

# ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

[www.saintcatherine51.org](http://www.saintcatherine51.org) 5101 West Center Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

## Drawing Closer to Jesus Transform Us

In our profession of faith, we say that Jesus is true Man and true God. Last Sunday's gospel told how, as a human, he was tempted by the devil for forty days. In today's gospel, his divinity is shown through the transfiguration. Our Lord's transfiguration strengthens us in our quest for union with God. Today we need to ask ourselves: in which area of our lives do we need to be transformed?

In his book, "The Ascent of Mount Carmel," St. John of the Cross compares our desire for union with God to the rays of sunlight shining upon a smudgy window. The smudges prevent the sun from illuminating the window completely. It would be different if the window were cleaned and polished; then the sunlight would give the window clarity and transparency. We can apply this image to our desire for union with God. For, just as our Lord was transfigured, he invites us to deal with those attitudes, events and situations that prevent the Lord's light from shining in and through us. Recall the gospel from Ash Wednesday about going into our inner room to converse with God about what we want to change, and what we want to become.

Due to our human nature, we fall again and again even after promising God that we are going to change. Sometimes we think we have overcome our weaknesses or our sinful ways, and other times we find ourselves back in the same mess. Our faith is often like a roller coaster; it has ups and downs, mountains and valleys.

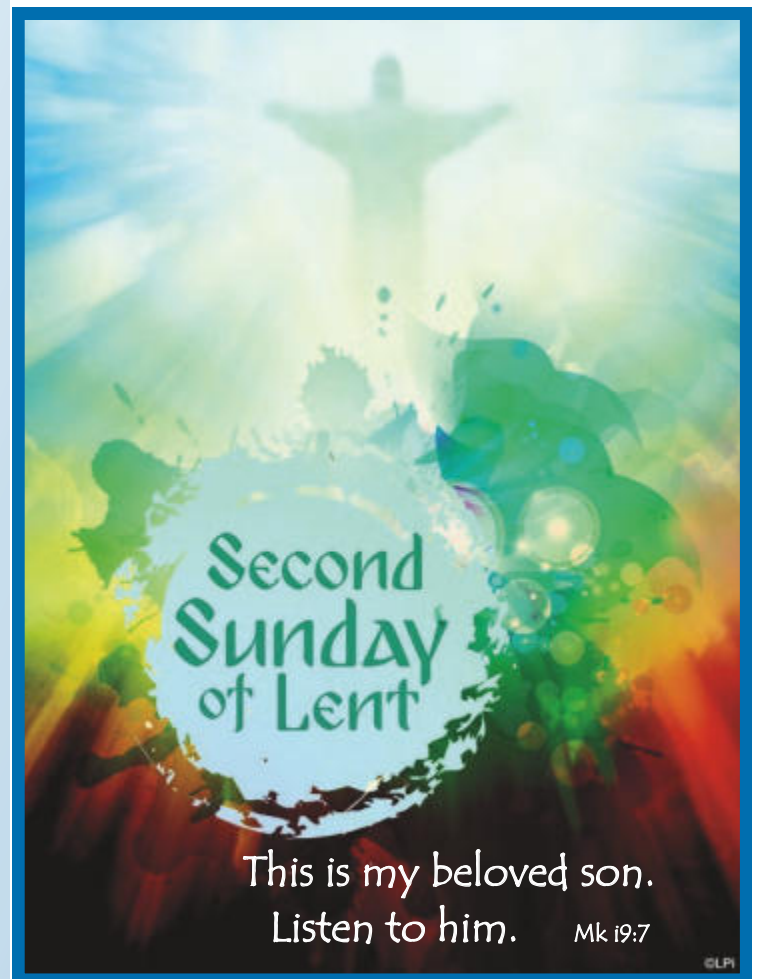
In other words, there are times when our faith burns bright, and other times when it flickers and nearly dies out. In today's gospel, the faith of Peter, James and John is bright and strong. But in a short time, their faith will flicker and almost fail when Jesus takes them to the garden of Gethsemane. When "a large crowd armed with swords and clubs" came looking for Jesus, the three disciples, whose faith was so strong in today's gospel, panicked and ran for their lives. Worse yet, Peter later denied he knew Jesus.

My brothers and sisters, we are not exceptions; we are also tested the same way the prophets and even Abraham were tested. This is where we come to realize our need to clean the smudges off the windows of our faith as our Lord sends rays of light into our conscious awareness, moving us toward repentance. Therefore, we should never lose hope or be discouraged from becoming what God wants us to be.

