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LENT NEWSLETTER



LENT...A TIME TO RECONNECT WITH "The Gift of Sunday" Father Tim

It is time for us to examine our lives and rededicate ourselves to the one who gave His life for us. We begin another season of 40 days in the desert with Jesus. This Lenten period may be different from every other year because of the disconnection we have experienced with the COVID-19 virus.

Lent is a time in which we "give up something" as a means of recognizing our human weakness. But, this past year we have given up so many things: hugs, handshakes, high-fives, holding hands, whispering in someone's ear...not to mention not being able to spend the major holidays with the ones we love (Easter, July 4, birthdays, anniversaries, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.). We have been forced to make some real sacrifices this past year. We long to get back to some sense of normalcy. If only there was something that could unite us and bring us closer to God.

There is! "*The Gift of Sunday*". This Lent, let's all make a commitment to make Sunday a truly holy day of obligation again and rediscover our love of the Eucharist. The pandemic has forced us to stay away from gathering together at church; it has perhaps even lessened our desire to rest from our labors and meditate on the gift that Sunday is...a day of rest; a day of thanksgiving; a day of gratitude; a day spent in love of

God's creation. We were not able to receive the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist during this bleak and horrific period of time. Thank God we are able to come back to the Sacrament and receive the Body of Christ. What a blessing.

Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI has approved a theological reflection called "*The Gift of Sunday*" to help the People of God in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to come to treasure the blessings and gift of the Eucharist. You may find the link to this document at our website: www.stgabrielhubertus.org



THE GIFT OF SUNDAY

Please take the time to read through this reflection with your family. There is also a personal study and group discussion guide that accompanies the document. This will help to feed our curiosity and help us to recall how sacred Sunday has always been for each of us.

In addition, there will also be a Lenten Mission held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at eighteen parishes across the archdiocese that will motivate us to come back to the feast and keep Sunday holy. Instead of "giving something up" this Lent, let's make a commitment to come to church and keep Sunday holy.

Emmanuel...God is with us!

Pope Francis has declared a year of St. Joseph—With a Father's Heart

Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in your Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil.

Amen

For more information, please visit the website below. www.archmil.org/Saint-Joseph



Worship & Music Ministry

Matt Byczynski & Roy Spieckerman

Greetings! As I write this message, the snow is falling at a steady pace and the wind is howling. While the promise of warm weather and green grass may seem like an eternity from now, we will soon witness a transformation in seasons in the coming weeks as spring officially arrives on March 20th. In a similar way, the Lenten season transforms us spiritually and represents a time for us to reflect on our faith and remember what Jesus has done for us. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, which is a time that has always been very special to me. Through the years, music has helped to connect these most holy days in a way that supplements the spoken word and prayers that we say.

This year at St. Gabriel, you will hear motifs throughout the season of Lent that will help to lead us on a journey, both spiritually and musically. Classics such as “Hosea” and “Were You There” will be used in addition to new songs including “Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone” and “Lord I Need You”. I think you will find these pieces to be a nice enhancement to this year’s Lenten season.

Lent for me is spring cleaning for my soul. Which creates a paradox for me since I like the season of Lent but hate spring cleaning.

The first thing I do is review the last 12 months. What could I have done better? Could I have been nicer to someone? Could I have been more patient with folks? Was I grateful for what God has given me or did I take God for granted? These questions generate enough thought for improvement and together with the Sunday Readings help my soul get the spring cleaning I need.

In addition to spring cleaning, I also change my evening prayers. I follow this formula: Pray for people I know, both living and dead, and ask God to help them; Pray for souls in Purgatory; Pray for souls who have no one to pray for them, both living and dead; Pray for forgiveness of my sins; Pray a prayer of thankfulness to God for what he has done for me and those on my Prayer list. What’s different is I don’t pray for anything I need or want. I exclude that from my prayers during Lent and try to focus on others. I do not give up candy, although I should! 😊

-Roy Spieckerman, Director of Liturgy



This year at St Gabriel we have opportunities for all of us to pray together either in person or on live-stream/YouTube.

