

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Mass Intentions

Tues., Mar. 19th, 10 a.m.: Elaine Bagsby, by family  
Wed., Mar. 20th, 8 a.m.: Rev. James Dougherty  
Fri., Mar. 22nd, 8 a.m.: Glenn Horrell  
Sat., Mar. 23rd, 4 p.m.: Patsy Kertz, by Ray & Gladys Thiele  
Sun., Mar. 24th, 10 a.m.: For the Parish

### Liturgical Roles

#### Saturday, March 23rd, Palm Sunday Vigil, 4 p.m.:

Lector - S. Heine, R. Heizer  
Ushers - M. & P. Ramsey  
Eucharistic Ministers - B. Schrieber, J. Keith, Volunteer  
Servers - E. Eckart, K. Juelfs  
Gift Bearers - L. & L. Thies

#### Sunday, March 24th, Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.:

Lector - D. Hahn, P. Masterson  
Ushers - N. Rekosh, T. Beshoar  
Eucharistic Ministers - E. Ohlau, J. Farmer, M. Scheffert  
Servers - E. Brewer, L. Ohlau  
Gift Bearers - E. Brewer family

### Please Pray For ...

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

### Thought For The Week

No matter what your situation – right now - God is there, keeping His promises.

### On the Lighter Side

Tommy and Joey were talking about their families. Tommy asked Joey, "If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?" Joey said, "She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that." Tommy said, "I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me." Joey said, "That is so true, but I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head."



### 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.



### Readings

#### 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

God says, "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel....I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people....I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more."

#### 2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

When Jesus was in the flesh, he prayed constantly to God. Through his prayer and obedience, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

#### Gospel: John 12:20-30

Jesus told his followers: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat....And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."

### From the Desk of Fr. Dennis

As we draw close to Holy Week, we hear Jesus talk about his approaching death. Yet his message to his disciples is not so much about his death as it is about eternal life. As Christians, we know that as difficult as death is, our true focus, our true hope is in eternal life, trusting that our Lord is our source of eternal salvation. During this final week before Holy Week, let us keep in mind that just as our Lenten journey will not end with Good Friday, but with Easter, so too does our own life's journey end not in death but in new life.

On this St. Patrick's Day weekend all of us are "temporarily" Irish. May St. Patrick guide us all closer to the Lord. May God's blessings be with all the parishioners of St. Pat's, Ruma. Also, don't forget we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph on Tuesday. May his loving protection of the Holy Family be with all of us and our families. Come and join us for Mass on Tuesday at 9 am with the school students. (Note time change.)

Have a blest 5th Week of Lent! Remember, don't worry so much, and know that you are loved! ~ Fr. Dennis

### 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!

## Usher & Servers Needed

We need:

- One usher for Holy Saturday, March 30th, 7:30 p.m.
  - Three servers for Holy Saturday, March 30th, 7:30 p.m.
- Please contact Rhonda if you're able to help. Thank you!



**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful

communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Below are our upcoming Spring, Summer and Fall 2024 experiences. Sign-up now as space is limited! For more information or to apply, go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org), or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317.

4/5/2024 - 4/7/2024, St. Peters, MO

8/2/2024 - 8/4/2024, St. Peters, MO

## 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!

## 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!

## Happenings This Week

Mon.: K of C meeting, 7 pm, cafeteria

Tues.: 8:30 am Bible Study in Church; 7 pm Parish Council meeting in library

Wed.: 6:45 pm PSR Classes & Confessions

**See the article "Lent in our Partnership" for other happenings.**

Sat.: K of C Parish Work Day beginning at 8:30 am

## Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday Weekend: Regular Masses at St. John's & St. Patrick's

Holy Thursday: 8 am Morning Prayer at St. John's;  
7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. John's

Good Friday: 8 am Morning Prayer at St. John's;  
1 pm Passion of the Lord at St. John's;  
7 pm Passion of the Lord at St. Patrick's

Holy Saturday: 8 am Morning Prayer at St. John's;  
7:30 pm Easter Vigil at St. John's

Easter Sunday: 8 am St. Patrick's & 10 am at St. John's



## Catholic Radio

Switch to Catholic radio for Lent. It's not a sacrifice. You can listen to the exceptional programming on Covenant Network Catholic radio by tuning into WMSH 90.3 FM, or anytime on our mobile app, or at [OurCatholicRadio.org](http://OurCatholicRadio.org).  
<https://ourcatholicradio.org/>

## 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!

## Your Gifts to God & Parish

Sunday.....	\$5,667.00
Loose.....	\$416.13
<b>Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....</b>	<b>\$6,083.13</b>
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$5.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$80.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$277.00
Easter.....	\$40.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$77.00
Holy Land/Good Friday.....	\$40.00
Holy Thursday.....	\$40.00
School Support.....	\$100.00



## American Legion Fish Fry

Fish Fry, Prairie du Rocher American Legion, March 22, 4:30-8 p.m. Serving three kinds of fish, chicken strips, French fries, slaw, baked beans, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes. Info: 284-9509.

