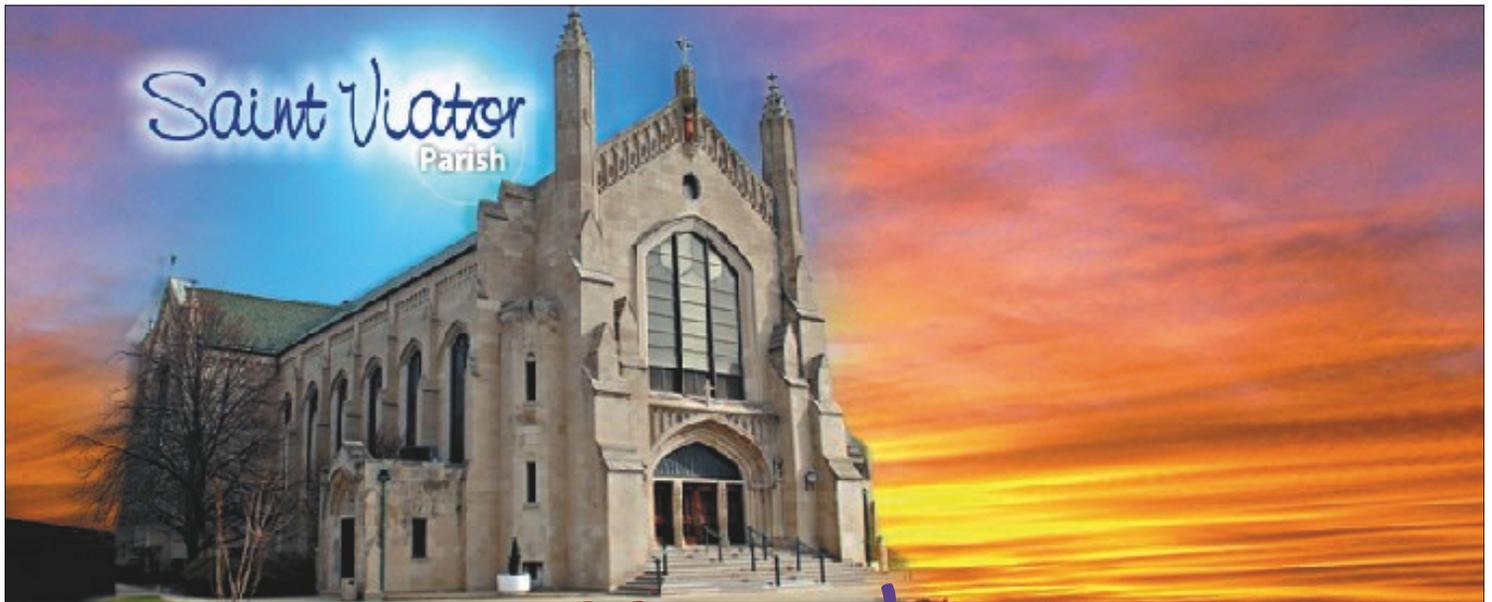


Saint Viator
Parish



The Viatorian

Welcome to Our Parish

Bienvenidos a Nuestra Parroquia

In
THIS BULLETIN

March 7, 2021

LET'S REFLECT

Covenants
Alianzas

WEEKLY READINGS

Let God accompany and speak to
you throughout the week
Liturgy Schedule

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Let's pray for one another

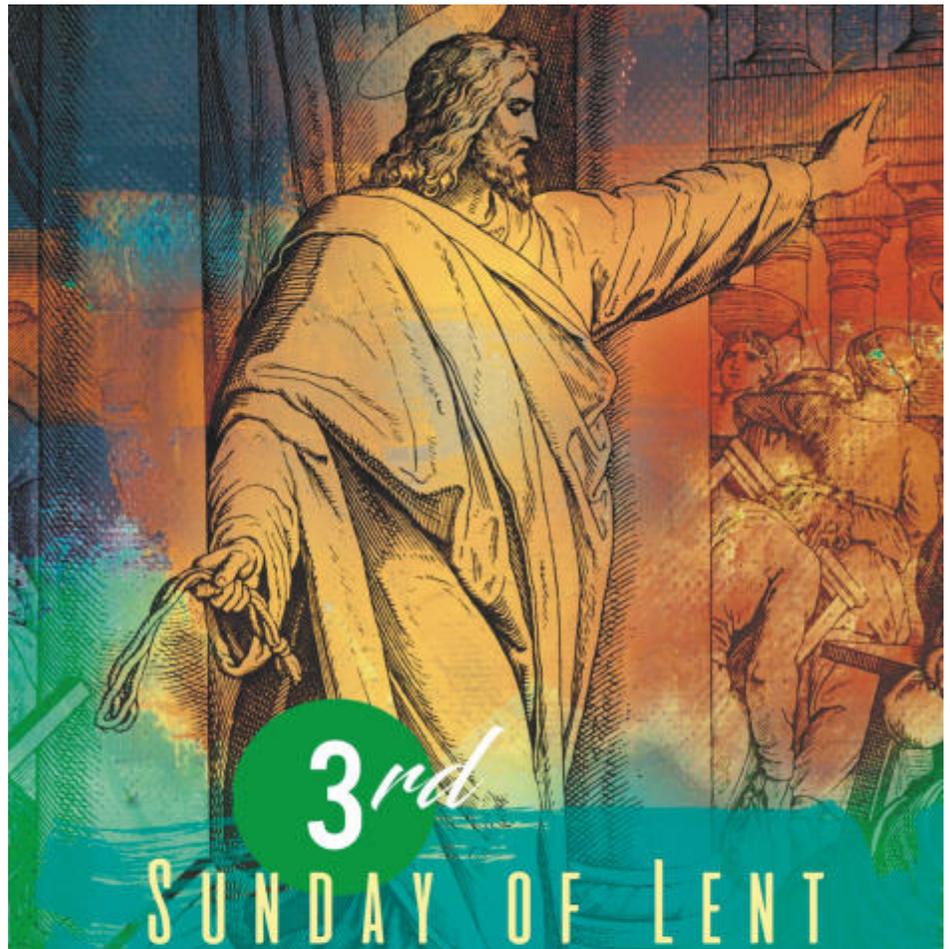
NEWS

Get the Covid 19 Vaccine

12 Pieces Of Advice
To Revolutionize Your Lent

Lenten Virtual Rosary and
Stations of the Cross.

VIATORIAN
VOCATIONS
CORNER



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www.stviatorparish.org



Rev. Pat Render, CSV
Pastor

PARISH MINISTRIES

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Pastor/Parroco

Rev. Patrick W. Render, CSV Ext. 13

Associate Pastor/Pastor Asociado

Rev. Moses Mesh, CSV Ext. 15

Deacon Couples/Parejas Diaconales

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Rev. Mr. Victor and Maria Flores

Rev. Mr. Felix & Carmen Crespo

Rev. Mr. Bill and Paula Burns

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Brother Michael T. Gosch, CSV

Rev. Corey Brost, CSV

School Principal/Directora de la Escuela

Mrs. Lisa Rieger (773) 545 - 2173

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Let's Reflect

Dear Friends,

March is a dangerous month. The old saying that states “*March comes in like a lion, but goes out like a lamb (or vice versa)*” is usually on target. Who would have expected that in 2020 the world was shut down by a virus in March! March weather in the Midwest can be deceptive; green shoots get covered with unexpected snowfalls frequently. March winds, especially near the Lake, can forcefully