

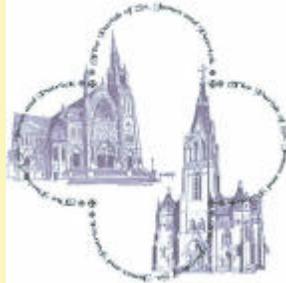
Saints James & Patrick Parish

TO REMAIN IN CHRIST AND REVEAL CHRIST TO OTHERS

Saint James Church

742 E. Clay • Decatur, Illinois 62521

Masses.... Sat 4:00 pm, Sun. 8:30 am
Office Hours..M-Th 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Office.....(217) 428-7733
Fax.....(217) 429-8206



Saint Patrick Church

407 E. Eldorado • Decatur, Illinois 62523

Masses.. Sat. 5:30 pm, Sun. 10:00 am
Office HoursM-F 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Office.....(217) 429-5363
Fax(217) 429-8206
School(217) 423-4351

Parish Staff

Pastor

Fr. Chris Comerford

Pastor Emeritus

Fr. John C Burnette

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Anita Olson

Office Assistant

Robin Canary

Parish Communications

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Carla Hahn

Ministry Scheduler

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Maintenance

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Kate Tiemann

School Staff

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Parish Email:

office@ssjpparish.com

Parish Website:

www.ssjpparish.com

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(Page with logo)



Scott Hahn's Reflection on the Readings

The Lenten season continues with another story of testing. Last Sunday, we heard the trial of Jesus in the desert. In this week's First Reading, we hear of how Abraham was put to the test.

The Church has always read this story as a sign of God's love for the world in giving His only-begotten son.

In today's Epistle, Paul uses exact words drawn from this story to describe how God, like Abraham, did not withhold His only Son, but handed Him over for us on the Cross (see [Romans 8:32](#); [Genesis 22:12,16](#)).

In the Gospel today, too, we hear another echo. Jesus is called God's "beloved Son"—as Isaac is described as Abraham's beloved son.

These readings are given to us in Lent to reveal Christ's identity and to strengthen us in the face of our afflictions.

Jesus is shown to be the true son that Abraham rejoiced to see (see [Matthew 1:1](#); [John 8:56](#)). In His transfiguration, He is revealed to be the "prophet like Moses" foretold by God—raised from among their own kinsmen, speaking with God's own authority (see [Deuteronomy 18:15, 19](#)).

Like Moses, He climbs the mountain with three named friends and beholds God's glory in a cloud (see [Exodus 24:1, 9, 15](#)). He is the one prophesied to come after Elijah's return (see [Sirach 48:9–10](#); [Malachi 3:1, 23–24](#)).

And, as He discloses to the Apostles, He is the Son of Man sent to suffer and die for our sins (see [Isaiah 53:3](#)).

As we sing in today's Psalm, Jesus believed in the face of His afflictions, and God loosed Him from the bonds of death (see [Psalm 116:3](#)).

His rising should give us the courage to face our trials, to offer ourselves totally to the Father—as He did, as Abraham and Isaac did.

Freed from death by His death, we come to this Mass to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and to renew our vows—as His servants and faithful ones.



FR. CHRIS' COLUMN

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

I hope your Lenten journey has begun well. If you're like me, you have done some things well and others not so well. Maybe even certain days have been more difficult than others. If you have struggled, DON'T GIVE UP! Your Lenten promises don't end if you break them. Just start again with an increased determination and with the right goal, to become a better Disciple of Jesus Christ by Easter and to feel closer to Jesus himself. It's not about how perfectly you kept your promises.

COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

I hope you read the report in last week's Catholic Times about the great work Catholic Charities does in our Diocese. This weekend is the annual collection for this important work. If you brought or sent in your envelope or contributed online, I thank you. If you haven't, I encourage you to do so or even place a contribution in an envelope marked Catholic Charities. They do so much for our own Decatur Community and we want that good work to continue.