I look forward to praying with you this Lent. As I am still the “the new guy”, I encourage you to stop by and introduce yourself before or after Mass. Additionally, if you play an instrument, are interested in joining choir (once allowed based on COVID restrictions) or are interested in becoming a cantor, please take some time to discuss with me. Music is an incredibly important part of Mass, and we need volunteers to continue to achieve what is possible.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to thank all of our cantors and instrumentalists for their time. They add so much to Mass and their time and talents are truly appreciated.

Blessings on a safe and spirit-filled Lent and Easter,

Matt Byczynski
Director of Music
mbyczynski@stgabrielhubertus.org

Lenten Masses Schedule:

- + Ash Wednesday – 8:30am and 7pm. *The school children will have their Mass and will not be in attendance at the 8:30am Mass. This will insure that we have enough room for everyone to attend Ash Wednesday Mass.*
- + Weekend Masses – Normal Mass Schedule:
Saturday at 4:30 pm & Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am

HOLY WEEK MASSES AT ST. GABRIEL

- + Palm Sunday - Normal Mass Schedule: Saturday; Mass of Anticipation at 4:30 pm; Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am
 - + Holy Thursday – 7 pm
 - + Good Friday – 1 pm
 - + Holy Saturday – 8 pm
 - + Easter Sunday – 8 am and 10:30 am
- Like at Christmas Eve, we ask those attending the 8 am and 10:30 am Easter Mass to register in advance, on-line at our website: www.stgabrielhubertus.org.*

On-line registration will ensure we use our spaces as efficiently and safely as possible, accommodating the greatest number of attendees.

We will fill registrations in order of the church, the gathering space, the parish hall, and then the gym. Registrations will be available beginning March 8. Walk-ins are welcome and will be seated according to first available.

To register, simply visit our website at www.stgabrielhubertus.org and follow the instructions. If you do not have access to a computer, please call the parish office (262)-628-1141 and we will happily assist you.



Bridget Bartholomew

Lent always offers us a time to pause, reflect, and refocus our hearts and minds on our relationship with God and His abundant goodness in our lives. That goodness has been especially evident here at St. Gabriel Catholic Parish School this year, where we've had in-person instruction since August. Notwithstanding the challenges of the pandemic, we have been so blessed to have a healthy school environment and are providing our students an outstanding academic experience in an atmosphere of faith and family.

We've seen a blend of new and traditional this year at St. Gabriel. Many students recently participated in four weeks of virtual Lego Club challenges, and our Forensics team has just begun a first-ever virtual season. Service and faith building activities continue, with our students creating cards for elderly and homebound parishioners and participating in Eucharistic Adoration during Catholic Schools Week. Sacramental preparation is underway for our second graders, who will receive their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion in the weeks ahead and who are visiting our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium as part of that preparation. Our Middle School students will have new

adventures in our STEM lab this spring, thanks to generous donors funding the purchase of new microscopes and other up-graded equipment for laboratory experiments. We are looking forward to our upcoming visit from an Archdiocese of Milwaukee team as they consider our school for Exemplary Recognition status for Educating the Whole Child.

Are you curious to learn more about our vibrant school community? Check out our website (<https://www.sgabriel.org/>) to see our new 4K class video, teacher profiles, parent testimonials, and application and registration information. Enrollment is now in progress for the 2021-22 school year. We'd love to welcome you and your family for a tour so you can see firsthand all of the ways that we are preparing hearts and minds for lives of leadership, service, and excellence!



SAVE THE DATE and find your fanciest hat for this year's Parish and School Auction, "Derby Night" scheduled for June 12, 2021. Join us for a virtual evening at the races with silent and live auctions, raffles and lots of fun! Proceeds from this 19th Annual Event go directly to our school, which provides our students with a comprehensive Catholic education.

HOW TO HELP: Our success depends on generous donations of auction items and sponsorships from businesses and families alike. Please consider donating:

- ⇒ Scrip Cards
- ⇒ Cash donations
- ⇒ Gifted items to use in the auction raffle
- ⇒ Wish list items from our Amazon Wishlist Page- visit our website for the link. www.stgabrielhubertus.org

INVITE A BUSINESS to provide a donation of a specific item, service or an experience. Your connections can help our Auction and the business will get some great exposure to our parish and school community

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE Join us as a sponsor! In appreciation of your support we will feature your family or business in our social media highlights and other advertising opportunities.



