



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent March 5, 2017

“The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift.”  
This is the theme proposed to us for this Lent by Pope Francis. In his message for the beginning of the season, he has the following words which I think provide a nice summary of this theme:

“The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God’s word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.”

This got me to thinking about how the Scriptures have had a profound impact on my relationships with others. In keeping with the pope’s theme, I would like to take the opportunity over these weeks of Lent to offer a few passages that have helped me and which I hope will help you in opening your heart to the gift of the people God has placed in your life.

The first passage that comes to mind is one that takes place during Holy Week. It comes from John 17 in what is known as the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus. This is that intimate conversation Jesus is having with the Father the night before He is to offer Himself in His Passion and death. At one point, Jesus, says these powerful words: “Father, they are your gift to me” (John 17:24).

I’ve often come back to this passage when I find it difficult to reconcile with what somebody has done or said to me or another. If I let my mind go, I know that I can quickly dismiss the person as being irrelevant. Then I think of these words and say – “Jesus sees this person as a gift. Who am I to not do the same?” And while my humanity might still struggle with agreeing with that person, the ice around my heart that I have allowed to form begins to thaw as I begin to look upon them as Jesus does, as a gift.

I also find this passage helpful when talking with people who struggle with insecurity, doubt regarding their worth, or pain inflicted by another. I invite them, in the midst of those negative thoughts which can be so loud, to imagine somebody saying to them: “You’re a gift to me.” And yet, that is what Jesus is always saying to us. If we let ourselves hear that, a weight can be lifted and we can raise our heads from our feeling sorry for ourselves to see the hope that He brings and the gift of those around us.

So, may I encourage you to reflect on these words this week? When you struggle with somebody, be reminded that this person is a gift to God, and He wants the best for them. Who are we to think otherwise?

-Father Alford

## HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!!

The † symbolizes the Mass is someone who is deceased.

### Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

10-11:30 a **Confessions**  
3:30 p **Confessions**  
4:30 p **Mass** (Int: Cesare Chiaradonna†)

### Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a **Confessions**  
8:00 a **Mass** (Int: Grover† & Ben Smith†)  
9:10 a **PSR**  
9:30 a Wyndcrest: Fr. Manny Cuizon  
9:45 a **Confessions**  
9:45 a **Choir rehearsal**  
10:00 a Rosary  
10:30 a **Mass** (Int: For the Parish)

### Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a **Counting Team #1**  
5:00 p Confessions/Reconciliation  
5:30 p **Mass** (Int: Frank & Agnes Atteberry†)  
6:00 p **Fishes & Loaves Team #1**  
7:00 p **Pastoral Council Meeting**

### Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a Morning Prayer  
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: Limper/Engeling families)  
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary

### Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a **Morning Prayer**  
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: Greg Foltz†)  
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary  
1:00 p Ladies Tea/Bunco  
5:45 p Stations of the Cross  
6:30 p **PSR/RCIA**

### Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a Morning Prayer  
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: All Souls†)  
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary

### Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a Morning Prayer  
7:30 a **Mass** (Int: Lorraine Blasko†)  
8:00 a Stations of the Cross  
5:00 p K of C Fish Fry

### Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

10-11:30 a **Confessions**  
1:00 p **Sew-n-Sews**  
3:30 p **Confessions**  
4:30 p **Mass** (Int: Robert Grunloh†)

### Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

7:30 a **Confessions**  
8:00 a **Mass** (Int: Eric Park†)  
9:10 a **PSR**  
9:30 a Wyndcrest: DeGroot  
9:45 a **Confessions**  
9:45 a **Choir rehearsal**  
10:00 a Rosary  
10:30 a **Mass** (Int: For the Parish)



**Parish Sacrificial Giving**  
Fiscal Year 7/1/16-6/30/17

	Last Week	Year to Date
Collection (108)	\$ 6,447.60	\$195,481.07
Electronic funds (16)	\$ 1,735.00	\$ 37,101.70
Bldg. Dev. Fund (2)	\$ 40.00	\$ 9,338.00
EFT – Dev. Fund (3)	\$ 215.00	\$ 5,704.00
Poor Fund	\$ 39.00	\$ 2,667.45
Children’s Stewardship (0)	0.00	\$ 19.30
Catholic Charities (2)	\$ 30.00	\$ 262.00
Central/East.Europe (2)	\$ 162.00	\$ 294.00
Number of collection envelopes used:	113	
Number of electronic contributions:	20	

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS:**

**Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 p.m.**

**Euch. Min.:** Fr. Manny, Riedle, Deacon Ray, Tomashavich  
**Lectors:** S & I Long  
**Servers:** Gladson, Long Jr., Sommer  
**Hospitality:** B & D Jemison, J & S Thull

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 a.m.**

**Euch. Min.:** Fr. Alford, DeGroot, Godar, Rayhill  
**Lectors:** Helling, Nelson  
**Servers:** Lauwerens, McClintock, Newman  
**Hospitality:** Brandis, Parnell, R & B Yong

