

First Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions

Tues., Feb. 20th, 10 a.m.: Clarence Fahey Jr., by Rita Dietz; Arnold Mudd, by Mark & Shirley Vogt
Wed., Feb. 21st, 8 a.m.: Ralph Henry, by Carol DeRousse
Fri., Feb. 23rd, 8 a.m.: Charles Mertens, by family
Sat., Feb. 24th, 4 p.m.: Tom Laird, by Joyce Laird; LeRoy Wiegard, by Bernell Wiegard
Sun., Feb. 25th, 10 a.m.: Delores Stirnamann; For the Parish

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, February 24th, 4 p.m.:

Lector - R. Heizer
Ushers - G. Heizer, H. Siegfried
Eucharistic Ministers - J. Keith, M. & P. Martin
Servers - Volunteer
Gift Bearers - C. Schaefer & Ushers

Sunday, February 25th, 10 a.m.:

Lector - E. & E. Brewer
Ushers - T. & M. Esker
Eucharistic Ministers - M. Scheffert, E. Ohlau, S. Chambers
Servers - L. Ohlau, O. Cowell
Gift Bearers - D. & D. Hahn

Please Pray For ...

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

Thought For The Week

When we find it difficult to forgive others, it helps to remember all that Jesus has done for us.

On the Lighter Side

The biology teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Class, if I stood on my head, my blood, as you know, would run into my head and I would turn red in the face." "Yes," the class responded. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?" Joey's hand went up and he said, "Cause your feet aren't empty!"

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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!

Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

After the great flood, God told Noah of the covenant between heaven and earth. Never again would a flood destroy the earth. To mark this covenant, the Lord set up a rainbow in the sky.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

As the ark saved a chosen few in Noah's day, so does baptism by faith save God's chosen today. Baptism is "an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit sent Jesus to the desert to fast and pray for forty days. Afterwards, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming "The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

From the Desk of Fr. Dennis

Ashes and rainbows make a strange combination. Ashes are dirty, messy, and ugly. Rainbows, on the other hand, are beautiful and inspiring. But we encounter them both at the beginning of Lent this year. On Wednesday, ashes were marked on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality and sinfulness. Today we hear that God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant with us. As we begin this season of Lent, let us recognize both truths: we are always in need of repentance, but God stands ever waiting to forgive us. As ashes remind us to repent of our sins, may rainbows remind us of God's eternal forgiveness.

Please continue reading on how you can come and join us for some wonderful Lenten prayer times and reflection on God's all embracing love. See what will be happening this week.

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

Happenings This Week

Mon.: 7 pm K of C mtg. in the cafeteria
Tues.: 8:30 am Bible Study in Church; 10 am Mass with school students; 7 pm Parish Council mtg. in library
Wed.: 6:45 pm PSR Sessions in school
See the article "Lent in Our Partnership" for other happenings
Sun.: Liturgy Committee mtg. after 10 am Mass in the sacristy

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.!

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

Spring Day of Recollection

The CCW West Vicariate Spring Day of Recollection will be held on Tuesday, February 27 at St. Andrew Church, Murphysboro. Registration begins at 9 am in the K of C Hall. The cost of the day is \$10.00 and includes lunch. The ladies of Red Bud will carpool. Stay tuned for more information. Questions? Call Mary 618-443-8264.

Black & Indian Mission Collection

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 140th annual Black & Indian Mission Collection. Your prayerful support enables people to come to know Jesus Christ in African American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities all over the USA. Spreading the Gospel couldn't happen without your support!

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.

Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

This weekend our parish, along with all other parishes in the diocese, will conduct our Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal. The CSMA provides a convenient way for all of us, no matter what our time limitations, to take an active role in the mission of our diocesan Church. If you did not receive a pledge card in the mail, please use one of the envelopes at the entrances. Please be as generous as you are able. Our parish goal: \$15,731.00.

Lent In Our Partnership This Week

Today, Sunday: 6:30 pm Family Movie sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in the cafeteria
 Tues.: 10 am Mass with the school students
 Wed.: 8 am Mass at St. John's
 Thurs.: No morning Mass at St. Patrick's, Mass at 6:30 pm at St. Patrick's followed by DVD Presentation in Church – "Divine Mercy & God's Plan for your Life"
 Fri.: 8 am Mass followed by Rosary & Adoration till 9:30 am at St. John's; Stations with the school students at 2 pm (enter Church by the breeze way or carport)
 Sat./Sun: Sacrament of Anointing during 4 pm & 10 am Mass at St. John's and 8 am Mass at St. Patrick's; 6:30 pm – Sunday Night Family Movie sponsored by the Knights of Columbus in the cafeteria

Stewardship Thought

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources – their selves – at God's service in and through the Church."

