

Fr. Tony Sulkowski
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I remember how much I disliked the season of Lent as a child. 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*, was a constant reminder of how long the Lenten season is, and of the disciplines we are to implement into our spiritual journeys as the

season progresses. I am not making light of the season of Lent; how we perceive this season will determine its 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. But if we perceive Lent as a time to step back and reflect upon the journey of life, then that same song takes on a totally different meaning.

The Church, as well as the calendar, informs us that the forty days of Lent draw us toward the Great Feast of Easter. Easter will come whether we have prepared for it or not, and the season of Lent should allow us time to prepare for the Risen Christ. Let us use this season for self-reflection, self-discovery, and renewal within ourselves and those we come in contact with.

Many people have walked with us on the journey of life. Let us pause to thank God for placing those people in our lives, 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 *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 21st 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

Carpe Diem,

Fr. Tony

2021 FISH FRYS

Whether you came for the delicious fish dinners, to share in fellowship, or even to volunteer, our Fish Frys were a great place to come together on Friday evenings during Lent.

While we were hoping to hold Fish Frys again this year, it is with a heavy heart that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fish Fry Committee has decided to cancel all 2021 Fish Frys.

In lieu of supporting our parish ministries through the Fish Frys, we ask that you instead please consider supporting local restaurants. Many local establishments have been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we won't be serving our dinners, we hope you'll enjoy a meal from one of your favorite local restaurants. This way, we will all be working to help the local economy during these trying times.

We thank you for supporting our parish activities, and we pray that you and your families are healthy and safe.

—The Fish Fry Committee

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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—8:00pm

Tuesday

2:00pm-8:00pm

Saturday

3:00pm-5:00pm

Sunday

10:00am-12:30pm

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Monday, March 1, 2021

9:00am Panera

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

5:30pm Confession 6:00pm Rosary

7:00pm Mass

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

8:00am Mass

9:30am Needlecrafters

Thursday, March 4, 2021

8:00am Mass

9:00am Swiffers Team #3

Friday, March 5, 2021

6:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 6, 2021

4:00pm Mass

Sunday, March 7, 2021

9:00am Mass 11:30am Mass



Laurie Hall
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Last week, I wrote about our Lenten call to "return to God" and how we demonstrate our love of God by following the first three Commandments.

The third through tenth Commandments address the second part of Jesus' Great Commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Returning to God and loving God requires us to review our thoughts and actions as they relate to knowing who our neighbor is (everyone) and how we interact with our neighbor.

The fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

This Commandment addresses more than just the question of "do I show my parents due respect?" Included in this Commandment is the concept of the family as domestic Church, or a community of love. Parents have responsibilities to their children first, including serving as their first teachers in the Catholic faith and disciplining them with fairness and understanding.

As a parent, I know that my children are gifts from God, entrusted to me to love and care for as God loves and cares for me. As such, parents set the example for respect by their treatment of their children. Children then learn to obey their parents, loving them as they have been shown love. Demonstrating love for neighbor includes loving our parents and respecting proper authority. The fourth Commandment is one of relationship and our responsibilities to each other.

The fifth Commandment: You shall not kill.

This Commandment finds its roots in our creation, made by God in his image and likeness. Only God has the authority to grant life and, therefore, the ability to take it away. We humans do not have that power. Our power is to protect and nurture other human life.

Our faith informs us that we must treat each person with the dignity of a creation of God, made in his image. We are to respect all human life, including our own and our neighbors'. This Commandment covers areas such as murder, war, capital punishment, abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, in-vitro fertilization, and human cloning.

In all areas, we look to God's love for us as the example of our love for neighbor. Each person has worth as a child of God, created in his image, and no person has the moral right to end a life. We can extend this Commandment to include behaviors that "kill" the spirit, such as gossip or deliberately harming someone through manipulation or physical, verbal, or emotional abuse. Loving our neighbor means treating our neighbor as we wish to be treated.

The sixth and ninth Commandments: You shall not commit adultery and You shall not covet your neighbor's spouse.