carry people away. And March celebrations, like St. Patrick’s Day and St. Joseph’s Day, have to sneak in between the fasting and abstinence of Lent. (Italians, please note that the Cardinal has already given a dispensation for meat on Friday, March 19th, St. Joseph’s Day!) Easter seldom falls on a March date and so March is a time to *get through* until Easter arrives. That probably makes it a good month for Lent and another reason to look forward to April.

March has already begun by the time you are reading this column but this weekend’s liturgy is the first we celebrate together in March. This is the 3rd Sunday of Lent and, once again, the first reading brings forward one of the ancestral figures of the Hebrew Tradition. The first was Noah, then Abraham, and now Moses. Each of these persons played a significant role in the unfolding story of human salvation. Each of them is chosen and favored by God for a specific role and, as a result of their response, God establishes a covenant with each of them. Those covenants become landmarks and sacred credentials for the history of Israel. *Covenant* is not a word we use much in contemporary language except in legal documents regarding real estate. In the Church, however, it becomes a theological concept establishing a sacred relationship. God’s covenant with Noah was to never again destroy the earth, God’s covenant with Abraham was to make him the father of countless generations, and today, we hear about the Covenant that God made with Moses and the Israelite people on Mt. Sinai. God promises to be their God and to protect and remain with them always; the condition of response from the Israelites was what we know as the Ten Commandments.