*Fr. Peter Patrick*

*Here to Stay, Here to Serve!*

*We are a Christ-centered community, the vital and spiritual presence of the Catholic Church in Sherman Park and beyond. Living the Gospel, we welcome, learn, serve and celebrate.*



**Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes  
with Saint Sebastian**

**Second Sunday of Lent**



**February 28, 2021**

**Parish Office** ... 445-5115 ... Fax 445-5198  
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Friday  
 secretary@saintcatherine.org - ppkimani@saintcatherine.org  
 cpoth@saintcatherine.org  
 St. Sebastian Office ... 453-1061

**Parish Staff**

Rev. Peter Patrick Kimani, *Pastor*  
 Ralph & Jane Kornburger, *Deacon Couple*  
 Jon Metz, *Adult & Young Adult Formation Minister*  
 Margaret Lee, *Youth Minister and Human Concerns*  
 Joe Sheehan, *Child Formation Minister*  
 Doug Scott, *Music Director*  
 Carole Poth, *Director of Administration and Operations*  
 Joann Perleberg, *Director of Finances*  
 Sister Pat Russell, *Parish Office Assistant*

**Parish School** 445-2846 Fax 445-0448  
 Jade Cottrell, *Principal* Office Open 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Parish Trustees**

Toni Wagner, *Secretary* - Mary Brooks, *Treasurer*  
 Miguel Camacho, Brendan Holahan, Kathy Kent, Mary Krolikowski, Matt Melendes, James Napper, Jessica Quintanilla, Kris Reck, Brenda Scharping, Becky Troy

**The Week Ahead**

Sunday, February 28	9:00 am	Mass (Church)
Monday, March 1	7:00 pm	Pastoral Council (virtual)
Tuesday, March 2	8:30 am	Mass (Church)
	9:00 am	"The Search " Discussion (CC)
	6:30 pm	Centennial Committee (virtual)
March 3	6:15 pm	Formation Class for First Eucharist (St. Sebastian)
	7:00 pm	Lenten Mission (St. Sebastian)
March 5	8:30 am	Mass (Church)
	9:15 am	Stations of the Cross (Church)
March 7		Mass (Church)

**Ongoing Lenten Opportunities**

**Stations of the Cross - Friday Mornings**

Walk the Way of the Cross virtually or in person at Sts. Catherine & Sebastian, Friday mornings of Lent in church at 9:15 a.m.

**Small Group Discussion of "The Search"**

Join a group at any time, virtually or in person, even if you've not read the book. We'll be using the Formed.org video series to aid in our discussion. Tuesday mornings following 8:30 a.m. Mass, or virtually, Wednesday nights, 7 p.m. **Virtual option for either Stations or discussion:** contact jmetz@saintsebs.org

**Almsgiving - Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl**

CRS supports programs here in the US and throughout the world that help people become independent. Rice Bowls are on the table in the Gathering Area. Please take one and fill it!

**St. Vincent de Paul's Lenten Food Drive**

Bring one food item for each day in Lent. All the food will go to our Food Pantry. Please see the bulletin flyer for details.

**Mass Intentions & Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, February 28 Second Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am † Dave Wiesen (Annie Wiesen)  
 † Joey Badora & Maria Buhler (Julie Ristow)  
 Gn 22:1-2, 9a-18/Ps 116:10, 15-19/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

**Monday, March 1**

8:30 am Mass at St. Sebastian  
 Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday, March 2**

8:30 am Students and Teachers During This Pandemic  
 Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday, March 3 St. Katharine Drexel**

Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday, March 4 St. Casimir**

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

**Friday, March 5 World Day of Prayer**

8:30 am Healing For Our World  
 Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Sunday, March 7 Third Sunday of Lent**

9:00 am † Bonnie Dougherty (Lieb Family)

**Liturgical Ministers**

**Sunday, February 28 - Fr. Colman**

Lector Tony Amoroso

**Sunday, March 7 - Fr. Larry**

Lector Debbie Servi

**Reflections on this Sunday's Readings**

The reading this week always challenges me. I've struggled with the story of Abraham and Isaac since I was a little boy. Of course, we know how the story ends. God stops the sacrifice of Isaac, but until that moment, it is very tense. As a father, I struggle even more with this story. I struggle with the idea of God asking someone to sacrifice their own child. Of course, this is not the whole story. When I take a step back and look at the big picture, I realize that God never intended to harm Isaac, but rather to engage Abraham in a level of commitment that was deep and meaningful. God was trying to show Abraham that the covenant they had together was stronger than anything, and Abraham's commitment was unwavering.

In light of this, we now turn to the gospel looking at Jesus' transfiguration. It is just as intense as the Abraham and Isaac story. The transfiguration gives us a peak behind the curtain. It gives us insight into the true nature God. The transfiguration literally shows Jesus radiant with light. In his transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. We as the reader are awe-struck by the powerful image. Both of these readings leave us shaken with a strong impression of the presence and power of God.

- What was the toughest thing God ever asked of you?  
Abraham answered yes when God asked him to sacrifice his only son. What would your answer have been?
- Who/what are our Isaacs that we may find very hard to surrender to God if asked?

