



St. Patrick

CHURCH OF HARTLAND-FOUNDED 1837

St. Patrick Parish-Hartland
15012 St. Patrick Road
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-338-7883
www.stpatrickofhartland.org

Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursdays
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Or by appointment.
815-790-3643

Sunday, February 21st—1st Sunday of Lent

We are a Catholic Faith Community, united in Christ through Sacrament, dedicated to charity, community, service and spiritual growth.

Parish Staff

Pastor.....Fr. Burt Absalon
Associate.....Fr. Adalberto Sanchez
Deacon Joe Kayser
Deacon.....815-236-3803
Business Mgr. ..Jeanine Nowakowski
Jeanine.....815-790-3643
Bldg & Grds.....Matt Weidner
Sacristan.....Ray Wagner
Keyboardist.....Brandon Sullivan
Cantors.....Madison Kenyon,
Avery Hill, Jordyn Kratochvil,
Caroline Stumpf and Hannah
McNulty

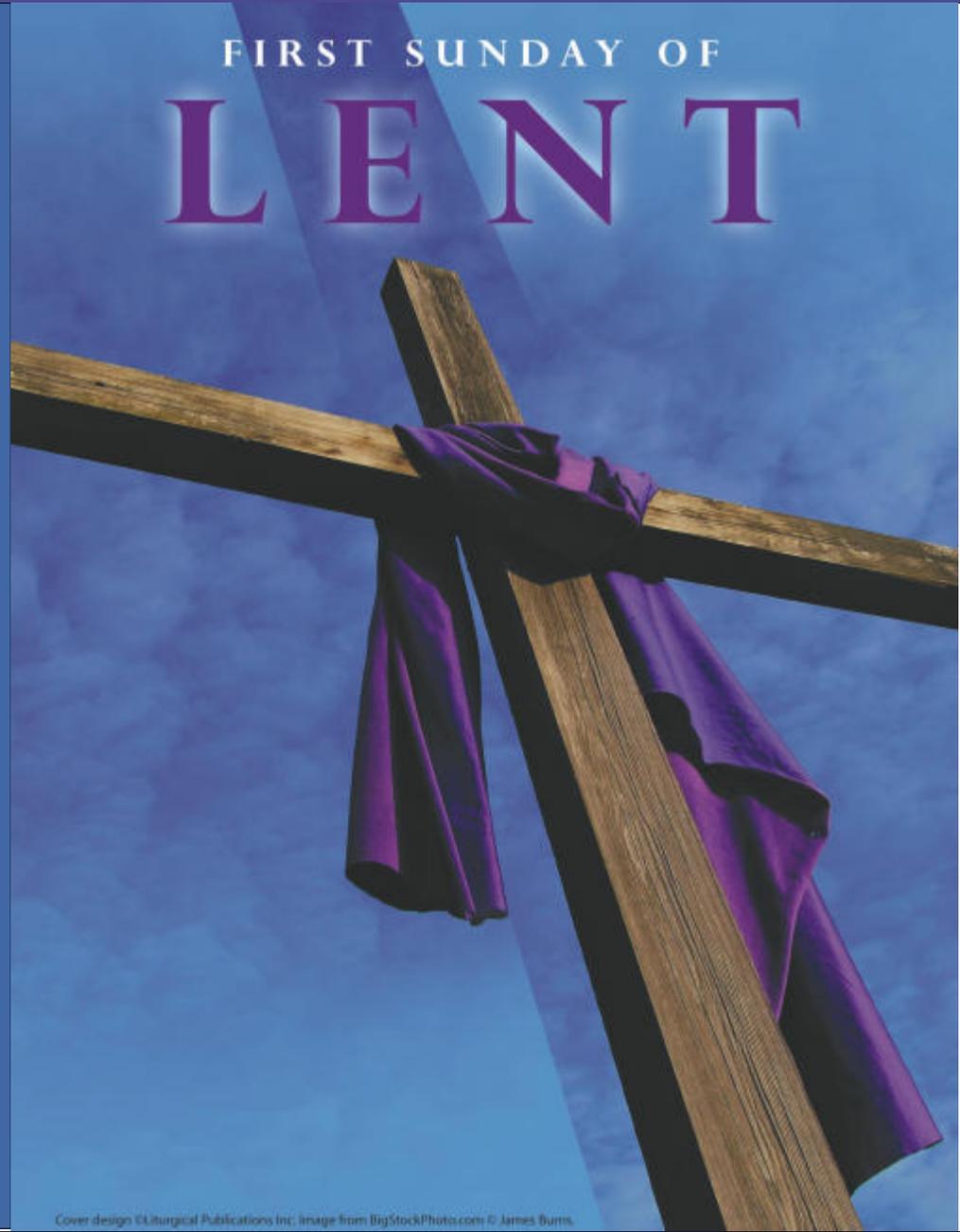
Sunday Masses

8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Confessions

30 Minutes prior to each Mass.

We need your help! If you are able to act as a greeter/cleaner for either of our Masses, easy instruction will be provided. Please contact Jeanine at 815-790-3643. Thank you!



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Disciple Stewardship: Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

SCRIPTURAL READINGS
Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2

God tested Abraham, asking him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Seeing Abraham's obedience, God relented. Because of Abraham's faith, God blessed him greatly.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 116:10

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-34

We have received the ultimate proof of God's love: Christ Jesus, given up to death for the sake of us all. "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

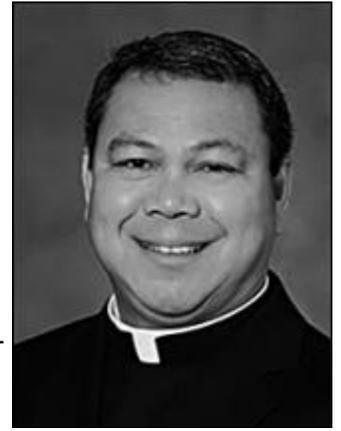
Jesus went up a mountain with his disciples and was transfigured before their eyes. A voice from the cloud proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Thank-you corner