OPPORTUNITY FOR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

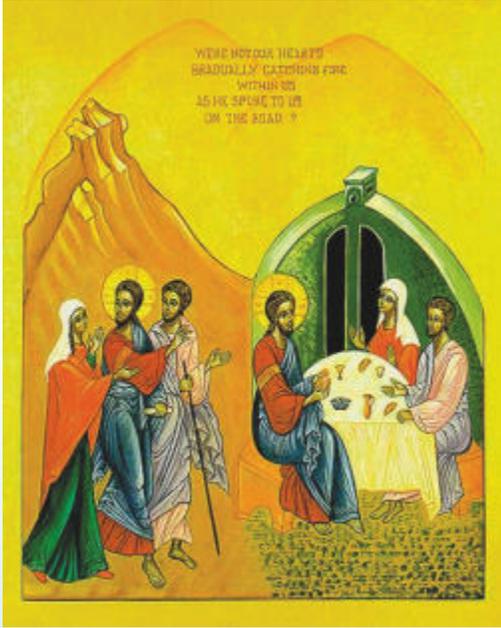
This week we celebrate First Friday and we will have 2 opportunities for Adoration: Thursday afternoon from 3:00 until 6:00pm, with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:50. Also, Friday Morning from 10-11am. There will also be Confession from 5 until 5:30pm on Thursday evening and 10:30 until 11:00am on Friday. I encourage you to come and spend some time with the Lord. If you would be willing to sign up for an hour to make sure the time is covered, please call Anita in the office.

Featured Saint

St. Katharine Drexel (March 3)

Katharine was born in Philadelphia and raised in a rich family, traveled widely, and had an excellent education, but after caring for her dying stepmother, she realized money couldn't buy safety from pain or death. She became a missionary and focused on aiding minority communities, especially the Native Americans. By 1942, she had established a Catholic school system for minorities in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools. Segregationists harassed her work, even burning a school in Philadelphia. Her crowning achievement was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university for African Americans in the United States. She was canonized in 2000.





MASS INTENTIONS

Tabernacle Candle
In Memory Of

St. James:

St. Patrick: Ruth & Bill Pelinski

Monday, March 1

8:00 am at St. James
Richard & Marie Stephan

Tuesday, March 2

8:00 am at St. Patrick
Wilma Struttmann Tappel

Wednesday, March 3

8:00 am at St. James
Ann Eleyidath

Thursday, March 4

8:00 am at St. Patrick
Dudley Cooley

Friday, March 5

11:15 am at St. Patrick
Mary Louise Clark

Saturday, March 6

4:00 pm at St. James
All Parishioners

5:30 pm at St. Patrick
Tom Smith

Sunday, March 7

8:30 am at St. James
James Garrett

10:00 am at St. Patrick
Arthur E. & Arthur T. Murton

BAPTISM

Before an infant may be baptized, the parents are required to attend a Baptism Class. Please contact the Parish Office. Baptisms generally take place on a Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made six months in advance with the Pastor.

PENANCE (Reconciliation) Anytime by appointment or:

at St. James:

Monday 7:30-7:45am
Wednesday 7:30-7:45am
Saturday 3:15-3:40pm

at St. Patrick:

Friday 10:30-11:00am
Saturday 11:00am- 12:00 Noon

Ill or Hospital Bound?

Please call the office so Father can anoint you if you have not been anointed recently. When you go to the hospital please register as a parishioner of Ss. James and Patrick. If you have not been visited by a priest within two days, please call the office.

"St Patrick School admits students of any race, color, sex or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, sex, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and school administered programs"

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation: (217) 321-1155.

Welcome New Parishioners: Please register at the office during the week.

Rest in peace: May Linda O'Dell, parishioners, family, and friends who have died be embraced with God's love forever.

We welcome, **Hector Ibarra**, son of Angelica Ibarra, born again by water and the Spirit in Baptism.



family was formed with them.

Daily Marriage Tip:

Emphasize to your children how important your marriage is to your family. Pull out your wedding album and share the joy of that day when your

www.foryourmarriage.org

Gift of Treasure *Thank you for your generosity!*

Fiscal 2020-2021	Week	Year to Date	FY19-20
February 13/14 (33)	\$18,655	\$547,426	\$613,589
Needed	\$18,500	\$610,500	
Over (Under)	\$ 155	(\$ 63,074)	

Ash Wednesday \$125 Assistance Fund \$70
Fuel Collection \$520 Misc \$215

Have you considered giving online?

Check out the possibility at: www.sspparish.com

Long may you live, but please remember our parish in your will.

Parish School News

www.decaturstpatrick.org

And on Facebook through the school website

Thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners and friends, we celebrate our 165th year!

St. Patrick School Online Auction - The school's online auction is from March 6-20. The auction will include more than 65 items to bid on. The ad book featuring the items will be distributed in late February, and you can begin purchasing tickets at that time too. Call the school or parish office for more information.

Protecting God's Children - All volunteers need to take a session one time and fill out a background check form. Visit our parish website at <https://www.ssjpparish.com/> to learn about an online version.

