

March 6, 2022



*"YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD, YOUR GOD,
AND HIM ALONE SHALL YOU SERVE." - LK 4:8*

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED Sacrament

2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11 :00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Growing Pains

We forget that to be human means to accept our growing pains. We are incomplete, works in progress. Our lives are never entirely integral, whole, and perfectly constructed creations but a diverse collection of broken pieces. If not welcomed with love, our necessary incompleteness can propel us to consistently, and sometimes compulsively, seek control and satisfaction.

Who am I? Who made me? What is my purpose? These are pivotal and fundamental questions that must be asked and adequately answered. Life's illusions and empty pleasures can distract us from discovering their real answers. When faced with important choices we are tempted to leave the truth of who we are and who God is aside. Achieving self-sufficiency, power, and prestige can appear to be the perfect fix to the loneliness, angst, and emptiness we experience. Any lie can pretend to be true. But this lie can only keep up its pretense for a short time. At some point, it will be seen as the shallow, self-destructive falsehood. Sometimes it's easier to replace our true God with the one we carry in our back pocket, the god we created ourselves.



We like control and satisfaction. One of the most significant sources of anxiety is the absence of control. We're afraid that we are going to fall apart. We instinctively know that we are a conglomeration of broken pieces rather than a complete whole, but we're scared to admit it. We don't want to appear vulnerable. This gives attractions and lures their power. Forgetting who God is increases the temptation to believe the lie. In the end, it is not the foundation of our homes that will support us but the foundation of our souls. Therein lies the mystery and beauty of what it means to be human. Our peace, tranquility, purpose, and identity are not tied to the world but to our Creator. Nothing outside can satisfy and provide better than what comes from within.

We forget some of the fundamentals that can keep us from making wrong choices and falling victim to evil in disguise. Who am I? A child of God. Who made me? God made me. What is my purpose? To know and serve my Creator. While these may appear to be simplistic, they are not. For if we can keep these questions and their answers firmly rooted in our minds, hearts, and souls they can be game changers for how we approach the things of this world and life's challenges. We can easily forget who is in charge and to whom we belong. This is the highest and worst of the illusions. Once we give ourselves or others more importance than is rightfully theirs, we quickly stumble down the path of sin. Sin is ultimately an absence of desire for God manifested in various intensities. Once other things become more desirable in fulfilling our well-being, purpose, and happiness, we are in trouble.

Temptation does not need to be our enemy. It can become a means to salvation! St. Basil remarks, "As the pilot of a vessel is tried in the storm, as the wrestler is tried in the ring, the soldier in the battle and the hero in adversity, so is the Christian tried in temptation." Here is the reason for Lent: to make temptation our friend. There is no doubt that we sin, even though we often prefer to forget or deny that fact. We are sinners. Given that fact, every temptation becomes an opportunity to choose either for grace or sin. The more we can choose virtue over vice, good over evil, truth over lies, and others over ourselves, the stronger we will become. Properly confronting and dealing with temptation builds Christian character. Ironically, when we build strong Christian character, we gain control and satisfaction. They come from within.

Ryan Stevenson performs a great song entitled "Eye of the Storm." Life will always present us with challenges, lures, and promises to tempt us, causing us to succumb to weakness. But when we put God first and give God proper thanks and worship, we are given a strong anchor and no longer need to be afraid. "In the eye of the storm, you remain in control. And in the middle of the war, you guard my soul. You alone are the anchor when my sails are torn. Your love surrounds me in the eye of the storm." What we ultimately need more of is love. What we need less of are the cheap imitations that look like it. Love, who is God, fortifies us and keeps us from falling. We come to know and believe that we are guided and led, kept and sustained by a God who is incredibly in love with all he has made. We need to own this truth, and it must be born in our souls.

God is not going to intrude on our space. We have to make the room. Our lives can keep us extremely preoccupied, distracted, confused, tired, conflicted, and task driven. Our existence becomes tied to devices. We interact more with things than with people. We lose touch with the flesh and bones of humanity and risk seeing people more as objects than unique artistic creations. We are becoming widgets who are required to produce and function. There is less time for creativity, imagination, deep thinking, reflection, and focusing our attention on truth. We may even be forgetting how to do these things. This is why we so desperately need Lent. When was the last time you were creative? When did you allow your imagination to soar? When did you last take time to ponder life's more profound questions, to throw yourself into God's presence, or consider whether you are really making the right choices?

