

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Tues., Feb. 13th: No Mass

Wed., Feb. 14th, Ash Wednesday, 9 a.m.: Marvin Eckart,
by Sandy & family

Wed., Feb. 14th, Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m.: For the Parish

Fri., Feb. 16th, 8 a.m.: Betty Otten, by Doris Kloepper

Sat., Feb. 17th, 4 p.m.: Bill Heidel, by Iona and family

Sun., Feb. 18th, 10 a.m.: Arnold Mudd, by Joyce Laird;
For the Parish

Liturgical Roles

Wednesday, February 14th, Ash Wednesday, 9 a.m.:

Lector, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers, Gift Bearers - TBA
by SJB School

Ushers - Volunteers

Wednesday, February 14th, Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m.:

Lector, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Servers,
Gift Bearers - TBA by PSR

Saturday, February 17th, 4 p.m.:

Lector - J. Mergelkamp

Ushers - M. & P. Ramsey

Eucharistic Ministers - J. Gorman, G. Wiegard, K. Fahey

Servers - Volunteers

Gift Bearers - S. Cowell & Ushers

Sunday, February 18th, 10 a.m.:

Lector - T. Blacharczyk

Ushers - C. Crain family

Eucharistic Ministers - L. Krebel, G. Ratz, R. Chausse

Servers - P. Chausse, Volunteer

Gift Bearers - M. Mehring & Ushers

Please Pray For ...

Nursing Home Residents, Homebound Parishioners

Names remain for 4 weeks. Call the rectory.

Thought For The Week

"Why do people worry so much about the beauty of their
body but never worry about the beauty of their soul?"

(Carlo Acutis)



On the Lighter Side

Just before Lent, the teacher asked her students. "Does anyone know what denial is?" Little Susie who usually didn't have the right answer but was never afraid to try, thought she knew this one. "Denial, teacher," she proudly and loudly stated, "is a river in Egypt."

Position Available

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

Readings

1st Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

According to the law of Moses, people with leprosy had to live alone, outside the camp. Aaron or another priest declared them unclean as long as they had a disease.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God...Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

A leper said to Jesus, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus touched him: "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him, and he was healed.

From the Desk of Fr. Dennis

As we approach Ash Wednesday this week, and the season of repentance and penitence, we hear how Jesus responded to a man who was considered unclean, both physically and spirituality. In ancient times when people contracted leprosy they were immediately excluded from the community, barred from contact with anyone else. But Jesus changed all that when a single leper came to him. Not only did he heal him, he did so by reaching out and touching him, breaking down the barrier between healthy and sick, between "clean" and "unclean." As Jesus did, so did Paul, who wrote that he became an imitator of Christ. Over the coming 40 days, we will approach Our Lord as sinners, in need of forgiveness, in need of being "made clean." May Jesus' response assure us of his love and mercy for us despite our failings, despite our sinfulness.

In the bulletin this week you will find some helpful items to get you going as we begin Lent on Wednesday. There is the Lenten Prayer Calendar, the sheet of all the Lenten opportunities scheduled in our partnership (keep this in a prominent place) and a reflection on the first days of Lent. You can find additional reading materials in back of Church. Will you make this The Best Lent Ever? It's up to each of us!

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



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Stewardship Thought

In today's second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to "do all for the glory of God." If we follow that advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards!

The Cupboards Are Bare...

St. Vincent de Paul reports record numbers of people staying at its OverNite Center and 300+ people per day coming for meals at Cosgrove’s Kitchen. We humbly ask for your prayers and, if you are able, your 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) to distribute at the OverNite Center. Items can be dropped off at: St. Vincent de Paul Office, 8800 W. Main St., Belleville), M/T/Th/F 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Info: Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126.

Your Gifts to God & Parish

Sunday.....	\$6,230.00
Loose.....	\$370.72
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00)	\$6,600.72
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$103.50
Ash Wednesday.....	\$116.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$60.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$279.00
Catholic Relief Services.....	\$6.00
Easter.....	\$6.00
Easter Flowers.....	\$6.00
Holy Father/Peter’s Pence.....	\$6.00
Holy Thursday.....	\$6.00
Initial Offering.....	\$10.00
School Support.....	\$549.00
Solemnity of Mary.....	\$10.00

Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts

(He Never Tires of Forgiving Us) Let us not forget this word: God never, ever tires of forgiving us!...The problem is that we ourselves tire; we do not want to ask; we grow weary of asking for forgiveness. He never tires of forgiving, but at times we get tired of asking for forgiveness. Let us never tire; let us never tire! He is the loving Father who always pardons, who has that heart of mercy for us all. And let us too learn to be merciful to everyone. Let us invoke the intercession of Our Lady who held in her arms the Mercy of God made man.