These commandments can be looked at together in the context of marriage. Our spouse is also our neighbor, and we are called to respect the marriage covenant, as our marriage vows express, "all the days of our lives." A sacramental marriage brings the grace of self-giving love—the ability of a man and woman to love each other as Christ loves us. The purposes and properties of marriage reflect God's love for us and his desire for us to experience the love Jesus has for his Church and the love found among the Holy Trinity. Lent is a good time to look at your relationship with your spouse. Do you demonstrate self-giving love, do you each respect each others' human dignity, and do you give yourself fully to your spouse?

The seventh and tenth Commandments: You shall not steal and You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

These Commandments find their roots in both human dignity and God's gift of stewardship. Stealing is more than just the actual action of taking what belongs to another. It includes Catholic Social Teaching principles, including our call to serve the common good, solidarity, and our care for the earth.

Here, we can think about concern for the poor: are we using our resources for only our needs, or are we sharing in Jesus' mission to care for the poor and the marginalized? When we have far more than we can use, we are called to share, as the goods of this world were given to us by God for the care of all people.

We can extend this to care of creation and not using the earth's resources without concern for their continuation. Loving our neighbor means caring for all people by not taking more than we need or using God's gifts without regard for the future.

The eighth Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

This Commandment is directly related to telling the truth and living in the truth. It includes being truthful our in words and in actions, remaining silent when discretion is called for, and avoiding such hurtful things as gossip and telling stories at the expense of others.

Violation of this Commandment is the source of much pain and suffering in many individuals. It violates our inherent human dignity and is a true lack of love for neighbor. Returning to God means loving God and neighbor.

The Ten Commandments provide a clear view of how to live our lives in love and relationship with God. The United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has made available on their website a brief Examination of Conscience Based on the Ten Commandments. You can find it online by visiting usccb.org/resources/examination-conscience. This resource can be beneficial in reviewing how we measure up in our daily interactions.

As we seek to put our ashes into action this Lent, we can begin with understanding and following the Ten Commandments, thus leading to a deepening of our relationship with God, in love of God and neighbor.

Upcoming Eucharistic Adoration: March 9 and 23, 2021. Fr. Tony will be leading a recitation of the Litany of St. Joseph to conclude the time of Adoration as we celebrate this year of St. Joseph.

Stations of the Cross: We recorded *The Way of the Cross*, recited by Fr. Tony on the first Friday in Lent. The video is available at **sifparish.org/sotc**. We pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent. Please join us!

LECTOR SCHEDULE				
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
Mar. 2, 2020	Mar. 3, 2021	Mar. 4, 2021	Mar. 6, 2021	Mar. 7, 2021
<i>7:00pm</i>	8:00am	8:00am	4:00pm	<i>9:00am</i>
John Martin	Annette Mobley	Cindy Guzi	Craig Smith	Geri Miles
				11:30am Jan Machusak

SCRIPTURE READINGS WEEK OF FEB. 28, 2021

Sunday

2nd Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Ps 116: 10, 15, 16-17, 18-19

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

Monday

Dn 9:4b-10

Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13

Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23

Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Jer 18:18-20

Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16

Mt 20:17-28

Thursday

St. Casimir

Jer 17:5-10

Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6

Lk 16:19-31

Friday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a

Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday

3rd Sunday of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11

1 Cor 1:22-25

Jn 2:13-25

Scrutiny

Ex 17:3-7

Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Jn 4: 5:42

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OFFERTORY INFORMATION FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Registered Families: 1,369
Envelopes Returned: 176
Amount Offered: \$7,265.00
Loose Offering: \$465.00
Online Giving Contributors: 113
Contributions: \$3,672.00
Total Offerings: \$11,402.00

2020 Budgeted Offertory: \$11,786.00 **Actual Offertory**: \$11,402.00 **Difference**: -\$384.00

Baptism

The following child was baptized by Fr. Anthony Sulkowski on Sunday, February 21, 2021:

Lucas Daniel Hugelier

Parents: Jacob & Jade Hugelier Godfather: Daniel Hugelier II Godmother: Taylor Forster



Welcome them
Into your holy family.
Amen.

you nourish

and sustain us.



Ben Klassen Youth Ministry Coordinator & Director of Faith Formation BKlassen@sjfparish.org Ext. 108

Lent: a time of penitence, a time of preparation, and a time for change. Lent isn't "just" giving something up for 40-46 days, but an opportunity to truly change our lives and reset the

paths that we are on.