We can be so easily swayed and convinced that we are walking down the right path and grazing in the right pasture. For all of our supposed brilliance and intelligence, we are easily fooled. We lunge for the attractive and believe that we are entitled to whatever we want. We pretend that emptiness and imperfection do not exist. All that we are and all that we have, especially our poverty, we place before the Lord. "And, having set them before the Lord, your God, you shall bow down in his presence."
Fr. Mark Suslenko

CSAF NEWS

CSAF



SERVE
SUPPORT
STRENGTHEN

The Catholic Services Appeal Foundation is an independent foundation that partners with fellow Catholics to share Christ's love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life, and strengthen the Faith. The CSAF coordinates and administers the Appeal on behalf of the parishes, providing them with necessary resources and services, and receiving and distributing gifts from parishioners to and for the benefit of the Designated Ministries. Local parishes also receive back for their own ministries a portion of the funds raised for the CSAF above and beyond goal.

E TEAM NEWS

Holy Week and Easter will soon be here. **THE E- TEAM IS ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS** to do a "no contact" distribution of invitation flyers for our Holy Week and Easter worship services. "No contact" means, you just leave the flyer by the door or porch, no door knocking or conversation is expected from you. You can do this as a family or group project. You can surely just do it for your block, for your building, for your family & friends. You don't have to distribute hundreds of invitation flyers; the important thing is that you are doing something for God!



Please pray about it. We need to know how many invitation flyers to prepare so if you are interested, please sign up before March 27th. Sign-up sheet is at the Hospitality Desk.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, Pray for us.



55 Club Luncheon
We will be hosting our monthly 55 Club Luncheon on Tuesday, March 15 at 12 Noon. They will be serving Hot Dago and Penne! Entertainment also provided. Please call the parish office by Fri., March 11 if you would like to attend.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

During Lent, we are called to give special attention to our relationship with God. Through opportunities to deepen our prayer, practice fasting and give alms, we meet our Lord and encounter our sisters and brothers around the world.

Make a donation to CRS Rice Bowl to help communities in Guatemala, Bangladesh, Rwanda and other countries overcome hunger and malnutrition. Your almsgiving will make a difference for families trying to escape poverty and thrive.

You'll find Rice Bowl information and materials on the table outside of the parish offices.



Divine Mercy Cenacle



"Patience, prayer, and silence-these are what give strength to the soul."

Saint Faustina

Prayer cards are on the table to take. Look for a new message from St. Faustina's Diary weekly.

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PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
Rev. Jimmy Puttanickal, Pastor ext. 11
John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
Carol McKenna,ext. 15
FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677
Connie Hill, Director ext. 14
MUSIC
Jan Meulemans, Director.....651-307-7865
PRAYER LINE
Please call Carol McKenna.....612-594-1290
CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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BAPTISM - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the; Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; 8:00-8:20 am on Tuesday and Friday or by appointment.
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-Sa, Please see signage for hours.
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

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Sunday, March 6
First Sunday of Lent
 Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13
 8:30am † Barbara Luna
 11am Parish Mass

Monday, March 7
Lenten Weekday/Saint Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
 Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, March 8
Lenten Weekday/Saint John of God, Religious
 Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
 † Bernard & Alma Tillman

Wednesday, March 9
Lenten Weekday/Saint Francis of Rome, Religious
 Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 George Palm

Thursday, March 10
Lenten Weekday
 Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
 † John Larson

Friday, March 11
Lenten Weekday
 Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 † John Dwindler

Saturday, March 12
Lenten Weekday
 Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48(Morning Readings)
 4 pm Parish Mass

Sunday, March 13
Second Sunday of Lent
 Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1/Lk 9:28b-36
 8:30am † Ronald Murphy
 11am † Melvin Houle

