



Saint Stephen Parish
"A Catholic Faith Community"
March 24, 2019

3rd

SUNDAY OF LENT

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down.'" - Lk 13:7a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Third Sunday in Lent

March 24, 2019



CONFESSION each Saturday at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 23

5:00 pm Raul Gonzales and Members of the Parish

Sunday, March 24 *Third Sunday of Lent*

9:00 am Sally Luetz

Monday, March 25 *The Annunciation of the Lord*

No Mass at St. Stephens

Tuesday, March 26

No Mass at St. Stephens

Wednesday, March 27

8:00 am Len Tragesser

6:30 pm—Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 28

10:45 (*Alden Meadow*) Communion Service

Friday, March 29

8:00 am Marilyn Coyle

Saturday, March 30

5:00 pm Margaret Wellnitz & Members of the Parish

Sunday, March 31 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

9:00 am Jim & Nell Gilbank



From the Desk of Monsignor Dan

Scripture

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?" - Jn 4:28-29

Reflection

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none." We live in a results-driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "[The gardener] said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also ? it may bear fruit in the future.'" How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

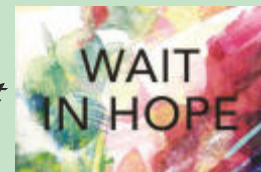
Thoughts for the Week

Now, halfway through the 40 days of Lent and we recall the meaning of this number. It has to do with several memorable events in the history of our faith.

Forty is a holy number in the Bible signifying a time of testing, trial or probation. Days and nights of rain, years wandering in the desert, days in the desert, and the hours from Jesus death on the cross to His resurrection are some of the references in Sacred Scripture associated with the number forty.

Our forty days of Lent this year are not over and so they can have a special significance when we think of them in relation to this holy number. Testing, trial or probation may have a personal and grace filled meaning for each one of us, at this time. Scripture uses 40 to help remind us of God's ceaseless caring for our salvation. May these Lenten days be memorable and blessed for all of us.

God Bless you!
Monsignor Dan Ganshert



March 30-31—Fourth Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm - Sat. March 30

Lector: Alice Wellnitz

Servers: Meagan Sherman
Matt Sherman

Eucharistic: Velma Braband,

Ushers/Greeters: Denny Leis,

Nancy Everhard, Carl Lipetri,

Michael Kavanaugh

Music: Linda Gracyalny

9:00 am—Sun. March 31

Lector: Bonnie Zahn

Servers: Garrett Schneider,
Elysa Pope

Eucharistic: Larry White,

Pam Franseen

Ushers/Greeters: Virgil Pope,

Pat Mullooly, Bill Brewer,

Leo Mullooly

Music: Pat Wendtland

DAILY MASS CLUSTER SCHEDULE

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Tuesday, 5:00 pm

Wednesday, 8:15 am

Thursday-Friday, 8:15am

ST. THOMAS

Tuesday, 5:00 pm

Thursday, 7:15 am

ST. JUDE

Wednesday, 7:00 am

Friday, 7:00 am



STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

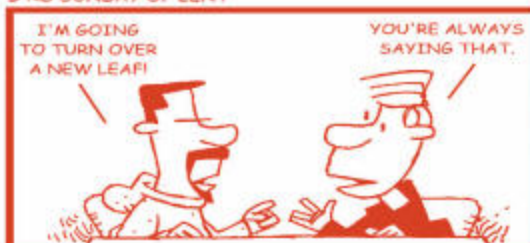
Mar. 12, 2019-\$4,850.85

Mar. 05, 2019-\$3,070.00

Feb. 26, 2019-\$2,222.90

Feb. 19, 2019-\$2,316.00

5RD SUNDAY OF LENT



Catholic Women's Cluster Evening of Reflection

The Beloit/Clinton Catholic Women's Cluster will hold their Evening of Reflection on **Tuesday, April 9th at OLA**. Mass will be at 5:00 pm, dinner at 6:00 pm (catered by Knutes), and program to follow.