I am a "cradle" Catholic, baptized as an infant into the Church and completing my Sacraments of Initiation with Confirmation when I was in the ninth grade (about 14 years old). Lent back then always seemed to be more of an "Oh, no! No chocolate/TV/meat again. This is going to be a long couple of months!"

It really is amazing how much we learn every year, even when things seem to be the same. What really amazes me is that when we look at Church documents (even from decades and centuries ago) we can see how forward-thinking the writers really were back then. Some documents haven't even come to full fruition; they are still revolutionary and forward-thinking, even today. One of my searches this past week had me referencing the 1983 Code of Canon Law, which references Pope Paul VI's Apostolic Constitution—*Paenitemini* (February, 1966), which was written just after the close of the Second Vatican Council, and then somehow tied back to the 1966 Pastoral Statement on Penance and Abstinence from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (now known as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, or the USCCB).

My investigation was more for personal knowledge because of a few things others had been saying—but to read the language written near 55 years ago in these documents reinforced how revolutionary the Second Vatican Council, the documents that sprang from it, and the changes the Church was poised to make really were. This week's readings are about sacrifice, God's Love of and faithfulness to us, His creation, and about the Transfiguration of Jesus. Each of these readings explores a profound change, not simply for the immediate moment, but for the human condition overall.

Abraham was tested by God and told to sacrifice his son, Isaac (remember, Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born). Abraham did as he was commanded, but the Lord's messenger stopped him. Abraham showed loyalty and devotion to God by being willing to follow the command. Next, in his letter to the Romans, we hear from Paul a reminder that God does for us what Abraham would do for Him. He sacrificed His Son, Jesus, so that we may be joined with Him again in the completeness of God. Paul's statement at the end of Chapter 8 in this letter reinforces to us that no "other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:39).

The documents of the Church are meant to be life-altering. They are meant to help us redirect our lives to be in line with the will of God. They are not always easy to follow, but they are not meant to be a "checklist to get into Heaven" either. They are meant to transform us down to our very cores. As Jesus was transfigured before the eyes of His disciples in this week's Gospel reading, we should seek to be that image of Godliness by transforming our lives to follow His example. Lent is where we can begin. Make a meaningful change in life—maybe pray more, give more, study more, work at being nicer to someone that irks you, or challenge yourself to meet someone of a different faith, and speak with (not at, or to) them about Jesus and the way He affects your life.

Let us move beyond "I have to give something up this Lent" and into a more transformative experience in the world that God has given to us.

PAGE 4 FEBRUARY 28, 2021



Janina Jacobs
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Can you believe it's already the Second Sunday of Lent? We had just gotten started on Lent 2020 when COVID-19 concerns erupted. It was almost unthinkable that we'd lose the in-person celebrations of the

Lenten season, Holy Week, and Easter. However, we've learned that sometimes, events in life can change everything. We must remember that even if we cannot physically do what we're used to in the physical Church, God never changes, and always remains present in our hearts.

As you know, we are still following COVID-19 capacity restrictions, but if you are coming to Church in person, you may have noticed our attendance is up. Because of that, people have asked me about choir, musicians, and IIP. While I'd love to have the music ministry back front and center, it probably won't happen for a while. We are not alone in this: so many musicians are anxiously awaiting the day when full choir and other music programs can resume.

Keep in mind, this all goes beyond singing or playing instruments. For most, the act of singing in Church is part of their spiritual giving back to the Lord—as I'm sure it is for many of you. However, we must remain patient.

Music during Lent will be a bit more subdued, but still meditative, as we journey to Holy Week and Easter. You'll notice a new *Holy Holy*, *Mystery of Faith*, *Amen*, and *Lamb of God*, with which you may not be familiar. They are from the Mass in A minor. Although I'd like to teach them to you, we are still in "no congregational singing" mode to keep everyone safe.

