

St. Stanislaus

Parish Family

February 28, 2021
2nd Sunday
Of Lent

PARISH STAFF

Father Nestor A. Varon, AIC, Pastor
In Residence, Msgr. John J. Siekierski
Sister Gloria Jean Kozlowski, Director
of Religious Education
Anne J. Ruiz, School Principal
Dora Castellanos, School Secretary
Heladia Rivera, Church Secretary

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (by appointment)
Office Closed: Wednesday,
Friday, Saturday & Sunday

TELEPHONE

Parish Office/Rectory	398-2341
Convent	397-7059
School	398-1316

MASSES

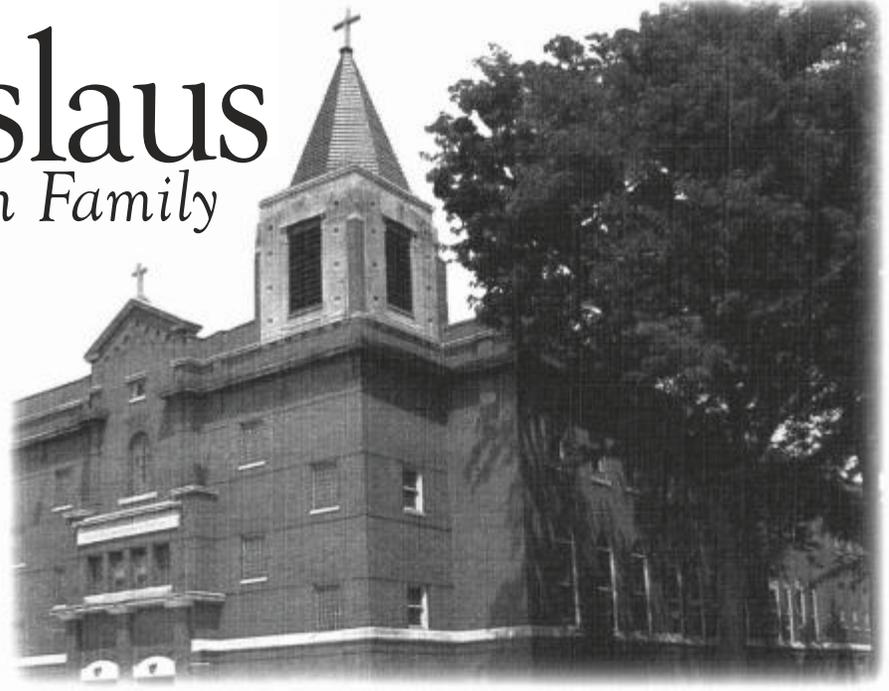
Saturday 4:30pm
Sunday 8:30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

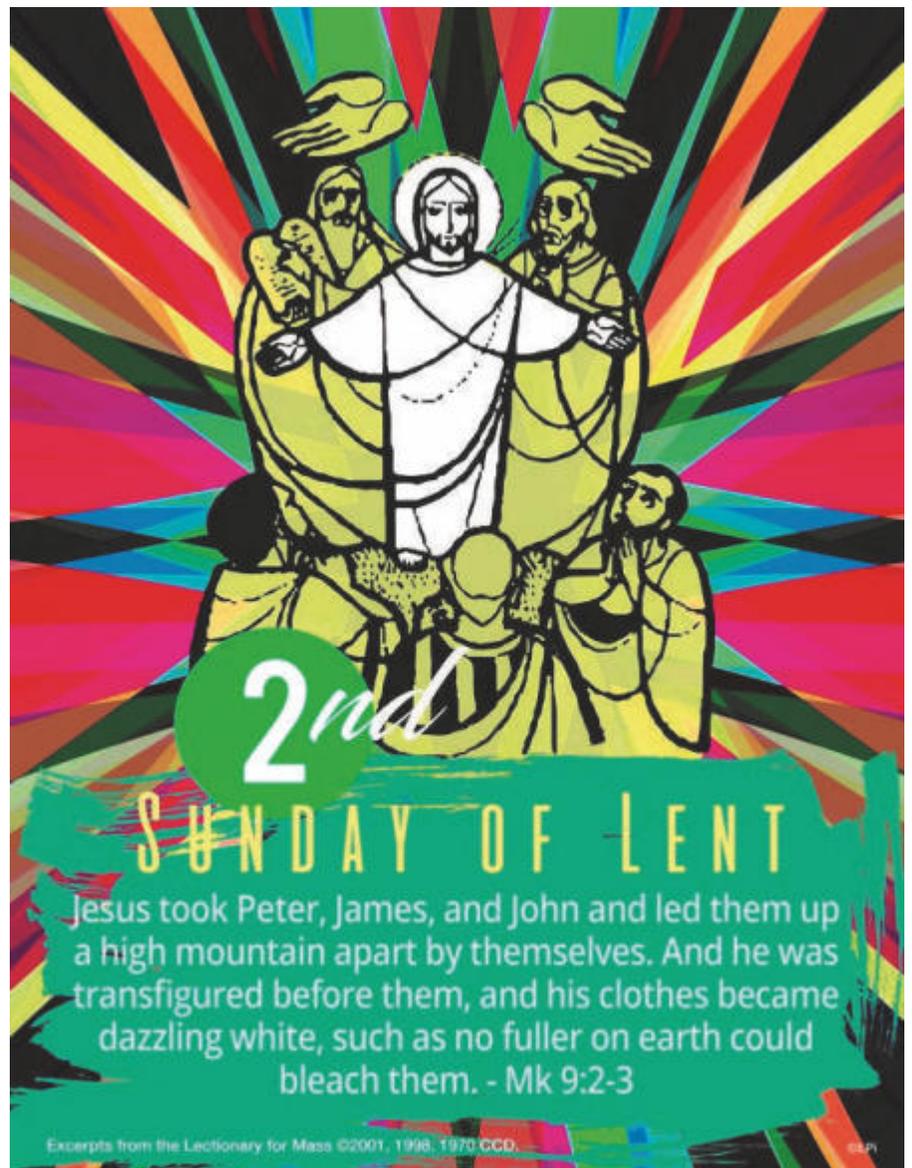
There are no weekday Masses or
Word & Communion Services at this
time.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions by appointment only.