Covenants are about promises made by two parties in a relationship. In secular terms we think of these as contracts, but in theological understanding these promises are understood to be a covenant. Sacramental marriage, for example, is referred to as a covenant. So too are the vows of religious men and women and the promises made by an ordained priest. God is a somehow a part of all of those promises, even though they may be spoken only with another human person. Marriage vows reveal this most clearly, but we can also see it in Baptismal promises and in the “*new and everlasting covenant*” which Jesus established through his death and resurrection and which we recall at the words of consecration spoken in every Mass. This week think about covenants, especially ones that have been made with you and that you have made with others. What was the situation in which you entered into these covenants? Which ones require the most from you? Which covenants offer you the most hope?

Fr. Pat Render, csv.

Reflexionemos

Queridos amigos,

Marzo es un mes peligroso. El viejo refrán que dice "Marzo entra como un león, pero sale como un cordero (o viceversa)" suele ser acertado. ¡Quién hubiera esperado que en el 2020 el mundo fuera cerrado por un virus en marzo! El clima de marzo en el Medio Oeste puede ser engañoso; los brotes verdes se cubren con nevadas inesperadas con frecuencia. Los vientos de marzo, especialmente cerca del lago, pueden empujar a la gente con fuerza. Y las celebraciones de marzo, como el Día de San Patricio y el Día de San José, tienen que colarse entre el ayuno y la abstinencia de la Cuaresma. (¡Italianos, tengan en cuenta que el Cardenal ya ha dado una dispensa para la carne el viernes 19 de marzo, día de San José!) La Pascua rara vez cae en algún día de marzo, por lo que marzo es un momento para *pasar* hasta que llegue la Pascua. Eso probablemente lo convierte en un buen mes para la Cuaresma y una buena razón para esperar a que llegue abril.

Marzo ya habrá comenzado cuando lean esta columna, pero la liturgia de este fin de semana es la primera que celebramos juntos en marzo. Este es el tercer domingo de Cuaresma y, una vez más, la primera lectura nos trae a una de las figuras ancestrales de la Tradición hebrea. El primero fue Noé, luego Abraham y ahora Moisés. Cada una de estas personas jugó un papel importante en el desarrollo de la historia de la salvación humana. Cada uno de ellos fue elegido y favorecido por Dios para un rol específico y, como resultado de su respuesta, Dios estableció una alianza con cada uno de ellos. Esas alianzas se convierten en hitos y credenciales sagradas para la historia de Israel. *Convenios o compromisos* no son palabras que usemos mucho en el lenguaje contemporáneo, excepto en documentos legales relacionados con bienes raíces. En la Iglesia, sin embargo, se convierte en un concepto teológico que establece una relación sagrada. La alianza de Dios con Noé fue nunca más destruir la tierra, el pacto de Dios con Abraham fue convertirlo en el padre de innumerables generaciones, y hoy escuchamos sobre el Pacto que Dios hizo con Moisés y el pueblo israelita en el monte Sinaí. Dios promete ser su Dios y protegerlos y permanecer con ellos siempre; la condición de respuesta de los israelitas fue lo que hoy conocemos como los Diez Mandamientos.

Las alianzas se refieren a promesas hechas por dos partes en una relación. En términos seculares, pensamos en estos como contratos, pero en el entendimiento teológico estas promesas se entienden como un pacto. El matrimonio sacramental, por ejemplo, se conoce como una alianza. También lo son los votos de religiosos y religiosas y las promesas hechas por un sacerdote ordenado. Dios es de alguna manera una parte de todas esas promesas, aunque pueden ser dichas solo con otra persona humana. Los votos matrimoniales revelan esto de la manera más clara, pero también podemos verlo en las promesas bautismales y en la "alianza nueva y eterna" que Jesús estableció a través de su muerte y resurrección y que recordamos en las palabras de consagración pronunciadas en cada Misa. Esta semana piensen acerca de las alianzas, especialmente las que se han hecho con ustedes y las que ustedes han hecho con otras personas. ¿Cuál fue la situación en la que se celebraron estos convenios o alianzas? ¿Cuáles requieren más de ustedes? ¿Qué pactos les ofrecen más esperanza?

