

Today the Church celebrates *Laetare* Sunday. The word *Laetare* in Latin means “rejoice.” I don’t know about you, but rejoicing is not the first thing that comes to mind at this time. But, as you may recall from the words of St. Paul on the other Rose Sunday, *Gaudete* Sunday in Advent, we are commanded: “Rejoice in the Lord always!” (Phil. 4:4)

Do you think St. Paul would have said this had He known about COVID-19? I think you know what the answer is – YES! And why do we give thanks? Because we are God’s beloved children, and as St. Paul also reminds us: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39) And you can certainly add COVID-19 among those things that cannot separate us from the love of God that comes to us through Christ Jesus.

Up to this point, we may have professed that we believe this truth, but now when the circumstances have changed, do we still believe that to be the case? I want to encourage you to take very seriously this opportunity we have from the Lord to learn to embrace this gift of being His beloved children, to know that in the midst of all of this uncertainty, His love is certain. And that does not mean that we will not face suffering and hard times, for He reminds us of that as well: “In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.” (John 16:33)

So please, please be sure to take time to pray during these days. I do not think we realize just how much grace the Lord has in store for us by turning to Him when everything seems to be slipping away. When we approach this current crisis with this attitude of faith, we can indeed rejoice in the Lord, “giving thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess. 5:18) for what He has done, what He is currently doing, and what He will do for us, His beloved children, for whom He sent His Son to suffer and die for us so that we might have hope in the midst of darkness, a hope that will not disappoint.

You are all in my daily prayers in a special way during this time. If there is anything I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to ask.

As a reminder, to receive a daily reflection and challenge in your inbox, text the word **STJUDELNT** to 84576. If you received these messages in the past, you are likely already signed up.

- Fr. Alford

Parish Sacrificial Giving Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020		
	Last Week	Year-To-Date
Collections (68)	\$ 3,895.00	\$ 202,536.07
Electronic Funds (21)	\$ 2,268.10	\$ 37,242.90
Bldg. Dev. Fund (2)	\$ 38.00	\$ 10,845.00
EFT-Dev. Fund (9)	\$ 413.00	\$ 5,652.00
Poor Fund	\$ 121.00	\$ 2,158.68
Children’s Offering (2)	\$ 4.00	\$ 34.60
Catholic Charities (5 )	\$ 82.00	\$ 2,103.00
EFT-Cath. Charities(0)	\$ 0.00	\$ 232.00
EFT-Holy Land (7)	\$ 112.00	\$ 112.00
EFT-Seminarians (6)	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
EFT-Cath. Relief (8)	\$ 112.00	\$ 112.00

#### Additional Confession Times during Lent

Mon. Mar. 23 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
 Tue. Mar. 24 - 6:30 – 7:30 pm  
 Thu. Mar. 26 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
 Sat. Mar. 28 - 10:00 am - 11:00 am  
 Mon. Mar. 30 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
 Thu. Apr. 2 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
 Sun. Apr. 5 - 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
 Fri. Apr. 10 - 5:00 pm - 6:45 pm

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS: Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>:

**Sunday:** 1SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A EPH 5:8-14  
JN 9:1-41

**Monday:** IS 65:17-21 JN 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** EZ 47:1-9, 12 JN 5:1-16

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

**Thursday:** EX 32:7-14 JN 5:31-47

**Friday:** WIS 2:1A, 12-22 JN 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** JER 11:18-20 JN 7:40-53

**Sunday:** EZ 37:12-14 ROM 8:8-11  
JN 11:1-45

#### St. Jude Parish Weekly Confession Times

Monday – 5:00-5:20 p.m.  
 Saturday – 3:30-4:15 p.m.  
 Sunday – 7:30-7:50 a.m. & 9:45-10:15 a.m.