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m.**

**Euch. Min.:** Fr. Alford, Fjelstul, Warren  
 Deacon Tom  
**Lectors:** Kerley, Warren  
**Servers:** E & E Carlson, Toliver  
**Minister of Care:** DeGroot  
**Hospitality:** Fjelstul Family  
**CLOW:** A & B Toliver

**Volunteer for this week: March 6<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Church Dusters:** Michelle Bertrand  
**Recycling Vol. March:** Greg Park  
**March Food Volunteer:** Teri Dambacher  
**Coffee & Donuts: Sun, March 12<sup>th</sup> :**  
 Don & Roberta Vanover

**Upcoming Parish Meeting/Events:**

Mon., March 6, 7:00 pm Pastoral Council Meeting  
 Mon., March 6 6:00 pm Fishes & Loaves - Team 1  
 Wed., March 8 1:00 Ladies Tea/Bunco  
 Fri., Mar. 10, K of C Fish Fry serving 5:00-7:30 pm  
 Sat., Mar. 11 1:00 Sew-n-Sews  
 Mon., Mar. 13 7:00 p.m. Finance Council Meeting  
 Tues, Mar. 14 Pre-Jordan Session 6:30 p.m.  
 Thurs., March 16 Mission Trip Mtg. 7:00 p.m.  
 Sun., March 19 Confirmation Prep Meeting

**SCRIPTURE READINGS: March 5<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
 GN 2:7-9; 3:1-7 ROM 5:12-19  
 MT 4:1-11

**Monday: LV 19:1-2, 11-18 MT 25:31-46**

**Tuesday: IS 55:10-11 MT 6:7-15**

**Wednesday: JON 3:1-10 LK 11:29-32**

**Thursday: EST C:12, 14-16, 23-25**  
 MT 7:7-12

**Friday: EZ 18:21-28 MT 5:20-26**

**Saturday: DT 26:16-19 MT 5:43-48**

**Sunday: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**  
 GN 12:1-4A 2TM 1:8B-10  
 MT 17:1-9

**Anointing of the Sick:**

If you are going into the hospital for surgery or have a serious illness, receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Please call the parish office to receive the Sacrament, administered privately or during daily Mass. Call Barb Scoggins at 217-498-9197 to have a family member placed on the prayer list.

**Prayer List:**

**Alfred Limper**, parishioner  
**Rachel Copp**, parishioner  
**Jim Hundley**, husband of Elaine Hundley  
**Tracy Medler**, sister of Chuck Kuntzman  
**Tony Magro, Sr**, father of Tony Magro Jr.  
**Jack Zucco**, son of Marc & Carrie Zucco  
**Jim Kates**, husband of Mary Kates, father of Mary Beth McClintock & Rachel Copp  
**Gavin Fox**, grandson of John & Mary Fox  
**Len Howard**, parishioner  
**Harold Sheppard**, parishioner  
**David Laub**, parishioner  
**JoAnn Camille**, parishioner  
**Betty & Ray Rowden**, parishioners  
**Mary Ann Midden**, mother of Kathleen Quinn  
**Carole Smith**, sister of John Fox  
**Phil Wiese**, son-in-law of Evelyn Conboy  
**Mark Conboy**, son of Evelyn Conboy  
**Reba Cloyd**, mother of Anita Schwab  
**Ray Roth Sr.**, father of Deacon Ray Roth  
**Jim Reiser**, father of Kevin Reiser  
**Maureen Sphar**, mother of Susan Shea  
**Joanne O’Connor**, sister of Ginger Rentschler  
**F. Ray Camille**, brother-in-law of JoAnn Camille  
**Cathy Scott**, niece of John Fox  
**Jennifer Harbeck**, cousin of Brad Zack  
**Jim Thean**, cousin of Mary Fox  
**Fr. John Sohm**, Retired Priest  
**Rosalie Jones**, friend of Barb Scoggins  
**Elizabeth Moose**, friend of Barb Scoggins

**In case of an emergency,  
 call 217-498-9197, choose option 2.**

## LENTEN REGULATIONS:

**Prayer & Fasting Abstinance** – (1) Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**Fast** – (2) Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not allowed.

(3) To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

**We have two opportunities to share our good fortune with others:**



Operation Rice Bowl is an opportunity to share money from our fasting with those who hunger and thirst, or those without clothing or shelter. Rice bowls are available in the Church.

### Loving Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Drive



This Lent we have the opportunity to help the Taylorville Loving Arms Crisis Pregnancy Center raise funds to help women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Empty Baby Bottles will be available at the back of the church for St. Jude families to "adopt". We are asked to take our adopted bottles home and fill them with our loose change. Once the bottle is full it can be returned to the church or to the parish center. All bottles should be returned during Easter week.



food and fellowship.

