



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021



SATURDAYS 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS 10:30AM MASS
Watch it live!!

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WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

DAILY MASSES:
TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS 8AM

RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM

HOLY HOUR:
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM

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FURTHER NOTICE.**

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PASTOR

Fr. Michael F. McMahon
frmcMahon@icparish.org

PASTOR EMERITUS

Fr. Terrence A. McCarthy

ASSISTING CLERGY

Fr. Bruce Wren, LC
bwren@legionaries.org

DEACON

Louie Vignocchi
deaconlouie@icparish.org

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Natalie Hennigan
nhennigan@icparish.org

DIR. OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PREP)

Barb Cegielski
prepoffice@icparish.org

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mary Nelsen
mnelsen@comcast.net

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE EMERITA

Ann Moorman

Co-Directors of Liturgical Music

Juli Brubaker
jbrubaker@icparish.org
Gina Masland
gmasland@icparish.org

BULLETIN EDITOR

Julie Salako
bulletin@icparish.org

PARISH CENTER OFFICE STAFF

Celia Nares
cnares@icparish.org

COUNCILS

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 20

8:00am: Iver Jude Sturm
5:00pm: Ray Geraci
Concepcion Guangko
Editha Salta

Sunday, March 21

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Otto Cortesi

Monday, March 22

8:00am: Iver Jude Sturm

Tuesday, March 23

8:00am: Alonso & Irma Ori



Wednesday, March 24

8:00am: Darlene Foley

Thursday, March 25

8:00am: Frank Waldeck

Friday, March 26

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of
Immaculate Conception Parish

Saturday, March 27

8:00am: Margarita Aragon
5:00pm: Maria Mora
Luis Soler

Sunday, March 28

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Loretta Manfredini

Food for
Thought...



As followers of Jesus, we have a compelling story to tell. We also have a story to create. We are the authors of Christ's ongoing love story in the world. We write it by the witness of our lives – in what we do and what we fail to do. We write it with the words we choose to offer to others today.

Judith Valente, *Give Us This Day*, March 10, 2021

REST IN PEACE

Sister Elizabeth McWilliams, Sister of Loretto, and last Principal of Immaculate Conception Grade School, passed away on March 9, 2021 at the Mother House in Loretto, Kentucky. She had celebrated her 84th birthday in February. Her life was a shining example of service to God, the Sisters of Loretto and her neighbor. She will be remembered and missed by all who were privileged to have known her.

Father Mike's Homiletter – March 21, 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-15; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12:20-33

This past week was a rich one in feast days: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we celebrated St. Patrick, St. Cyril of Jerusalem and St. Joseph – the patron of Ireland, a father of the Church and the foster father of Jesus. All had an impact which we remember today because they believed, they trusted and they persevered. While St. Cyril does not get much fanfare in this part of the world, I hope you all had happy celebrations of St. Patrick and St. Joseph. Both of those saints had much to contend with in their lives, and faced a lot of that reality which is a theme in our readings today: change.

In our first reading, Jeremiah tells the Israelites that God is making changes in how He relates to them: instead of the covenant He made with their fathers, which seemed more formal, He is going to make a new covenant, by writing His law within them, on their hearts, so all will know Him instinctively and intimately. In other words, He is going to change His way of communicating and guiding them.

St. Paul reports Jesus also went through a process of change: He became fully human and came to earth in the flesh, and lived among us, not wanting the suffering that brought Him, but learning from it so as to offer His suffering for all of us. His human life changed: from a simple carpenter, to a traveling rabbi, to a political problem which had to be eliminated as an example to others – don't mess with Rome! And He changed that uncivilized punishment into salvation for all!

In our Gospel, John reports events occurring just a few days before Jesus' crucifixion. Some Greeks who are in Jerusalem for Passover somehow contact Philip, one of Jesus' disciples about whom we hear very little. But he has a Greek name, so if there was a language issue, they could expect he would understand their Greek. Whatever they have heard, they are trying to find Jesus and see for themselves what He offers. Philip finds Andrew to pursue the contact, and they both go to Jesus. Jesus never really addresses the Greeks directly, but comments on what their approach means: His reputation is spreading – which probably means trouble with both the Roman and Jewish authorities – and He knows this signals the time has come for Him to be glorified – that is, to suffer. He cites the grain of wheat – it must be planted and die to reappear as a useful plant. In other words, it must let go and change in order to fulfill its purpose.

Jesus is troubled – He knows this is not going to be easy, but He also knows this is why He has come. And the voice of the Father from heaven confirms that, and assures Him that ultimately He will be glorified. So He endured the horrific death of crucifixion, and rose again, changed forever - and forever changing our futures. Dying and rising. Change for the good. Jesus foretells "...when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." In other words, all are welcome, not just a few. The mission has changed.

