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Fr. Tony Sulkowski
Pastor
FrTony@sjfparish.org
Ext. 102

Lent, it's how we perceive it.

As a child I remember how much I disliked the season of Lent. We would go to Church on Ash Wednesday, and for

the next forty days we would hear the same song. The song, "These Forty days of Lent oh Lord", set in my mind a constant reminder of how long the Lenten season is and the disciplines that we are to implement into our spiritual journey. I am not making light of the season of Lent. How we perceive it will determine the outcome.

If we perceive Lent as a time when we have to give up this or that, then Lent is seen as something to "get through", then the song, "These forty days of Lent" becomes a dirge or a funeral march. If we perceive Lent as a time to step back and reflect upon our life's journey, then that same song takes on a totally different meaning for us.

The Church, as well as the calendar, informs us that the forty days of Lent draw us to the Great Feast of Easter. Easter will come whether we have prepared for it or not. The season of Lent should allow us time to prepare for the Risen Christ.

Let us use this time for self reflection, self discovery, and renewal within ourselves and those whom we come in contact with. Many people have walked with us on our life's journey. Let us pause to thank God for placing them in our life, just as He places us in the lives of others. As I have always said, God has a plan for us. It is not for us to understand what that plan is, our role as Catholics is to accept His plan.

I recently read the book titled *On Heaven and Earth*, co-authored by Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pope Francis) and Abraham Skorka. The book addresses issues of Faith, Family, Prayer, and the Church in the Twenty-First Century. I would recommend it for one's spiritual reading during Lent. The essence of this book can be summarized by a quote from Pope Francis. He says, "God makes Himself felt in the hearts of each person. He also respects the culture of all people. God is open to all people. He calls everyone. He moves everyone to seek Him and to discover Him through creation."

May Mary's response to the angel Gabriel become our humble prayer, "I am a servant of the Lord, let it be done unto me as you will".

Bon mot: He who runs from God in the morning will scarcely find Him the rest of the day.

—John Bunyan on Prayer.

Carpe Diem, Fr. Tony

2024 EASTER FLOWERS

Intentions for the 2024 Easter Flowers insert are due by **Monday, March 4, 2024**. Envelopes are included in the parishioner mailing packet.

If you have any questions, please contact Jody at JGazo@sjfparish.org or at 586-977-8080 Ext. 112

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00pm Sunday 9:00am & 11:30am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday 7:00pm Wednesday & Thursday 8:00am

Holy Day Masses As Announced

Confession

Tuesday 5:30pm

Rosary

Tuesday 6:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday

9:00am—1:00pm & 4:30pm—7:45pm

Tuesday

2:00pm-7:45pm

Saturday

3:00pm-5:00pm

Sunday

10:00am—12:30pm

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Monday, March 4, 2024

No Events

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Confessions 6:00pm Rosary

7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

8:00am Mass

9:30am Needlecrafters

9:45am Seniors

6:00pm Needlecrafters

6:30pm Cantor/Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Lectio Divina (Zoom)

Thursday, March 7, 2024

8:00am Mass

9:00am Swiffers Team #2

2:00pm The Chosen Video Series

Friday, March 8, 2024

4:00pm Fish Fry

6:30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 9, 2024

10:45am Treble Choir Rehearsal

4:00pm Mass

Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:00am Mass 11:30am Mass



Laurie Hall
Pastoral Associate
LHall@sjfparish.org
Ext. 104



As we are now entering the third full week of Lent, it may be the right time to take stock of your Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Have you set aside time for these practices? Have you found your efforts fruitful?

It is often the case, in all things in our lives, that we make concrete plans to change or grow in some way. During Lent, we seek to grow spiritually, in closer relationship with Jesus and with our fellow humans. I saw a quote recently, attributed to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, that I found powerful: "If Christianity is about a person, that means Lent is also about a person. Lent is not simply about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Those disciplines help us focus on what we need to focus on: namely, a person. Lent is about a person. Lent is about Jesus."

It follows, then, that our focus on Jesus is to get to know Jesus more fully. How do we do that? First and foremost, we can turn to Sacred Scripture. The Gospels provide an intimate sharing in Jesus' life on earth and in his teachings. Prayer is a beautiful way to get to know Jesus, including praying with the Scriptures. Reflecting on the Scriptures and conversing with Jesus is like a conversation with someone who has similar experiences to yours. Sharing commonalities allows us to bridge the gap between our lives. Sharing our experiences in the world with Jesus in prayer brings us closer. In prayer, we also share the joys and sorrows of life with the one who knows us best. Also, in prayer we can seek counsel and support from Jesus in managing the opportunities and challenges of daily life.

Have you chosen to fast from something other than the stereotypical chocolate? When we fast, we also seek to grow closer to Jesus. Fasting from anything that impedes our relationship with Jesus is what this Lenten practice is all about. We can fast from unkindness, from worldly things that take up too much of our time and get in the way of spiritual practices, or we can fast from habits that are contrary to our faith. Fasting is far more than giving up chocolate or skipping a meal. The purpose of fasting is not to endure the torture of denial from something for forty days and then return to it on Easter Sunday. On the contrary, it is to bring about growth in the spirit, to make a true change in our lives that leads to a greater relationship with those around us and with Jesus.