### Anointing of the Sick

If you are going to the hospital for surgery or have a serious illness, receive the Sacrament 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:

#### Parishioners

**Megan Lee, Steven Long, Gary Dumonceaux, Jillian Kohlrus, Shirley Crawford, Rene Runions, Ray Roland, Lynn F. Leach, JoAnn Camille, Betty Rowden, JoAnn Barber, Glen Butcher, Barb Kiel, Mary Rodgers, Ann Carel, Evelyn Conboy**

**Kelsie Riedle**, niece of David & Tess Riedle  
**Robert Goin**, father of Vicki Walker  
**Harry Buck**, brother of Teri Dambacher  
**Troy Sweeney**, nephew of Maggie Patterson  
**Tom Helling**, brother of Gary Helling  
**Yvonne Butcher**, mother of Barrie Blough  
**Aloysious Staff**, brother of Sylvia Thull  
**John Rentschler**, son of Ginger Rentschler  
**Glen Limper**, son of Al & Betty Limper  
**Hope Power**, daughter of Yvonne Brandis  
**Donna Meyers**, mother of Kellie Brewer  
**Jim Felts**, husband of Dianne Felts  
**Jerry McCormick**, brother of Tom Walker  
**Margie Lammert**, mother of Sarah Clare  
**Steven Butts**, brother of Michelle Bullock  
**Reba Cloyd**, mother of Anita Schwab  
**Jennifer Harbeck**, cousin of Brad Zack  
**Joanna Laabs**, wife of Deacon Al Laabs  
**John Vercautern**, cousin of Laurie White  
**Frank Stroble**, friend of Mary Bruno  
**Cherie Peterson**, niece of Peggy Parnell  
**Carolyn Carmichael**, mother of Leanne Collings  
**Stephanie Zimmerman**, friend of Sarah Clare  
**Button Pemberton**, friend of Guerrettaz family  
**Teresa Cieciera**, friend of Guerrettaz family  
**Aliana Marecki**, friend of Guerrettaz family  
**Rick Perez**, friend of Mary Jo & Jerry Jasinski  
**Brigham Lanweir**, friend of the Zucco family  
**Megan Mahoney**, friend of the Zucco family

#### *In Memory:*

**Lorraine Pietras**, mother of Bob Pietras



### HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!!

The † symbolizes the Mass is for someone who is deceased.

#### Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

**Mass** (Int. Deacon Frank Maynerich Jr.†)

**9:10:00 a Confessions**

**3:30 p Confessions**

#### Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Mass** (Int. Jim & Mary Kates†)

**7:30 a Confessions**

**9:45 a Confessions**

**10:00 a Rosary**

#### Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Mass** (Int. George Ginter†)

**6-7:00 p Confessions**

#### Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

**Mass** (Int. For the Parish)

**6:30-7:30 p Confessions**

#### Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

**Mass** (Int. Limper/Engeling Families)

#### Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

**Mass** (Int. Muriel Gatschenberger†)

**6-7:00 p Confessions**

#### Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

**Mass** (Int. Lorraine Blasko†)

#### Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

**Mass** (Int. Diocesan Priests)

**10-11:00 a Confessions**

**3:30-4:15 p Confessions**

#### Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

**Mass** (Int. For the Parish)

**7:30-7:50 a Confessions**

**9:45-10:15 a Confessions**

#### **LENTEN REGULATIONS:**

**Prayer & Fasting 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.

**Rochester State Bank**  
133 N. John Rochester, IL  
217-498-7111

This Lenten Season the Church of St. Jude will be doing an **Almsgiving Mission Project** in serving our less fortunate neighbors. This is similar to our Christmas Friends Program with St. Patrick School and Aperia Care.

Our **Almsgiving Mission Project** will be baking cookies or cupcakes for area NFP agencies who help families in need. You may have a favorite family recipe you would like to share! This is a great opportunity for families to practice almsgiving and show Love to those less fortunate.

Please visit the table at the back of the church to see what a difference we can make in serving others! You, your family and/or your friends can help, it's easy! Pick up an Almsgiving Card with a name of an NFP agency to BLESS! Then you, your family or friends can get together at home and bake up the items. If you wish to deliver the goodies, that would be great. If not, we have volunteers who can help with delivery.

**Although we are currently unable to attend Mass, Our Lenten Project is still collecting donations of board games, puzzles, color books/crayons and card games for our Lenten Project.** We will accept gently used or new items. This promotes family time and fun for the kids. The best music is a child's laughter. When the kids are laughing and having fun, they are not worrying about the grown-up issues in the family.