The theme I see in these readings is that change is part of life, intended by God, and it produces growth. The change in God's way of relating to humanity described in Jeremiah, the change in Jesus' understanding of His mission through suffering described in Paul, His change into His resurrected and glorified self – each involved growth in mission, audience, message, and vision. The Old Testament notion of a written contract becomes a unity, a covenant of heart and spirit. In the New Testament, Jesus offers a new vision of unity and covenant with Him forever to all of humanity, not just some.

I think these readings tell us we are called to accept change because it presents an opportunity for growth, for a greater realization of the potential God created in us. For dying and rising with Him. It doesn't mean that we're all going to be super-celebrities, but rather that we can more fully realize our humanity, and participate in the fullness of Jesus' humanity and in His divinity. If only we can conquer our fear. The crucifixion was probably a response of fear, of resistance to change. Are we so attached to our present, that we are willing to deny our future? We will soon be participating in the Renew My Church process, which will likely involve some change for our Parish. We are (hopefully) coming to the end of a year of change induced by Covid-19. But despite its deprivations, it has had some positives as well: we are more aware of our need for essential workers, more aware of how fragile life can be, more aware of our reliance on our families and friends, more aware of the gifts of science and health.

Let us all give some thought to what a gift the opportunity to change can be.

Peace, Father Mike

Blessing of Easter Foods Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, we will not be blessing foods in the Parish Church this year, but we are printing below a blessing which can be prayed at home with family members on Holy Saturday or Easter morning.



*Participating family members can gather round, with the foods to be blessed.
Leader (with hands extended over the food to be blessed):*

+ O Lord, bless this food, created by you, that it may be a means of nourishment and festivity for us as we rejoice over the Easter victory of your Son. May each of us who partake of these foods be renewed in body and spirit, through + Jesus our Paschal Lamb, who lives and rules for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Conclusion: All Our Father, who are in heaven....



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

March 27, 2021

5pm Blessings of Palms & anticipated Mass

PALM SUNDAY MASS

March 28, 2021

10:30am Blessings of the Palms

11:45am - 12:15pm we will have a drive up service to get Palms for those unable to attend our services.

HOLY THURSDAY*

April 1, 2021

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

8:30 - 9:30pm Eucharistic Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY*

April 2, 2021

3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death

7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY*

April 3, 2021

The Blessing of the Food can not take place this year because of COVID restrictions.

7pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

8 and 10:30am Easter Sunday Masses

**There is NO 8am Morning Mass on Holy Thursday, good Friday or Holy Saturday*

To reserve your seat in church, please click here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea4ad28a1f49-holy1>

*A Spiritual Journey Through Holy Week
Join us for a night of Reflection*



March 23 at 7pm

Registration required.

Event will be Livestreamed and Recorded.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea4ad28a1f49-spiritual>



RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:30pm

March 27

Monday from 7 - 8pm

March 29



Stations on Fridays 7PM

March 26

Sign up for Stations of the Cross here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea4ad28a1f49-masses>

