

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
The Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 22, 2015

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord: Wednesday, March 25

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is celebrated by the Church on Wednesday, March 25. Holy Mass will be offered at the cathedral on this day at 9:00 a.m.

The Annunciation marks the great moment in history when the Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven by Almighty God to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nazareth to announce to her that she had been chosen from all of the women of the world to be the Mother of His Divine Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, the Annunciation of the Lord marks the beginning of our Salvation in Christ!

Overshadowed by the power of the Holy Spirit our Blessed Mother conceived our Savior in her womb. By saying yes to God's plan for our salvation, Mary's simple, profound *fiat* undid the disobedience of Adam and Eve. In saying yes to God, Mary became the instrument of His mercy, love and peace, bringing new life and new hope into our sinful world. From Mary's womb sprang the Word of God Himself, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is forever the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Thus the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord is a day to rejoice and be glad as we thank Almighty God for sending His Son to save us from our sins through His passion, death and resurrection. We unite our prayers with all of the angels and saints in heaven and praise God for the mystery of the Incarnation. We ask God for the grace that we need to be as open to His plan for our lives as Mary was. Mary Most Holy, Mother of the Word of God, Pray for Us!

Bishop Cary Celebrates Chrism Mass at Cathedral March 26

The annual Chrism Mass for the Diocese of Baker will be offered by the Most Rev. Liam Cary, this Thursday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the cathedral. It is within the Chrism Mass that the bishop blesses the holy oils used in the administration of the sacraments in our parishes. Also during this Mass all of the priests in attendance renew their vows of ordination and promise, once again, to be faithful and true to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to the Magisterium, the teaching authority of His Holy Catholic Church.

Please give prayerful thought to assist at the Chrism Mass to thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the priesthood and to thank Him for all of the other sacraments as well. It really means a great deal to us priests to have people from our own parishes in attendance at this Mass.

