

# DISCIPLES CALLED TO WITNESS

**St John the Evangelist Parish / St. Mary Parish**

**Bellaire - Neffs - Shadyside - Powhatan Point**

**[www.bnspcatholic.org](http://www.bnspcatholic.org)**

**Mission Statement :** Inspired by the Holy Spirit and our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we strive to grow in faith, love and service to God and our neighbors.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**FEBRUARY 18TH, 2024**

**St John Church (SJ)** - 415 37th St, Bellaire, OH 43906

**St. Mary Church (SM)** - 240 E 40th St, Shadyside, OH 43947

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 PM - SM Saturday 5:30 PM - SJ

Sunday 11:00 AM - SM Sunday 9:30 AM - SJ

## WEEKDAY MASS

6:00 p.m. (Mon.) SJ 8:00 a.m. (Wed. & Fri.) – SJ 8:00 a.m. (Tues. & Thurs.) - SM 8:00 a.m.



## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. - SM

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - SJ

Monday: 5:00p.m. - 5:45p.m. - SJ

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:30 -7:45a.m. - SM

Wednesday & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 7:45a.m. - SJ

## CENTRAL OFFICE

3745 Tallman Ave., Bellaire, OH 43906

Phone - 676-0051 - Fax - 671-9776

Email: [stjohns3745@comcast.net](mailto:stjohns3745@comcast.net)

**Office Hours: M,W,F -**

**8:00am- 12:00pm / 1:00pm-4:00pm**

*Fr. Daniel Heusel, Pastor (SJ), Pastor (SM)*

Cell: (740) 298-4158

Email: [dheusel@diosteub.org](mailto:dheusel@diosteub.org)

*Mrs. Tonya Grimm, Secretary*

(740) 676-0051

Email: [stjohns3745@comcast.net](mailto:stjohns3745@comcast.net)

St. Mary Central Grade School, Martins Ferry

(740) 633-5424

*Mrs. Theresa Young, Principal*

**We use Flocknote to connect with parishioners!**

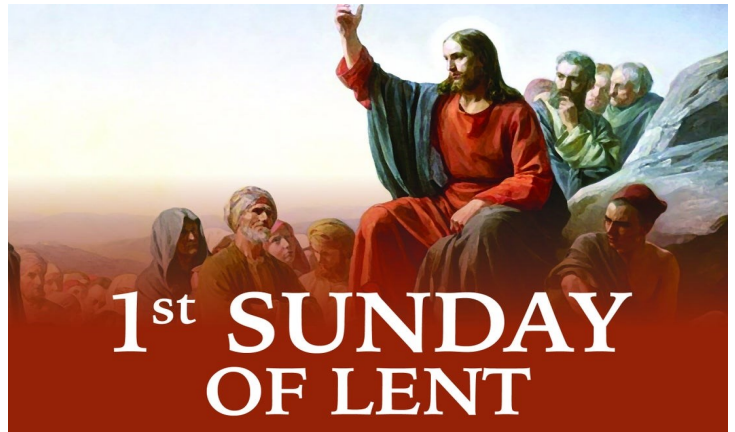
1. Text MISSION2LOVE to 84576 or

2. Go to [StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com](http://StJohnandStMaryparishes.flocknote.com) and sign up there! Receive updates, including the weekly bulletin, via email and text message!



[www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs](http://www.fb.me/stjohn.bellaire.neffs)

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## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

*Collect of the 1st Sunday of Lent*



## MT CALVARY CEMETERY CLEANUP

Anyone that wants to keep their Christmas decorations that were placed on their loved ones graves, please have them removed by March 7th. After that date the decorations that are left will be discarded. Thank You!



## Steubenville Priests' Retirement Plan Collection

This weekend of February 17th/18th, we will have the second annual collection for the

**Diocese of Steubenville Priests' Retirement Plan.** This is an effort to help the Retirement Plan for our priests of the Diocese of Steubenville to become fully funded. We have opted to initiate an annual collection specifically for the retirement plan to which our diocesan priests belong. We face the same dilemma as religious communities – namely more elderly priests entering retirement and fewer younger priests still in ministry generating support for the retirement plan. There are envelopes for the Steubenville Priests' Retirement Plan at the entrances of the church and the parish office. Please be generous to this collection to help support those who have given a lifetime of service in the parishes of the Diocese of Steubenville. All donations go strictly to this retirement fund. Make your checks out to St. John's or St. Mary's and put "Steubenville Priests Retirement Plan" in the memo. Thank you!

