

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

ST. WENCESLAUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

15353 PACIFIC STREET, OMAHA, NE
402-330-0304 | FEBRUARY 21, 2021

BELIEVE



Repent, and believe in
the gospel.

MARK 1:15

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM,
10:30 AM, 12:00 PM and 5:30 PM

Daily Masses

Monday - Friday during Lent
6:45 AM, 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM
Saturday 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday-Friday during Lent 5:00 to 5:25 PM
Saturday 3:30 to 4:30 PM

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

MONDAY, February 22, 2021

6:45 AM †Jeff Higgins
 8:30 AM †Albert Spanel
 5:30 PM †Chase Hunter

TUESDAY, February 23, 2021

6:45 AM †Leonard Zechmann
 8:30 AM Int. of Jack Bernard
 5:30 PM †Mary Kaczmarek

WEDNESDAY, February 24, 2021

6:45 AM †Margaret Weckinger
 8:30 AM †Betty Bauer
 5:30 PM Int. of Kathy Rosenberg

THURSDAY, February 25, 2021

6:45 AM †Lucille Kramer
 5:30 PM †Deceased Members of Ludemann Family

FRIDAY, February 26, 2021

6:45 AM †Emma Fuxz
 8:30 AM †James Sobczyk
 5:30 PM †Eugene Smith

SATURDAY, February 27, 2021

8:30 AM †K.I. Thommi
 5:00 PM †Cathy Boone

SUNDAY, February 28, 2021

7:30 AM People of the Parish
 9:00 AM †Mike Bruggeman
 10:30 AM †Ray Debevac
 12:00 PM Int. of Whitney Synowicki
 5:30 PM †Jose Artemio Mateus

Ministry Schedule for February 27–28, 2021

Saturday, 5:00 PM **PRIEST:** Fr. Tim
SAC: Jim Halar (sub req) **DEA:** Mark Capoun
EMHC: Dodie Graham, Ann Fuxa, Julie Davis, Dan Davis
LEC: Mary Ann Athen, Cathy Huber
SER: Elliot LaMar, Luke Scott

Sunday, 7:30 AM **PRIEST:** Fr. Tim
SAC: John Hall
EMHC: Karen Aliano, Mary Ann Casey, Brigitte Langdon
LEC: Larry Kawa, Machel Krajewski
SER: Corrine Merkel, Josephine Wentz

Sunday, 9:00 AM **PRIEST:** Fr. Tom
SAC: Mary Kay Garcia **DEA:** Bill Carter
EMHC: Lori Moody, Doug Moody, Julie Krupicka, Mike Pate
LEC: Josah Powers, Kevin Powers
SER: Colin Zuroske, Addison Foltz

Sunday, 10:30 AM **PRIEST:** Fr. Taylor
SAC: Chris Pluta **DEA:** Joe Kulus
EMHC: Jennifer Weeder, Cathy Kruse, David F. Haller, Tim Glover
LEC: Casey Painter, Sherri Carstens
SER: Isaac Weeder, Mia Adamiak

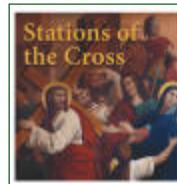
Sunday, 12:00 PM **PRIEST:** Fr. Tom
SAC: Karen Steven **DEA:** Brad Schaefer
EMHC: Emily Rimington, Amy Stanek (sub req),
 Stephen Ivaskevicius (sub req), Zach Royse
LEC: Karla Zavadil, Bob Decker
SER: Isabella Valencia-Valbuena, Andrea O'Neill

Sunday, 5:30 PM **PRIEST:** Fr. Ron
SAC: Maureen Walters
EMHC: Savannah Weigl, Bob Tabor, Robin Stec, Bonnie Reinig,
 Brian Reinig
LEC: Tosia Wieser, Eric Martin
SER: Barrett Whitcomb, Elijah Whitcomb

Envelopes: \$31,563.46

Children's

Envelopes: \$ 60.00

**Year To Date Budget: \$1,411,000.00****Year To Date Total: \$1,721,773.77**

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on
TUESDAYS at 7:00 PM.

