

St. Stanislaus

Parish Family

March 14, 2021
4th 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

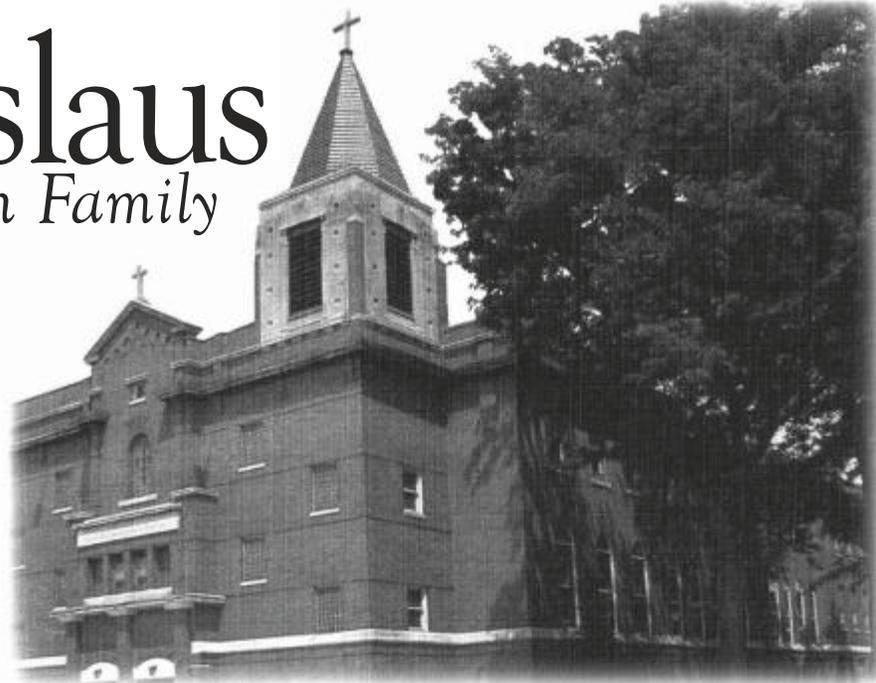
Saturday 4:30pm
Sunday 8:30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

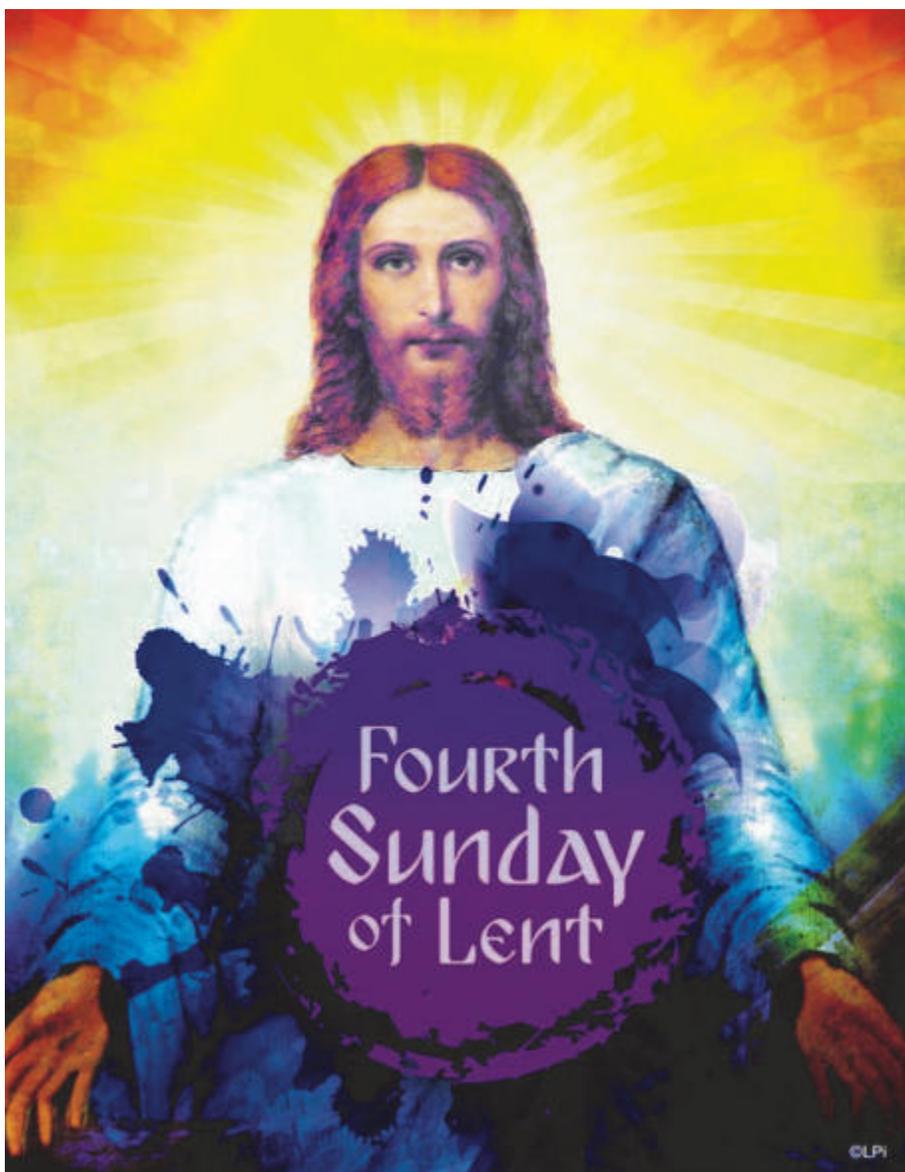
There are no weekday Masses or
Word & Communion Services at this
time.