Catholic Charities Collection - Catholic Charities has a rich, 96-year history of providing vital services and hope to God's people in need. Due to your prayers and generosity, thousands of people this past year received food, clothing, baby supplies, assistance with medicine, and much more. This weekend is the annual collection for Catholic Charities, and we thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Stations of the Cross - Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 3:15pm in St. Patrick Church. Please come and join us.

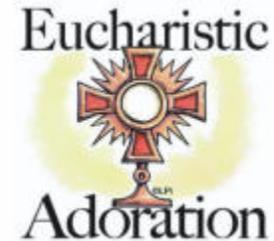
Confirmation at the Cathedral - Bishop Paprocki invites Catholics who are catechized but not confirmed (e.g., who have received catechetical formation and the sacraments of Baptism, Penance and Holy Eucharist) to complete the Sacraments of Initiation by celebrating Confirmation at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

Empower Illinois Match - We are still in need of your help with Empower Illinois Matching Funds Challenge – Donations to Empower Illinois through the Invest in Kids Act will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$15,000, during the months of February and March of 2021. If you pay Illinois income tax, you can contribute scholarship funds to St. Patrick School through the Invest in Kids Act/Empower IL and receive 75% of your donation back in the form of a tax credit against your Illinois income tax. Thanks to our generous donors, 50 students received full or partial need-based scholarships to St. Patrick School for the 2020-21 school year. The Empower IL team is ready to help you with the process – just call (800) 616-7606. For more information, go to empowerillinois.org or call the parish office at 429-5363.

A Lenten Evening for Couples - Have you been unable or reluctant to attend mass or normal devotional practices of the Church during COVID? Grow closer to the Lord together as a couple this holy season with Lenten dinner recipes, an edifying short film, and a Couple's Lenten Habit Tracker & Devotional. Go to <https://datenight.communio.org/register-for-lent-date-night/> to learn more and to sign up.

The pain and sorrow of a past abortion need not endure for a lifetime.

Call Project Rachel for a confidential, non-judgmental referral to those who can help: 1-877-RACHEL-5.



First Friday Adoration will be held on Thursday, March 4 from 3-6pm, ending with Benediction at 5:50, and Friday from 10-11am in St. Patrick Church. Please call the office at 429-5363 if you are willing to come and pray for a time.

Nominate a Teacher for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award - Do you know a Catholic school teacher who strives for academic excellence with a focus on the Catholic mission? Know a teacher who left a lasting impression on you or your child? Know a teacher who goes above and beyond for his or her students and who lives authentically Catholic? Nominate that teacher for the diocesan wide St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award! Nominations are due by March 5. Go to dio.org/schools/eas.

Diocesan Lenten Journey - Go to dio.org/lent as we feature six stories of people who will challenge you and offer you six challenges that will change you! A new story and new challenge will come every week during Lent.

Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's (SDCCW) will offer scholarships for female high school seniors. The deadline to apply is March 30, 2021. Please call the office 217 429-5363 with questions or for more information.



at St. James

COVID-19 Prayer for Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.

at St. Patrick

Thursday, March 4 - Adoration & Benediction

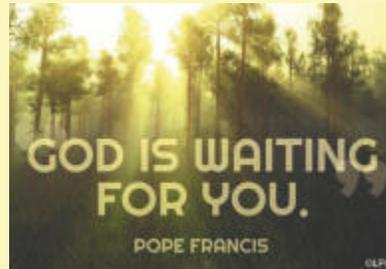
3:00 - 6:00pm in St. Patrick Church

Friday, March 5 - Adoration

10:00 - 11:00am in St. Patrick Church

Friday, March 5 - Stations of the Cross

3:15pm in St. Patrick Church



Second Sunday of Lent – 28 February 2021

Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18. Psalm 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19. Romans 8:31b-34. Mark 9:2-10.

Listen to Him. One week into Lent, we are simply told by the voice from the cloud: Listen to Jesus. He told us last Sunday to “believe in the gospel.” What does belief in this Good News look and sound like this Lent, this year?

Since we are descendants of Abraham, how am I to behave with my cousins (that is, everyone)?

Since we are sisters and brothers in the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom do I listen? What am I told?

Since I am also “beloved”, what will I do?

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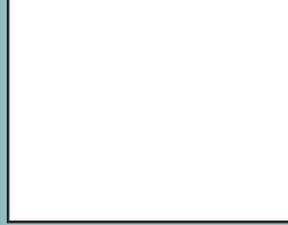
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