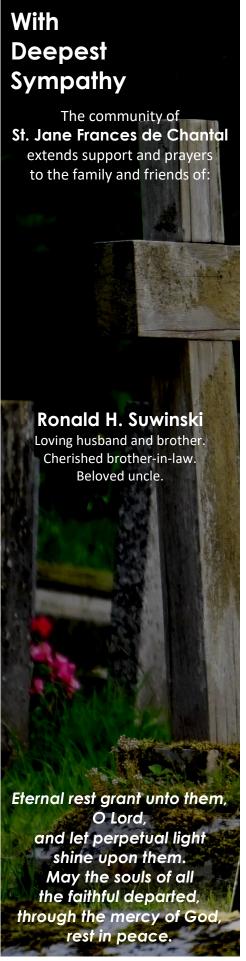
I do understand that many of you continue to sing from your hearts, and that others are singing quietly underneath their masks, but I ask that you be mindful of those around you so that the moist droplets produced by singing won't be projected outward.

This is especially true during the entrance and recessional hymns. I've gotten questions and phone calls from parishioners and also from those watching virtually—"Why aren't you singing the opening and closing songs?" I've discussed this before, but will repeat it: the act of singing or proclaiming produces droplets that are projected out into the air much farther than when one simply speaks. This means that the moisture can go upwards, downwards, and sideways past your mask. For those of you who wear glasses, you know they get fogged up when you talk, which is further evidence of this happening.

As Father Tony processes up and down the aisle, he is exposing himself to everyone sitting in the pews he passes. We should not put him in danger. Consider it an act of love and care not to sing during these times. That is also why I only play, and do not sing, from the piano—I am much closer to you there than I am at the organ. And because I physically cannot sing with a mask on, there is a need to maintain separation from you, both by distance of the organ and by the barrier of the organ music stand.

Some of you have also asked if I'll be celebrating the Stations of the Cross with Musical Reflections at some point during Lent. Unfortunately, we cannot do that this year, again, for safety's sake. Hopefully it can return in 2022.

Meanwhile, please continue to pray for the good health of all of us and for an end to the pandemic. God bless you!



ARMED SERVICES PRAYER LIST

Robert Bain, Army

Nicholas Brosowski, Army

Chris Burley, Navy
Shaun Chaplin, Air Force
Winndie Darrow, Coast Guard
Alexander J. Hendzell, Marines
Louis B. Kasper III, Coast Guard

Elijah Kuefler, Navy Carmen LaForest, Navy

Matthew McDowell, Air Force Cassidy Kicinski Rose, Air Force

Jeremy Rzeppa, Navy
Scot D. Skoczylas, Navy
Anthony Trotta, Navy
Kyle Wiegand, Army

PRAYER LIST

Jason Adriaens Joe Formaro Annette Pickler June Sadowski Chris Vertrees Theresa Young

Steve Sadecki

Names added to the Prayer List remain for a period of four weeks. Please call the Parish Office to request additional prayers. Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 1, 2021 No Mass

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

7:00pm Dec. Angela Vettraino (Mario & Betty DiPonio)

Dec. Mike Scavo (Judy Taylor)

Dec. Anna Maguran (Maguran Family)

Dec. Mary Zalewski (Family)

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

8:00am Priests & Religious

Thursday, March 4, 2021

8:00am Dec. Marsha Olson (Family)

Dec. Mary Varani (Judy Taylor)

Friday, March 5, 2021 No Mass

Saturday, March 6, 2021

4:00pm For the Parishioners

Dec. Sophia Kraft (Robert & Frances Kraft)
Dec. Robert Kosick (Dolores Baranski & Family)

Dec. Albert Brylewski (Family)

Sunday, March 7, 2021

9:00am First Sunday Monthly Memorial Mbrs.

Dec. Martha Murray (Andrew & Janet Seefried)

11:30am Dec. Deacon Tony Morici (Mike & Sue Emerson)





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PAGE 6 FEBRUARY 28, 2021

ST. JANE FRANCES de CHANTAL

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Evening Support Staff 586-977-8080

Hosie King

Maintenance Staff 586-977-8080

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Maintenance Staff 586-977-8080

SACRAMENTS

CHILDREN'S BAPTISM

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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

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James & Mae Taylor Jon Taylor Karen Taylor Tom Taylor Paula M. Trombley Urbano & Pomnichowski Families Bernard & Mary Varani Richard Volpe Constance (Perliskey) Warchock Michael Warchock Barbara Ward George & Julia Wittner Wojtas & Rachwal Families Mary T. Woywood Merle Zakrzewski Zalewski & Confer Families Marsha Zanardelli Family Chester & Virginia Zurek



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