CONFESSIONS

Confessions by appointment only.



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Liturgical Notes for the Week

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaimed, till all the world adore his sacred name.

Rejoice because with God's grace we have made it to the mid point of our Lent 2021. Today on this the 4th Sunday of the season we are invited to "rest awhile" - to lay down the cross we have been carrying and get into the "rose colored spirit" that beckons us today. Do stop — look and listen to the Word proclaimed by Jesus in the gospel. Familiar words which originate in the first half of text: Jn3:16 — God so loved the world that her have his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

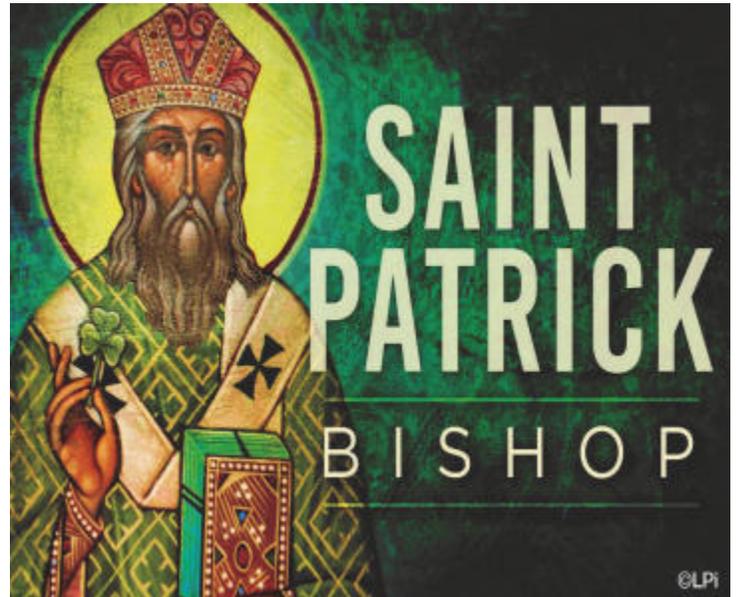
Averse preceded by reference to a healing moment that occurred in the desert at the time of Moses of which Jesus reminded Nicodemus. Last week this author shared another memory of the power of the cross and our baptismal commitment to be Christ-bearers. Now a new cross memory by Johan Van Parys and hopefully a future action consideration for the next 20 days of our journey. Every night before going to bed, my parents would make the sign of the cross on each child's forehead and whisper, "May God bless you and keep you." Then we would go to our bedrooms, dip our fingers in the small holy water font, and sign ourselves. I remember asking my parents for their blessing before going on a trip. These simple signs have left a lasting impression on me. The cross was everywhere when I was growing up; even today, we find the cross hanging in churches, schools, homes, offices, and cars and around our necks. The priest blesses people with the sign of the cross. Children are marked at their baptism and adults during the Order of Catechumens. We Christians are shaped by the cross. When speaking of the "cross" do you sometimes include "crucifix", Is there a difference? Do you wear a cross, crucifix on your person or have one in your car? For what purpose as Jesus taught Nicodemus so questions teach us as the questioner expects a response from the answer giver. Have you ever come across the following: The Cross in My Pocket? It's a gem cross-reflection to carry in you memory beyond Easter 2021 into Eternity...