**Fr. Dan's Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, February 17th, 1st Sunday of Lent**

4:00p.m. (SM) + Larry Phillips (Scarnecchia Family)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Richard Cope (Wife & Family)

**Sunday, February 18th, 1st Sunday of Lent**

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Joy & Donald Sadowski (Elva Atkinson & Lola Olexa)

11:00a.m. (SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's

**Monday, February 19th, President's Day**

6:00p.m. (SJ) + Teresa Snively (Cervelli Family)

**Tuesday, February 20th**

8:00a.m. (SM) + Jack Klug (Kathy Kish)

**Wednesday, February 21st, St. Peter Damian**

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Debbie (Donahue) Dudzik (Mike Boston)

**Thursday, February 22nd, The Chair of St. Peter The Apostle**

8:00a.m. (SM) + Jerry, James, Angela & Infant Angela (Jim & Kelly Amato)

**Friday, February 23rd, St. Polycarp**

8:00a.m. (SJ) + Isaac De Genova (David De Genova)

**Saturday, February 24th, 2nd Sunday of Lent**

4:00p.m. (SM) + Dale Louda Sr. (Nile & Jean Cassandra)

5:30p.m. (SJ) + Lucy Paul (Joe & Mary De Genova)

**Sunday, February 25th, 2nd Sunday of Lent**

9:30a.m. (SJ) + Joe, Mal, Ray & Isaac De Genova (Joe & Mary De Genova)

11:00a.m. (SM) + For the People of St. Mary's & St. John's



**Lord, bless and protect those serving our country**, especially: Lt. Col. Brian Zeno,

Airmen 1st Class Curtis McElfresh, Sgt. Christopher Wetzell, Lance Corporal Zachary Knowlton, Staff Sgt. Wm. Kayne Melko,

HTF Kory Melko, Sgt. Joshua Hall, Staff Sgt. Aaron Loeffler, Tech Sgt. Craig DeBeni, Major Trey Vasey, Capt. Tom Dyer, Staff Sgt. Josh Pempek, Mitchell Rataiczak, Master Sgt. Chris Dipold, Sgt. Ryan James, Sgt. Dylan Frizzi, Sgt. Jake Foster and Pvt. Zachary Popovich, Lance Cpl. John Morgan, Jr., Pvt William Clegg, Petty Officer Alex Rader, Pvt. Colton T. Selmon, 1st Lt. DJ Olexa, Staff Sgt. Kelsey (Ryncarz) Turner, Corporal Vincent J. Kolenich II, Senior Airman Cameron Opic, Sgt. Evangeline Kotson, PFC D'eondre Burney, Petty Officer Jared Keiser, Petty Officer Brody P. Halenar, Major Alex Beverdidge, Lance Cpl. Keenan Cook



**REST IN PEACE**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **James Wenckoski, Steve Sorvalis and Thomas Friend, Sr.** We offer our prayers also for the comfort of their loved ones. *If you have a family member that dies but was not buried from our parishes please call the parish office, we would like to include them here in this space.*



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations are this Friday at 6:30pm  
at St. Mary's!

**Offertory Collection**

**For the Weekend of February**

**St. Mary's:** Adult (50env) \$ 1,649, Loose \$131, Ash Wednesday (3env) \$25, Steubenville Register (2env) \$20, Grade School (3env) \$55, Building Fund (1env) \$40, Food Pantry (6env) \$80, Church in Latin America (1env) \$15, Candles

**St. John's:** Adult (84env) \$2,604, Loose \$386.12, Propagation of Faith (2env) \$10, Ash Wednesday (2env) \$30, Steubenville Register (7env) \$70, St. Vincent de Paul (6env) \$65, Grade School (2env) \$60, CWC Dues (2env) \$10, Building Fund (4env) \$35, Candles \$78



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

**PRAYER LIST**

**Please Note:** *This prayer list is an important part of our love for our brothers and sisters in need. Names will be included on this list for four weeks at a time. After four weeks a person's name will be removed but can be added again the next week simply by calling the office. Please pray for the following:* Vicky Oboy, Lindy & Don Freed, Jax McCort, , Dominic Alexander, Lou Ann Kinder, Fr. Sam Saprano, Dorothy Kresak, Jeff & Mandy Fahey, Quentin Scott Coyne, Magan Nichole Sechrest, Jeremy Chirpas, Tyce Hughes, Isaac Salva, Lawrence Lotz, Baby Everett Sommers, Steve Kiss Jr., Lucy Kowalski, John Bires Jr., Shannon Koher, Paul Heagy, Courtney Kosky Johns, Pat Tedeschi, Natalie Zimmerman, Ed and Rose Grammar, Irene Lloyd, Susan Gray, Matthew McMahon, Jackie (Donahue) Woods, Bryan Grimm, Sydney Battistelli, Dr. Matt Sokus, Christian White, Joe Boston Jr., Camden Brown, Peggy Kotson, Sandy Fijalkowski, Ted Corder, Tom Galinski, Barney Wiley, Susan Vasey, Gilbert Patt, Bob, Bill & Tom, Julie Sharpe, Brie Griffen, Chris Adams, Ferdinand Creutz, Adolph Knackstedt, Hart Brader, Rev. Sergey Loktionov OFM, Rev. Dave Burrell CSC, Rev. Temesgen Petros SDB, Rev. Aziz Halaweh, Sally Shopper, Judith Weckbacher, Debbie Respole, "Chic" & Debbie Henderson, Kay Bambeck, Sally Traversa, Mary Kay Hanasky, Ann Hodges, Eric Allen, Herk Sparachane, Zachary Oboy, Tom & Margie Merryman, Margaret Biernot, Craig Blacker, Patrick Strain and granddaughter, Halen, James Jeter, Jim Garczyk, Natalie McFeley, Dan Busack, John Hanasky, Anna Johnson, Beverly, Beau Boston, Mary De Genova