Deacon Jim Davis will be our speaker presenting "What is My Role in the Body of Christ?"

Cost is \$16. **Reservations are to be made and paid in advance by Wednesday, April 3rd** to: Pat Wolf (2321 Turnberry Ct., Beloit 53511); or to Ann Roth

Please make checks payable to **Catholic Women's Cluster**.



FAITH FORMATION
Classes for Grades 1-8 at 6:30-7:30pm
Wed. March 27 in the Family Center.



FISH FRY will be this Friday, March 29 and each Friday in Lent. We serve from 5:00-7:00 PM in Assumption Hall. All you can eat baked and fried Cod, baked potatoes, fries, coleslaw, applesauce, bread and beverage. Adults: \$11.00; Children 6-12: \$5.00; 5 and under FREE. Carryouts available. Desserts and soda offered at an additional charge. We appreciate all the volunteers who generously share their time to make the fish fries successful

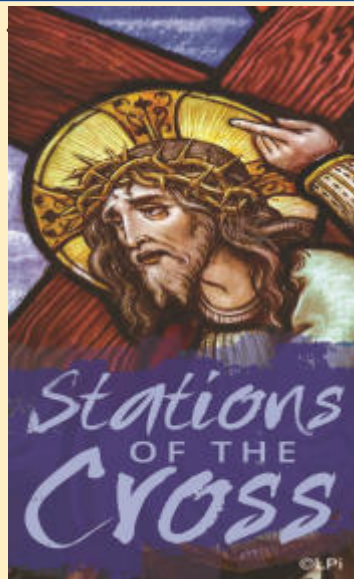
LEARN TO CROCHET WITH PLASTIC

We would would to invite members of your congregation to an upcoming "Plarn" crocheting class that we will be having in our Fellowship hall. Please see the attached poster, (on the bulleting board in the our Gathering Space) Thank you,
Where?

Jefferson Prairie Lutheran Church
23184 Bergen Road
Popular Grove, IL

When?
April 2, 9 and 16

What to bring?
20 plastic bags, Size N crochet hook and scissors.
Questions: Call 815-292-3226



Join us at 6:30 pm. on Wednesday, March 27

OLA SCHOOL SPRING FLING tickets now on sale at the school office and will be available at the SCRIP table on the weekends. Spring Fling will be Saturday, April 13, 5:30pm at La Casa Grande with BMHS Jazz band performing. Silent & Live Auctions and more. See bulletin for details. Free childcare available. \$45/person; \$80/couple; \$300/table of 8. Get your tickets early.

GRACYALNY FAMILY CONCERT—
Mark your calendar for the GFC on **Saturday, March 30 at 7:00 p.m. at OLA's Assumption Hall. There will be lots of desserts, laughter and music!**

IMPORTANT DATES

March 27—Stations At St. Stephens @ 6:30 p.m.
April 8—RedCross Blood Drive @ St. Stephens
April 9—Cluster Evening of Reflection at St. Jude
April 28- First Communion @ St. Stephens-9:00 Mass
April 30—Cluster Meeting at St. Stephens

PRAYER
FASTING
ALMSGIVING

In Search of Young Adults!

SPIRITUS is seeking Catholic young adults, 21-29 years of age, to join the SPIRITUS missionary team this August. SPIRITUS ignites the faith in thousands of young Catholics through retreats and parish youth ministry each year! Missionaries live in community and travel to parishes and schools throughout Wisconsin; they receive training, formation, spiritual direction, lodging, food, a monthly allowance, health insurance and a \$2,000 stipend upon completion of the 9-month program. It is a unique opportunity to serve our Lord and help young Catholics grow in faith. Visit www.spiritusministries.org, contact Rachel at recruiter@spiritusministries.org, or (920) 722-8918 x113 for more information.

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Website: ststephen.weconnect.com

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