P. Pat Render, csv.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE
SAINTS VIATOR AND
WENCESLAUS

WEEKENDS / FINES DE SEMANA

Saturdays / Sábados

5:00 p.m. English St. Wenceslaus

5:30 p.m. English St. Viator

Sundays / Domingos

8:30 a.m. English St. Viator (also
livestream)

9:00 a.m. Bilingual St. Wenceslaus

10:30 a.m. Spanish St. Viator (also
livestream)

12:00 p.m. Spanish St. Wenceslaus

12:30 p.m. Spanish St. Viator

WEEKDAYS/DIARIAS

8:00 a.m. Bilingual St. Wenceslaus

8:15 a.m. English St. Viator

7:00 p.m. Wednesday Spanish St. Viator

7:00 p.m. Friday Spanish St. Wences-

RECONCILIATION/CONFESION

Saturday 3:00 p.m. Eng./Span. St. Wenceslaus

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Eng./Span. St. Viator



READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Lecturas para la semana

His disciples remembered that it was written, Zeal for thy house shall eat me up.
Jn 2:17

Entonces se acordaron sus discípulos de que estaba escrito: El celo por tu casa me consumirá.
Jn 2:17

Sunday:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/
Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or
4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday:

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday:

Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday:

Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20]/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday:

Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23

Friday:

Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday:

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or
9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Domingo:

Ex 20, 1-17 o 20, 1-3. 7-8. 12-17/Sal 18, 8. 9. 10. 11 [Jn 6, 68]/
1 Cor 1, 22-25/Jn 2, 13-25 o Ex 17, 3-7/Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9 [8]/
Rom 5, 1-2. 5-8/Jn 4, 5-42 o 4, 5-15. 19-26. 39. 40-42

Lunes:

2 Re 5, 1-15/Sal 41, 2. 3; 43, 3. 4 [cfr. 42, 3]/Lc 4, 24-30

Martes:

Dn 3, 25. 34-43/Sal 24, 4-5. 6 y 7. 8-9 [6]/Mt 18, 21-35

Miércoles:

Dt 4, 1. 5-9/Sal 147, 12-13. 15-16. 19-20]/Mt 5, 17-19

Jueves:

Jr 7, 23-28/Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9 [8]/Lc 11, 14-23

Viernes:

Os 14, 2-10/Sal 80, 6-8. 8-9. 10-11. 14 y 17 [cfr. 11 y 9]/Mc 12, 28-34

Sábado:

Os 6, 1-6/Sal 50, 3-4. 18-19. 20-21 [cfr. Os 6, 6]/Lc 18, 9-14

Domingo siguiente:

2 Cr 36, 14-16. 19-23/Sal 136, 1-2. 3. 4-5. 6 [6]/Ef 2, 4-10/Jn 3, 14-21 o
1 Sm 16, 1. 6-7. 10-13/Sal 22, 1-3. 3-4. 5. 6 [1]/Ef 5, 8-14/

Sacraments

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptismal class required for parents and godparents.

English Classes: **2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.**

Baptism is offered:

1st & 3rd Sundays of the month in English at 2:00 pm.

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month in Spanish at 2:00 pm.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact the Parish Office six (6) months prior to the wedding in order to complete paper work.

Registration to the Parish

Please stop by the Parish office to complete your registration.

Sacramentos

Sacramento Bautismal

Las clases bautismales son requeridas para los padres y padrinos

En Español: **3er Martes de cada mes a las 7:00 pm.**

El Bautismo se celebra cada mes de la siguiente manera:

1er y 3er Domingo del mes a las 2:00 pm en Inglés.

2do y 4to Domingo del mesa las 200 pm. en Español.

Sacramento de Matrimonio

Es importante que las personas contacten a la oficina parroquial con seis (6) meses de anticipación.

Registre su familia en la parroquia

Por favor, visite la oficina parroquial para registrarse.

PRAYER REQUEST

"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers"

1 Peter 3:13

Mass & Intentions / Misas & Intenciones

Monday, March 8, 2021

St. John of God, Religious

8:15 a.m. Asher Toma

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

St. Frances of Rome, Religious

8:15 a.m. Ed Dupon by Jackie Dupon

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

8:15 a.m. For an end to the Covid 19 virus

7:00 p.m. For the People of the Parish

Thursday, March 11, 2021

8:15 a.m. Alma V. Corona

Friday, March 12, 2021

8:15 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory

8:45 a.m. Stations of the Cross – English

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross – Spanish

Saturday, March 13, 2021

5:30 p.m. For the People of the Parish

Sunday, March 14, 2021

4th Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

8:30 a.m. Living and deceased members of the Alexander Family

10:30 a.m. Aurelio Montoya & Elena Limon, Ursula Gonzales, Felipe Limon, Isidora Ineiges & Eduard Montoya by Conceta