To Ray Wagner for burning last year's palms for Ash Wednesday and for setting the church up for our Lenten season. The cross and crown of thorns were handmade by Ray and his son, Father Eric Wagner. We appreciate your tithing of time and talent!

Dear parishioners,

Today is the 1st Sunday of Lent. We began our spiritual journey of this holy season last Wednesday when we put ashes on our forehead as a sign of our conversion. Lent always touches something deep within us as it presents with the challenge to turn away from sin and to be faithful to the Gospel. Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are traditional practices which the Church strongly encourage us to do as means to encounter the loving God. It is through these Lenten practices that our spiritual struggle is brought to the fore in order to draw out the best in us. The challenge of saying "No" to ourselves and saying "Yes" to God is what constitutes this struggle.



While, on one hand, Lent is about "giving up," that is saying no to ourselves; it is, on the other hand, about "taking on," saying yes to God. Giving up through fasting and abstinence could mean quitting alcohol and smoking. It could mean cutting back on the excessive time spent on computer and television. It could mean giving up gossiping and swearing. It could mean sacrificing comfort and pleasure. Whatever the type of penance we undertake, the saying no to our self absorption needs to be a conscious decision and a concrete action so that our Lenten journey can become a liberating experience. All the goods that are saved from our "giving up," – money, time, etc., are to be used for our "taking on." The Gospel taught us that we not only avoid sin but that we do good. It is not enough that we just passively obey the "thou shall not" laws but we actively love God and neighbor as ourselves. "Taking on" is about taking on the challenge of being a person not for ourselves but for others especially the poor and the needy. Taking on through alms-giving could mean not only giving money directly to the poor but also to serve and wait on them if the occasion allows for it. Lenten almsgiving is more than just writing out a check to St. Vincent de Paul. It is a call to practice the works of Mercy as Jesus taught in the Gospel.