Come and take part in this traditional Lenten devotion on February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th.

**LENT 2021**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." (John 3:16)

Our Season of Lent has begun. If you did not receive our parish **Lenten Reminder** - a small coin with a Scripture quote from St. John's Gospel: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son*", there are still some available in the foyer. You are invited to carry this coin with you throughout the season as reminder of God's great love for us. You will also find on the tables in the foyer a handout for the first week of Lent that contains prayers, reflections and other acts that you can do this coming week.

Once again this Lent, St. Wenceslaus Parish will be providing many opportunities for prayer, reflection and growing closer as a community. Keep this schedule handy for future reference.

♦ **DAILY MASS**

M-F: 6:45 & 8:30 AM, 5:30 PM, Saturday: 8:30 AM

♦ **RECONCILIATION:**

Daily 5:00 - 5:25 PM (before 5:30 PM Mass)
 Saturdays 3:30-4:45 PM

♦ **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & MORNING PRAYER:**In the church after the Friday, 8:30 AM Mass♦ **BENEDICTION:**5:20 PM Fridays in the church. Be sure to stay for 5:30 PM Mass too!♦ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:****TUESDAYS** of Lent at 7:00 PM

For more Lenten information, check out our website
www.stwenceslaus.org/lent.

REFLECTING ON THE SCRIPTURES First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

Today's readings: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

Forty Days



After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, the Spirit drove him out into the desert, where he experienced temptation. Sometimes we fail to consider that, in the incarnation, Jesus took on every bit of the human

experience, except sin. He knew what it was to be tempted, to face trials.

In the Bible, the number *forty* symbolizes a time of trial or testing. In today's readings, Jesus' forty days in the desert are placed alongside the experience of Noah and his family, the forty days of the flood. Neither reading leaves us in a time of trial. In the reading from Genesis, we see the rainbow, the sign of God's covenant with Noah. In Mark, we hear Jesus proclaim that the kingdom of God is at hand, the time for which they have been awaiting has come. At the very beginning of our season of preparation, we hear proclaimed the fruits that await us at its conclusion.

In this season of Lent, we have forty days to confront our temptations. We hear Jesus calling us to repent and believe in the Gospel. How might we use these forty days to ready ourselves to hear the proclamation at its end? What must I repent of so that I may better believe? This week, think about obstacles that hold you back from God's love. Consider your temptations. How can you use this season to make yourself ready for what is to come? © 2021 Liturgy Training Publications, 800-933-1800. Written by Kathryn Ball-Boruff. Illustrated by Kate Cosgrove. Scripture quotations are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition. Permission to publish granted by the Archdiocese of Chicago, on July 6, 2020.

LITURGY CORNER *Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving*

A few reflections on the penitential practices of Lent:

Prayer: We know that relationships cannot thrive without the gifts of time and attention. When we pray, we give this same time and attention to our most important relationship. Prayer is talking, but also listening. Determine a space in your day to carve out additional time and attention for prayer this Lent.

Fasting: When the Church fasts together, we do so because we live in an in-between time: Jesus has ascended to the Father, he has not yet come again. We fast in anticipation of Jesus' arrival, when there will be no more sorrow, tears, and pain. We fast willingly because we want our broken world to be whole.

Almsgiving: What does the world need? It can be a pretty overwhelming list. We know that we live in a world where many things are not as they should be. When you look at the world around you, what breaks your heart? What makes you outraged? These feelings can be a way that God calls you to live out the call you received at your baptism. Pay attention to what you feel passionately about, and then respond by being God's love in the world. © 2021

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Friends,

Happy Lent! No, I'm not trying to be difficult, but Lent is not meant to be a marathon of unhappiness and pain. As we allow our sins and character defects to slowly slip away, we are able to feel the grace and love that God has always surrounded us with, and now is able to permeate our lives and souls so much more fully.

We have an incredible amount of spiritual opportunities available for you this Lent — all that do not require us to gather in groups, but instead allow us to safely grow spiritually in this pandemic. Check out our webpage to see the flyer, and if you need a personal hard copy, call Christine, our Adult Faith Formation Director (402-991-3425).

