



SAINTS JAMES AND PATRICK PARISH

To remain in Christ and to reveal Christ to others

March 2019 Newsletter

Repent and Believe in the Gospel

Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

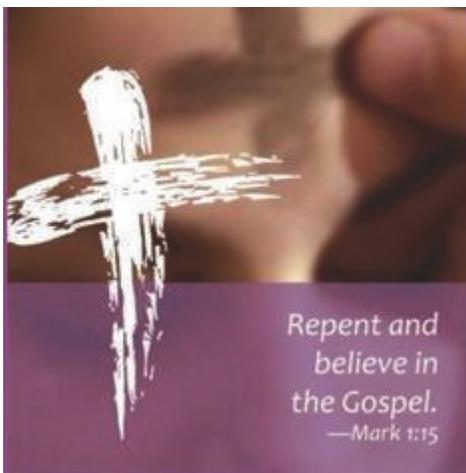
Lent is a time of retreat for us as followers of Jesus, a time to take a serious look at our lives and the direction we are headed.

During the imposition of Ashes we are called with the words of Jesus, to “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” I like to call Lent a time to “stop, look and listen.”

Having spent some time in the Desert I can identify with its stillness and silence. Like the old song, “in the desert you can remember your name.” Jesus “remembered” His name and was able to overcome the temptations of the devil in the desert.

In Psalm 46 God invites us, “Be still and know that I am God.” This means, listen, pay attention, be calm. Listen to the voice of God speaking once more of the Love He has shown us in the Gift of His Son. Pay attention to the Love that Jesus has shown us in His Passion and Cross. Be calm and know that death does not have to be the end of us, rather Jesus rose from the dead. We are filled with hope that if we listen and follow Jesus we too will rise.

While really going to the desert or getting away from our regular routine is ideal, we can create our own desert by



finding a quiet place to be our walk alone with the Lord in the scriptures.

During Lent you will note some differences at Mass. As a community we “go the desert.” Instruments are used to support singing only. This means we will hear the beauty of the human voice praising God. The pace is more reflective and there is more silence.

I also invite you to take advantage of the many opportunities for growth offered in our parish and online. This is

another way to “be still” with others.

May we receive the Grace to better know, love, and serve God in this world and be headed to Heaven to be happy with Him forever.

God bless you, Fr. John C. Burnette

Jim Rossi, formerly of our Parish, recently pleaded guilty in Circuit Court to the theft of funds from Calvary Cemetery of Decatur, Illinois. At the time the money was taken, Mr. Rossi was also our Pastoral Associate in charge of our business affairs. However, a formal financial audit has disclosed that no Parish funds were taken. Restitution was ordered for the return of all the money taken from the cemetery. And the cemetery Board of Directors is continuing efforts to recover all the expenses and other costs associated with the theft.

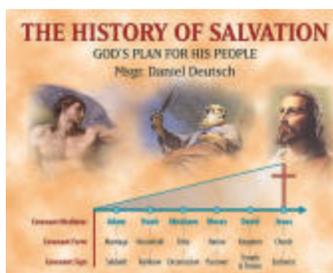
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Growing Our Stewardship of Time

Lent is commonly known as a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, but let's also use this season of preparation to reflect on our Stewardship. Our parish has seen improvement in Stewardship of Treasure by surpassing our ACSA goal for three consecutive years, and our Stewardship of Talent is evident by the marvelous skills and gifts that our parishioners share. However, how can we grow in our Stewardship of Time?

Our immediate reaction to Stewardship of Time may be to volunteer more at the parish, and although we still need volunteers for various ministries, take time this Lenten Season to strengthen your relationship with God, family, and friends.

Our relationship with God is most important because He lovingly nurtures all other relationships. Therefore, we must spend time with Him. Praising, thanking, and receiving the Lord at Sunday Mass is the foundation of our relationship with God, and nothing should interfere with this vital Sacrament. How often do we use work, family activities, or general busyness as a reason not to attend Mass? Relationships only grow when time is spent together, and Christ constantly calls us to join Him in the Mass. After all, it's in the Sacrament of the Eucharist that Christ gives Himself completely to us.

In Pope Saint John Paul II's apostolic letter 'Dies Domini', he writes, "It is crucially important that all the faithful should be convinced that they cannot live their faith or share fully



in the life of the Christian community unless they take part regularly in the Sunday Eucharistic assembly. The Eucharist is the full realization of the worship which humanity owes to God, and it cannot be compared to any other religious experience."

In addition to spending more time with God, use this Lent to renew your relationships with family and friends. Take the necessary time to meet in person, talk on the phone, and share life's joys and struggles with them. God calls us to be a community of believers, and our community is strongest when we open our lives to others.

As a parish family, let's use Lent to renew our Stewardship of Time as we open our hearts to God and others.

Let's Have the Best Lent Ever

Lent is an opportunity to examine our lives of faith, give our struggles to God, and invite Him to help us grow in holiness as we prepare for the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As in years past, Dynamic Catholic provides an online resource that'll help you form new life-giving habits that enable you to positively affect others and grow spiritually.