**Ministers for the Weekend of February 24/25**

**St. John's**

February 24th **EM:** M.A. Kiss

**Lector :** S. Homer

February 25th **EM:** C. Flowers

**Lector :** A. Busic

**St. Mary's**

February 24th **EM:** L. Gates

**Lector :** J. Amato

February 25th **EM:** M. Brown

**Lector :** M. Brown



**Rite of Election**

We are sending one catechumen, Aleah Baker, to participate in the Rite of Election this Sunday, the 18th, with Bishop Bradley. Please pray for Aleah as she journeys to the Easter sacraments!

**Diocesan Synodal Session**

Please attend our Diocesan Synodal listening session this Sunday, the 18th, at 3:00pm at Holy Rosary Church in Steubenville. Reflection questions posted on our website!

**CARING CRAFTERS 50/50 and BAKE SALE**

The caring crafters will be having our annual bake sale and 50/50 raffle on Palm Sunday. Tickets for the 50/50 raffle in pews. You can place them in the collection. We are still taking orders for Easter Wreaths. Order forms are at the main entrance of the church. We recently made 60 valentine bags for the homeless containing healthy treats and of course a little chocolate. Thank you to all who donated to the homeless Crisis. We've been buying tents for them. More information to come. God Bless!

**ST MARY'S FISH FRY**

Every Friday until March 22nd, 11:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. Accepting donations of soft drinks in cans, bottled water, paper towels, napkins and zip type sandwich bags. To order call 740-340-5061. Thank You!

**MEN'S DAY OF RENEWAL**

Men, please sign up for our Men's Day of Renewal, Saturday **March 9th** at St. Stephen Church in Caldwell, Ohio. The theme is:

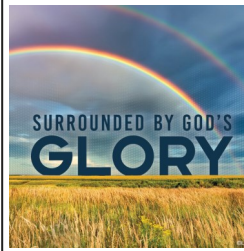
*Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit.* Registration forms are at the church entrances or call the parish office. Cost to register is \$25.

**A LENTEN DAY OF SPIRITUALITY FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN**

Saturday, **March 16th, 2024** at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta. The theme will be Eucharistic Revival. The fee of \$25 is payable in advance, which covers lunch and refreshments. Make reservations through the parish office. See the brochure at the church entrances.

**40 HOURS DEVOTION - ADORERS NEEDED!**

The 40 Hours devotion is a special period of continuous prayer during which the Eucharist is exposed in a monstrance for adoration. Our 40 hours devotion will take place at St. Mary's, beginning on Thursday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. with Mass, and concluding on Saturday, March 23 with the 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's. We actually have 45 hours of Eucharistic adoration in St. Mary's Church, from 7:00pm on Thursday, March 21 to Saturday afternoon at 4:00pm - and so we need 90 adorers, 2 for each hour! Please sign the sheets in back of church.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION**

When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous "Double Rainbow" video on YouTube to feel better. It's hilarious. A young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy. "Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!" he announces. Then he starts to weep. He cries out, "What does it *mean*?" Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us. What *does* it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante's medieval poem *The Divine Comedy* featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of the other. The bow is God's promise of peace. For Dante, it's even more: nature's encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment — but Jesus has made it visible in his glorious body.

**Lenten challenge:** This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will. Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, "Here I am! I will love and protect you, surrounding you in My glory." This Lent let's embrace that with confidence, rain, or shine.

— Father John Muir

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**"Key Components to a Healthy Marriage"**

Have you had a spouse for a long time that you love, but want to love more or better? Want to set your new(ish) marriage sailing off into success?

Do you have a marriage that could definitely use some work and you are ready to try something new? Tune in on **Tuesday, February 20, 2024 from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.!** Greg Schutte, a Catholic marriage counselor of Building Eucharistic Marriages, will be presenting a webinar for all of us who are married to "tune up" our marriages. Registration is free. There is a link to register on our parish webpage and Facebook pages!

