



3rd Sunday of Lent March 19, 2017

Continuing with the theme proposed for this Lent by Pope Francis: "The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift", I would like to reflect on what I find to be one of the most challenging of all of Christ's teachings in the Gospels. The passage comes from the 25th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Jesus is speaking about the Judgment of the Nations and He tells us that we will be asked to make an account for how we have lived out the Great Commandment of love of God and love of neighbor. The takeaway lines are these: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40) and "what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me" (Mt 25:45).

Jesus is teaching us that we can't be content with thinking that it's okay to love just a select few people of our choosing. Jesus is very clear on that point, reminding us that everybody does that, Christian or not. The mark of a Christian is whether they love everybody, even those who they find it difficult to get along with.

You may remember the definition I gave for love in a homily a few weeks ago, but let me repeat it. Loving another person is all about willing their good. In other words, as a Christian, I should want each person around me to succeed, to experience conversion, to be happy, etc. We can't go around life seeing others as roadblocks to our success or happiness. When we do that, we write them out of the picture and don't give them any of our love.

I'll bet if you took a few moments and looked back through your week, there were people you chose to ignore, as if they weren't there, having little if any care for them. I'm struck by this when I drive down the road and see somebody walking on the sidewalk. It's almost always the case that I never know the person, but at times, the Holy Spirit nudges me with these words of Jesus, and I make a little prayer in my heart that the Lord will bless them and bring them the good that He wants for them. That might be all I can do for that person, but it's something, and it's far from insignificant. I find that that opens my hardened heart just a little bit so that when I do encounter somebody that I can love in a more tangible way, I'm more willing to do it.

Why not give that a shot this week? When you see a random stranger, remind yourself of these words of Jesus and say a little prayer for that person. See if you don't begin to see more clearly that everybody around you is indeed a gift.

-Father Alford

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!!

The † symbolizes the Mass is someone who is deceased.

Saturday, March 18th

- 10-11:30 a **Confessions**
 3:30 p **Confessions**
 4:30 p **Mass** (Int: Jim Waters†)
Sunday, March 19th
 7:30 a **Confessions**
 8:00 a **Mass** (Int: Agnes Kouten†, Marie Graycar†, Helen DiPanet†)
PSR
 Wyndcrest: Calvert
Confessions
Choir rehearsal
 Rosary
 10:00 a **Mass** (Int: For the Parish)
 10:30 a **Confirmation Formation Session**
 4:00 p
 9:00 a **Counting Team #3**
 5:00 p Confessions/Reconciliation
 5:30 p **Mass** (Int: Elsie Offerman†)
 6:00 p **Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions**
 6:30 p **Alternate Confirmation Session**
Tuesday, March 21st
 Morning Prayer
Mass (Int: Limper/Engeling families)
 Scriptural Rosary
Garden Planning Meeting
Wednesday, March 22nd
 Morning Prayer
 7:00 a **Mass** (Int: All Souls†)
 7:30 a Scriptural Rosary
 8:00 a Stations of the Cross
 5:45 p **PSR/RCIA**
 6:30 p **Choir practice**
 7-8:30 p Thursday, March 23rd
 Morning Prayer
 7:00 a **Mass** (Int: Bob Gatschenberger†)
 7:30 a Scriptural Rosary
 8:00 a Friday, March 24th
 Morning Prayer
 7:00 a **Mass** (Int: Bob Denton†)
 7:30 a Stations of the Cross
 8:00 a K of C Fish Fry
 5:00 p **Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions**
 5:30-8:30 p Saturday, March 25th
Eucharistic Adoration/Confessions
 10-2:00 p **Confessions**
 3:30 p **Mass** (Int: Bill Sinkus†)
 4:30 p Sunday, March 26th
 7:30 a **Confessions**
 8:00 a **Mass** (Int: Ben Lake†)
 9:10 a **NO PSR**
 9:30 a Wyndcrest: Nelson
 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 (87)	\$ 4,290.84	\$205,304.91
Electronic funds (24)	\$ 2,743.10	\$ 39,844.80
Bldg. Dev. Fund (5)	\$ 110.00	\$ 10,382.00
EFT – Dev. Fund (11)	\$ 498.00	\$ 6,202.00
Poor Fund	\$ 17.88	\$ 2,724.37
Children’s Stewardship (0)	0.00	\$ 41.30
Catholic Charities (29)	\$ 906.00	\$ 1,223.00
Central/East.Europe (1)	\$ 10.00	\$ 1,110.00
Catholic Relief Serv. (9)	\$ 112.00	\$ 117.00
Holy Land (7)	\$ 112.00	\$ 112.00
Seminarians (6)	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
Number of collection envelopes used:	123	
Number of electronic contributions:	56	

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Saturday, March 25th - 4:30 p.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Manny, S & I Long, Maynerich
Lectors: Blumhorst, Dwyer
Servers: J, A, J Western
Hospitality: B & D Jemison, J & S Thull

Sunday, March 26th – 8:00 a.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, J & N Calvert, Deacon Ray
Lectors: De Groot, Deimel
Servers: Delgado, Heiple, Lauwerens
Hospitality: D & M Anderson, G & K Park

Sunday, March 26th – 10:30 a.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, Kerley, V Walker
 Deacon Tom
Lectors: K Petty, Warren
Servers: N, A, J Lindstrom
Minister of Care: Nelson
Hospitality: Fjelstul Family
CLOW: J & S Deen

Volunteer for this week: March 20th – March 26th

Church Dusters: Donna Spurlock

Recycling Vol. March: Greg Park

March Food Volunteer: Teri Dambacher

Coffee & Donuts: Sun, March 26th:

Roger & Mary Beth McClintock



Support the St. Jude Parish Knights

of Columbus FISH FRY each Friday
 until April 7th, serving from 5:00-7:30 p.m.
 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Mar. 19th – Mar. 26th

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent

EX 17:3-7 ROM 5:1-2, 5-8 JN 4:5-42

Monday: Solemnity of St. Joseph

**2SM 7:4-5A, 12-14a, 16 ROM 4:13, 16-18, 22
 MT 1:16, 18-21, 24A**

Tuesday: DN 3:25, 34-43 MT 18:21-35

Wednesday: DT 4:1, 5-9 MT 5:17-19

Thursday: JER 7:23-28 LK 11:14-23

Friday: HOS 14:2-10 MK 12:28-34

Saturday: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

IS 7:10-14; 8:10 HEB 10:4-10 LK 1:26-38

Sunday: 1SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A EPH 5:8-14

JN 9:1-41

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 & Mary Kates, parishioners
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
Elizabeth Moose, friend of Barb Scoggins

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

LENTEN REGULATIONS:



Abstinence – (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.



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.

Upcoming Parish Meeting/Events:

Sun., March 19 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Prep Mtg
Mon, March 20 6:30 p.m. Alternate Confirmation Prep Meeting
Tues., Mar. 21 7:00 p.m. Garden planning meeting
Tues., Mar. 28 Protecting God's Children Session 6:30 p.m.

The St. Jude Youth Mission Trip Group 2017 going to Roanoke, VA are: Youth (23); David Allen, Rebekah Arthur, Emily Brewer, Jillian Capriotti, Aaron Clare, Emma Curtin, Jenna Decker, Taylor Decker, Ben Duban, Cece Foltz, Carolyn Grenda, Skyler Kuntzman, Jordan Lauwerens, Ryan McClintock, Jessica Oyler, Keaten Pedigo, David Ryan, Maddie Ryan, Maddie Schurman, Hanna Vanourney, Carter Walton, Nathaniel Will and Talon Williams.
Young Adults (4): Mary Kate Curtin, Jackie Foster, Matthew McClintock, and Mark Nimmer
Adults (6): Jean Allen, Sarah Clare, Kay Foster, Vicki Pedigo, Deacon Ray Roth, and Brenda Will.

There are still available seats on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in joining the Mission Trip, please contact the parish office for information.

**Hansen Heating & Cooling
Home of the \$50 Service Call
217-525-8452**



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



**Protecting God's Children
Adult Training Sessions**

Feeling the call to become more active within the Parish?

A **Protecting God's Children** session has been scheduled at St. Jude Church, **March 28th at 6:30 p.m.** Please contact the Parish Office (498-9197) to register for this session. Please assist the parish in providing various services for our youth and children by fulfilling the requirement for all parish volunteers. **The Protecting God's Children Adult Training Session is a requirement for anyone age 18 or older who is volunteering within the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.**

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

St. Paul writes

"Be reconciled with God and with one another."

*St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Chatham, Little Flower Parish in Springfield and St. Jude Parish in Rochester will hold a joint Penance Service on **Thursday March 30, 2017 (6:30 p.m.)**, at Little Flower Church in Springfield, IL.*

Mark your calendars and plan to attend

24 Hours for the Lord

For the past few years, Pope Francis has encouraged the faithful to encounter God's mercy and His healing gift of reconciliation during the Lenten season. In particular, he has asked priests to devote a significant amount of time to making the Sacrament of Reconciliation available during a two-day period he has called "24 Hours for the Lord". This year, those days are March 24-25. In response to his invitation, confessions will be heard from **5:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Friday, March 24, and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 25.** During these times, we will also be having Eucharistic Adoration in the church. We will need people to sign up for 30 minute or 1 hour slots so that the Blessed Sacrament is not left without somebody to adore Him. Please use the sign-up sheet in the back of church, or call the parish office to reserve a time. Only one person is required, but the more the better. If you've never spent time in adoration, why not stop in for a few minutes of silence with the Lord? You won't be disappointed.



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.

Father Patrick Cahill Memorial Scholarship

Each Year since 2004, the Knights of Columbus Council #9640 has awarded the Father Patrick Cahill Memorial Scholarship to a graduating high school senior. Scholarship information and application are available on the website (stjude.dio.org) or at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Completed scholarship applications must be submitted **no later than April 15, 2017**. The Scholarship will be awarded at the annual Knights of Columbus Appreciation Dinner in May.



From March 1st through April 9th, 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'd like more information or to volunteer to help, please contact: Claudia Connelly at 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. You can also visit www.40daysforlife.com/Springfield.**



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, or call the Catholic Conference of Illinois at 312-368-1066 or 217-528-9200.

The 2017 Mission Trip Group is selling Raffle



Tickets. The prize is a choice of \$650.00 cash, \$650.00 shopping spree at Scheel's, or a whole hog processed by Magro's Meats. Tickets sell for \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00. You can purchase your ticket(s) from any mission trip participant, or contact the parish office. The drawing will be Sunday, April 23rd.

Baby Bottle Boomerang "Change" Lives!



Last year, because of the support from programs like the Baby Bottle Boomerang, Loving Arms was able to minister to 435 NEW families in or area in addition to those Loving arms was already serving. Loving Arms fully expects to exceed that number for the 2017 year! Your support helps to "change" lives.

Volunteer needed: One of our Church Dusters has retired. If you are available and would like to help, please contact the parish office. You must have attended a Protecting God's Children session.