Platinum

\$2,500



Gold

\$1,000



Silver

\$500



Bronze

\$250

Friend = \$100

DID YOU KNOW this is our 19th consecutive Annual Auction. Our Auction committee is made up of more than 25 school parents and parish member volunteers.

FOR QUESTIONS OR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES email Stgabrielauctionchairs@gmail.com

Artwork design are originals by Parishioner, Artist, and Military Veteran, Christine Westrich

LENT... *A Season to Grow*

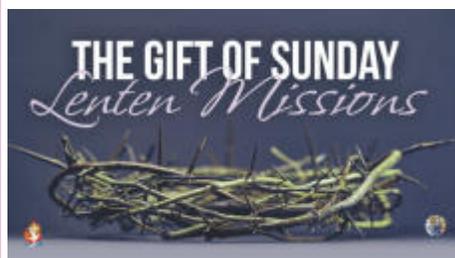
Christian Formation

Gerry Wolf, Bonnie Schoofs, & Lea Rosenberg

“We are called not just to abstain from sin during Lent, but to true conversion of our hearts and minds as followers of Christ.”

This statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website becomes more real when we understand the etymology of the word “Lent”. The English word Lent is a shortened form of the Old English word *lencten*, meaning “spring season”. Linguists who study the history of words agree that the oldest roots of the word Lent refer to the increasing daylight in Spring.

For the baptized, then, Lent is a time when the seeds of God’s Word, sown in the soil of our hearts, need the increasing light of our Lord’s own Life, Mercy, Truth, and Love. Just as a seedling sprouting out of the earth is drawn to the sunlight, so should our hearts and souls be drawn to Christ.



We must make a renewed effort to encounter our Risen Lord in the Eucharist, in Reconciliation, in personal prayer and reflecting on the sacred Scriptures. In January of this year, a theological reflection and study guide entitled “The Gift of Sunday”, was published with the ecclesiastical approval of Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI, for use in catechesis and prayerful reflection with the People of God in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. On **Wednesday, March 3rd**, Lenten Missions based on “The Gift of Sunday” will be held at 18 parishes throughout the archdiocese.

On **Wednesday, March 24th**, area priests will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation at several parishes throughout the archdiocese from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., for “**12 Hours of Reconciliation**”. Check the archdiocesan website, www.archmil.org, for more details.

Here at St. Gabriel, our opportunities for **Eucharistic Adoration** have been expanded. Adoration will now take place on the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays** of the month, from **noon til 8:00 p.m.**, with Benediction offered to close the time of Adoration. Make time to spend even a few minutes in silence with the Real Presence of Christ, to listen for His whisper in your heart.

St. Gabriel is also planning to serve as a host site for this year’s **Men of Christ Conference**. On **Saturday, March 20th**, we will begin with 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by virtual speaker presentations until noon. Watch for registration details soon.

If you’ve struggled to read the Bible in the past, check out Ascension Press’ **Bible in a Year** podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings; a reflection from Fr. Mike; and guided prayer to help you hear God’s voice in his Word. Even though the podcasts began on January 1st, you can still join now and continue to listen through the rest of this year. Previous segments are chronicled.

Finally, grow in charity. Our children, youth, and their families will once again be encouraged to participate in the **Rice Bowl activity**, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. Jesus’ example challenges us to share with those in need. The Rice Bowls are available in the gathering area of church and will be collected during Holy Week.

May this liturgical season truly be one of growth for all of us, so that its culmination in Holy Week and Easter Sunday will find us reveling in the Easter light of Jesus Christ, risen from the grave!



Financial Corner

Celia Meyers

We began December more than \$30,000 under budget in contributions & offertory and ended the calendar year \$20,500 over budget. THANK YOU! for responding to the Finance Council's letter and supporting St. Gabriel Parish and our ministries! Contributions and offertory are the largest support of St. Gabriel Parish ministries. May your gifts of prayer, service and sharing be returned to you abundantly!