The Cross in My Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact that I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.
This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.
It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Savior and me.

It reminds me to be thankful
For my blessings day by day
And to strive to serve HIM better in all I do and say.
It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my MASTER
And give themselves to HIS care.
So I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That JESUS CHRIST is LORD of my life
If only I'll let HIM be.

By Verna Thomas



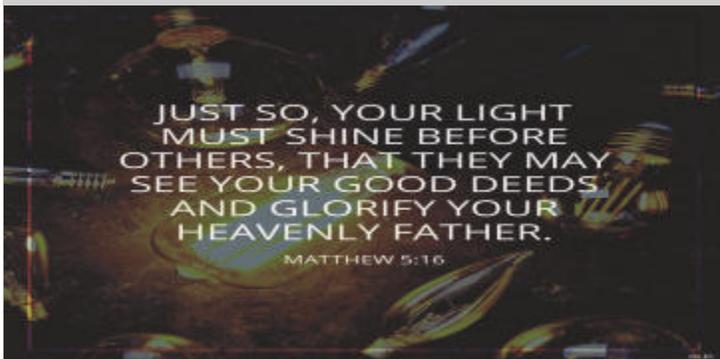
Prayer for God's Protection and Christ's Presence

As I arise today, may the strength of God
Pilot me, the power of God uphold me,
The wisdom of God guide me. May the eye
of God look before me, the ear of God
hear me, the Word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me, the way
Of God lie before me, the shield of God
Defend me, the host of God save me. May
Christ shield me today... Christ with me,
Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ
Above me, Christ on my right, Christ on
My left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit,
Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of
Everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the
Mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every
Ear that hears me. Amen



Scripture Reflection

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God’s unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news. St. Oscar Romero said that, “a church that doesn’t provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn’t unsettle, a word of God that doesn’t get under anyone’s skin, a word of God that doesn’t touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?” When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution. The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God’s good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, “we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.” We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the “what is to come.” Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.



Financial Blessings

YOUR GIFTS TO YOUR PARISH TWO WEEKS AGO IN THE COLLECTION AMOUNTED TO.....\$3,989.00

Adult envelopes issued.....294 (February, 2021)

Adult envelopes used.....95/33% (February 28, 2021)

YOUR GIFTS TO YOUR PARISH LAST WEEK IN THE COLLECTION AMOUNTED TO.....\$3,429.00

Adult envelopes issued.....294 (March, 2021)

Adult envelopes used.....95/33% (March 7, 2021)

Food Pantry.....3 donations.....**\$85.00**

Thank You for your continued support! May God Bless You!

Everyday Stewardship

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Daylight Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You’re still half-lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you’re ready to give. I’ve said it, and I’m sure you’ve said it, too. “Just five more minutes.” You hit the “snooze” button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window. So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness. Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him. Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there’s no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad. As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we’re getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the “snooze” button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