Part of our discomfort during Lent is spending time outside of our *Locus amoenus* (latin for pleasant place). When things are familiar, predictable or not challenging, it is easy for us. Easy is not always the best for us...

The first line of the Gospel, "The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert...." The statement is proclaiming that Jesus didn't have a choice, the Father needed him there for a purpose. It wasn't out of spite, hate or lack of love; it was the highest form of tough love the Father could give Jesus. It wasn't going to be pleasant, but it was necessary.

We could often meditate upon this a little bit. It is easy to say, "Why is God doing this to me..." or "Why is this happening to me...". I in no way want to minimize the events that cause this stress and anguish to manifest themselves in our lives. I will say it's often necessary for us to be "gently nudged" to look at life a little differently and to deepen our trust in the path that we would never choose, but that God has chosen for us.

This is not an easy transformation. But as the ashes were placed upon my forehead last Wednesday, and I was reminded that life is short and that I am "dust and to dust you shall return" reminds me to keep an eye on priorities. This challenge means a lot more to me today at age 61 than it did when I was 31. As I bury more friends and classmates, I am reminded of the latin, "memento mori" (remember you must die).

Please understand, I'm not on a morbid rant here, I think we need to remember that our number one goal in life should orientate us to joining God in heaven...and we can't take that final step until we die. If I lead my life the right way, then crudely put, on the day I die, my family and friends lose...but I win. Because when I die and join God in heaven, I will be with the only one that could love me more, heal me more, support me more and bring joy to me more than anyone on this earth. Preparation for this should be a joyful journey to look forward to joining God. So I end this column as I began it: Happy Lent! Immerse yourself in the presence of the Father, the love of the Son and the grace of the Holy Spirit that will guide us through this season.

Fr. Tom



When You Feel the “Shove of the Dove”

We often speak about what we call the “promptings of the Holy Spirit.” Recently, I heard such promptings referred to as the “shove of the dove.” That definitely sounds more compelling than mere “promptings” and it more accurately describes what is happening in today’s gospel. The Spirit *drove* Jesus out into the desert (Mk.1:12). What would cause the Spirit to be so forceful? We often picture God as very gentle. He doesn’t impose Himself on us, but waits patiently for us.

I believe both attributes can be true of God. God is both gentle and compelling. He loves us so much He will do anything to get our attention. Once again, we find a “love letter” from God in the Genesis story of Noah and the Ark. This “Valentine from God”, if you will, includes rainbows! These are beautiful reminders of God’s promised covenant with us.

It is important to remember that a covenant is between two parties—and they each have a part in the agreement. What is *our* part in this relationship with God? Sometimes we get too distracted by the noise, concerns, and “things” of this world to make the time to enter into meaningful dialogue with our covenant partner.

Enter the Holy Spirit. The Spirit uses whatever means necessary to draw us back to this loving relationship. It may be a whisper or a nudge or we may be “driven” to deserted places to clear our minds and hearts to really hear God.

This “deserted place” is what Lent can be for us. The Spirit can lead us throughout Lent to quietly reflect on God’s immense love for us, and our response to that love.

This Lent, I plan to find *one* thing that the Spirit is encouraging me to pursue to “see God more clearly, love Him more dearly, and follow Him more nearly.” If you want some ideas of one thing you can do this Lent, I invite you to consider 15 ideas that may be found on our website at www.stwenceslaus.org/lent and then listen to the Spirit!



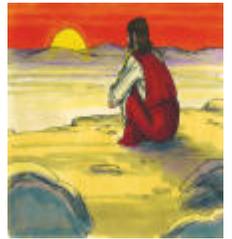
Julie Lukasiewicz
Director of Children's
Faith Formation
402-330-1889
402-991-3126
lukaj@stwenceslaus.org

As a Family of God....

From *Loyola Press*-During Lent, we are invited to strengthen and to renew the promises that we made at our Baptism, to reject Satan and sin so as to live as children of God. Through the grace of God that we received at Baptism, we follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and know that with Jesus’ help, we will be victorious over sin.