12:30 p.m. Rosa Elvira Aguilar by Mercedes Aguilar
Porfirio Arevalos by The Vera Family

Please keep in your Prayers:

Eloy Gomez ~Ana Ceci Juache~Homero Perez~ Cary Evans~Angel Pagan
Pattie Montemayor~ August (Bud) Roller~Lorena Lamas~ Jackie Andres
Tommy Bosco~Bertha Parker~Bob Seagraves ~Larry Parker
Nestor Rodriguez~Mary Ellen Evans ~ Mary Ann Principe
Rafael Suarez ~Patricia Lozano ~Lisa Barsanti-Gonzalez~Jesus Lamas
Elena Enriquez ~Tammy Curtis ~Andi Leineberg~ Jim Evans
Jo Jo Buscemi~ Carol McCleary ~Linda McCleary ~ Carol Zehren
Jesus Garcia~Josefina Hernandez de Olivo~ Rob Strantz~Linda Dupin
Joanne Stanton ~Gloria De La Cruz~Patricia Chrastka
Maria Robles~Dolores Puhl~Jeremy Delgado
Margaret Brown ~Inge Gibson ~ Joel Rojas ~Donald Rietman ~ Gail Formica
Cecile Seagraves~ Mary Bosco ~John Bosco~Jim Bychowski
Jerry Goldstein~ Mary Walsh~ Anne Kelly
Brigitte Dluzyn~ Diane Sungail~ Liesel Kutzner~ Liesel Frank
Pam Brammer~ Roseanne Gagliardotto~ Sylvia Weber
Adal Zapat ~Connie Cornett~Beata Gamboa
Rudolfo Gamboa~Neil Gamboa~Leonora Llanes~Juan Guevara
Violeta Galang~ Narciso Galang~Nephtal Galang~Victoria Bonilla
Virinder Nohrinda ~Laura Dobroski~Edward Garcia~Elijah Aaron
Ana Lopez~Lisa & Ray Prince ~Ginny Cizek, Lu

PLEASE NOTE: All names will be NOW automatically removed from the sick list after 3 months, unless office is notified. Thank you for your cooperation.

Those serving our country

Captain Teresa Moreno, Air Force ♦ Sgt. Mark Renkal Jr., Army ♦ 1st Lt. Jacob Schlenbecker, SMC♦Timothy Paul Vasiliadis, SPC MP, Army♦B Ortega♦ 1st Lt. Matthew Rowe, Army ♦PFC Ricardo Dominguez, Army ♦Richie Hurley, US Navy

Baptism

February 28, 2021 Rory Elizabeth Gaeger

Our Faithful Departed

Patricia Miller (2/25/21) Fr. Benjamin's Father - Porfirio Arevalos (2/27/21)
Robert Joseph Gucoma (3/3/21)

Unable to attend Mass?

If you are unable to attend Mass due to being homebound, even temporarily, we have trained Ministers of Care who can bring the Eucharist to you in your home. If you or someone you know would like us to visit, to bring the Eucharist, or both, call the rectory at 773-286-4040, and someone will visit.

Pope Francis' Tweet for the Week!

WE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO BELIEVE IN A GOD WHO LOVES HUMANITY, IF WE HAD NOT KNOWN JESUS. WHAT KIND OF GOD IS PREPARED TO DIE FOR PEOPLE? WHAT KIND OF GOD LOVES ALWAYS AND PATIENTLY, WITHOUT DEMANDING TO BE LOVED IN RETURN?



Follow St. Viator on:



Visit our Web site at: www.stviatorparish.org

NUESTRAS FINANZAS

STEWARDSHIP

FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021 OPERATING BUDGET

MONTH	MONTHLY BUDGET	WEEKLY BUDGET	WEEKLY ACTUAL	MONTHLY ACTUAL
JULY	30,000.00	7,500.00		27,563.95
AUGUST	37,500.00	7,500.00		34,321.36
SEPTEMBER	30,000.00	7,500.00		24,749.12
OCTOBER	30,000.00	7,500.00		27,554.92
NOVEMBER	37,500.00	7,500.00		32,715.36
DECEMBER	30,000.00	7,500.00		27,434.50
JANUARY	37,500.00	7,500.00		31,553.60
FEBRUARY	30,000.00	7,500.00	7,826.30	
		7,500.00	6,714.05	
		7,500.00	9,246.55	
		7,500.00		
MARCH	30,000.00			
APRIL	30,000.00			
MAY	37,500.00			
JUNE	30,000.00			

Our Finances



We sincerely thank all who regularly and generously give of their time, talent and treasure to support the work our parish does in the name of St. Viator.