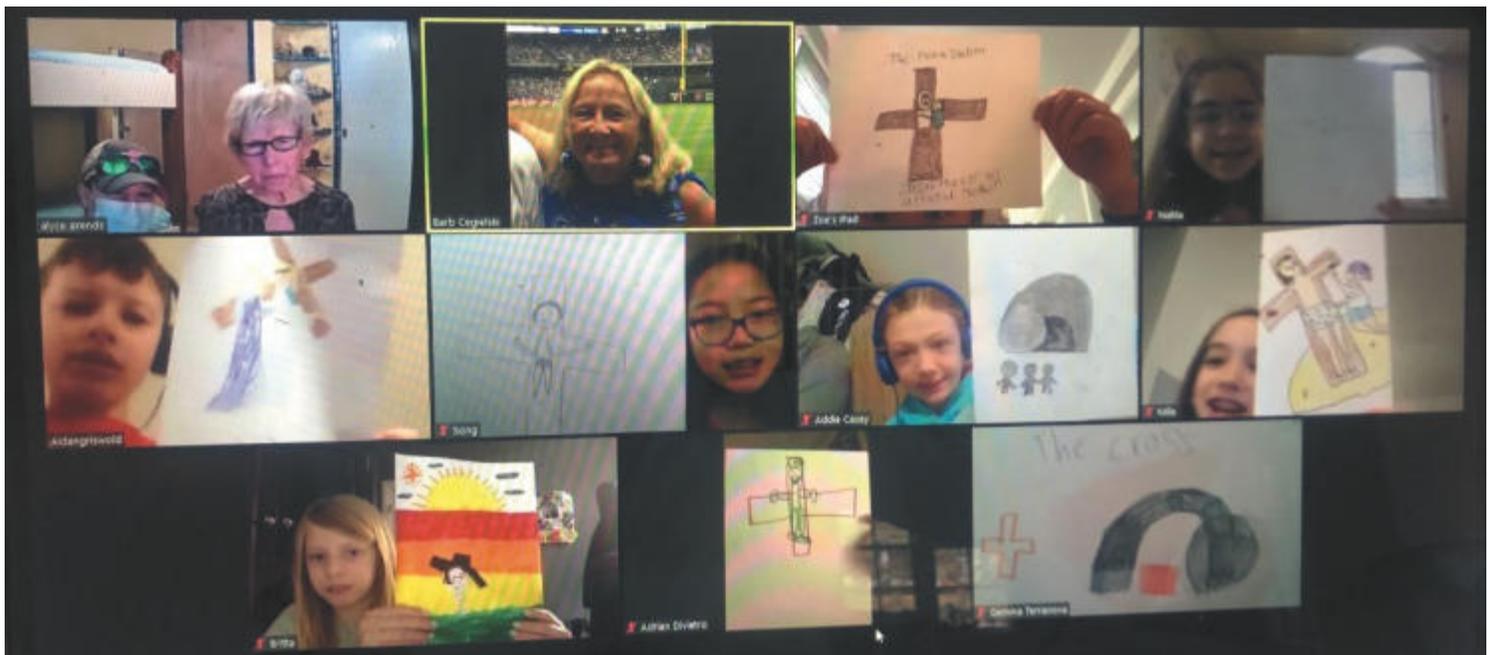
PREP

During PREP class on 3/14, Mrs. Arends 4th grade class talked about and drew the Stations of the Cross.



Students revealing their drawings for each other to see.

They were very proud of their work and learned a lot about the journey Jesus took and sacrifice he made for us.



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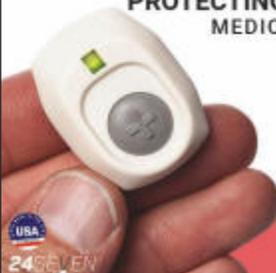
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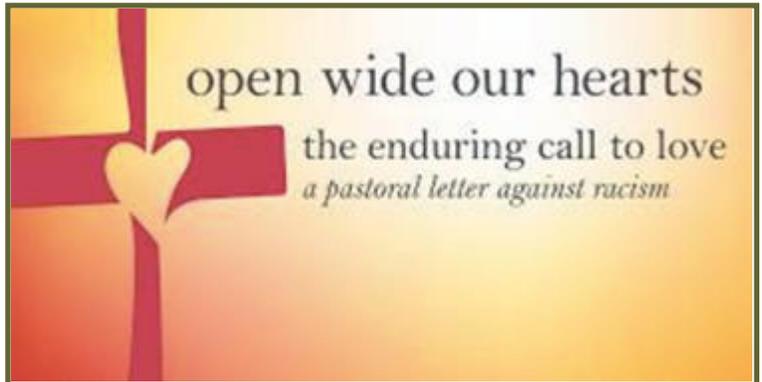
We are in need of volunteers to help with the Meditation Garden. The plan is to help beautify and maintain this garden throughout the season. What a great way to bring our IC community together outdoors, observing current restrictions.



We will be beginning this project the week after Easter. Please consider giving your time, resources and gardening talent for this project. You don't have to be a gardener to participate.

All ages are welcome. Confirmation students will have an opportunity for service hours.

If you are interested, please contact Midge Berardi. midgeberardi@comcast.net or 224-619-5864



Study sessions to learn, pray, and reflect how our Catholic faith calls us to respond

Six Wednesday Sessions:

March 24 - April 28, 2021

Virtually on Zoom from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish
22333 W. Erhart Rd in Mundelein**

While we would like to believe that we have come a long way in the fight against racism, systemic racism still very much exists in our institutions and communities, causing great hardship and division. As Catholics, we are called by our faith to approach this very difficult topic with love, and work toward a better world for all God's Children. A society in which all members have opportunity to flourish benefits us all. Discussion sessions are written to accompany the USCCB pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts*.

**** Registration is required to attend the session ****
You can register or find more information at the parish website www.stmaryfc.org.



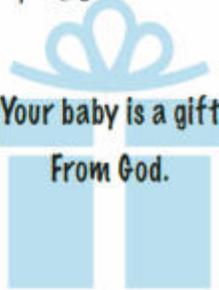
ST JAMES BABY DIAPER PANTRY

Hello neighbor. We are so happy to serve you at a time when you need it most. We want to support you in raising a healthy baby. We don't require your name or address, but would like to register baby's first name and age. This will allow us to have the right size diapers ready for you when you pick them up once per month. We also want to get to know you! If you have specific difficulties or baby needs, please talk to us about it. We may be able to help. If you don't speak any English, you can email your question and we will reply that way.
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5TH SUNDAY

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