Super Bowl Bingo

St. Augustine, Hecker, Super Bowl Bingo on Sunday, February 11th! Chicken and sausage dinner served 10:30 a.m-1 p.m.; bingo begins at 1:30 p.m.



World Marriage Day

On Sunday, February 11, 2024, at the 12:00 pm Mass, Auxiliary Bishop Mark S. Rivituso will celebrate a Mass for World Marriage Day at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO. A reception will follow in Boland Hall. All married couples are invited to attend and celebrate the gift of marriage. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It emphasizes the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy of daily married life. World Marriage Day started in Baton Rouge, LA in 1981 and was later adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, who now is sponsoring this event on February 11th.

Join Us As We Begin Lent!

Ash Wednesday Masses: 9 am & 7 pm St. John’s; 6 pm St. Patrick’s
 Thursday (15th): 10 am Mass at St. Patrick’s; 6:30 pm Stations and Benediction at St. John’s followed by the program “Forgiven”. First Session: “Where are You?” (held in Church)
 Friday (16th): 8 am Mass at St. John’s followed by Rosary and Adoration till 9:30 am; No afternoon Stations (school students have early dismissal)
 Sunday (18th): 6:30 pm Family Movie sponsored by the K of C in the cafeteria

Parish Council Recommendations

This weekend, you are given the opportunity to recommend parishioners for the upcoming Council selection. To recommend a person, they must be a registered member of the parish, 18 years of age, not a paid employee of the parish or the school. You will be given a sheet upon which you can write your recommendations. You can drop them in the collection basket or put them in a basket on the bulletin table. Present Council members are Janice Mergelkamp, Cindy Zipel, Kathy Ratz, Jeff Siegfried, Wayne Ruhmann, CJ Hoening; Trustees Mike Doiron, Harold Siegfried. We thank Tom Beshoar and Robin Hentis for completing their terms. They are not eligible to be recommended.

Gibault News

Winter Play: *Poe: Dreams of Madness*. Performances Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 11, at 1:30 p.m. (No performance on Friday, February 9.)
Taste of the Region: Join the Gibault Women’s Club on March 2 for Taste of the Region. For full event info or to purchase tickets, visit: <https://givebutter.com/TasteoftheRegion>.

Euchre Tournament

Euchre Tournament, Saturday, February 24th, 7 p.m., St. Michael's, Paderborn. Doors open at 6 p.m.; tickets are \$25 per person; 6 rounds/12 hands per round; partners rotated/round; team points follow player for all rounds. All you can drink beer and soda; all you can eat fried chicken (at end of last round.) Prizes for top 3 places. Reservations: Rich at slark4@yahoo.com or 314-341-4904.



CCW Valentine Delivery

If you would like to send valentines to the residents of Garden Place and R&R, you can pick up supplies in the breezeway and return your valentines to the bags there by February 12th. They will be delivered on February 13th. Questions? Call Mary: 618-443-8264.

Black & Indian Mission Collection

Our support of the Black & Indian Missions Collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

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 on-fire 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, for you will be deeply in love with the Eucharist and excited about the future of the Church in America. Visit Eucharistic-Congress.org to learn more about the event and explore the full schedule for each day. WHEN: July 17-21, 2024; WHAT: 10th National Eucharistic Congress; WHERE: Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN.

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

This weekend, every parish in the diocese is participating in the Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal. This annual collection supports the ministries and agencies in our diocese whose scope of service could not be duplicated by an individual parish. Now, you have an opportunity to make your pledge or gift. No gift is too great or too small. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail or you forgot to bring it, please use one of the envelopes on the bulletin tables. Please be as generous as you are able.

Messenger Subscription Renewal

Stay connected with your Diocese through The Messenger Catholic Newspaper. Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or online at www.bellevillemessenger.org and click Subscribe. A 1-year subscription is \$30 for printed, home-delivery, \$25 for digital access and \$35 for both. Please make checks payable to The Messenger.

Blood Pressure Screening

Blood Pressure screening at St. John's Church will be held February 24 & 25 at the weekend Masses. Thank you to Janice Mergelkamp for volunteering for the 24th and to Kim Steibel for volunteering for the 25th!