Best Lent Ever is a free email program that guides you through the 40 days while promising to "make this a truly life-changing Lent." This program features daily videos, prayers, and advice to help you transform your life for Christ, and it's perfect for enhancing your relationship with our Lord.

"Lent is a time to allow our hearts to beat once more in



tune with the vibrant heart of Jesus," Pope Francis said while celebrating last year's Ash Wednesday Mass in Rome. "Let the Lord heal the wounds of sin and fulfill the prophecy made to our fathers: 'A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone

and give you a heart of flesh.'"

Best Lent Ever's daily videos cover topics such as 'The Power of Progress', 'Growing in Virtue', 'Fulfillment at Work', and 'Voice of the Authentic Self'. All of the videos, reflections, and study guides are easily shareable, so please encourage your family and friends to partake in making this the Best Lent Ever. Visit dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever for details.

To remain in Christ and to reveal Christ to others

Parish Mission – The History of Salvation

Save the Date for our Parish Mission from March 23-27 as we welcome our visitor Monsignor Daniel Duetsch, Pastor of St. Bridget's Parish in Loves Park, IL. He's also the Vicar for Clergy for the Diocese of Rockford and formerly spent 12 years as Pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Batavia, IL.

His "The History of Salvation" recorded talk is part of the Lighthouse CD series on Catholicism. The presentation is the fruit of Monsignor Deutsch's studies during his sabbatical at Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he learned from schools such as Dr. Scott Hahn and Dr. John Bergsma.

You can learn more about him by reading his social media posts on Facebook and Twitter or by listening to his recorded talks titled "The History of Salvation" and "Salvation Nation: From Eden to Calvary."

While visiting our parish, he'll give enlightening presentations about "The History of Salvation: God's Plan for His People". These sessions will trace the high adventure of God's Divine Love Story revealed through the seven covenants that span from Eden to Calvary, beginning with Adam and culminating with Jesus.

- Learn how the Old Testament connects and foreshadows the New Testament
- See the similarities in the story of salvation in a new way
- Be prepared to understand the Old Testament readings at Mass more fully
- Learn how the seven covenants reflect family and liturgy
- Enjoy a powerful Lenten experience designed to bring you closer to Christ through the story of our salvation

The Parish Mission will take place at all Masses on the weekend of March 23-24 and also in the evenings of March 25-27 from 7-8:15pm at St. Patrick Church.

THE HISTORY OF SALVATION
GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE
 Msgr. Daniel Deutsch

Covenant Mediator	Adam	Noah	Abraham	Moses	David	Jesus
Covenant Form	Marriage	Household	Tribe	Nation	Kingdom	Church
Covenant Sign	Sabbath	Rainbow	Circumcision	Passover	Temple & Throne	Eucharist

LIGHTHOUSE TALKS[™]
 AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE



Msgr. Dan Duetsch (center)

18th Annual St. Patrick School Auction

The St. Patrick School Auction is one of the most exciting local events of the year because it supports Catholic education while providing a lively atmosphere, delicious food, and a fun variety of live and silent auction items.

Last year's auction set a record by raising more than \$70,000, and proceeds benefit St. Patrick School students in various ways, such as helping with tuition costs, enabling teachers to attend workshops to stay up-to-date in the classroom, and purchasing new STREAM equipment. Past auction money paid for the library, all the smartboards in the classrooms, the new carpet, and much more.

"We have very generous people in our parish," St. Patrick School Principal Jan Sweet said. "We couldn't do it without them."

Generous members of the parish, school, and community donate the auction items. Some of this year's auction items are St. Louis Cardinals tickets, a birthday party at the zoo,

a vintage diamond necklace, \$300 to Buds-N-Blooms, a four day vacation at Lake of the Ozarks, and a vehicle donated by Bob Brady Auto Mall. Each St. Patrick School classroom creates a unique item that's donated to the auction, too.

The purchase of each auction ticket includes dinner, a drink, and a homemade pie. New this year, attendees can dance after the auction because the DJ will play music until midnight.

"I enjoy the auction because it's a party," Jan said. "People are just so happy when they walk in, and the bidding is exciting. Everyone will have a good time, and the end result is money raised for our school."

The 18th annual St. Patrick School Auction is Saturday, March 30 at 5pm in the Knights of Columbus Hall. Cost is \$25 per person, and you can purchase tickets by calling 423-4351.



Lenten Bible Study – No Greater Love

Our parish is offering an exciting new bible study titled "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" by Dr. Edward Sri.

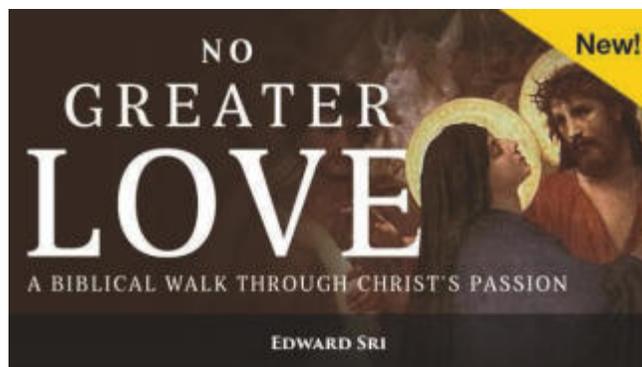
This bible study is a five-part video series that guides us through the last hours of Christ's life and reveals his amazing love for us. The videos also feature insight from special guests Fr.