**St. Mary's Grade School News**

St. Mary Central School is selling **Easter candy from Sarris Candy**. Sarris is offering online ordering as well with free shipping on all orders with no minimum purchase needed, however, there is a \$5.00 handling fee. Anyone interested in ordering candy can get on the website [www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com](http://www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com), click on Online Ordering, go to Products then Master Sheet Easter 2024. From there you can put in our Group ID# 10-0304 and place your order. It will be delivered directly to you and our school receives a 25% profit..

## THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of February 18, 2024



### Saint Peter

Watch the epic story of the spread of Christianity during the early years of the Church. This film follows the journey of St. Peter through his martyrdom on a cross.



### The Afterlife | Eternal Rest | Episode 2

What happens after the moment of our death? Once the soul has been separated from the body, then what? What is heaven, hell, and purgatory? This session looks at the truth about what awaits the human person on the other side of death.



### Week One | Restore: Lent with Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT

In the Week One video for the Restore Lent series, Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, reflects on the theme of the week—the desert. She explains that Jesus is inviting you to move beyond your comfort zone and into the deepest places of your heart with him. It is Jesus who helps you root out the sin, sickness, and self-hatred in your life. Sr. Miriam assures us that we can look to him for comfort, love, and healing.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and SPACED PRODUCTIONS

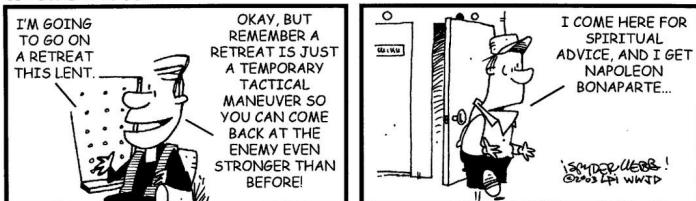
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1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



**MASSTIMES.ORG**

Travelling? Never miss a weekend mass by finding mass times near your destination. Just go to [masstimes.org](https://masstimes.org) and enter the city, state or zip code of the place you'll be visiting. And bring Fr. Dan back a bulletin!

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS AND THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent / February 25, 2024

**First Reading:** "I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." (Gn 22:12)

**Psalm:** I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 116)

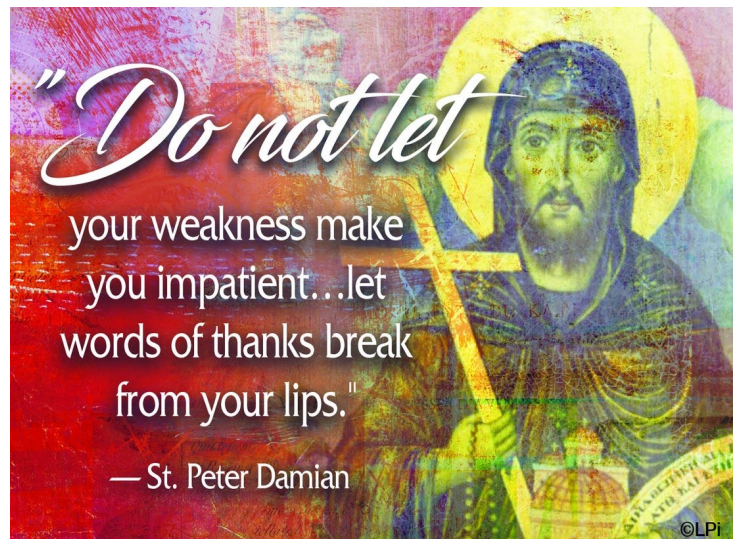
**Second Reading:** He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? (Rom 8:32)

**Gospel:** Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7)

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CCC 554-556, 568: the Transfiguration  
CCC 59, 145-146, 2570-2572: the obedience of Abraham  
CCC 153-159: characteristics of faith  
CCC 2059: God manifests his glory to make known his will  
CCC 603, 1373, 2634, 2852: Christ is for us







### JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST STUDY

This Lent we would like to invite you to grow closer to Jesus alongside fellow parishioners through the Jesus and the Eucharist study. This study was specifically designed for this Year of Parish Revival, and we will be joining many other parishes throughout the United States in participating in this small group study as we journey together through this three-year National Eucharistic Revival. Each session is full of rich theological content, powerful testimonies, and unique and timely messages from individual bishops across the country. This is a great opportunity to dive more deeply into the richness of our Eucharistic faith. This study will be a special time to grow in community within our parish as we walk this sacred year together, and we really desire you to join us. Please join us on Sunday, February 25, 4-6pm in St. Mary Sartori Hall OR Monday, February 26, 1-3pm in St. John's Church Hall. *Please sign up for the session you will attend so we will have enough study material available!*

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



### HOUSE BLESSINGS

Fr. Dan is scheduling annual house blessings. If you would like to have your house blessed please sign up at the church entrances and Fr. Dan will schedule a time to come and bless your home and family.



### SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

We have begun our Spiritual Adoption Program to pray every day over the next nine months for a baby that is in danger of abortion and his/her parents. Sign up with your name and your adopted baby's name on the sheets at the church entrances and take a copy of the daily prayer.



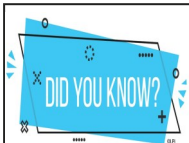
**We have Adoration of the Blessed sacrament every Tuesday, 9:00am-5:00pm, St. Mary Church**

Would you consider signing up for an hour or signing up to be a substitute, to fill in when regular adorers can't be there? Please call the parish office today!



### DPSC 2024 Announcement

You may have received a letter from Bishop Bradley asking you to consider your contribution to this year's Diocesan/Parish Share Campaign. Your gifts to the DPSC bring life to all our diocesan ministries and services that go beyond what any parish can provide on its own, including seminarian formation; care for retired priests; administrative support for Catholic schools; Catholic news and evangelization (especially through the Steubenville Register); promotion of the sanctity of life; training for catechists; youth ministry activities; assistance for those most in need through catholic Charities; and much more. The DPSC also provides essential support to our parishes, as 100% of all funds raised above the parish goal are returned to the parish. These funds help parishes live out the mission of the Church by providing for a wide variety of needs, such as construction and renovation projects, youth ministry programs, evangelization initiatives, and outreach programs for the poor. As we continue to discern the future direction of our diocese, it is imperative that we continue to fund the essential ministries and services so that the work of the Church can continue. Please be assured that all funds received through the DPSC are donor restricted and will remain in the Diocese of Steubenville. **Pledge Sunday will take place on March 3rd.** Please prayerfully consider how you can participate in this years campaign.



### **CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** Which Catholic order is recognized as the greatest promoter of the Rosary?

**Answer:** The Dominican Order. ©LPi



### **Bereavement Ministry**

St. Mary's Church bereavement Ministry will welcome guest speaker, Sherrie McCutcheon Dunlevy with a presentation on "Grief". This presentation will provide helpful suggestions on how to heal and move through the grieving process. Sherrie will also be speaking on how others can offer support and comfort to their grieving friends, family members, & Colleagues. Whether you are ready to help a dear friend or ready to help yourself, this presentation is sure to bring you tangible suggestions on how to navigate through the very difficult process of "Grief".

**Date:** Sunday March 3rd

**Time:** 3:00p.m.

**Where:** St. Mary's Church—Marian Hall  
218 W. Main St., St. Clairsville, OH 43950



### QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

**First Reading:** God used a rainbow as a sign of his covenant with Noah and all living creatures to never again flood

the earth. *Are there some additional signs in your life of God's love for us?*

**Second Reading:** Peter taught that baptism serves as an appeal or pledge to God for a clear conscience. *What leads you to an examination of conscience?*

**Gospel:** After a brief report of Jesus' temptation by Satan in the desert, we hear the first words of Jesus at the launch of his public ministry in Galilee: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." *As we begin the Lenten journey, what are some temptations you plan to face this Lent?*

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### **BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE** **The cleansing power of water**

Today's first reading speaks to us of Noah's Ark. The flood that God sent upon the world in Noah's day was a cleansing of evil. Now, God cleanses us not by floods, but by the waters of baptism, which bring to us a whole new kind of life: the life of God within us.

Our special efforts in Lent to come closer to God are a response to what has already happened to us! Because we have received the new life of God, we have to reform our lives and live as his sons and daughters. We have to *become who we already are*. The holy water we use when we come in and out of Church is a reminder of the cleansing waters of baptism, and a reminder of the new life we are called to live.

God is a God of life, and therefore we are the People of Life. This Lent, let's look for ways to foster respect for life, especially the sick, the disabled, and the unborn.

### **Lenten Small Group for those who have lost a child:**



Have you lost a child (of any age) and would like to be connected with others who have been asked to carry this difficult cross? We are happy to encourage you to join a virtual small group through the Red Bird Ministry as they go through Red Bird's Lenten Journal: I am Beloved, Not Broken.

Join Red Bird Ministries as they journey through brokenness to the place of belovedness, commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent praying and fasting in the desert and carrying our own crosses as we walk with Christ through His crucifixion, burial, and Resurrection of Christ, Easter Sunday!

Learn more and register here: <https://www.redbird.love/lenten-stud>. The Journal is available in both print or digital form.