Happenings This Week

- Sun.: Parent Meeting after 10 am Mass in Church for First Communion
- Mon.: 1 pm Personnel Board Meeting at the Chancery
- Tues.: 8:30 am Bible Study in Church; No 10 am Mass with students; 7 pm School Board meeting in the library
- Wed.: ASH WEDNESDAY Masses: 9 am with school students; 6 pm at St. Patrick's; 7 pm with PSR students
- Thurs.: 10 am Mass at St. Patrick's; 6:30 pm Stations and Benediction at St. John's followed by the program "Forgiven" – "Where are You?"
- Fri.: 8 am Mass followed by Rosary and Adoration till 9:30 am; No Stations with the school students because of early dismissal
- Sat.: School Dinner Auction – Doors Open at 5 pm; 6-7 pm Dinner
- Sun.: Rite of Election at the Cathedral 2 pm; 6:30 pm Family Movie Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in the cafeteria. All are welcome!!

How Do You Start Your Friday?

Mass, Rosary, and Adoration is a great way to start your Friday. There is so much that needs our prayers. When many people are gathered together to pray, just think how pleased Jesus is. You can pray at home, of course, but it is so much better having Jesus exposed on the Altar where you can talk to Him more freely. He would be so pleased to see so many more people enjoying this special opportunity. Hope to see you coming to pray with Jesus for your own needs and intentions and those of the whole world. When you give Jesus some of your time, you get much more in return. Try it for Lent! Maybe you will just keep coming back! There is no better way to start your Friday and your Lent!

Fish Fry

Fish Fry, Prairie du Rocher American Legion, February 16th & 23rd, 4:30-8 p.m. Serving three kinds of fish, chicken strips, French fries, slaw, baked beans, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes. Info: 284-9509.

2023 Contribution Statement

If you would like a copy of your 2023 Contribution Statement, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope. You may also request an emailed copy, or pick up a hard copy from the rectory office. Statements will be prepared on Fridays ONLY; please plan accordingly.

Purse Bingo

St. Agatha, New Athens, Purse Bingo, March 3rd. Doors open 11:30 am, bingo starts at 12:30. Cost in advance is \$40, or \$50 at the door. Price includes 10 games, dabber and drinks. Bring your own snacks. Contact Debbie Matzenbacher 618-210-3318 or register online at Glo-Bingo.com/



The 21st Annual SJB Dinner Auction will be held Saturday, February 17th, in our parish center. Our dinner auction is SJB's largest fundraiser each year, and all of the proceeds provide for our students' educational programs and fund daily operating expenses at our school. Stop by the church entrances to pick up an informational flyer, RSVP form, and donation information. Questions? Please contact the school office at 618-282-3215.

Ushers Needed for Ash Wednesday!

Attention Ushers: we need two ushers for our 9 a.m. Ash Wednesday Mass. Please let Rhonda know if you can help!

Faith Flash!

Faith Flash! Flex our spiritual muscles this Lent!

As Lent approaches we start thinking about what we can do during Lent as we prepare for the Easter celebration. What might we do for spiritual growth? During our OCIA sessions this week we discussed a daily prayer proposed by St. Ignatius of Loyola called the Examen. It goes like this:

- Step 1: Recall you are in the presence of God. In prayer, place yourself in God's presence. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you look at your life with love this day.
- Step 2: Look at your day with gratitude. Recall the events of the day remembering each was a gift from God. Thank God for all of these.
- Step 3: Ask help from the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and look at your actions with an understanding of your limitations.
- Step 4: Review your day. Review your interior motives and feelings of things that happened. Look at when you failed. Look at when you loved. Look at habits and patterns. Look at when you responded positively. Where did you see signs of God's grace in your day?
- Step 5: Reconcile and resolve. Talk to Jesus about what you did and what you failed to do. If you failed to love, tell Jesus you are sorry and ask for his help the next time the situation arises. Thank the Lord for the good things that happened and when you avoided temptations.
- Step 6: End with an Our Father.

This exercise only takes about 15 minutes at the end of the day. We go to the gym to get in physical shape. We pray to get in spiritual shape. The Examen is a great prayer to try. Let's flex our spiritual muscles this Lent!

Youth Group!

The next Youth Group Meeting will be February 21. We will meet at the Church. Enter through the breeze way doors.

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) Weekend

Next TEC is planned for February 17, 18, and 19th in Damiansville. Check out their web page for more information. (The link to their website is on the Faith Formation page of our church website).

Dave Hollinshead, Director of Faith Formation