

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Stephen's Catholic Parish

MARCH 20-21, 2021

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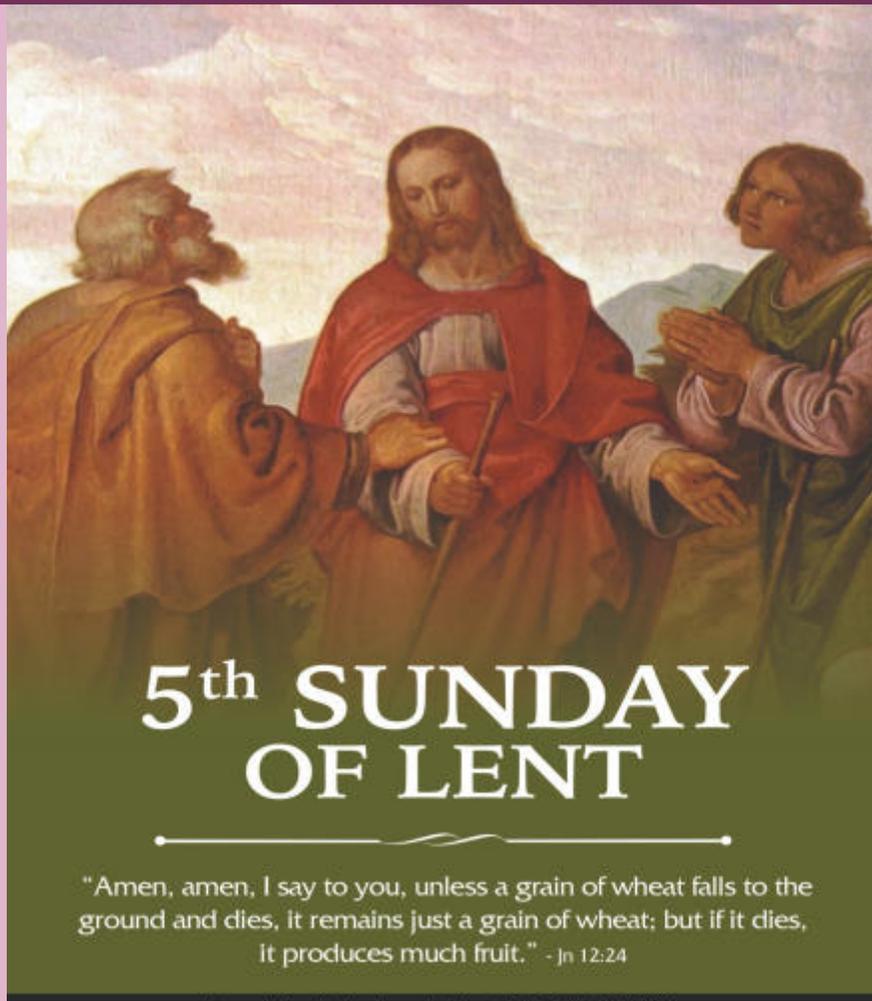
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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Holy Week Cluster Mass Schedule

	<u>St. Stephens</u>	<u>OLA</u>	<u>St. Jude</u>	<u>St. Thomas</u>
Holy Thursday:	7:00pm (Adoration to Follow)	7:30pm	7:00pm	
Good Friday:	12:00pm/Noon	1:00pm	12:30pm	
	Stations: 6:30pm		3:30pm in Spanish	
Easter Vigil:	7:30pm	8:00pm	7:30pm	
Easter Sunday:	9:00am	8:15am	8:45 am	9:00am
		10:30am	11:00am in Spanish	11:00am

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MASS INTENTIONS

5th Sunday of Lent

SATURDAY, MARCH 20th

8:00am-8:45am - Confessions

9:00am - Holy Mass

4:00pm-4:45pm - Confessions

5:00pm - For the People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st

8:00am-8:45am - Confessions

9:00am - (+) Sue Skaife

**Confessions 30 minutes
before each daily mass*

MONDAY, MARCH 22nd

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

TUESDAY, MARCH 23rd

+St. Turibius of Mogrovejo+

5:30pm - Holy Mass

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24th

8:00am - Holy Mass

THURSDAY, MARCH 25th

Solemnity - The Annunciation of the Lord

7:00am - For the People of the Parish

6:00pm - Holy Mass

FRIDAY, MARCH 26th

8:00am - Len Tragesser

Palm Sunday

SATURDAY, MARCH 27th

8:00am-8:45am - Confessions

9:00am - Margaret Wellnitz

4:00pm-4:45pm - Confessions

5:00pm - Raul Gonzales

SUNDAY, MARCH 28th

8:00am-8:45am - Confessions

9:00am - For the People of the Parish



Wednesdays

Eucharistic Adoration

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Benediction ~ 7:50 p.m.

Dear Saint Stephen's Family,

I pray you are well and your Lenten practices have borne great fruit in your spiritual lives. May God continue to rend our hearts and draw us closer to him. One of the very tangible ways he does this is through an Examination of Conscience and Sacramental Confession. Bishop Hying has often commented on the importance of confession and continues to encourage all the faithful in our diocese to make a habit of confessing our sins and receiving God's mercy at least *once a month*. Lent is a great time to start this spiritual habit, and there will be more opportunities for Confession as we approach Holy Week.

