

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

Tues., Mar. 12th, 10 a.m.: Dorothy Czerniejewski, by Mike & Pat Ramsey
Wed., Mar. 13th, 8 a.m.: Jason Lovell, by family
Fri., Mar. 15th, 8 a.m.: Angie Mudd, by St. Anne's CCW
Sat., Mar. 16th, 4 p.m.: Walter & Louise Gregson, by Diane & Brad and family; Eileen Heinen, by Susan Cowell
Sun., Mar. 17th, 10 a.m.: Ron Hentis, by Carol DeRousse; For the Parish

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, March 16th, 4 p.m.:

Lector - D. Gielow
Ushers - M. & P. Martin
Eucharistic Ministers - G. Wiegard, H. Siegfried, D. Gross
Servers - Volunteers
Gift Bearers - J. Keith & Ushers

Sunday, March 17th, 10 a.m.:

Lector - C. Crain
Ushers - J. & L. Becker
Eucharistic Ministers - G. Ratz, A. & J. Deterding
Servers - E. & E. Hahn
Gift Bearers - C. Steibel family



Please Pray For ...

Rev. Mark Stec, Nursing Home Residents,
Homebound Parishioners
Names remain for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.

Thought For The Week

We have nothing to boast about than the cross of Jesus.

On the Lighter Side

Joe and Sally were listening to their eight-year-old son, Tim, practicing away on his trumpet while their dog loudly howled at his side. Finally, Joe said, "Son, why don't you play something the dog doesn't know?"

K of C Work Day

Come join us on Saturday, March 23rd (Palm Saturday) for a work morning starting at 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Relief Services Collection

We take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

Readings

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

God's people lived in sin, mocking God's messengers and ignoring the Lord's warnings. Finally their enemies destroyed Jerusalem. They were captive, but God showed mercy.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

God is rich in mercy, and out of love the Lord brought us to life in Christ when we were in sin. God saved us by grace, not by anything we have done.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

God's Son came into the world not to condemn it, but to save it. As Moses lifted up the serpent, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life.

From the Desk of Fr. Dennis

Our readings this Fourth Sunday of Lent, also called Laetare (Rejoice Sunday) invite us to make a choice. Centuries before Christ, the people of Judah chose to turn away from God and Jerusalem was allowed to be destroyed. But the psalmist pleaded that the people never forget the holy city. Jesus tells Nicodemus that those who prefer darkness to light condemn themselves, but those who live in the truth come to the light, where we can do the good works that Paul says flow from God's grace. May God's word inspire us to live in the truth of our faith, where God offers us everlasting mercy and love. So, as we rejoice on this special Sunday, may we always be mindful of God's unparalleled love and mercy and its ultimate purpose for us all.



You are invited to come and join members of the West Vicariate for a sharing in the Synod Process next Saturday at 10 am at St. Boniface, Evansville. See the two questions we are to consider for that gathering listed in this bulletin. We plan on the sharing to be at least an hour. Invite a friend to join you. Thanks so much.

Have a blest 4th week of Lent! Remember, don't worry so much, and know that you are loved! ~ Fr. Dennis

Stewardship Thought

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

Number of households that have pledged: 73

Amount pledged to date: \$18,155.00

Our parish goal: \$15,731.00. Thank you for your generosity!

The Synod Process

The Synod of Bishops will resume meeting in Rome this October. Dioceses across the United States have been requested to offer the opportunity for the clergy and faithful to gather and comment on two questions provided by the Holy See and then submit the comments through the diocese. We have set up an opportunity to gather on Sat., Mar. 16, 10 a.m., St. Boniface, Evansville. Invite a friend to join you. The two questions to be considered are: 1) Where have I seen or experienced success - and distress - within the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission? 2) How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ? The format for the gathering will be simple. We plan on at least an hour for the process. Thank you!

Position Available

The Diocese of Belleville is seeking a Copy Editor for The Messenger. This is a 12-14 hour per week position with the potential of a hybrid work schedule. For all application details, please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the main entrance of church.



Easter Egg Hunt

We've heard that the Easter Bunny will be stopping by our Church Easter morning! Be sure to bring your Easter basket to the 10 a.m. Mass!

If any parishioners would like to help the Easter Bunny, please meet outside the main doors of church after Communion.

Colon Cancer Awareness Month

To raise awareness during Colon Cancer Awareness Month, Red Bud Regional Hospital is hosting a Wellness Fair and Colon Care Conference for adults on March 16, 2024 from 9am-12pm. The Wellness Fair is 9-10:30 am with blood pressure screenings, hands-only CPR, and \$25 lab tests (lipid panel and glucose combined). The Colon Care Conference begins at 10:30am with keynote speakers Dr. Charmaine Edwards, Gastroenterologist; Dr. Pamela Gronemeyer, Pathologist; and Dr. Ziya Baghmanli, General Surgeon. They will discuss the importance of screening colonoscopies starting at age 45 and the process for screening, diagnosing, and treating colon cancer. This event is for adults. Learn more on Red Bud Regional Hospital's Facebook page or call Meghan at 618-282-5104.

