

READINGS

1st Reading:

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6 - 7, 10 - 13a

The Lord sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the house of Jesse, where Samuel was to anoint the new king of Israel. After Jesse presented each of his sons, the Lord instructed Samuel to anoint the youngest, David.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8 - 14

Live as children of light in goodness, justice, and truth. "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Gospel: John 9:1 - 41

Jesus cured a man born blind. The Pharisees became upset because he did this on the Sabbath. After the Pharisees rejected the man's story, he met Jesus again. Jesus, "Son of Man," explained how the blind will see, but those who hold onto sin will remain in darkness.

FROM THE DESK OF FR. DENNIS

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, called Laetare Sunday, we pause in our own Lenten journey to celebrate that we are more than halfway to Easter. It is a good time to take a minute and assess the past three and a half weeks. How have we entered into this Lenten season? Are we growing in humility and spiritual sight? Rather than making us puffed up with our own importance, our practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are ideally showing us a way of emptying ourselves in order to make room for God and others. In today's gospel Jesus encounters both spiritual and physical blindness. In healing the man born blind, he gains a follower, while also deepening the animosity of the Pharisees who attribute his willingness to heal on the Sabbath to the actions of a sinner. Blinded by their fear and rigid interpretation of the law, the Pharisees are not able to see the man right in front of them for who he truly is: the Lord, the one who fulfills the prophecies of Isaiah by opening the eyes of the blind.

As you have heard on the news, all Masses and Liturgical Services in the Diocese of Belleville are now cancelled due to the Coronavirus. This includes Lenten Penance Services, Stations of the Cross and other meetings where there are more than 10 people gathered.

I encourage you to go to our parish website at www.sjbcatholicredbud.com and read "A Faith Response to the Coronavirus" and "How to Talk to Your Children about the Coronavirus". Pray the prayer you find here in the bulletin.

Together as we face this coronavirus, let us pray for the world, for all affected with the virus, all health care workers and those working to develop a vaccine, may God shower his healing grace upon us, giving us patience, compassion and understanding.

Have a blest fourth week of Lent! Remember, don't worry so much and know that you are loved!

~ Fr. Dennis

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Leave all your cares in God's hands.

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

An exasperated salesman who abandoned his car in a no-parking zone left this note "I've circled this block 20 times. I have an appointment and must keep it or I lose my job. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned he found a parking ticket and a note from the parking attendant: "I've circled this block for 20 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

Mon.: RCIA session at 7 p.m. at Red Brick School, Ruma
Tues.: 8:50 a.m. Bible Study is cancelled until further notice; the 4th Tuesday Adult Formation is cancelled
Wed.: No Mass at the Care Center; No PSR classes; No Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the Church basement
Thurs.: No Stations & Benediction at St. John's
Sat.: First Communion Class retreat cancelled
Sun.: Lenten Penance Service cancelled

POPE FRANCIS SPEAKS TO OUR HEARTS

(Healing Wounds With Mercy) How many uncertain and painful situations there are in the world today! How many are the wounds borne by the flesh of those who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out by the indifference of the rich!...The Church will be called even more to heal these wounds, to anoint them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care.

4TH TUESDAY ADULT FORMATION

Our scheduled DVD presentation "Fr. Stanley Rother, American Martyr" is cancelled for this week Tuesday. We will let you know when we will reschedule our 4th Tuesday of the month presentations.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

Toni Blandford, Kelly Oeste,
Nursing Home Residents, Homebound Parishioners
Names remains for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.

PRAYER FOR HEALING IN THIS CRISIS

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts. We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

CONVENT MASSES

Please be aware: Masses at the Ruma Convent are for residents ONLY until further notice.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you had Mass intentions scheduled during this time, please contact the rectory to reschedule. If we do not hear from you, we will set them on the next available date.

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA!

Eight years ago when our parish celebrated its 150th anniversary, we did a parish pictorial directory. The Parish Council, at the February meeting, decided to have a new directory made this summer. Lifetouch Directories will again be doing our directory. The photo times will be in mid-July. This is just a heads-up for you to mark your calendar and watch for info that will be coming to you in the weeks ahead. Get ready to SMILE!