As you gather as a family, talk about the importance of Baptism. At our Baptism, our sins were forgiven, and we promised to live as children of God. As part of the Rite of Baptism, we rejected sin and Satan. During Lent, we renew the promises of our Baptism, turning again from sin and promising to follow God. Light a candle, perhaps a candle used at one of your family member’s Baptisms, and pray together the *Act of Contrition*.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. And I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven And the pains of hell. But most of all, because they have offended you, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.



Upcoming Events:

March 3rd is Reconciliation from 6:30-7:30 PM. Due to COVID and in keeping with safety guidelines only the 2nd - 8th grade students will attend. PreK-1st grade students will have no classes this evening.



HUNGER IN OUR WORLD

Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger - it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world?



February's Charity of the Month HOLY FAMILY MINISTRIES



Holy Family Church in North Downtown Omaha has been home to people caring for those in need since opening in 1876, a vibrant community of believers dedicated to serving the poor, the homeless and the incarcerated in North Omaha. As the neighborhood changed to an industrial landscape, the congregation dwindled, and in 2020 the parish was combined with Saint Francis Cabrini. **The legacy of service to the poor continues today, however.**

Sack Lunch Program - Today, volunteers gather to make lunches to share freely with anyone who comes to our door, Monday through Friday. Sandwiches, sweets, healthy snacks, drinks, fruit and vegetables are sacked and handed to 70-80 men and women who visit us, most of whom who are homeless. An additional 130 lunches are delivered to parking lots and OHA senior high-rise apartments in East Omaha. We also distribute toilet paper and laundry detergent with our deliveries once a month.

Closet Door - The Closet Door is open each weekday morning to provide free clothing to our neighbors. Men and women may come to our door once a week to receive socks, underwear, pants, shirts, hoodies, jackets, coats, hats, gloves, blankets, toiletries and more.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has offices at Holy Family and manages the building and programs there. We are creating many new ways to connect people and lives. To learn more, volunteer or donate, visit holyfamilyomaha.org.

Our goal at Holy Family is to build a more just world through personal relationships with people in need. We believe in growing community through spirituality, friendship and service.

RCIA RITE OF ELECTION

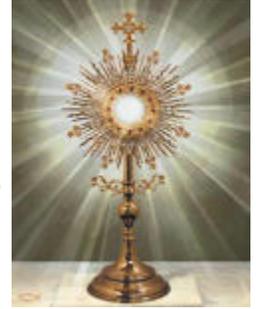
Today at the **10:30 AM Mass**, the catechumens, candidates, sponsors and companions participating in the RCIA process will be celebrating the Rite of Election – a rite which “elects” or “chooses” them for the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This year, because of Covid-19, the Rite of Election is celebrated at individual parishes rather than at the Cathedral with Archbishop Lucas. Please remember these special people in your prayers throughout the season of Lent as they journey toward membership in our Catholic faith community!

PRO-LIFE NEWS

FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE - SIGN UP

Ash Wednesday was the starting date for Forty Days for Life. St. Wenceslaus will be praying at Planned Parenthood, in church and at home on Thursday, March 18th from 8 am to 7 pm. Call Angie at 402-330-7153 to reserve your time to pray.

Join us Fridays during Lent for ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament



February 26 and March 5, 12, 19, 26
+Exposition following the 8:30 AM Mass
+Morning Prayer following exposition
+Benediction at 5:20 PM

Adorers needed:

Contact John Hall to set up your adoration hour.

p: 402-758-0451

e: johnruns4fun@gmail.com

Can't commit?

Drop in anytime from 9:00 AM - 5:20 PM

Lenten Reflections on Facebook

Mondays: Fasting and David with Fr. Tom
Tuesdays: Metaphysics and Me with Olivier
Wednesdays: St. Joseph with Fr. Taylor
Thursdays: Special Guests!
Fridays: Social Friendship with Christine

Find them at facebook.com/stwenc/live

From the Desk of the Volunteer Nurse



February is American Heart Disease Month.