## Lent In Our Partnership This Week

Sun.: St. Patrick's Day!

Mon.: 8 am Confessions for school students

Tues.: 9 am Mass with school students

Wed.: 8 am Mass at St. John's; 6:45 pm Confessions with PSR Students; 6:30 pm Bible Study at Gerald & Barb Ratz's home

Thurs: 6:30 pm Mass at St. Patrick's followed DVD presentation "The Transforming Power of the Eucharist"

Fri.: 8 am Mass at St. John's followed by Rosary & Adoration till 9:30 am; Stations with the school students 2 pm (enter Church by the breezeway)

Sat./Sun.: Palm Sunday – regular Mass schedule

## Support Our Advertisers

North County Savings Bank



### 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.

## Gibault News

**Parents of 7th Graders!** 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! 7th grade shadows are welcome to come back as 8th graders for another Shadow Visit, too!

**Save the date for these fun events!** 7th & 8th Grade Scavenger Hunt – April 5 from 6-8 p.m. 5th & 6th Grade Future Hawk Hangout – April 12 from 6-8 p.m. Future Hawk Baseball Tailgate – May 1 at 4:30 pm.

**Spring Rummage Sale:** The Gibault Catholic Women's Club Rummage Sale is Sat. Apr. 13, from 8 a.m.— 2 p.m. (1/2 price and bag sale after noon.) Donations can be dropped off April 8 & 9 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. and April 10 & 11 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

## Catholic Relief Services Collection

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection and for revealing Christ's love to those who are poor and marginalized around the world. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Just visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections) for more information. #iGiveCatholicTogether also accepts donations for this collection ([usccb.igivecatholictogether.org](http://usccb.igivecatholictogether.org)).

## The National Eucharistic Revival

(Your Life – and the World – Will Never Be the Same.) This summer, Jesus is inviting you to encounter him in a new way. He wants to work wonders in and through you, making YOU a part of salvation history in ways you never could have imagined. For the first time in nearly a century, the Catholic Church from every corner of the United States will gather in one place. Together, we will be healed, converted, formed, unified, and launched into a new chapter of Eucharistic mission – on fire with love for Jesus Christ. Learn more at [EucharisticCongress.org](http://EucharisticCongress.org). When: July 17-21, 2024; Where: Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN. Prior to these days, come and join the Belleville Diocese for EMMAUS DAYS July 7 & 8 ; July 7th special events will be held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows & on July 8th at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Watch the Messenger for times and additional information.

## 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.

## 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.

## K of C Work Day

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

## Choir Practice



There will be choir practice on Monday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m. for the Holy Week services.



## Spring Rummage Sale

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be: Friday, April 26th (4-9 p.m.; everything priced); Saturday, April 27th (8 a.m.-6 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).

## Thank You!

Dear Parishioners of St. John the Baptist,  
Thank you for participating in Life Network's Baby Bottle Campaign. Of the 75 bottles you gave out, 67 were returned for a total of \$1,887.41! Way to go!  
Blessings ~ Life Network Board & Staff

## Stewardship Thought

"If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be." In what ways is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?

## Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts

("Lord, I Am Here") Remember what St. Paul says: "What shall I boast of, if not my weakness, my poverty?" (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:30). Precisely in feeling my sinfulness, in looking at my sins, I can see and encounter God's mercy, his love, and go to him to receive forgiveness. In my own life, I have so often seen God's merciful countenance, his patience. I have also seen so many people find the courage to enter the wounds of Jesus by saying to him, "Lord, I am here; accept my poverty, hide my sin in your wounds, wash it away with your blood." And I have always seen that God did just this – he accepted them, consoled them, cleansed them, loved them.

## Faith Flash!

**Faith Flash!** Avoid those creepy-crawly things!

I watched the kindergarten class looking at the desert seen in the front of church last Tuesday after Mass. They were commenting about all the stuff in the desert. They pointed out snakes, ants, an animal skull and other creepy-crawly stuff. Their little wheels were turning! You could see none of them thought this was a place they would want to be. We can think that way about Lent. Lent is like a desert with lots of dry sand and things we might want to avoid. As Jesus spent time in the desert, we too must spend time in the desert. The quietness of the desert can be a place for talking to God. The barrenness of the desert reminds us that perhaps we don't have to live life in excess. The items lying in the sand remind us of temptations we need to avoid. Fortunately for us, Jesus walks along side of us during our time in the desert of Lent. He will lead us out of the desert on Easter. When we follow Jesus, we avoid those creepy-crawly things hiding in the desert sand!

## 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.

Dave Hollinshead, Director of Faith Formation