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"Grace & Gratitude... In the Grief of Our Everyday Lives"

King's House Retreat Center at Our Lady of the Snows Visitors Center: "Grace & Gratitude...In the Grief of Our Everyday Lives". Presenter: Madeleine Lane, SSND, MA, LMFT. Monday, March 18th, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (lunch included). Join Sr. Madeleine Lane for a day of reflection to discuss how we live knowing that we and all that we love will one day die and in the presence of grief, how one lives in gratitude for all that has been given. When we open ourselves to the pain, we receive an invitation to deeper loving through grief. The day will include input, sharing, and quiet time for reflection. Cost: \$50. Info: 618-397-0584 or visit www.snows.org/grief.



Blood Pressure Screening

Blood pressure screening at SJB Church will be March 23rd at the 4 p.m. Mass and March 24th at the 10 a.m. Mass. Thank you to Susan Poletti and Jennifer Gregson for volunteering!

Lent In Our Partnership This Week

Sun.: Lenten Penance Service, 2:30 pm St. Mary's, Chester
Mon.: Lenten Penance Service, 7 pm St. John's, Red Bud
Tues.: 10 am Mass with school students
Wed.: 8 am Mass at St. John's; Lenten Penance Service, 7 pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Sparta
Thurs.: 10 am Mass at St. Patrick's; 6:30 pm Stations & Benediction with Divine Mercy Chaplet at St. John's followed by program "Forgiven" - Third Part - "Embraced in Mercy"
Fri.: 8 am Mass followed by Rosary & Adoration till 9:30 am at St. John's; Stations with school students 2 pm (enter Church by the breezeway)

The National Eucharistic Revival

(Don't do it alone!) It can be hard to live your Catholic faith. Being a disciple is counter-cultural. But that doesn't mean you have to do it alone. This summer, join thousands of Catholics for the experience of the decade. Come be refreshed, healed, and filled with so much grace that it will overflow into our community when you return home! Register online at EucharisticCongress.org. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress will be held July 17-21, 2024 at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN.

St. Anne's News

CCW is looking for two volunteers to sell our Quilt Raffle tickets on April 13th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Buchheit in Sparta. Call Mary 618-443-8264 or Carol 618-504-9101.

Happenings This Week

Mon.: 1 pm Personnel Board Meeting at Chancery;
3 pm Meeting of the Vicars with the Bishop

Tues.: 7 pm School Board Meeting in library

Wed.: Bible Study, 6:30 p.m., Gerald & Barb Ratz's home

See the article "Lent in Our Partnership" for other happenings

Sat.: 10 am Synod Process at St. Boniface, Evansville - all are welcome! See the questions up for discussion in the article "Synod Process"

Sun.: St. Patrick's Day!

Morning of Recollection

Listening for the Lord's voice is an important part of making life decisions. What are ways that help us listen for the Lord's voice and understand what he is saying to us? The Diocese of Belleville is offering a morning of recollection for young men, ages 16-32, interested in learning more about making life decisions from a Catholic perspective. Please join Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB, and Bishop Michael McGovern on Saturday, March 23, from 9 am-1:30 pm at St. Nicholas Parish, O'Fallon. Our time will include Mass, three short inspirational talks, quiet time, discussion and lunch. This is an excellent spiritual opportunity for young men discerning their future paths, including the possibility of priesthood or religious life. For more information/to RSVP, please contact Mrs. Judy Hoffmann by e-mail at: jhoffmann@diobelle.org or by phone (618) 722-5003 by March 15.

Your Gifts to God & Parish

Sunday.....	\$5,910.00
Loose.....	\$444.27
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....	\$6,354.27
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$72.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$10.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$10.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$142.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$50.00
Easter.....	\$15.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$295.00
Holy Thursday.....	\$5.00
School Support.....	\$462.00

Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts

(The Lord Is There First!) We say we must seek God, go to him and ask forgiveness, but when we go, he is waiting for us; he is there first! In Spanish we have a word that explains this well: **primerear** – the Lord always gets there before us, he gets there first, he is waiting for us! To find someone waiting for you is truly a great grace. You go to him as a sinner, but he is waiting to forgive you. This is the experience that the prophets of Israel describe, comparing the Lord to the almond blossom, the first flower of spring (cf. Jeremiah 1:11-12). Before any other flowers appear, he is there, waiting. The Lord is waiting for us.

Quilt & Cash Bingo

Quilt & Cash Bingo, Sunday, March 17th, St. Joseph, Freeburg. Doors open: 9:30 a.m.; lunch: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Lightning Raffle: 12:30 p.m.; Bingo begins: 1:30 p.m. Quilt Raffle, 50/50, Theme Basket Raffle, and more! Cash only; no debit/credit cards. Info: 618-277-9442.