Mike Schmitz, Jennifer Fulwiler, and Curtis Martin.

In this study, you'll discover:

- The biblical background to each scene in Christ's passion
- What was Jesus going through at each moment?
- How did the Old Testament foretell of Christ's death?
- Why did Christ die for us and what did it accomplish?
- What was the meaning of the tearing of the temple veil, the crowning with thorns, and other Passion events?

Dr. Sri also unpacks commonly misunderstood sayings



of Jesus, such as:

- "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass?" - Was Jesus thinking of backing out at the last minute?
- "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" - Was Jesus really abandoned by the Father on the cross?
- "You have said so." - What does this mean?

God wants our hearts to love him, and this bible study will enable us to encounter His love for us through Christ's Passion. Are you ready to draw closer to Jesus than you ever have before? Thousands sought Jesus during his life, but only a few followed him to Calvary. What will you do?

This bible study meets at the St. James Parish House on March 11 & 18, and April 1, 8, & 15. Two bible study times are offered: 10am and 6:30pm. Call the parish office to sign up.

To remain in Christ and to reveal Christ to others

Save a Life with CRS Rice Bowl

During Lent, we must discern how we can share God's love with others, and we can do that by participating in the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl. The Rice Bowl is a cardboard container that you pick up from the parish, take home, and place money into during Lent. The money will be donated to Catholic Relief Services at the end of Lent, and it's used to transform the lives of those in need.

"The Rice Bowl allows us to pray, allows us to sacrifice our money, and allows us to do acts of love, service, and charity," Cardinal Timothy Dolan said.

The money is used in various ways throughout the world, such as enhancing educational programs, ensuring clean water and sanitation, and providing health and nutrition services.

Annet - a 16-year-old Ugandan woman - has taken care of her three younger siblings after her parents died four years ago, and CRS has built a home for her and taught her how to farm.

"My hope is to raise my siblings," she said. "And I know I can do it with the help of CRS and my Catholic faith."

Another example is Waisa, a grandmother who never



attended school in Sierra Leone because no one thought girls should receive an education. However, she's happy her granddaughter Kumba can attend a CRS-sponsored school because she knows the importance of education. CRS schools also provided nutritious lunches every day, enabling each student to focus on their studies and not on their hunger.

"I'm happy I can support my daughters and granddaughters," Waisa said. "I know that educated girls help their parents and their communities."

You can save a life this Lent by participating in the CRS Rice Bowl. Please pick up a Rice Bowl from either church and return to the parish office at the end of Lent.

Upcoming Events

March 17

St. Patrick's Day, which is the Solemnity of the Dedication of our own Saint Patrick Church.

March 23-27

Parish Mission

Msgr. Daniel Duetsch speaks at all the weekend Masses. He then speaks Sunday through Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at St. Patrick Church.

March 30 @ 5pm

St. Patrick School Auction Knights of Columbus Hall. Have fun supporting our parish school.

April 5-6

24 Hours for the Lord Both Churches

Visit:

www.ssjpgparish.com

Like our Facebook page: Saints James and Patrick Parish (the one with the parish logo)

No Greater Love – Bible Study

This biblical walk through Christ's passion will enhance your knowledge and faith. The dates are March 11 & 18, and April 1, 8, & 15 at the St. James Parish House. The two sessions offered are at 10am and 6:30pm.

St. Patrick School Auction

Saturday, March 30 @ 5pm - Knights of Columbus

This annual event supports Catholic education while providing a night of music, food, and fun auction items. Purchase your tickets by calling 423-4351.

Diocesan Scholarships Available

The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women is offering four \$500 scholarships to outstanding Catholic high school girls. The deadline to enter is March 30. Call the parish office at (217) 429-5363 for an application.

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Saints James and Patrick Parish
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Lenten Schedule

There are many ways to become closer to Christ during Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 6. Three of the most common ways to strengthen your relationship with God



during Lent is to attend Stations of the Cross, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Reconciliation.

Stations of the Cross - a spiritual pilgrimage in which we reflect on Christ's Passion - is prayed twice a week during Lent. It's hosted on Thursdays at 12:10pm at St. Patrick.

24 Hours for the Lord is an event spanning two days - April 5 and 6 - in which the Blessed Sacrament will be

exposed and Reconciliation will be available. On April 5, Adoration follows the 11:15am Mass at St. Patrick and ends at 7pm. Confessions can be heard during that time too. On April 6, Adoration is from 9am-3:45pm at St. James with Confessions available at multiple times. More information will be available as the event nears.

Mass Times

Saturday
 4:00pm: St. James
 5:30pm: St. Patrick

Sunday
 8:30am: St. James
 10:00am: St. Patrick

Contact Us

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