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

March 6— March 13

- Sun, Mar 6: 9:30-10:45 Coffee & Donuts
Mon, Mar 7: 6:00pm Grief Support Group
6:30pm Movement & Christian Meditation
Wed, Mar 9: Young at Heart after Mass
Fri, Mar 11: 9:00am Divine Mercy Cenacle
Stations after Mass
11 am Floreen Hagen Funeral
5:30pm Stations followed by Soup Supper
Presented by the Parish Council
Sun, Mar 13: Daylight Savings Time Begins
9:30-10:45 Coffee & Donuts
9:45-10:45am Faith Formation Classes

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

February 26/27, 2022

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 5,405.76
Additional Operations:	\$ 100.00
Other:	\$ 100.00
Religious Retirement:	\$ 235.00
TOTAL	\$ 5,840.76



In addition to the evening Stations of the Cross, the E Team will lead the Stations of the Cross after daily Mass every Friday in Lent except on Good Friday. Please join us if you are unable to attend the evening Stations of the Cross.

“How sweet, the presence of Jesus to the longing and harassed soul! He is instant peace and balm to every wound.”

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton



We have open hours for Monday 1 pm, Thursday 10 am and Friday 1 pm. Please call Kathy at 651-247-5185 if you have interest in one of these hours or if another time would work better for your schedule.

Lenten News

Individual Confessions

- 8:00-8:20 am Tuesday and Friday
- 3:00-3:45 Saturday or by appointment

Stations of the Cross with Benediction

- All Fridays except Good Friday @ 5:30 PM
- Parishioner led without Benediction after Mass on Fridays

Lenten Regulations:

Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years and older.

Fasting means that we may take only one full meal during the course of the day. This may be supplemented by two additional light meals, which, together, are not greater than a full meal. Though eating between meals is prohibited, liquids may be taken at any time.

FAITH FORMATION: PEEK AT THE WEEK

The joyful season of Lent

Catholics flock to Mass on Ash Wednesday. We mark the beginning of Lent with a visible mark on our foreheads. We hear the words that Jesus spoke 2000 years ago as He first began His public ministry in Galilee: *"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel"* (Mark 1:15).

To repent is, in fact, a time of joy. The children at Faith Formation have recently heard stories of great rejoicing when a lost coin is found, when a lost sheep is found, or when a prodigal son returns to his Forgiving Father. To repent is to move beyond a feeling of simply regret to a true sorrow for our sins and a great trust in the mercy of Jesus. Simon Peter repented; Judas did not.

Make this Lenten season joyful by exploring some of our beautiful Catholic devotions. The E Team table in the Gathering Space has many pamphlets to assist you in your prayer. NEW! The E Team table now includes **Prayer Cards for Saints of the Month**. Take a look and help yourself to materials. Be sure to pray the Stations of the Cross this Lent. Can you make it once or how about every Friday? You can also follow the Stations of the Cross on Facebook and Instagram. Something for everyone!

Support our youth!

Our annual spring plant sale raises funds for youth to participate in Catholic summer camps. Purchase beautiful plants through Gertens and receive them in time for Mother's Day. Plant cards are also for sale, but remember, we raise twice the funds on actual plant sales. Order deadline is April 1st. Plant pick up is after Masses on May 7 and May 8. Plants can be ordered using a paper form or online at: www.gertensfundraising.com Store ID # 239. Stop at the plant sale table after Mass and order for yourself and for gift-giving. Thank you in advance!



UPCOMING CALENDAR

March 6 - NO CLASS

March 13 - Mass and class

March 20 - Mass and class (First Reconciliation retreat for students)

March 27 - Mass and class (First Reconciliation)



March 6
Children's Choir
and
Hospitality
Training
THIS Sunday

Children's hospitality training meets
after 8:30 am Mass and before 11:00 am Mass

Children's Choir meets at 9:30 in the church



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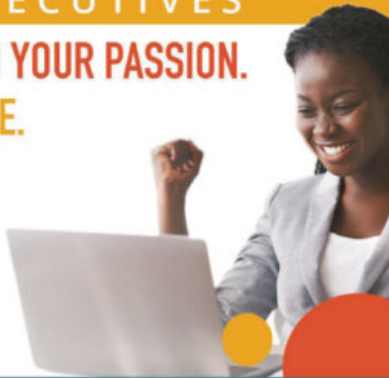
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