—Remembering the apostles' mountain-top experience, have you ever had a "mountaintop" experience? If so, what was that like for you? How did it change your life? *Jon Metz*

<b>Regular Contributions through 2/14/21 - Wk. 33</b>	\$109,060
Prior YTD Amount	<u>107,249</u>
<b>Surplus/Deficit vs. Prior Year</b>	\$ 1,811

## Pray for Our Sick

Maryl Barrett, Michael Barton, Carol & Joe Brien, Tom Cavanaugh, Annie Coleman, Chuck Cooney, Ellie Cunningham, Barb Haig, Ernest Herre, James Krutina, Evelyn Martinez, Bev Narus, Diane Neicheril, Steve O'Connell, Andréa Olds, Tom Plakut, David Pleskatchek, Ron & Trudy Ranallo, Don Richards, Margaret Schmidt, Sr. Mary Ann Schmidt, Doug Scott, Carmel Stage, Bill Steger, Larry Teufel, Nancy & Eduardo V, Kathy Zambo

## School News

As the third trimester begins March 8, we're expecting more students to choose in-person learning. Staff and students celebrated Black History Month in February, studying the events that took place in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963 culminating with the march over the Edmund Pettis bridge.

## Senior Ministry

"While there are many practical reasons that motivate people to consider a senior living community, the spiritual aspect can't be overlooked. Many reap the benefits of a more simplified life without the worries of cooking, cleaning and home repairs, but it also allows them time to pursue activities that bring them joy and nurture their spirit. More importantly, they find themselves surrounded by others who are on a similar journey. Whatever living arrangement you choose, make time to develop your spiritual well-being. The later years are meant to be the time to harvest the gifts of a lifetime. Make the most of it."

*Robert Best*

## Sustainability Tip

By committing to fasting and lifestyle changes, the Lenten season is an opportunity to live more in solidarity with our earth and each other. From reducing the amount of meat we consume to simplifying our transportation, there are many suggested actions and resources to consider at [catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/season-lent](http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/season-lent)

## Facing Racism

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right." *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Reflections Asks: Who/What Has Formed You ...

to be the person you are now? What has transformed you to be not just a *believer* in Jesus Christ to a true *follower* of Jesus who views the world through his eyes, seeing what needs change, what needs to be reformed as God's kingdom?

## Your Centennial Committee Asks ...

your help in contacting graduates of our school. Please send their names and contact info to [secretary@saintcatherine.org](mailto:secretary@saintcatherine.org). We encourage anyone who's been blessed by our parish to be part of the celebration.

**Book Club** is reading "The Indigo Girl" by Natasha Boyd and will meet virtually, Friday, March 12, at 6 p.m.

## Recovery Groups-All groups meet in the Community Ctr.

AA: Sunday 11:00 am      AAA: Thursday 7:00 pm  
Tuesday 7:00 pm  
Friday 6:30 pm

## Lenten Mission: The Gift of Sunday

The Archdiocese is hosting Lenten Missions at 18 parishes on **Wednesday, March 3, 7-8:30 p.m.** The prayer service will highlight the importance of Sunday Mass in living out our faith on a daily basis. Fr. Jim Volkert will be the presenter for the Mission to be held at **St. Sebastian**. We urge you to attend.

## Men's Retreat - March 5 - 7

The Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc will welcome the men of the parish for a weekend of prayer and exploration of how to be a person of hope even during days of worry. Enjoy a few days of rest in a beautiful setting with inspiring reflections *and* great food. Contact Ron Ranallo at 517-1826. Can't make that weekend? Retreats are available all year.

## Catholic Stewardship Appeal - Be Generous!

Your financial help serves to ignite, renew and energize Catholic life across southeastern Wisconsin. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and needed. To donate, give online: [catholicappeal.org](http://catholicappeal.org), at Mass on March 14, or by mail to Catholic Stewardship Appeal, 3501 S. Lake Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53207.

## St. Joseph's Table

Pope Francis has designated this year to be a celebration of St. Joseph. We'll celebrate with our own "St. Joseph's Table." You are invited to take a home-baked cookie with you as you leave church on **March 21**. Cookies will be given to you in a sandwich bag by one of the hostesses. Stay tuned!

## Parish Use of Federal Funds

PPP funds were used to pay 2.5 month of our employees' compensation while they were not working. Our employees are not eligible for State Unemployment because of our church status. We pay into a different church program that would not have paid furloughed or laid-off employees. We wanted to be sure to support our employees during this time, and PPP allowed us to do that. We continued to pay our part-time and full-time employees who worked in the daycare program, school and parish employees. In addition, the daycare program received a subsidy of \$45,000 to keep paying childcare workers during the months of April, May and June. The daycare program pre-COVID, had been more than self-sufficient and provided a needed service to the community. The PPP 1 and PPP 2 loans have helped fund the program during the months after the daycare returned to operations in August. We hope that when this pandemic is over, the program will again be vibrant.

**Eucharistic Liturgies** are celebrated on Sundays at 9:00 am. Weekday Mass is at 8:30 am in church, T & F; at St. Sebastian, 8:30 am, M.

For an **Infant's Baptism**, contact the parish office during the prenatal time to begin preparation.

Those discerning a call to **Marriage** should contact the parish office at least six months prior to the wedding date.

For **Non-Infant Baptisms, First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation** and **Information about the Catholic Church**, call the parish office.

**Confessions/Reconciliation** –Schedule with Fr. Peter Patrick at 445-5115 for an appointment.



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