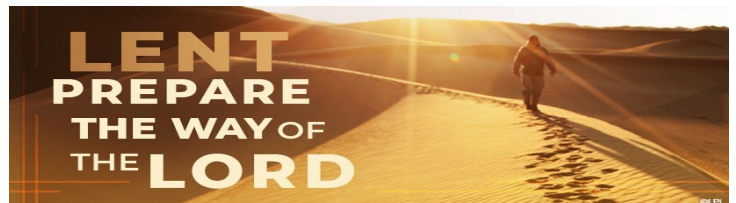
### **EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

#### **Seeing Past the Distractions**

When I was a teenager, the experience of Catholic retreat basically changed my life. I wasn't lost or hurting, but the 3 days placed me on a path that led to where I am today. Certainly, my experiences of faith before and after that weekend also played a role in the person I have become. However, the power of God I felt in that short period of time had such a profound effect on me it became a type of lens through which I then came to see the rest of my life.

Sometimes we need to get away from it all to realize what really matters in life. We step back and see things more clearly. When we are fully in the world it is hard to get past the busyness and constant noise of modern existence. Distractions are all around us and our attention span can be so limited when it comes to truth.

This Lent, find the time to slow down, to get away from it all, and to rest in the peaceful arms of God. Go to the desert and work on surrendering all you are, and have, and will be to Jesus. Reflect on the many gifts you have been given and discern the best ways to cultivate those for God's glory. As this season begins, be mindful of the fact that this time will never come again. There might be a Lenten season next year, but God is calling you now. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
©LPi



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**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

**Lent and the Flood**

I would bet money that somewhere in your church this Lent, there's a bare tree branch draped in purple fabric and an empty bowl filled with rocks.

I'm not poking fun, the desert imagery that surrounds the season of Lent isn't a cliché — or if it is, it's only because clichés are essentially true. Lent *is* the desert. Lent is the wilderness. Lent is the time of less.

But what if Lent was also the flood?

It seems counterintuitive, floods are excessive, and we don't think of Lent as a time for superabundance. Lent is when we limit experiences outside of ourselves in order to limit proclivities within ourselves. Lent is not a time for anything to be washing over us, consuming us, carrying us away on a tide.

Unless...it is.

Consider the flood of the Old Testament. An act of destruction, yes, but also an act of purification. An endurance test for the soul, an epic trust fall exercise between God and Noah in which Noah had to ride the literal waves, clinging to life as God wiped away everything familiar. Everything sinful.

In Lent, we relinquish our weaknesses and our infirmities to the flood. It's frightening, certainly. But it's also exciting. Because just as the flood destroys everything, it also makes everything possible. It is a baptism.

Lent, like the flood, makes the world new.

*"Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit."* — 1 Peter 3:18 ©LPi

**Take Time to Reflect on the Covenant**

A covenant is a formal agreement between two parties. Assuming both parties enter into the covenant of their own free will, it is a bond that cannot be broken. As time goes on, that covenant will be tested and its validity questioned by skeptics, but it will remain if it is real.

God's covenant with his people is real. It began with a promise made to Noah and was renewed in the person of Jesus Christ. It has been tested by man through sin and by evil through Jesus' trials in the desert. But here in 2015, it still remains as strong as ever.

This Lent, take time to rediscover and reflect on this covenant God has with us. Reclaim your baptism and make it a motivating factor in how you live your life. Take the opportunity this Lenten season provides to increase your devotion and spirituality. You will be tested and you will suffer trials, for life is not always easy. But God has always upheld his part of the agreement. Now is the time to take our part in this covenant more seriously. ©LPi

**WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED Vestment Colors**

**Question:** *What do the colors of the priest's and deacon's vestments mean?*

**Answer:** In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the colors of the vestments evolved over the course of several centuries and there was wide variation both in the colors used, and in the feasts and seasons associated with particular colors. It was Pope Innocent III (d. 1216) who gave us the basic outline that was later prescribed by Pope Saint Pius V in 1570. The various colors remind us of the dominant themes of a particular season or celebration.

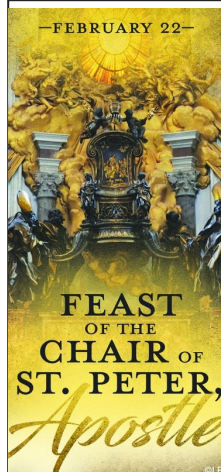
**White:** Used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and in celebrations of the Lord, of Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. This color is also used in Masses for the dead, at baptisms, weddings and other festive celebrations.

**Red:** As the color of both blood and fire, red is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, as well as Pentecost and special celebrations of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, red is used on the feasts and memorials of the Apostles and those saints who died as martyrs.

**Violet:** The color for Advent and Lent. Violet may also be used in Masses for the dead and on All Souls Day (November 2).