2020 PICNIC QUILTS

It's that time! Donate a completed quilt (handmade, no store-bought quilts, queen-size, not laundered) OR donate the cash equivalent (Full: \$210; Half: \$105; Third: \$70). For info on the parish quilters making your quilt, call Clea (282-3529) or Bernell (618-210-5553).

- 5. C. Jeanette Keith
- 6. C. Mary Wilson, Bonnie Mattingly, Joe & Shirley Gorman
- 7. C. Jon Heidel

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

The Catholic Relief Services collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide struggling communities with relief and support and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Info: www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

FUZZY POSTERS

Reminder from the Youth Group to color those fuzzy posters and return them to church by the weekend of March 28/29 so that they can display them. They will be taken down Palm Sunday, Apr. 5th, and delivered to Garden Place on Holy Saturday, Apr. 11th. Thank you!

THE CATHOLIC SERVICE & MINISTRY APPEAL

A most heartfelt thanks to all those who have responded with a gift to The 2020 CSMA; we are truly grateful. If you have not already done so, there's still plenty of time...one-time donations or pledges - in any amount - are needed. Our seminarians, people served by Catholic Urban Programs, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and Daystar Community Program, the youngsters at Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School and 12 other ministries and programs are counting on your support. Donations can be made through your parish or online at www.diobelle.org. Please consider making your gift today or at anytime in the coming months. Thank you and may God bless you for your generosity. Parish goal: \$12,903.00. Donated to date: \$15,310.00. We did it! Thank you!

CATHOLIC URBAN PROGRAMS

In response to the Covid-19 crises, CUP has made some modifications to the way in which it provides services to the community. Utility Assistance, Rental Assistance and the Food Program have all been modified. For information on any of these, please call 618-398-5616.

DIAPER BANK DRIVE

Hello everyone! My name is Gracyn Fahey. As my Confirmation project, I've chosen to help the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank.

There is a great need for diapers to help in the care and well being of area babies. An average of 1 in 3 moms in St. Louis regularly doesn't have the diapers she needs to keep her child clean and dry. It costs over \$1,000 a year to diaper one child. WIC and food stamps don't allow for the purchase of them.

Being able to get diapers from the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank takes a huge burden off parents needing help with their child's well being. Happier parents means happier children and better lives.

I'm asking for your help, as a parish of caring people, to assist me in getting these moms and babies some much needed help. If you would like to help, please bring any packages of diapers to the church by March 29th and place them in the donation box in the entryway. If anyone would prefer to make a monetary donation, that would also be very appreciated. It only takes \$12 to ensure a month's worth of diapers per child. Every contribution helps.

Thank you in advance for your donation.
Sincerely ~ Gracyn Fahey

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD & PARISH

Sunday.....	\$3,965.00
Loose.....	\$590.00
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....	\$4,555.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$50.00
School Support.....	\$25.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$275.00
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$25.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$10.00

MEMORIALS

Memorials given for Marlene Cowell:
\$740 - Endowment; \$50 - Library

CANCELLED EVENTS

"The Mission" in Rocher; "We Were There" at Our Lady of the Snows; Mar. 20/27 Fish Fry in Rocher; Quilt Bingo in Smithton; Fish Fry at St. Peter UCC in Red Bud; Quilt Bingo in Millstadt.

BBQ BENEFITING LIFE NETWORK

BBQ to benefit Life Network, Sunday, Mar. 22nd beginning at 10:30 a.m. **NO DINE-IN. Carry-out dinners** (pork steaks and brats) can be picked up at the Lutheran School parking lot. Sponsored by Red Bud Lions.

VOCATION CORNER

Today's first reading from the Book of Samuel recounts one of the great "calls" in our Church history - the anointing of King David. He was the youngest son of Jesse, tending the sheep during Samuel's visit. But he is the one the Lord wanted anointed. Jesse sent for his son to fulfill God's plan. God has a call for each of us to follow, even the youngest. Encourage everyone to be attentive to their vocation - their call - for it is from the Lord.

UPCOMING EVENTS