on Wednesday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. The locations for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil will rotate each year, unless there will be RCIA in a particular parish at Easter Vigil. (An individual priest is allowed to celebrate only one Mass of the Lord's Supper.)

On Wednesday I will have instructional Stations of the Cross 4:15 pm - 5:00 pm and 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm with confessions available after both sessions for adults. (SPXP will have Stations 7:15 pm - 7:45 pm.) I ask that SPXP Altar servers arrive at 5:45 pm for training before the 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. On Good Friday I ask the Altar servers to come for training at 4:15 pm for the 5:30 pm Passion in SHP and at 7:00 pm for the 8:00 pm Passion in SPXP. At the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, I ask the Altar servers to come to practice at 7:30 pm for the 8:45 pm Easter Vigil. (This is high point of Church liturgy for the year, lasting about two hours.) On Easter Sunday we will not have confessions offered before the Masses due to Altar server practice at 8:30 am for the 9:00 am Mass and approximately 10:10 am for the 11:00 am Mass. Altar servers should robe upon arrival for Easter Sunday practices. Thank you!

Beginning & Present Altar Servers: I trained present and new Altar servers multiple times. 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.



Lent Regulations for Catholics

All 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)

Passion of the Christ: Scott Hahn Reflects on Passion Sunday



Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

"What is written about Me is coming to fulfillment," Jesus says in today's Gospel (see Luke 22:37).

Indeed, we have reached the climax of the liturgical year, the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been anticipated and

promised is to be fulfilled.

By the close of today's long Gospel, the work of our redemption will have been accomplished, the new covenant will be written in the blood of His broken body hanging on the Cross at the place called the Skull.

In His Passion, Jesus is "counted among the wicked," as Isaiah had foretold (see Isaiah 53:12). He is revealed definitively as the Suffering Servant the prophet announced, the long-awaited Messiah whose words of obedience and faith ring out in today's First Reading and Psalm.

The taunts and torments we hear in these two readings punctuate the Gospel as Jesus is beaten and mocked (see Luke 22:63-65; 23:10-11, 16), as His hands and feet are pierced (see Luke 23:33), as enemies gamble for His clothes (see Luke 23:34), and as three times they dare Him to prove His divinity by saving Himself from suffering (see Luke 23:35, 37, 39).

He remains faithful to God's will to the end, does not turn back in His trial. He gives Himself freely to His torturers, confident that, as He speaks in today's First Reading: "The Lord God is My help . . . I shall not be put to shame."

Destined to sin and death as children of Adam's disobedience, we have been set free for holiness and life by Christ's perfect obedience to the Father's will (see Romans 5:12-14, 17-19; Ephesians 2:2; 5:6).

This is why God greatly exalted Him. This is why we have salvation in His Name. Following His example of humble obedience in the trials and crosses of our lives, we know we will never be forsaken, that one day we too will be with Him in Paradise (see Luke 23:42).