It is my understanding that many were accustomed to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Communal Penance services. The complexity of COVID has rendered this practice more difficult - even obsolete -, yet our need for the grace of the sacrament and God's mercy has never ceased, and He is always waiting to make us whole again through the gift of this great sacrament. I understand individual confession may seem a bit foreign, but the more we take advantage of the opportunity to confess our sins, the more we will come to a deeper understanding of God's plan for salvation and how to return to Him with our whole hearts.

The **FIRST** step is to make a good Examination of Conscience (included). Take some time to think of everything you would like to give to our Lord (*you can even write it down if you like*) and have a deep desire to turn away from these things that do not provide enduring happiness or closeness to God. Remember, God sees and knows all things. We cannot hide anything from Him, yet He asks that we acknowledge what prevents us from loving Him, our neighbor, and even ourselves. Just as knowing one's name provided a power over them, so God gives us the grace and power to not commit particular sins if we are willing to **NAME** them (*with precise language*) and put them at the foot of the Cross. God can only transform what we are willing to give Him, and we must remove **ALL** obstacles in our hearts so that he can fully restore us.

After preparing well, you may make your way to the confessional (or set up a time to make a private confession). Remember, the Church maintains that you have a "**right to anonymity**" (*to have your identity concealed*). I take this seriously as your right, and it is best preserved by confessing from behind the screen. The benefits of this are that it helps the Confessor and Penitent focus more on the sins committed (*we love the person, but reject the sin - an important distinction to make!*) and God's desire to forgive a contrite heart. The one requirement of the Sacrament is that we confess **All MORTAL Sins** in 1) **Kind** and 2) **Number** [ie. 1) what it was and 2) how many times committed since your last confession]. Again, this is to help us give **EVERYTHING** over to God, as he can only forgive/transform/heal what we give to Him. You are always free to ask questions or for clarification regarding the nature of things confessed, but remember that we come to confess our own sins, and not those of others. After confessing all sins, a fitting way to end is, "*for these sins, and for any I have forgotten, have mercy on me.*" Not only does this help the Confessor know that you are done, but it also manifests that one has held nothing back from God. Even if we remember something later, we can know that we were forgiven because we did not willfully withhold it while in the confessional.

Father may then offer some counsel, assign a penance, and then ask you to make an Act of Contrition. There should be aids in the confessional if you do not have the Act of Contrition memorized, and I would encourage you to say it *slowly* and allow the words to resonate in your heart (*avoid rushing through it to prevent any sort of insincerity*). Father will then pray the words of Absolution and then say, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Your response is, "For His mercy endures forever." (and it truly does!) He will then send you in peace, the only true peace that comes from proper order and the love of our good and merciful Father. Know that as you leave, the whole Church, angels and saints, rejoice in the goodness of your soul being totally restored and divinized by God's grace! Complete your penance and thank God for His abundant goodness and true freedom for sin and death.

As always, if you have any questions about the Sacrament of Confession, please feel free to ask! Know that you also have the right to the Sacrament whenever a reasonable request is made (*just ask or stop by whenever you would like or need to Confess!*). Let us run to the Father's mercy and goodness in these final days of Lent, and prepare our souls for the glories and graces of Holy Week and Easter! God Loves You and I Love You! Have a great week!

In Christo per Mariam,
Fr. Andrew

Ministry of Giving



Offertory

February 21: \$5,455

February 28: \$6,195

March 7: \$9,767

March 14: \$2,527

Annual Catholic Appeal (As of March 13th)

GOAL: \$12,784

PLEGGED: \$14,175 (111%!!!)

PAID: \$10,375

Save the Date: Friday, April 16th

Young Adult Night, hosted by Fr. Andrew

*More details to come

*Grandparents: my sincere request is for your availability to watch your grandkids that evening to provide an opportunity for the young adults to join us for an evening of food, cards & community



Bishop Donald Hying
@bishophying

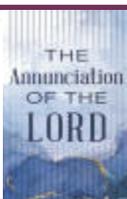
If you don't often go to confession, try going once a month for a year. Then, ask yourself, have I grown in virtue, overcome sins and bad habits? Am I am more joyful, at peace and more generous? Do I love God and neighbor more? The answer will be YES. Then, you will keep going!

9:46 PM - Jul 8, 2020 - Twitter for iPhone

Solemnity of the Annunciation

Thursday, March 25th

Masses at 7:00am & 6:00pm



Faith Formation

CLASS – March 24th @ 6:30pm
All Grades at Hall

PRAYER CHALLENGE –

Keep memorizing those Prayers!!

If you have any questions,
please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator
Heather Schneider 608-676-7329.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Scholarship Opportunity



The Knights of Columbus Council 605, serving the Clinton/Beloit cluster parishes, is offering four cash awards to graduating high school seniors from St. Jude, St. Thomas, Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Stephen parishes, who will be enrolling in any accredited secondary education institution. Applicants do not need to be children of Knights of Columbus members. Information and an application can be obtained by emailing the council at kc605beloit@yahoo.com. Applications must be received at the KC Council building before May 1, 2021

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