Our Christian Formation program is growing! Christian Formation includes our parish school and our child, youth, confirmation and adult formation programs. We have 15 new students attending our parish school; child, youth and confirmation formation enrollment remained constant; and adult formation continues to expand. In person teaching has been conducted throughout the year for both our parish school and formation programs, with additional virtual and online options available in the formation programs. Our parish and school fundraising revenue is falling behind budget, primarily due the pandemic. We have gratefully received donations which helped supplement the shortfall and supply extra items required to operate in this environment. We additionally received \$16,000 in bequests and \$4,000 in memorials in honor of our departed parishioners. What a beautiful tribute to remember our St. Gabriel Parish community during such difficult personal times. We are doing very well with our expenses. All ministries are close to budget, which has not been an easy task. We received our PPP Loan forgiveness in November. Any monies remaining from this program will be considered for some upcoming necessary capital projects.

This year has been difficult for our parish community. But, by making some adjustments and adaptations, our St. Gabriel Parish ministries have found new ways to function and reach. A difficult sacrifice has been our inability to celebrate funeral luncheons. This is an important service to our parishioners, showing support in the most difficult time of need. We look forward to returning this and our other suspended ministries, functions and events in the near future. A benefit of the pandemic has been the push to a virtual world. This "new" virtual connection has opened opportunities and possibilities for all to participate in Mass, formation, leadership and community. The final upgrade of our live stream process will be completed before Easter and will present a more enjoyable Mass experience. We will continue to live stream Masses, services and gatherings beyond COVID 19 and our continued virtual formation and ministry options are currently in planning.

Thank you for supporting St. Gabriel Parish and our ministries. St. Gabriel Parish is a very special community ... we are a people of God welcoming all to know Jesus. Emmanuel .. God is truly with us!

	Actual 2020	Budget 2020
Revenues ~		
Contributions & Offertory	\$487,000	\$466,500
Christian Formation Revenue	221,000	188,200
Fundraising	8,700	29,500
Ministry Donations	43,500	13,900
Bequests & Other Income	28,800	3,300
	<u>\$789,000</u>	<u>\$701,400</u>
Ministry Expenses ~		
Christian Formation Expenses	\$473,800	\$472,400
Prayer & Worship	32,100	32,000
Administration	166,200	164,800
Buildings & Grounds	93,700	83,800
	<u>\$765,800</u>	<u>\$753,000</u>
Surplus (Deficit) before	<u>\$23,200</u>	<u>(\$51,600)</u>



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PROCLAIM CHRIST  MAKE DISCIPLES  THROUGH SACRAMENTAL LIFE



Ash Wednesday, February 17th – 8:30 am and 7 pm

The school children will have their own Mass and will not be attendance at the 8:30 am Mass. This will insure that we have enough room for everyone to attend Ash Wednesday Mass.

Sunday Masses – Normal Mass Schedule:

4:30 pm Saturday Mass of Anticipation; Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am

Palm Sunday, March 28th – Normal Mass Schedule:

4:30 pm Saturday Mass of Anticipation; Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am

Holy Thursday, April 1st – 7 pm

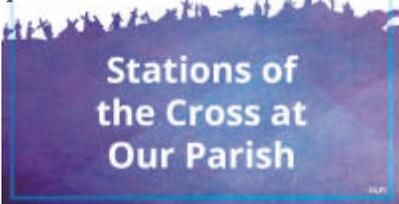
Good Friday, April 2nd – 1 pm

Holy Saturday, April 3rd – 8 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4th – 8 am & 10:30 am

Stations of the Cross*

- + Monday, February 22nd beginning at 8:30 am
 - + Tuesday, March 2nd after the 8:30 am daily Mass
 - + Wednesday, March 10th after the 8:30 am daily Mass
 - + Thursday, March 18th after the 8:30 am daily Mass
 - + Friday March 26th after the 8:30 am daily Mass
- *Stations of the Cross will be live-streamed. Please see the parish website for the links.*



Regular Worship Opportunities

Daily Mass | Tuesday-Friday beginning at 8:30 am
(In-person & live-streamed)

Tuesday Rosary beginning at 8 am

Eucharistic Adoration | 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month beginning at 12:00 pm through 8:00 pm

First Friday Devotions beginning at 7:30 am

Join Us