MARCH 14, 2021 •
4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

***Weekday Masses in church are cancelled until further notice.**

Mass intentions will be rescheduled*

Monday, March 15

Tuesday, March 16

**Wednesday, March 17 - St. Patrick, Bishop
St. Patrick Day**

**Thursday, March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop &
Doctor of the Church**

**Friday, March 19 - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed
Virgin Mary**

Saturday, March 20

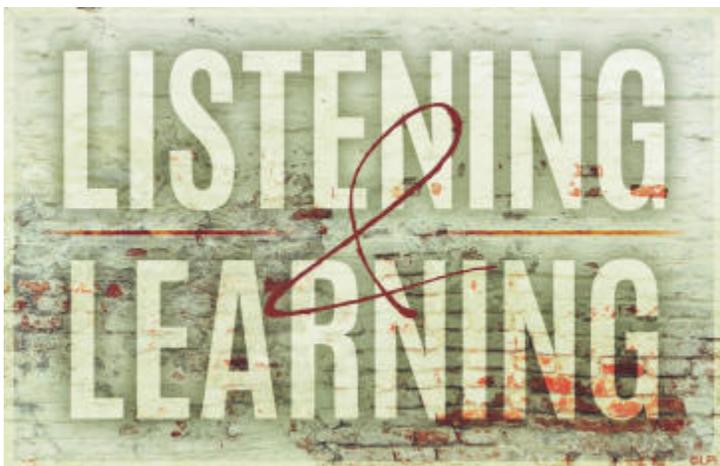
4:30pm †Mildred Frisbie 33rd Anniversary of Death and
†Sr. Rita Mary Olszewski 12th Anniversary of
Death int. Mackowiak Family
†Frances Radzinski Anniversary of Death
int. Joan Gajdos

Sunday, March 21 - 5th Sunday of Lent

8:30am †Teresa Tomczyk int. Radziwiecki Family
†Ted Radziwiecki Anniversary of Death
int. Son & Daughter-in-law
Health & God's Blessings for our Parishioners

Quote from Pope Francis

In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: He is risen and is living by our side.



Inspiration Of The Week

God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others. People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at.

Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 14, 2021

This Is the Verdict.

The Gospel declares the Light of Christ came into the world. The choice is either to prefer darkness or live by the truth revealed by that Light. The Letter to the Ephesians declares that we are saved not by our own works (though good works we still need do), but by God's gift and grace.

- ◆ What darkness will I move out of so I may stand in the Light?
- ◆ What good works will I continue doing to acknowledge God's gift and grace to me and to all?
- ◆ How can I live this truth: we are saved as a people by God's grace?

Question Of The Week

First Reading:

The author of 2 Chronicles reflects on how historically God's fidelity and mercy was often met with Israel's disobedience and arrogance. How does the Lenten journey provoke an examination of conscience for you and your faith life?

Second Reading:

Paul speaks of our faith and our salvation as "the gift of God" to us. In what ways do you show appreciation for God's grace?

Gospel:

Jesus taught Nicodemus that God sent His only Son into the world to offer eternal life to believers. Who in your life needs to hear this message?

Community Events



St. Stan's Website

Our Parish has received a grant to develop a Website so we can communicate information to our parishioners and others seeking information regarding our Parish. We are looking for volunteers, any High School or College students are welcomed as well to help us with ideas and content for our website. Please contact the rectory at 219-398-2341 or Jim Zmuda at 219-743-0043. We would appreciate it very much!



Saturday night March 13, 2021, before going to bed, make sure you forward your clocks one hour.



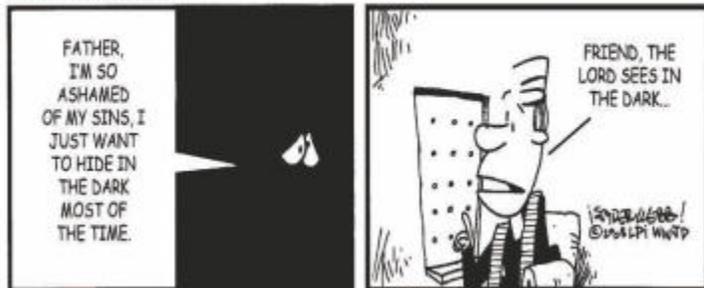
Stay Connected While You're Away.



Go to www.parishesonline.com to view your church bulletin and stay up to date.

Mask Up Hoosiers!

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Northwest Indiana Catholic Newspaper

There's still time to renew or subscribe to the Northwest Indiana Catholic newspaper. A one year subscription includes 24 bimonthly issues of the newspaper which features official local, regional, national, and international Catholic news as well as coverage of local stories, events, and inspiring features. Subscribers also receive special publications and inserts, and the annual diocesan directory, for the low cost of \$26. Subscribe now through March 17, using the envelope in your collection pack. Make checks payable to St. Stanislaus Church. Subscribers can order an online e-edition (email address required) for \$13, or both versions of the paper for \$30. Subscribe online using the secure website at nwicatholic.com. 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.

A Prayer for Lenten Grace

Loving God,
During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to you. Prepare a place in my home and heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life.
Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity.
Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need and, in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity.
May this season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in you.
Amen.



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