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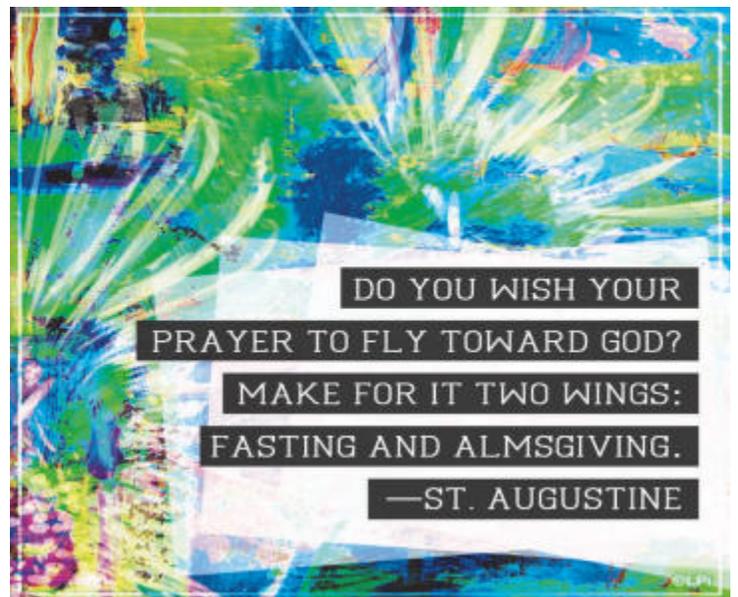
Liturgical Notes for the Week

For you have given your children a sacred time for the renewing and purifying of their hearts, that, freed from disordered affections, they may so deal with the things of this passing world as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure. — Preface II of Lent.

Several weeks ago, on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, the gospel began with the verses that end today's gospel, Jesus' first words of preaching: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel." They are apt words to reflect on again as we enter into this season of Lent, so begins the authors of Living Liturgy comments concerning this blessed season we the church enter in to today. Our liturgical year offers us rhythms for living out the life of faith. There are times to live and grow in knowledge and wisdom (Ordinary Time), a time to celebrate that God entered into human history to draw us closer to himself (Christmas season), a time to live into the mystery of God's victory over death (Easter season), and times for preparation, repentance, and purification (Advent and Lent). Throughout the liturgical year, we enter into the life of Christ from conception to ascension, and we also live out the peculiarities of the human condition. As humans, we crave meaningful work, but also times of celebration and repose. The liturgical year offers us all of this, and also something else—time for reconciliation and healing. Each one of us is a sinner. Despite our best intentions and resolve, we will do things that hurt our relationship with God and our relationship with others. Because of this truth, repentance is not an optional undertaking for those guilty of serious social sin, but a necessary practice for all children of God. In Lent we are given the opportunity together to accept Jesus' invitation anew to "repent and believe in the gospel." As with all seasons, this one will draw to a close. How will you enter into these weeks of penance and purification that will prepare us for Easter Joy? As he traces the historical development of Lent, the authors of The Source Book inform us, Patrick O'Regan, OSB, notes that, for Christians of the fourth and fifth centuries, Lent's "purpose and character" were "entirely derived from the great festival for which it prepares... the yearly reminder of their own incorporation into the paschal event through baptism" ("The Three Days and the Forty Days" in *Between Memory and Hope*, ed. Johnson, p. 129) Lent cannot be separated from Easter — not then and not now. Just as it was for the early Christians, it is a time for us to prepare our hearts and reflect more deeply on our baptismal call to continuing conversion. This call to conversion is at the forefront of Lent from the first day of the season. On Ash Wednesday, people flock to churches to receive ashes and to be told, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." These two formulas for the imposition of