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is the leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke. The coronavirus can affect your heart so if you have recovered from the virus but continue to have heart or lung symptoms, make sure to have it checked out.

It is important to: (1) Choose healthy food and drink. Limit sodium. (2) Keep a healthy weight. (3) Participate in regular physical activity. (4) Don't smoke.

Take charge of your medical conditions working with a health team of a personal doctor, dentist and dietician.

Knights of Columbus Daily Bread Calendar

Thanks to all who purchased **2021 Calendar Club** tickets. Even with the difficult conditions due to Covid restrictions, we were able to able to sell nearly as many tickets as the previous years. **Thank you for your support!** Please check the bulletin weekly for daily winners and all those **EXTRA** prize winners. A check is mailed to each winner at the end of the month in which they won. All previous winners can be found on our website (www.kofc10909.org).

You can find daily winners at www.kofc10909.org.

2-8-21 Lucy Currans
 2-9-21 Fr. Tim
 2-10-21 Jill Orton
 2-11-21 Leo & Janet Trautman
 2-12-21 Ed Thiele
 2-13-21 Fr. Tim
 2-14-21 Mike Mohs
 2-15-21 Fr. Tim
 2-16-21 Katie Clark
 2-17-21 John Healey
 2-18-21 John Svoboda
 2-19-21 Marva Dunning
 2-20-21 James Griswa
 2-21-21 Andrew D'Agosto

****Ash Wednesday****
 Sherrie Edstrand

Silent Directed Retreat

March 14-19, 2021



Saint Benedict Center

Led by Margie M. Walker and Marisa B. Gilbert

Come during lent, step out in expectant faith and await the marvels of your God as you retreat! These five days of quiet will offer blessings in abundance as you spend meaningful time with your ever present God. Retreatants meet daily with a spiritual director, gather for prayer as a group and have the option of entering into the liturgies with the Benedictines. Centering prayer, walking the labyrinth and/or prayer with art are other spiritual practices offered to interested retreatants.

Margie M. Walker, as teacher, mother of six and grandmother to 18 and a spiritual director has led retreats and journeyed with fellow pilgrims around the US for 30 years.

Marisa B. Gilbert was the director of Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center. Her experiences in adult formation and spiritual direction/retreat ministry have allowed her to work with a variety of age groups.

Sunday, 5:45 pm to Friday after lunch ~ Program Fee: \$150
 Rooms per night, single occupancy:\$46 plus tax, double occupancy \$38 plus tax
 Meals per day: \$28.35 plus tax. Early reservations appreciated.

St. Benedict Center, 1126 Road I, PO Box 528, Schuyler, NE 68661-0528
 Phone 402-352-8819 ~ Register now at retreats@StBenedictCenter.com

LIVING THE FAITH

1. **How can I learn about supporting Catholic schools in the United States?**
 Read more about [LB 364](#) currently being put forth in the Nebraska legislature and read about how the [US Bishops support](#) of a bipartisan bill on Catholic schools.
2. **How can I learn more about how others experience racism?** Take a virtual tour through the [Open Wide Our Hearts Virtual Exhibit](#) presented by the Diocese of Green Bay.
3. **How can I increase prayer during this Lenten season?**
 Read Pope Francis' February 10th [General Audience](#) on how to pray in our everyday lives.

Newly Registered St. Wenceslaus Parishioners

Aaron and Kelley Clouse

Bradley Davis

Daniel Goudie

Mark Holmberg, Sarah Laferla and Von Holmberg

Michael and Darcy Lakers

Edward and Cleo Lamoureux

Kaycee, Evan and Olivia Perez

Mitchell and Jean Rodenburg



We welcome the newest
 St. Wenceslaus members
 born to new life
 through Baptism

Rex Joseph Graham
 Son of Dean and Jessica Graham

Logan Renae Kirkland
 Daughter of Ben and Remy Kirkland

Augustine Joseph Seberger
 Son of Tim and Jill Seberger

Wesley James Smith II
 Son of Wesley and Renae Smith

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