King's House Retreats

Have you experienced a Retreat at the King's House at the Shrine? They offer Men's Retreats, Women's Retreats, and Couple's Retreats. Informational brochures can be found at the entrances. Pick one up and learn about the conferences, what to expect on Retreat, their schedule, how to register, and more!

Spring Rummage Sale

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be: Friday, April 26th (4-9 p.m.; everything priced); Saturday, April 27th (8 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$5/bag; we have bags); Sunday, April 28th (8 a.m.-1 p.m.; \$4/bag). Cash or local check with ID only.

Item Drop-Off: Saturday, April 20th (8 a.m.-3 p.m.); Sunday, April 21st (11 a.m.-4 p.m.); Monday-Thursday (8 a.m.-7 p.m.) We do not accept TVs, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, used mattresses, non-working items, or heavily soiled items. Before dropping off large items, please call the school first (618-282-3215).

Gibault News

Spring is a great time for your student to visit Gibault! Your 7th grader can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they'll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch in our cafeteria, and more! If your 8th grader or current high school student is interested in shadowing, there are visit days open for them. See our campus and get your questions answered by our Director of Enrollment. Get started at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>

American Legion Fish Fry

Fish Fry, Prairie du Rocher American Legion, March 15, 4:30-8 p.m. Serving three kinds of fish, chicken strips, French fries, slaw, baked beans, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes. Info: 284-9509.

Easter Tribute in The Messenger

Honor your loved ones on Easter with your personalized Easter Tribute in The Messenger. Tributes will appear in their March 28th publication. Cost is \$20 donation for each name. Please contact 618-722-5047 by March 14th.

Lenten Penance Services

Sun., March 10, 2:30 pm – St. Mary's, Chester
Mon., March 11, 7 pm – St. John's, Red Bud
Wed., March 13, 7 pm – Our Lady of Lourdes, Sparta

Laundry Detergent Fundraiser

St. John's School is holding their annual Bulk Laundry Detergent Fundraiser now through March 25th. Order forms can be found in the back of church. Any questions please contact Jennifer Eckart at 618-340-1987.

The Cupboards Are Bare...

If anyone wishes to make a donation to SVDP, you may drop off in the bin marked "SVDP" in the main entrance of church. White work socks (all sizes) and men's briefs (white/ all sizes) are in high demand. Also, donation of food (all kinds) that will be cooked and served at the soup kitchen and/or individually packaged food items (cookies, fruit cups, tuna and chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt, cereal, instant oatmeal, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, soup or pasta in a cup).

Items will be delivered Thursday of Holy Week, so please bring all donations no later than Sunday, March 24th. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Servers Needed

We need:

- Two servers for Good Friday, March 29th, 1 p.m.
 - Three servers for Holy Saturday, March 30th, 7:30 p.m.
- Please contact Rhonda if you're able to help. Thank you!



Faith Flash!

Faith Flash! Don't bury your talents!

Our 8th grade Confirmation candidates attended their Confirmation retreat last week. I had the privilege of talking to them about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Part of our discussion included the Parable of the Talents. We read the parable and discussed its meaning. I asked for each candidate to tell me a couple of their talents. All of them had talents, of course! Some did not recognize their talents. Some did not know how they could use their talents to serve God. Using the parable, we talked about how their talents are a gift from God that are meant to serve God and his people. When someone said they were good at something specific, I carried that through to how that is a gift from God and gave examples of how they could serve others with that talent. I learned from this experience that we as a church community have an opportunity to serve our young church by recognizing their talents and talking to them about ways to use their talents to serve God. We all also have talents. We need to look at our own talents and determine if we are using them wisely. Some day we will stand before the Lord and he will say "How did you use the talents I gave you?" We want to be able to say we took those talents and made the world a better place. Don't be the third servant in the parable. Don't bury your talents!

Youth Group! Our next Youth Group gathering is Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30pm. All highschoolers are invited to attend. Bring a friend! We will meet in the Church.

Quest Retreat: Quest retreat is March 16 and 17 at St. Dominic's Parish in Breese.

Quest is a fast-paced 33-hour Christian experience geared towards high school freshmen and sophomores. It is a time to come together to find out about God, friendships, and self in a fun-filled, thoughtful and carefree surrounding. Contact the Office of Faith Formation to find out more about the retreat or for an application. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/bellevillequest/> to learn more about Quest.

Steubenville Retreat: The Steubenville retreat for high school aged parishioners is July 12-14 in Springfield MO. This year's theme is "ILLUMINATE". I am trying to determine if we have enough interest in sending a group to this retreat. Email me if you are interested in going. DaveH@HTC.net

Dave Hollinshead, Director of Faith Formation