**We are asking for additional donations of food so that we can help the SIU Emergency Food Pantry to feed some of the children that are seen, as well as the homeless, seniors and disabled.**

Thank you in advance for making a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. If you have any questions, please contact Jeannette Waters at 652-4039 or 529-7280.

### 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](http://stjude.dio.org)) or at the Parish Office during regular business hours. **Scholarship applications must be submitted, completely, by April 15, 2020.** The Scholarship will be awarded at the annual Knights of Columbus Appreciation Dinner in May.

**Please note:** Effective this year, there has been a significant change in the scholarship application regarding the required essay.



Even though we cannot attend Mass in person, you can watch Mass online. A few sites you can go to are:

Word on Fire Ministries – Mass with Bishop Baron: <https://wordonfire.org/daily-mass>

EWTN: <https://video.ewtn.com/daily-mass/>

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Facebook page

### BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG



Teens and young adults who find themselves in an unplanned pregnancy need care and understanding, emotional and spiritual support, as well as material items. By donating your spare change (cash and checks are also accepted) to Loving Arms you ensure that there is always a place that will welcome them with open arms and ready resources.

**Cancellation** – The Pregnancy Care Center of Springfield, Inc. has decided to postpone their 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Luncheon. A date for rescheduling has not been decided.

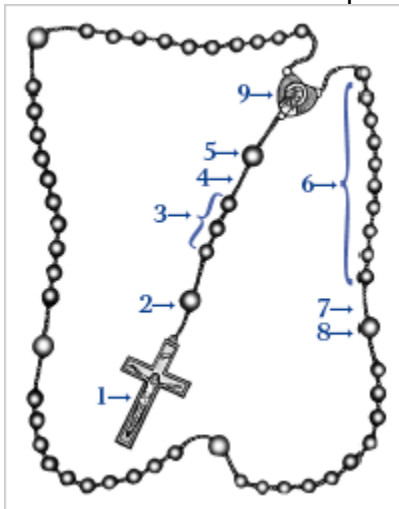
**CANCELLED** - Lenten Retreat for All Women in the Springfield Diocese - Tues.-Wed., March 24-25, Villa Maria, Springfield.



## How to Pray the Rosary

On the 5 decades (sets of 10 beads) of a rosary, we pray and meditate on the corresponding set of 5 Mysteries from the [Joyful Mysteries](#), the [Sorrowful Mysteries](#), the [Glorious Mysteries](#), or the [Luminous Mysteries](#).

1. [Make the Sign of the Cross](#) and say the "[Apostles Creed](#)."
2. [Say the "Our Father."](#)
3. [Say three "Hail Marys."](#)
4. [Say the "Glory be to the Father."](#)
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the "[Our Father](#)."
6. [Say ten "Hail Marys."](#) while meditating on the Mystery.
7. [Say the "Glory be to the Father."](#) After each decade say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy."
8. Announce the Second Mystery: then say the "[Our Father](#)." Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.
9. [Say the 'Hail, Holy Queen'](#) on the medal after the five decades are completed.



### Daily Mystery Meditations

The Mysteries traditionally adhere to certain days of the week.

- Monday: [Joyful](#)
- Tuesday: [Sorrowful](#)
- Wednesday: [Glorious](#)
- Thursday: [Luminous](#)
- Friday: [Sorrowful](#)
- Saturday: [Joyful](#)
- Sunday: [Glorious](#)

## RECYCLING CANS FOR ST. PATRICK SCHOOL



Don't forget to save your aluminum cans, bag them and bring them to the brown wooden box at the front of the Parish Center. Volunteers take them in to the Recycling Center and all monies are

donated to St. Patrick School! **Please put only aluminum cans in the box!**



## Food Collection

### FOR ST. MARTIN De PORRES

Each Sunday you are invited to bring non-perishable food items to mass and place them in the baskets as you enter the Church. All food is taken to St. Martin de Porres Center in Springfield to help their great mission to feed the poor and hungry.

Volunteers take the food in weekly to the Center.



## God's hands

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short-hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.

—Virginia Brandt Berg