Please donate online through...

Por favor done electrónicamente a través de...



March 7, 2021 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...”

- EXODUS 20:4

How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God’s help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

The Catholic Community of Saint Viator, in partnership with the Clerics of Saint Viator is empowered by the Spirit and strengthened by Word and Sacrament to fulfill its fourfold mission of:

- ♣ PROCLAIMING the Good News of Jesus Christ
- ♣ SERVING the People of God
- ♣ BUILDING up the Body of Christ
- ♣ CELEBRATING THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN LORD

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

In light of our mission, the Catholic Faith Community of Saint Viator aspires to be a community that:

- ♣ Invites and welcomes all to Kingdom Living
- ♣ Encourages and fosters continuing education in the faith
- ♣ Recognizes and respects the sacredness of God’s Creation
- ♣ Invites and enables the gifts of the baptized in the service of this community and the world.



GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Seniors 65+ Get Your COVID Vaccine @ United Center – Register March 4

Illinois seniors age 65 and older can schedule COVID-19 vaccination appointments at the United Center in Chicago from March 10-31. Register beginning March 4. 97,000 appointments will be available online via [Zocdoc.com/Vaccine](https://www.zocdoc.com/Vaccine). An additional 15,500 appointments will be available by calling 312.746.4835. There is no cost and you do not need proof of health insurance. Complete a very simple registration process and appointment reminders can be sent via email or text. Drive-through and walk-up options available. Language assistance provided, accessible to people with disabilities. Please register early and check back often for available appointments.

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated families and communities around the world. Finally, there is hope in the form of vaccines that have been approved by the Vatican and deemed safe and effective by federal regulators.

As a faith community concerned about the sanctity of human life, the archdiocese encourages everyone to get vaccinated for the sake of their own health and the common good.

We join the voices of many who thank our dedicated health care workers, brave first responders and essential workers, including our Catholic school educators and staff, who report to work every day and provide stability and safety to our community. We owe it to them to get vaccinated.

To register for vaccination or to get more information about the vaccine, visit your local health department's vaccination website:

City of Chicago: [Chicago.gov/COVIDvax.com](https://www.chicago.gov/COVIDvax.com)

Lake County: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4521/COVID-19-Vaccine>

Cook County: <https://cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/covid-19/covid-vaccine/>

Or for more information, visit the CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

Our Parish Activities & Announcements

Actividades y Anuncios en nuestra Parroquia

Lenten Regulations

(from February 17, 2021 [Ash Wednesday] to the Paschal Triduum)

English

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. The special Paschal fast, as well as abstinence, are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday.

Spanish

Abstinencia: Todos los Católicos mayores de 14 años, deben abstenerse de comer carne el Miércoles de Ceniza y todos los viernes de Cuaresma. El Ayuno debe ser observado el Miércoles de Ceniza por todos los Católicos que han-cumplido los dieciocho (18) años pero no han llegado a los cincuenta y nueve (59). Estas personas sólo pueden hacer una comida completa, y dos comidas pequeñas si son necesarias para mantener las fuerzas, de acuerdo a las necesidades individuales, pero no se permite alimento sólido entre las comidas. El ayuno así como la abstinencia Pascual especial obliga el Viernes Santo y es recomendada en el Sábado Santo también.



Lenten Virtual Rosary and Stations of the Cross.

All are invited to join the Knights of Columbus in a Zoom Virtual Scriptural Rosary on Tuesday, March 9th starting at 7:30pm and a Zoom Virtual Stations of the Cross on Thursday, March 11, starting at 8:00pm. Please

logon to our Zoom Rosary and Stations at <https://tinyurl.com/KCRosary>, passcode 2349.

At our Rosary and Stations of the Cross, we will be remembering all those who have died due to the Covid19 virus during the pandemic. Please sign up on our registration page at www.tinyurl.com/KCLENTROSARY, if you would like an email reminder of our Rosaries, a Stations of the Cross Guide book emailed, or a loved one remembered in our services. Contact Tom Kaiser for more info at tjkaiser@sprynet.com.