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

Fish Fry

St. Peter United Church of Christ, Red Bud, will have a Fish Fry on Friday, February 23rd and 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 only.

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.

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.

The Cupboards Are Bare...

UPDATE: We have a parishioner who will be delivering items to SVDP!

If anyone wishes to make a donation, 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!

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!

Respect Life

"We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do,' but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility... If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you... God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple." ~ USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility" respectlife.org/navigating-infertility

Fish Fry

Fish Fry, Prairie du Rocher American Legion, February 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.

Messenger Subscription Renewal

Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or online at www.bellevillemessenger.org. A 1-year subscription is \$30 for printed, home-delivery, \$25 for digital access and \$35 for both. Make checks payable to The Messenger.

Family Movie Nights!

The Knights of Columbus present: Family Movie Nights!
 Sunday, February 18th, 6:30 p.m.: "Joyful Noise"
 Sunday, February 25th, 6:30 p.m.: "I Still Believe"
 Join us in the school cafeteria and enjoy the movie! Pop-corn and drinks will be available.

Your Gifts to God & Parish

Sunday.....	\$3,328.00
Loose.....	\$1,172.10
Total (Goal: \$5,866.00).....	\$4,500.10
Adopt-a-Parish.....	\$73.00
Ash Wednesday.....	\$105.00
Black & Indian Missions.....	\$10.00
Capital Campaign.....	\$125.00
Easter.....	\$10.00
School Support.....	\$10.00

*Gibault Women's Club
presents:*



*Saturday, March 2nd
 5:00 - 10:00 \$35/person
 in advance or \$40 at the door.
 Enjoy an evening of food sampling from local
 establishments & entertainment by
 Gibault Jazz Band and Miranda Bury. Scan
 the QR code to purchase tickets!*

The National Eucharistic Revival

(Something AMAZING is About to Happen!) Imagine you're a follower of Christ right after the Resurrection, and you hear some exciting reports: not only is Jesus alive, but he appeared to his disciples promising baptism with the Holy Spirit in only a few days! Wouldn't you drop everything to be there when it happens? God is calling his people into a new "Upper Room." At the National Eucharistic Congress, the Church in the U.S. will gather in a way this generation has never seen---ready for the great outpouring of grace God desires to lavish upon his people. This is the beginning of a new chapter of Eucharistic faith in America. Will you be there? Visit EucharisticCongress.org to learn more. WHAT: 10th National Eucharistic Congress WHEN: July 17-21, 2024. Where Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN.

Position Available

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

Pope Francis Speaks to Our Hearts

(Why the Cross?) Because Jesus takes upon himself the evil, the filth, the sin of the world, including the sin of all of us, and he cleanses it: he cleanses it with his blood, with the mercy and the love of God. Let us look around: how many wounds are inflicted upon humanity by evil! Wars, violence, economic conflicts that hit the weakest; greed for money that you can't take with you and have to leave. When we were small, our grandmother used to say, "A shroud has no pocket." Love of power, corruption, divisions, crimes against human life and against creation! And—as each one of us knows and is aware—our personal sins: our failures in love and respect toward God, toward our neighbor, and toward the whole of creation. Jesus on the cross feels the whole weight of the evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it; he defeats it with his resurrection. This is the good that Jesus does for us on the throne of the cross. Christ's cross embraced with love never leads to sadness but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and of doing a little of what he did on the day of his death.

Faith Flash!

Faith Flash! Walk in the right direction!

During the school Mass on Ash Wednesday a picture came up on the screen that caught my attention. It was a very, very large cross. At the bottom of the cross in the far distance you see a tiny image of a person. The thought that came to mind was, is this person walking toward the cross or away from it? Isn't this the same thing we need to ask ourselves during Lent? Which way am I walking? Will I do the things during the season of Lent that will bring me closer to the Lord or will I get distracted and move further away? What trips do we take where we do not first plan the route we are taking and the activities we want to do? Take time this week to plan. Lent is a journey (all expenses paid by our Lord!) and it is best to plan. Check our bulletin, the Lenten calendar, and flyers for Lenten events and plan accordingly. We can take steps on this journey to improve our prayer life, to consider giving of our gifts to the poor, to live more simply, and to reconcile with the Lord. Jesus invites us meet him at the cross. Lent is our journey to the cross. Let's set our GPS on Jesus so that we walk in the right direction!

Youth Group!

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

Dave Hollinshead, Director of Faith Formation