ashes offer insight into the meaning of this season. The first formula is a *memento mori*, a remembrance of death. Even in our world, where rituals surrounding death are increasingly sanitized and privatized, this formula reminds that the reality of death is undeniable. The second formula is a call to repentance—urging us to turn away from sin and toward the Good News. How each of us can make this Lent of 2021 meaningful is suggested in the following reflection. During Lent 2020, Alan Hommerding wrote in his column, *Lenting So Hard*. I—like everyone—was blissfully unaware of the pandemic that would be heading our way, coinciding almost exactly with the beginning of Lent. During Lent 2020, I encountered several variations of this saying on social media: "I am Lenting harder this Lent than I have ever Lented before." Reflection brought me to a place where I had to consider honestly whether the Lenten disciplines truly made an impact on my life—my activities and behaviors—as the stay-at-home order did. I've often mistaken my relatively consistent faithfulness to Lenten disciplines (prayer, fasting, almsgiving, with an additional specific discipline or two that I choose each year) as truly "Lenting" during that forty-day stretch of life. Truth be told, my life under the stay-at-home-order didn't come under the category of "hardship" (as in "Lenting so hard"), but more as annoyance or inconvenience. Furthermore, I had to look at how I am changed by my Lenten observances once Lent is over, as so many things about our lives will change forever on the other side of the pandemic. This year, I will try to have courage to look deeply and ask myself whether I will come out the other side of Lent 2021 differently than when I went in. Will I be Lenting hard — or hardly at all?

So I will ask myself: does increased prayer allow me to enter a place where God truly permeates every moment? Does my almsgiving still come from my excess, or am I able to distinguish my true needs from mere wants? Has my increased fasting helped me be in greater solidarity with the hungry, looking for ways beyond charity to address systems of inequity that cause hunger? All in all, can I fashion my life more closely after that of the Christ who truly and fully humbled himself?



Scripture Reflection

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, “You are absolutely beaming!” The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn’t mean their heart and soul come with them. Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald’s and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new “digs,” received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day. How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you’re really “into it” this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it’s only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God’s call. Then, there is God’s request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.

Inspiration For The Week

How is your Lent going so far? In changing the circumstances and order of our lives a bit, perhaps we can hear God’s voice more clearly and drink more deeply of graced moments we experience. Having God as a friend always involves several things. First, there is God’s call. We become attuned to the echo of God’s voice in the depth of our souls calling and beckoning us to listen. Second, there is a request. We begin to see that God asks us to do certain things, to order our lives a particular way, and become more intentional in the choices we make. Third, there is trust. Do we trust this call and request? Trust commits us to the relationship and makes a claim on who we are. Finally, we are asked to act. We find ourselves acting, not in the way we used to, but in a transformed, more enlightened way. Things seem clearer and all that is around us shines with the brilliance of God’s presence. God’s call came through a cloud, “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him,” This is the call and the request. Can we give God our trust and do as God asks?

Everyday Stewardship

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. “We’re ready, God!” our hearts cry out. “Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!” But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they’ve joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It’s not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It’s the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there’s that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn’t really mind*. It’s a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn’t you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried “Ready!” when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us. We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him. If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, “Ready!” when we hear the call of God?

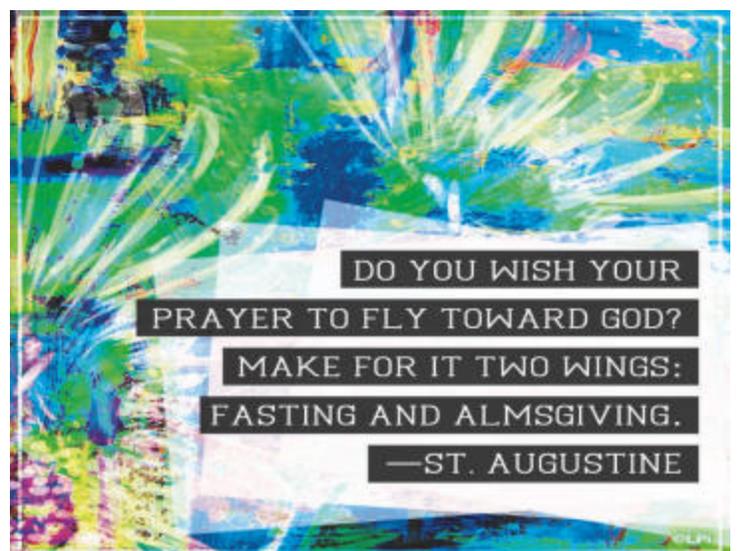
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Second Sunday of Lent —February 28, 2021

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?