Legal Assistance Available

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Department has attorneys and volunteer attorneys available to provide advice in numerous areas of law. If you are unsure about your legal rights or lost in the legal system, they can help. Services include in-depth advice and possible direct representation on many issues, including landlord/tenant disputes, family law, consumer and debtor rights, foreclosure, employment issues, orders of protection, power of attorney, and more. CCLA provides free to low-cost legal services to eligible low-income individuals. For help and more information, contact the legal advice line at (312) 948-6821.

El Departamento de Asistencia Legal de Caridades Católicas tiene abogados voluntarios disponibles para brindar asesoramiento en numerosas áreas del derecho. Si no está seguro de sus derechos legales o está perdido en el sistema legal, ellos pueden ayudarlo. Los servicios incluyen asesoramiento detallado y posible representación directa en muchos temas, incluidos disputas entre propietarios e inquilinos, derecho de familia, derechos del consumidor y deudor, ejecución hipotecaria, problemas laborales, órdenes de protección, poder notarial y más. CCLA ofrece servicios legales gratuitos o de bajo costo a personas elegibles de bajos ingresos. Para obtener ayuda y más información, comuníquese con la línea de asesoramiento legal al (312) 948-6821.



TAXES?

If you would like to receive a statement of your contributions, please call the rectory at ext. 10 to request a copy. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ivy Vera at 773-286-4040 x 10.

IMPUESTOS?

Si desea recibir una copia de sus contribuciones para los impuestos anuales, o si tuviera preguntas sobre ello, por favor contáctese con Ivy Vera al (773) 286-4040 ext. 10.

12 Pieces Of Advice To Revolutionize Your Lent

This post aims to compile some of the reflections the Lord has given me during a retreat I lived not long ago. They are not the result of my own inspiration whatsoever, but a true gift from God and the good preacher, whom God put in our path.

In our lives, we are like the man with leprosy from the Gospel: we are on the path to healing. We walk with the faith and hope that Jesus, with his grace and gentleness, will heal and transform our hearts.

1. *Our conversion is an impossible task*

Yes, you read that correctly, it is impossible. It is not and never will be within our capabilities. To convert means to let Someone else take part. We definitely can't do it by ourselves, we need God to do His part. We need Him to walk alongside us and heal us. Our conversion is nothing if not a process through which, little by little, we become beggars of God's grace. Our life is as a field hospital: as the doctor (Christ) comes by, He heals those who are

wounded.

2. Conversion requires us to change the way we look at things

We are used to looking at ourselves and our reality from a very limited and human perspective. When we look at things from love and hope, we discover realities that are not so easy to perceive otherwise. So let's ask for the Blessed Virgin Mary's help to see through her eyes, with a gaze that's grown mature in the faith. After the crucifixion and death of her Son, when she holds Him in her arms, Mary is able to see the Resurrected One. Changing our gaze means learning to see that our very limitation is the place of our salvation. Yes, that's right, the unexpected can rise up from within hopelessness. God can do great things in us if we let our fragility make room for his presence.

3. Look at things like a child of God

It's not the same to look at life from the perspective of an orphan child as it is looking at life from the perspective of a daughter or a son. Imagine how different it is for a child to face the difficulties of life alone, versus doing so accompanied by his or her father. Our condition is one of being children of God the Father, dependent on His love. If we were made according to the model of Christ, then we ought to be like Him, children of God, as He Himself is. Our life will be more free insofar as we seek that filial relationship. In our everyday life, it will do us good to ask ourselves: What am I looking at? ... To the evil in ourselves and the world, or to the presence of Christ in us?

4. Let us convert to beauty

To direct our gaze to Christ means to live seduced by His beauty, this de-centers us from ourselves. Again, this relates to the penitential posture and outward focused gaze of Lent. When we allow ourselves to be amazed by a superior greatness, we stop thinking so much about what happens to us, what makes us sad, etc. It's a matter of not letting our daily activities deaden our openness to the grace and amazement of the constant lights that God puts in our lives. Consider human love: when a young man falls in love with a girl, he lives captivated by her beauty and forgets a little about himself. Likewise, whoever loves Christ lives in the contemplation of His beauty and reorients his or her gaze from anything which isn't Him.

5. Become aware, again and again, of the treasure you've found

In other words, being aware of who Christ is in our lives, of what He means to us. Going back to this moment in our lives: We were walking in the field of our life when suddenly we found a treasure. We sold everything we had and bought the field where it was buried, because it was more valuable than everything we already had. To convert means to be capable of seeing reality as a whole: although the "field" of our life might have many defects, it hides an invaluable treasure that we wouldn't change for anything. This is what's worth the most.

