

Third Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

Tues., Mar. 5th: No Mass

Wed., Mar. 6th, 8 a.m.: Rev. Jose Mathai

Fri., Mar. 8th, 8 a.m.: Linus Elder, by Nellie Elder

Sat., Mar. 9th, 4 p.m.: Donald Mergelkamp, by Marjorie Mergelkamp; Barb Niermann, by Ken Niermann

Sun., Mar. 10th, 10 a.m.: Chad Grohmann, by Tom & Diane Gross; For the Parish

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, March 9th, 4 p.m.:

Lector - S. Eckart

Ushers - C. Schaefer, C. Zipfel

Eucharistic Ministers - M. Martin, P. Martin, J. Gorman

Servers - Volunteers

Gift Bearers - K. Heine family

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

Lector - S. Chambers

Ushers - J. Walker, D. Gielow

Eucharistic Ministers - D. Hahn, L. Krebel, Volunteer

Servers - G. & B. Walker

Gift Bearers - CJ Hoeningner family

Please Pray For ...

Nursing Home Residents, Homebound Parishioners

Names remain for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.

Thought For The Week

It brings such peace to think that Jesus never leaves us.

On the Lighter Side

A teenager kept insisting to his dad that he should have a car. His dad said, "You know your grades are down, you won't cut your hair, and your belief in God has gone to pot." He continued, "If you get your grades up, get your hair cut, and start reading the Bible, I'll think about it." The teenager protested, "But dad, all the paintings show Jesus with long hair." "I know," replied the father. "And if you actually read Scripture, you'll find that everywhere Jesus went, He walked."

Gibault News

Parents of 7th graders - 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. We also offer Private Tours for the whole family. Get started at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>

Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

God delivered the commandments to Moses and the Hebrews, who had been freed from slavery in Egypt. "You shall not have other gods besides me" said the Lord God.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Paul preached Christ crucified "a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles." God's folly is wiser and his weakness stronger than human wisdom.

Gospel: John 2:13-25

Jesus found people buying and selling in the temple. With a whip he drove out the moneychangers. He said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

From the Desk of Fr. Dennis

Today's readings for this Third Sunday of Lent are very familiar. We hear the ten commandments, which we probably memorized as children. In the Gospel, Jesus drives the money changers out of the temple, overturning their tables and spilling their coins. Let us challenge ourselves to listen to these words today as if God is personally speaking to us, telling us how to live and reminding us of the purpose of worship. For during this penitential season, let us repent of our sins, reconcile with God and those we've wronged, and pray for the grace to do better. Let us take to heart the words of the psalmist: "Lord, you have the words of everlasting life."

Have you taken advantage of the Lenten opportunities in our partnership? I urge you to come and join us for these reflective times! Have a blest third week of Lent! Remember, don't worry so much, and know that you are loved!

~ Fr. Dennis

Happenings This Week

Sun.: Confirmation Retreat after 10 am Mass in school till 4 pm

Mon.: 6:30 pm mandatory meeting for recommended candidates for Parish Council in the library

Tues.: 7 pm St. Anne CCW meeting in the cafeteria

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

Sat.: First Communion Retreat at St. Patrick's Hall, Ruma

Sun.: St. Patrick's Meat Raffle at the Bale Out, 2 pm

Rice Bowl

Stop by the entrances and pick up a Rice Bowl to support Lent for Life. Your CRS Rice Bowl donation supports Catholic Relief Services' work around the world and helps fight hunger and poverty locally.

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).

Fish Fry

St. Peter United Church of Christ, Red Bud, will have a Fish Fry on March 8, 4-7 p.m. Dine-in/curbside pick-up. Dinner includes cod, catfish, shrimp, and chicken strips. Available sides are homemade German potato salad, American potato salad, French fries, mac & cheese, slaw, stewed tomatoes, baked beans, and cucumber salad. Cash or check.

Easter Egg Hunt

We're bringing back the egg hunt for the children on Easter Sunday, March 31st! All are invited! Bring your Easter baskets!

If you'd like to contribute plastic eggs and/or wrapped candy, please place in the boxes in the vestibule of church no later than March 3rd.

Thank you and have a beautiful Lent!

~ CCW & SJB Youth Groups

Your Gifts to God & Parish

Sunday.....	\$3,273.00
Loose.....	\$474.65
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....	\$3,747.65
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$20.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$25.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$20.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$205.00
Initial Offering.....	\$10.00
School Support.....	\$55.00

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!