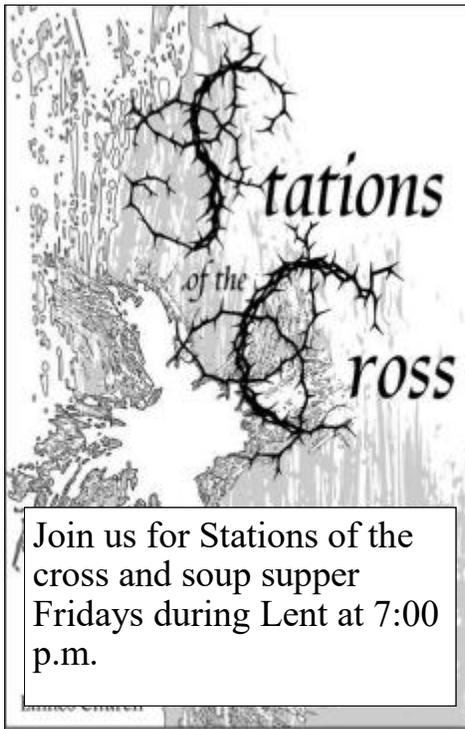
As we begin Lent, it would be helpful to take a good look once again on what the works of Mercy are so that our hearts and mind may be directed to do the loving deeds of the Lord in the spirit of the Season. The works of Mercy are divided in two categories: the corporal works of mercy and the spiritual works of mercy. The seven corporal works of mercy are concerned with meeting the physical need of others : feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. The seven spiritual works of mercy are concerned with meeting the spiritual needs of others: instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, correct the sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and the dead.

May the Lord in His own mercy and love bless our Lenten journey. May through our practice of penance and works of Mercy we truly become God's channel of grace to others.

Yours with Christ,

Father Burt Absalon

Vocations Corner: Priesthood or....?
 So often when conversing with young men about their Vocation in life, they will say something to the effect of, "Yea, I am thinking about being a priest or a youth minister, or an engineer, or something else." The problem with this sentence is that it suggests that priesthood is just another job...but it's not. The Priesthood is one of the three Vocations, the other two being Holy Matrimony and Religious Life. To restate that sentence, it ought to say: "Yea, I am thinking about being a priest or a husband or a religious brother." The same can be said for women and religious life and marriage. What you "do" with your life (aka: your job) will come naturally only after you discern why the Lord has created you; your Vocation. Think about a family planning a vacation (sounds nice in the dead of winter), what is the first thing they discuss? The first thing discussed is the location of their vacation. All the details can be filled in at a later time: hotels, restaurants, day trips, etc. Each of these are dependent upon where the family vacations. Some will say that if you become a priest or religious then all your hopes and dreams go out the window. Yet if you ask priests or religious you would find that in the majority of cases, God uses those gifts and talents that He has given you even in the priesthood or religious life. God has given you those for a reason and He will not leave you abandoned with them, rather He will use them in whichever Vocation He has called you. Fr. Sean Grismer



Join us for Stations of the cross and soup supper Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m.

Greeter Schedule:

Feb 28th
 8:00: Hill Family
 10:15: Witt Family

March 7th
 8:00: Kurcab Family
 10:15: Riley Family

March 14th
 8:00: The Vest Family
 10:15: Hill Family



People of God

Your prayers are requested for the sick;

Casey Porch	Jeff Kruzan
Erwin Arendt	Cindy Kruzan
Lisa Ash	Robert Kutella
Mary Bassett	Barb Lanphier
Emily Davis	Henry Kranz
Renee Biestek	Steve Welch
Rich Biestek	Bill Matussek
Mary Lou Draper	Billy Matussek
Barbara Dye	John Ferraro
Wayne Dye	Harold Johnson
Steve Fitzgerald	Paul Kries
Mary Watson	Melissa Rath
Dennis Gallagher	Karen Scimeca
Mary Gillis	Jeremy Scully
Nancy Golbeck	Geraldine Slarai
Art Holt	Derrick Verona
Gayle Johnson	Rita Hagenbruch
	Viola Huff



Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 28th

8:00 a.m.: People of the Parish

10:15 a.m.: Michael Lanphier
 Requested by Barbara Lanphier

We still have some 2021 Mass intention slots available—please contact Jeanine.

Sacramental Policies

Baptism: Contact the parish Office to participate in the Sacramental Baptismal preparation program.

First Eucharist: Children will be permitted to approach First Eucharist upon completion of the Parish Religious Education Program required for the reception of Holy Communion.

Matrimony: Rev. Burt Absalon, should be contacted at least one year prior to the anticipated date for the marriage. It is the policy of the Rockford Diocese that those to be married be at least 19 years of age, and will be required to participate in instructional programs: including Pre-marriage and Natural Family Planning Seminars. One of those to be married must be a registered member of the St. Patrick Parish of Hartland.

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available 30 minutes prior to the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Anointing of the Sick: For reception of the Sacrament of the Sick, and visits, please contact the Parish office at 815-338-7883.

New Members: New members to our community are asked to fill out a registration form found in the back of the church and drop it in the collection, or contact the Parish office.



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