Weekday Masses in church are cancelled until further notice. Mass intentions will be rescheduled

Monday, March 1

Tuesday, March 2

Wednesday, March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Thursday, March 4 - St. Casimir

Friday, March 5

Saturday, March 6

4:30pm †Sophie Campbell, 24th Anniversary of Death
int. Mackowiak Family
†Kim Marie Kmaitek, Anniversary of Death
int. Mom & Family

Sunday, March 7, 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:30am †Stanley & Lottie Kurek int. Family
Health & God's Blessings for our Parishioners

Quote from Pope Francis

We are now embarking on our Lenten Journey, which opens with the words of the prophet Joel. They point out the path we are to follow. We hear an invitation that arises from God: "Return to me with all your heart" (Joel 2:12). Lent is a journey of return to God.



Why Do We Do That? Catholic Life Explained

Question: What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Answer: The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today. Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives. The use of incense in the Church's liturgy – in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours – is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant. Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

Questions For The Week

First Reading:

God's request of Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac seems cruel from our modern perspective. Yet Abraham's obedience rendered divine blessings. Do you think you have such depth of faith?

Second Reading:

Paul tries to reassure the Christians in Rome of God's divine providence in our lives. As we continue the Lenten journey, can you recall when have you felt God's protection and comfort?

Gospel:

We hear Mark's account of the apostles' witness of the transfiguration of Jesus. How difficult do you think it was for them not to share this event with anyone until after Jesus rose from the dead?



Community Events



Northwest Indiana Catholic Newspaper Communication is an important component of all successful organizations and it is vital to the mission of evangelization. One way to help share the Good News is to be informed and inspired.

A subscription to the Northwest Indiana Catholic newspaper is a great way to keep up with official local, regional, national, and international Catholic news as well as local events and inspiring stories. A one-year subscription includes 24 bimonthly issues of the newspaper, special publications and inserts, and the annual diocesan directory—for the low cost of \$26. Subscribers can order an online e-edition (email address required) for \$13, or both versions of the paper for \$30. Subscribe now through March 17, using the envelope in your collection pack. Make checks payable to St. Stanislaus Church. Thank you for supporting diocesan communications!



Confessions will be offered here at St. Stanislaus Church on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 from 7pm-8pm.

Act of Contrition (traditional)

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.



The Lighter Side

Are there HMOs in Heaven?

A doctor, a nurse, and the top executive of an HMO died and were in line together at the pearly gates. St. Peter asked each one what good they had done in their lives. The doctor said, "I have devoted my life to the sick and needy and have had a part in caring for and healing thousands of people." St. Peter replied, "That's great. Go ahead into heaven."

The nurse chimed in, "I have supported the doctor and his patients my entire life as an adult, have taken time to explain things to patients, and have helped them lead healthy lives." "Wonderful," says St. Peter. "Please proceed in with the doctor."

Then the executive said, "I was the president of a very large health maintenance organization. I was responsible for the healthcare of millions of people all over the country." St. Peter says, "Oh, I see. Please go on in ... *but you can only stay two nights!*"

Just a Second

Adam: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

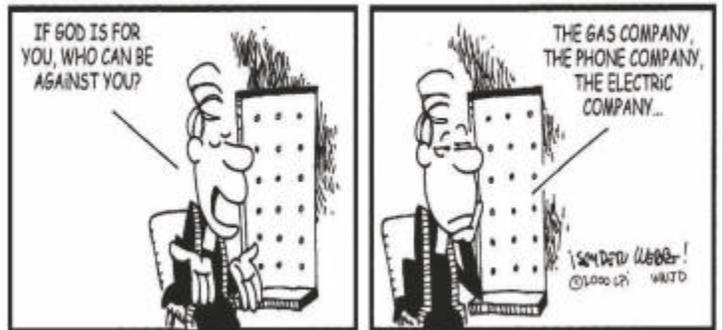
Adam: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Adam: Can I have a penny?

God: Sure, just a second.

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



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