As you take stock of your Lenten journey this week, talk to Jesus about the path you are taking, including the successes and the missteps. As the quote above says, Lent is about Jesus, so who better to engage with on our journey of faith... in the forty days leading up to Easter Sunday and throughout our lives.

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2024 EASTER EGG HUNT AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST SUNDAY, March 17th

Immediately following the 9:00am Mass

Join the fun and bring your little ones for an Easter Egg Hunt and pancake breakfast! All are welcome for the pancake breakfast.

We will have the Easter egg hunt outside, weather permitting.

Please sign up by Monday, March 11th in the Parish Office.

(Due to limited space, this event is for registered parishioners and their families only.)

Want to volunteer? Help is needed the day of the event.

Please sign up in the Parish Office to help out. Thank you in advance!

Questions? Contact Linda at 586-977-8080 ext. 101 or LSmith@sjfparish.org

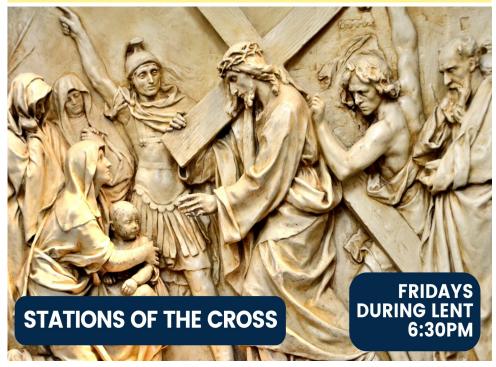


EUCHRE NIGHT: WELCOME SPRING

WHEN: Saturday, March 23rd from 5:00pm until about 10:00pm. **WHERE:** In the Fr. Page Activity Center.

WHO: Whether you are a pro or a beginner join us for a fun night of Euchre! **WHAT:** We'll be playing Euchre and having a fun evening together! The games will be played using rotating partners.

HOW: Sign-up in the Parish Office. The cost is \$15.00 per player and covers the cost of dinner, snacks, dessert, beverages and prizes. We ask that the \$15.00 please be paid by the cut-off date of Sunday, March 17th. (No refunds for cancellations received after March 17th) Questions: Contact Linda Smith at LSmith@sjfparish.org or 586-977-8080, ext. 101



SCRIPTURE READINGS WEEK OF March 3, 2024

Sunday

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Monday

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday

Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday

Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday

Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday

Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday

Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21



Reminder! RSVP deadline for March 6th SENIORS meeting is March 3rd. Call the office at 586-977-8080!

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT PAGE 3

Thank you to all of our bulletin advertisers

Thank you for advertising in our bulletin! We ask that our parishioners support our advertisers, as they make our bulletin possible.

OFFERTORY INFORMATION February 25, 2024

Registered Families: 1.365 Weekly Envelopes: 196 **Amount Offered:** \$6,718.00 \$849.00 **Loose Offering: Online Contributors:** 95 **Online Contributions** \$3,389.00 **Total Offerings:** \$10,956.00 **Budgeted Offertory:** \$11,786.00 Difference: -\$830.00



ST. LEO'S SOUP KITCHEN

St. Leo's Soup Kitchen Volunteers Needed

The soup kitchen serves hot, nutritious lunches to low-income folks every Tuesday through Friday from 11:30am -12:30pm. Volunteers are needed from 9:00am-1:00pm, especially on Wednesdays. Located at 8642 Woodward Avenue in Detroit.

Sign up to volunteer on their website: www.StLeoSoupKitchenDetroit.org or call 313-335-3261. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause.



2024 LENTEN FISH FRYS

Our Friday Fish Fry continues. 2-piece or 3-piece fish dinners are available as well as a la carte items. We will have dine-in and carry-out options. The following dates remain: March 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Please note that the dinners are **CASH ONLY**.

Dinners:

2-Piece cod dinner \$11 3-Piece cod dinner \$13

Dinners include french fries or macaroni & cheese, coleslaw and dinner roll. Dine-in dinners also include lemonade, water, coffee or tea.

Sides:

French fries - \$3; macaroni & cheese - \$4.50; coleslaw - \$1.50; slice of cheese pizza - \$2.50

DESSERTS FOR 2024 FISH FRYS

Our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be selling desserts at the Friday Fish Frys. We need your help to make it a success! You can donate your desserts to the Parish Office on **Thursday before 7:45pm** the week of each Fish Fry. Note that the parish office is closed from 1:00pm-4:30pm on Thursdays. Please be sure your treats have:



- No Nuts or Peanut Butter
- Nothing that needs to be refrigerated

in three days I will raise it up

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE Wednesday Tuesday Thursday Saturday Sunday Mar. 6, 2024 Mar. 10, 2024 Mar. 5, 2024 Mar. 7, 2024 Mar. 9, 2024 7:00pm Mass 8:00am Mass 8:00am Mass 4:00pm Mass 9:00am Mass 11:30am Mass Sacristan Karen Frontera Brian Finn Brian Finn John Martin Cindy Guzi Janet Sepanik Lector Craig Smith Kathy Pawlik John Martin Craig Smith Denise Dara Ronald Mobley Linda Smith Gary Bjornrud Kirsten Kyle

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JWJ Catholic Academy Family Activity Page

GOSPEL: John 2: 13-25: Jesus cleanses the temple

REFLECTION

There are many lessons to be learned from this story of Jesus cleansing or cleaning the temple. We need to stay focused on God and not get distracted from what he is showing us and what his message is in the Gospel. We need to put God before other things in our lives and stay true to Him. We need to honor the church as God's house and show respect when we are in it and we also need to respect our own bodies and take care of them through exercise, what we eat and drink, and how we act. Lastly. we need to know and believe with all our heart that Jesus is our Savior. He truly is both the Son of God and the Son of Man.

ACTIVITIES

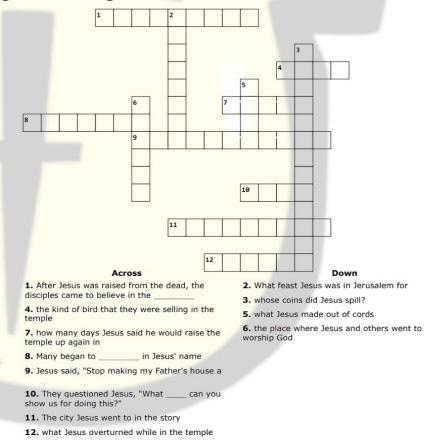
- 1) CLEAN YOUR ROOM: Go through all the stuff in your room and have family members do the same. Donate your extra clothes or toys to those in need. Then go through your food cupboards and donate some cans of food, boxes of food to the poor.
- 2) Draw a picture of your church with your family and others inside. Hang it on your wall to remind you and your family of the place you go to worship and how you remain close to God by praying, singing, participating and receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.

VIDEO

"Jesus Cleansed the Temple"
Bible Lessons for Kids
KidVue (youtube)

PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you for creating
us. Please help us focus
on living for you
and using the church
and our lives for the
right purposes.
Thank you for
your love.
We love you, God!
In Jesus's name, Amen!



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT PAGE 5

ARMED SERVICES PRAYER LIST

Robert Bain, Army

Nicholas Brosowski, Army

Chris Burley, Navy Shaun Chaplin, Air Force

Gregory Hjelle, *Army*

Louis B. Kasper III, Coast Guard

Carmen LaForest, Navy
Matthew McDowell, Air Force
Lauren Patterson, Air Force
Cassidy Kicinski Rose, Air Force

Kyle Wiegand, Army

PRAYER LIST

Larry Bohy
Rachel Canavesio
Peter & Joann Crachiolo

Rosario Erfe Rosanna Formaro Carol Gorney Lisa Johnston Robert Kraft Douglas Marceau

Karen Navalta Jim Ochenski Sonia Shrum

Names added to the Prayer List remain for four weeks. Please call the Parish Office to request prayers.

PARISH NEWS

Parish News keeps our parishioners up-to-date with regular updates from our parish. Any parishioner with an email address can sign up for Parish News.

All news will be delivered to your email inbox.

Sign up at **sjfparish.org/news**.



MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 4, 2024

No Mass

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

7:00pm All Souls (Friends)

Liv. Sadecki Families & Grandkids (Barbara Sadecki)

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

8:00am Liv. Pavlin Vacaj & Family (Maria)

Thursday, March 7, 2024

8:00am For the Parishioners

Friday, March 8, 2024

No Mass

Saturday, March 9, 2024

4:00pm Dec. Frances & Eugene Berthiaume (Joyce)

Dec. Ceola Trinity (Robert & Frances Kraft)

Dec. Herbert Dempz (Family)
Dec. Isabelle McLaughlin (Family)
Dec. Polo Marcinkowski (Family)
Dec. Ted Dempz Sr. (Family)

Dec. Remo Benvenuti (Maguran Family)

Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:00am For the Parishioners

Liv. Rene Juridico (Juridico Family)
Dec. Mark & Lena Pepaj (Son, Joe)
Dec. Albert & Antoinette Brani (Friend)

11:30am Dec. Tim Den Dooven (Karen Graziano)

Dec. Maim Qussar (Wife & Family) Dec. Margaret Rayes-5th Anniv. (Family)

Dec. Filippo Vultaggio (Family)



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ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL

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Do you have a child you would like to have baptized? Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

RECONCILIATION

Available Tuesdays at 5:30pm.

MARRIAGE

Congratulations! Please contact our Parish Office at least six months prior to your desired wedding date to begin preparations.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the Parish Office to schedule one-time or regular visits.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church? Contact Laurie Hall to begin the process. Welcome home!



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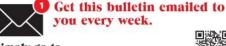
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