6. Live today

The devil removes us and distracts us from what actually is going on. He prevents us from seeing the present. The devil surrounds us with our sins from the past or the uncertainties of the future. By contrast, God acts in our reality, in our present. There's nothing more real than the present. We must grow in our faith to realize that, even if our present seems painful, if we move away from it due to hopelessness, distrust, or oblivion, we could miss what God is giving us.

«When we wake up every morning, no matter what situation we are experiencing, even the most difficult or painful, there is always something good about to rise on our human horizon» (Luigi Giussiani).

7. Accept who you are

We are pilgrims who—knowing we are on a journey— don't close our

eyes when we find a desert, and we know that it won't have the last word. Many times we walk as if there was only sand and there was no sight of the horizon. At other times, we are scandalized by our own weakness, or the weakness of those around us. Lent can certainly seem like this. Yes, it's true, we are sinners who need the constant help of grace, but we're also beloved children of God. He lives with us and our life is open to holiness and happiness.

8. Don't live on events alone, but live on The Real event

It's the gaze that returns and looks at Christ, and remembers Christ, alive and present when He seems absent, or when everyone else seems to forget Him. It's the gaze of Mary, that seeks to be in tune with the heart of her Son. In difficult times, or even when everything's going fine, we should ask ourselves: What good does God want me to get from these present circumstances? Since in every situation, no matter how painful it is, there is Christ's Resurrection, the singular real and true event that fills our lives, and reality itself, with meaning and hope.

9. Learn to live with losing and accept being defeated by others

Give up the gifts to keep the giver. Give up what one has in one's arms to be able to embrace the Father. This is precisely the spirit with which we give up some "good" for the 40 days of Lent. Accept going to God with our empty hands, because He wants our hands, not hands full of stuff and encumbrances, but just our hands. As Christians, we believe that when a failure befalls us, it is because God wants to triumph. When darkness comes, it's because He wants to be the Light.

«No fighter is more divine than one who can achieve victory through defeat. In the instant when he receives the deadly wound, his opponent falls to the ground, himself struck a final blow. For he strikes love and is thus himself struck by love. And by letting itself be struck, love proves what had to be proven: that it is indeed love» (Hans Urs von Balthasar).

10. Believe that the Cross is the tree of life

As Christians, we are called to carry the cross. Jesus never said otherwise. Rather, He affirmed this point many times. The cross has always been, is, and always will be the way, the place, the occasion, the instrument of our salvation. To live complaining of the cross as if it was an obstacle is to live as if we weren't Christians. The Lord, who carried his own cross, and was wounded for our sins, is on the cross. Truly, He is present on each and everyone of our crosses.

11. Recognize your concrete place in the Church

We're not the center of the story, therefore, we must live as members of the Church. We must not focus only on ourselves, nor on what happens to us. Neither should we sanctify ourselves however we please, making up our Christian walk as is most comfortable for us on a whim. We must know and be faithful to the place God has put us in for the sake of our own happiness.

12. Live Lent in hope

Live Lent (and beyond) waiting for the Lord to work a miracle. Our human life is characterized by our necessity to be saved. No one can prevent the spring from blooming, nor the storm from calming. Ask yourself: What are my defeats? Because they are the very seed that will make grow the new life of God's grace. Deep down below our fall are Jesus' hands. He has put Himself so far down beneath the surface, so that there can be no fall so horrible He can't rescue us from. He has put Himself before hell.

Our life consists of growing in proportion with what we expect, in accordance with our hope.

By Luisa Restrepo (Catholic Link)

Ministries Directory

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huelatfamily@gmail.com
- ◆ **Altar Servers (Spanish)**
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Repunzel13@gmail.com
- ◆ **Alumni Relations & Development**
Maggie Goschi '75 Gebien
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773-286-4040 Ext. 31
- ◆ **Art Zone - School**
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Counseling Support

Line



If the pandemic has you feeling anxious or depressed and you'd like to talk with a counselor, please call the Catholic Charities Counseling Support Line at (312) 948-6951 anytime M-F from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Spanish speaking counselors are available. If you leave a message after hours, a counselor will call you back.

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Viatorian Vocations Corner

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Fr. Jason Nesbit, CSV, Fr. Dan Lydon, CSV, Fr. John Peeters, CSV, Fr. Dan Belanger, CSV with Bishop McNamara Catholic Schools students and President Terry Granger.

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