**Green:** A color of life and hope, green is used throughout Ordinary Time.

Other colors: Rose may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent, black may be used in Masses of the dead and on All Souls Day, gold or silver may be used on solemn occasions in place of white, red, or green. ©LPi



**Chair of St. Peter**

A feast for a chair? It might seem surprising, but this week on February 22nd we celebrate the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter. The Latin word for "chair" is cathedra. From there we get the word "cathedral" to designate literally the "seat" of the bishop. Cathedrals - and the bishop's chairs inside - are symbols of the bishop's authority.

So on this feast we don't celebrate where the Apostle Peter sat down, but we celebrate the Church and her apostolic origin. As Pope Benedict XVIII said, "it is a symbol of the special mission of Peter and his Successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity" (Angelus Message, February 19, 2012). ©LPi



## SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH

### St. Pius X

St. Pius X (1835 – 1914), born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was from the Austrian Empire in what is now modern-day Veneto, Italy. He was the 257th Pope and

served from 1903 until his death in 1914. St. Pius X's love for the Eucharist was evident from a young age and he carried this devotion throughout his life. As Pope, he emphasized the importance of fostering a personal relationship with Jesus through the Sacrament, advocating for its accessibility to all Catholics, regardless of social status.

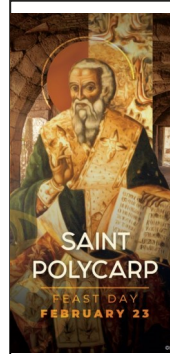
One of St. Pius X's most significant contributions to the Church was the role he played in lowering the age of eligibility for First Communion. Recognizing the significance of early spiritual formation, he sought to enable children to receive the Eucharist as soon as they reached seven years old. He believed that children could experience the profound graces of the Eucharist, grow in their faith at an early age, and that the reception of Holy Communion regularly in a child's life would set the foundation for a lifetime of spiritual growth.

His papacy was also marked by his efforts to combat the rising tide of modernism — a movement that challenged traditional Catholic teachings. He wrote an encyclical entitled "*Pascendi Dominici Gregis*," subtitled "On the Doctrines of the Modernists," condemning modernist errors and safeguarding the integrity of Church doctrine. His commitment to preserving the traditional scope of Catholicism, especially the teachings of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist, earned him the epithet "Pope of the Eucharist."

Despite his rejection of modernism, St. Pius X was the first Pope to use a typewriter for his encyclicals, signaling an embrace of modern technology during his time as Pope. St. Pius X, Pope of the Eucharist, pray for us! © LPi



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## SAINT OF THE WEEK – EXAMPLES OF OUR FAITH

### St. Polycarp of Smyrna | February 23

As a disciple of St. John, the Evangelist, St. Polycarp was able to hear about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection directly from those who witnessed it. Because Polycarp was ordained as Bishop of Smyrna by St. John, he is one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch.

During his life Polycarp defended the Church against heresies. His important writing, the *Letter to the Philippians*, quoted the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, stressing Paul's authority in the Church and setting out clear arguments against the gnostic heresy that denied Christ's divinity.

The early period of the Church was a dangerous time to be a Christian and like many, St. Polycarp was martyred. He was captured by Romans and sentenced to burn at the stake. However, the fire did not touch him, instead rising up like sails around him. Seeing that the flames would not injure Polycarp, the Romans stabbed him instead. The Martyrdom of Polycarp is perhaps the earliest fully preserved account of a Christian martyr. ©LPi



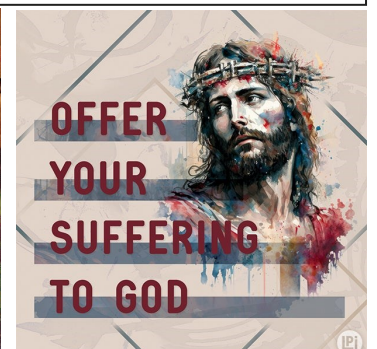
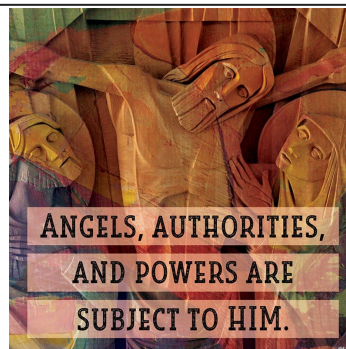
### St. Vincent de Paul Society

Our parishes have a conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and our patron is St. Martin de Porres. We are called the "St. Martin de Porres Conference". A "conference" is the basic unit of the Society of St. Vincent

de Paul on the parish level and is made up of parishioners of St. John's and St. Mary's parishes.

We meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6:00pm in the St. John's Church basement. We respond to requests for assistance that come to the parish office.