Lectors & Servers Needed

We need:

- One lector for Palm Sunday, March 24th, 10 a.m.
 - One lector for Holy Saturday, March 30th, 7:30 p.m.
 - 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!

Memorial Donation

Patsy Kertz Memorial donation to St. John's Church: \$210.00.

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.

Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts

(The Leaven of God) Dear brothers and sisters, being the Church, to be the People of God in accordance with the Father's great design of love, means to be the leaven of God in this humanity of ours. It means to proclaim and to bring God's salvation to this world of ours so often led astray and in need of answers that give courage, hope, and new vigor for the journey. May the Church be a place of God's mercy and hope, where all feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live according to the good life of the gospel. And to make others feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged, the Church must be with doors wide open so that all may enter. And we must go out through these doors and proclaim the gospel.

190th Anniversary of Foundation

March 4, 1834 was the birthday of the Congregation of the Adorers of the Most Precious Blood. It has been 190 years since that March 4. Through her sisters, Maria DeMattias has reached thousands and thousands of people, of every race and nation, of every age and social class, especially the poor, to accompany them to know the Redemption accomplished by Christ with his Blood and the love that drove him to bring it about. Let us pray for the Sisters who have touched our lives through the years, and may they remain true to the charism of Maria DeMattias. Maria DeMattias, pray for us!

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.

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!

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!

Stewardship Thought

"You shall not covet" is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that ALL is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

Number of households that have pledged: 67

Amount pledged to date: \$16,770.00

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

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Lent In Our Partnership This Week

Tues.: No 10 am Mass; Priests of Diocese have prayer day at St. Clare in O'Fallon

Wed.: 8 am Mass at St. John's; 6:45 pm Stations with PSR Grs. 5-8

Thurs.: 10 am Mass at St. Patrick's; 6:30 pm Stations & Benediction at St. Patrick's followed by DVD presentation: "Healing & Restoration in the Confessional"

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

Sun.: Lenten Penance Service 2:30 pm at St. Mary's, Chester

The National Eucharistic Revival

(This is the Church's Moment!) The Holy Spirit through our shepherds, is calling the whole Church together in a way we have not seen in 83 years. This event is different from anything you've experienced before. More than just a retreat or conference, the National Eucharistic Congress is **the church's moment**. This is a unique gathering for the entire people of God in the U.S. -- and we need you there! We firmly believe God is calling us together for a new Pentecost, and Jesus is about to unleash the fire of his love upon our nation. Learn more at EucharisticCongress.org.

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

Learn More About Becoming a Priest

Bishop McGovern will host a St. Andrew Dinner for young men interested in learning more about the Catholic priesthood on Sunday, March 10. The St. Andrew Dinner will be held at Gibault High School in Waterloo. All young men ages 14-32 are invited to attend; parents or guardians are also welcome to join. The event will begin at 4:30 pm with gathering and introductions and evening prayer and will be followed by dinner and conversation. This is a terrific opportunity to gather information for discerning a call to the priesthood; there will also be time for questions and conversion with Fr. Joel Seipp, Vocation Director. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Judy Hoffmann at (618) 722-5003 or email to jhoffmann@diobelle.org

Support Our Advertisers

E-Z Self Storage Rentals

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.; Lighting 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.

Meat Raffle

St. Patrick's, Ruma, invites you to a Meat Raffle held at The Bale Out in Baldwin on March 10th at 2 p.m.!

Parish Quilt Donation

We still accept quilt donations for SJB fundraisers. Donate a completed, hand-made, queen-size quilt OR the cash equivalent of \$210. Another option: donate \$70 or \$105 and we'll pair you with others to make a "full" quilt. Thank you for your support!

"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.

Position Available

Church maintenance and cleaning position now available. Please call the rectory for more information.

Faith Flash!

Faith Flash! Steady the way!

During the school Mass at church last Tuesday, one of the students asked me, "What are those rails for?" Yes, we have installed rails! For those sitting in the back of church, you may not have noticed. In fact, for those sitting in the front of church, you also may not have noticed. They blend in perfectly with the rest of the church so they look like they were always there. These are a much-welcomed addition for any of us needing to get up those tricky couple of steps to the ambo and lectern or to assist with Holy Communion. As I told the student, for some of us "older" parishioners, they help us from tripping up or down the stairs. During that same Mass, Father asked if anyone noticed the anchor in front of the altar. He said the anchor is used for keeping a ship steady in the water, much like Christ keeps us steady on our journey. I couldn't help but look at the rails and think, now we have Christ, the anchor, AND the rails to help steady the way as we journey through this Lenten season.

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