

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 313-673-6519 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Lee
Preaching: Bishop Prior
Presiding: Bishop Prior
Treats: Suzanne

Readings this week:

Palm Sunday, 9 April, 2017

First Reading: [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)
Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: [Matthew 26:14-27:66](#) or [Matthew 27:11-54](#)

(Click on citation to link directly to the reading.)



Reflections:

By Bob Padzieski

Christ Among Us

A photo of a sandwich board sign in front of *CUPS Coffee & Tea* in Roanoke, Virginia went viral on the internet. It read:



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

- "One small coffee" - \$5.00
- "One small coffee, please" - \$3.00
- "Hello, I'd like one small coffee please." - \$1.75

The barista who wrote up the sign was mostly trying to be funny, but he also wanted to get the attention of the people who didn't take the time to say hello and connect, to get them to realize there are people behind the counter.

I admit there are many times I'm so focused on a task that I don't notice the people around me. When I lived in New York City, I even developed the skill of being aware of people but not making eye contact. It was my method to avoid interacting with the many panhandlers, pamphlet passers, and sidewalk evangelists. Thirty-five years of living in southern Minnesota helped me slowly surrender that skill, but it wasn't until we moved to Cook County that I learned to really slow down and enjoy an opportunity for conversation. Just because my groceries were packed in my bags did not mean I had to instantly escape to the car.

Taking the time to acknowledge the people we encounter can be more than simple politeness. The reading of Matthew's Passion this coming Sunday starts in the middle of chapter 26, but at the end of chapter 25 (v. 35 – 40) Jesus reminds us that when we've done a kindness for others, we have done it for Christ. If we take the time to recognize someone's need, hurts or simply their presence, we can be recognizing the Christ within them.

In his rule for monastic life, St. Benedict devoted an entire chapter to receiving guests. It begins with "Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ" and goes on to provide many details on the rules for hospitality. At St. John's Monastery in Collegeville, a part of their liturgy regularly reminds the monks of this. Whenever they

Forums: 2016 - 2017

Forums — immediately following services we grab our coffee and treats and spend an hour learning.

April — The Ten Commandments

May — Prayer

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enter the church two-by-two from the cloister, as they reach the foot of the altar, they first bow reverently to the crucifix to recognize the symbol of the Christ who died for them. Then they turn and bow to person next to them, to reverence the Christ within that person.

As we come to the end of the season of Lent, our liturgies focus on Christ's humanity and his great sacrifice for the love of each and every one of us. This can be a good time for us to practice recognizing the Christ in each and every person we meet, whether friend, enemy or stranger.

**Notes:**

1.) Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017, Bishop Prior will be visiting the SOTW. Following the service at Maple Hill we will travel to the Johnson Heritage Post to share our Art Show with the Bishop. Then we will gather at Padzieski's for a soup lunch prior to his departure. ["Our address is 7 Terrace Point. We are off Highway 61 right at Milepost 104. After turning off the Highway, take the first right followed by a quick left. There are blue fire-numbers as well to help point the way. You can park in front of any of the garages from 6 - 10, or anywhere else that's plowed out. Carpooling is recommended if possible."]

2.) Ruby's Pantry, Tuesday, April 11.



3.) Maundy Thursday: Seder on Thursday, the 13th, at Hedstrom's House of Holy Happenings. This can be a good time to invite guests as we explore the Jewish festival meal and the origins of our Eucharistic feasts. 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Please RSVP to Suzanne.

4.) Good Friday we have our annual interdenominational cross walk and service. We'll meet at the Congregational Church (6:00 pm) and walk with the cross through the streets, stopping to pray at different churches. Then at 7:00 we'll gather back at the Congregational Church for an hour-long service — liturgy planned by the Congregational Church, with Mary Ellen preaching. (psst: It would mean a lot to MEA to see you there.)

5.) Easter Sunday at Maple Hill. Regular time.

Centering Prayer Class by Rolf Lindquist

I will be offering a class about Centering Prayer meditation on Wednesdays April 5th, 12th, and 19th at 6:00 PM at the Higher Ed building in Grand Marais that I am inviting you to attend. The cost is free. The class will include some fun, interesting discussions and an opportunity to experience Centering Prayer meditation. This class is for beginners as well as people with experience in meditation.



Johnson Heritage Post. SOTW Art Show. SVEA singers – l to r Yvonne Mills, Erin Swenson, Rose Arrowsmith-DeCoux, Erica Ternes.