Many thanks to all those who gave them time and talents to make our Mardi Gras celebration such a success. It was a fun evening full of great



**Support the St. Jude Parish Knights of Columbus FISH FRY** each Friday from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup>, serving from 5:00-7:30 p.m. **Attention Knights – the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board**

**in the Church.** We welcome any parishioner who would like to assist. Your help is important for the success of our only fundraising event. Funds from our Fish Frys benefit our parish and community.

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

From March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days of Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood, 601 Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL and also help spread the word about this important community outreach. **If you' like more information or to volunteer to help, please contact: Claudia Connelly at [c.connelly01@gmail.com](mailto:c.connelly01@gmail.com) or call Springfield Right to Life at 217-523-2700, or contact Donna Moore at 217-321-1161 or [dmoore@dio.org](mailto:dmoore@dio.org). You can also visit [www.40daysforlife.com/Springfield](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Springfield).**

**Please join the Parish of St. Jude as we pray from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.**



**Stations of the Cross** will be offered during Lent  
Wednesday evenings at 5:45 pm  
Friday mornings at 8:00 am



**The Women's Tea/Bunco** group will meet Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to enjoy good company, delicious desserts and play Bunco. Come and join us!

The **Saturday Sew-n-Sews** will meet Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome! Bring your project to work on, or come for a visit.



**Koinonia Retreat weekend** for divorced or separated Catholics (DASK) and other Christians will be held Friday, April 21-Sunday, April 23, 2017, at Todd Hall Retreat Center, 320 Todd Hall Center Drive, Columbia, IL 62236. The cost of \$110.00 includes room, double occupancy, and six meals. Call Jean at 314-704-1253 for a brochure and registration. A \$50.00 deposit will reserve a space.

**Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator  
Mrs. Patricia Kornfeld  
217-321-1155**



### Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church

The Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will host a teaching and exposition of Sacred Relics at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. Fr. Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross will be here with his very special ministry to teach about these holy objects, bringing with him over 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will also be present a portion of the veil of Our Lady, as well as one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross of the world. Those in attendance will be able to examine and venerate each relic. In the Church's history many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics, and many have been healed through this ministry. Please do not miss this opportunity. You are encouraged to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

### CALVARY CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN-UP –

Please remove **ALL** decorations that you would like to save by March 19<sup>th</sup>. Cemetery staff will remove **ALL** decorations during the period of March 20<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Decorations may be placed beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the cemetery office at 523-3726. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our cemetery well-kempt and beautiful.



**Geranium Sale:** The St. Therese Guild from the Church of the Little Flower, Springfield, are again selling geraniums. Order forms are available to download at

<http://littleflowerchurch.net>, St. Therese Guild Geranium Sale, or from the Little Flower Church office. The cost is \$2.50 per plant and payment is due when the order is placed. Please mail orders with money (checks payable to St. Therese Guild) to St. Therese Guild, 800 Stevenson Dr., Springfield, IL 62703 by Friday, April 14. Plants can be picked up at the Little Flower Parish Center on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 89:00 a.m.-noon. Contact Nancy (494-3077) or Janet (494-4743) with any questions.

### Tickets on sale for SHG's Spring Musical "Oklahoma"

Tickets are now on sale for SHG's spring musical production of *Oklahoma*. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.shg.org](http://www.shg.org), or by calling 217-787-1595 ext. 168. Adult tickets are \$10, and students and seniors (age 60 and over) are \$8. Show dates for the general public are as follows: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 23; 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 25; and 2 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at SHG's Dominican Hall Theatre, 1200 W. Washington St. in Springfield. The Children's Round Up will be held Sunday, March 26, at noon. Children and parents will have a chance to meet the cast, take a backstage tour, play games, win prizes and see the production immediately following the event. Tickets for the Children's Round Up are \$15 and lunch is included. For more information on SHG's production of *Oklahoma*, visit [www.shg.org](http://www.shg.org) or call 787-1595, ext. 168.



### HB 40: State Funding of Abortion!



The new Illinois legislature has introduced House Bill 40, which does the following:

Authorizes state taxpayer money to be used to pay for elective abortions for recipients in the state Medicaid program – this is currently prohibited.

Authorizes state workers' health insurance to be used to pay for elective abortions – this is currently prohibited.

Authorizes taxpayer money to fund grants to organizations that refer, counsel for and perform abortions – this is currently prohibited.

Call your state representative to urge him/her to vote "No" on HB 40!

To find your state representative, go to [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org), or call the Catholic Conference of Illinois at 312-368-1066 or 217-528-9200.

**Timothy Retreat** is a 24-hour Catholic Junior High retreat lead by high school & college youth. The retreat focuses on 1 Timothy 4:12: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." This year's retreat will be held at St. John Vianney Church in Sherman, IL, April 21 & 22, 2017. For more information, check our website: <http://timothyretreatnorth.weebly.com/>.