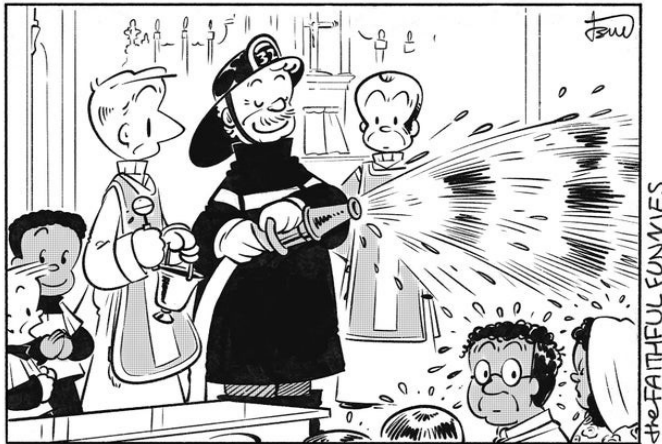
**Do you or someone you know need assistance? You can reach someone from the St. Vincent de Paul society by calling or texting 740-340-8540.** Would you like to learn more about our conference? Call the number for more information or come to one of our meetings. We don't pressure anyone to join but you might find a group of fellow parishioners that find a blessing in serving their neighbors. Come check it out!



©LPi



"What is a firefighter's favorite part of Easter?"



"The Sprinkling Rite."



Asperges or "The Sprinkling Rite" takes place on special days. The congregation is sprinkled with holy water, recalling their baptisms.

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# Eucharistic CONGRESS

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**July 17–21, 2024**

**Lucas Oil Stadium INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

Would your family like to attend this momentous event in the life of our Church here in the United States? The parishes may be able to pay for your registration so that you can attend - make it a family vacation! Please contact Fr. Dan in interested ASAP.

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Your Lenten alms through CRS Rice Bowl make a global difference for millions of our sisters and brothers experiencing the greatest need. They help families in countries like Uganda, El Salvador and Indonesia to access nutritious food, build sustainable livelihoods and adapt and thrive in the face of climate change. Pick up your Rice Bowl in church and learn about how you can help!

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### The Unlikely Suspects

Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

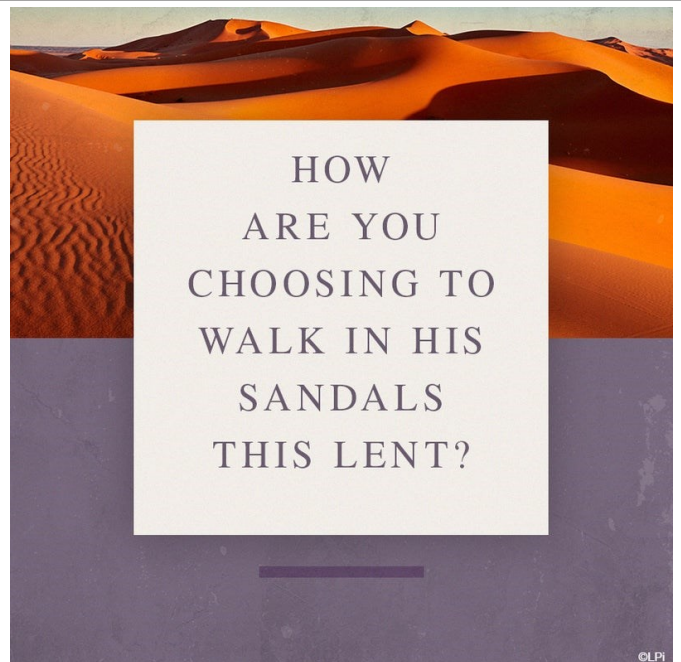
Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikely suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



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**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH / ST MARY PARISH : BELLAIRE, NEFFS, SHADYSIDE, POWHATAN**

**Readings for the week of February 18, 2024**

**Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15  
**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46  
**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15  
**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32  
**Thursday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19  
**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26  
**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48  
**Next Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

**This Week**

**Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent**  
 9:30-10:45a.m. PSR (SM)  
 1:30p.m. Rite of Election (St. Agnes, Mingo Junction)  
 3:00pm Diocesan Synodal Session (Holy Rosary Church, 280 Rosemont Ave, Steubenville, 43952)  
**Monday: President's Day**  
**Tuesday:** 9:00a.m.-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration (SM)  
**Thursday:** 6:00pm St. Mary's Festival Mtg (St. Mary Rectory)  
 7:00p.m. OCIA (SJH)  
**Friday:** 11:00am-6:00pm Fish Fry (SM)  
**6:30p.m. Stations of the Cross (SM)**  
**Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent**  
**DPSC Appeal Sunday**

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**Bill Kahl by Wife Karen**  
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*By Sister & Family*



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