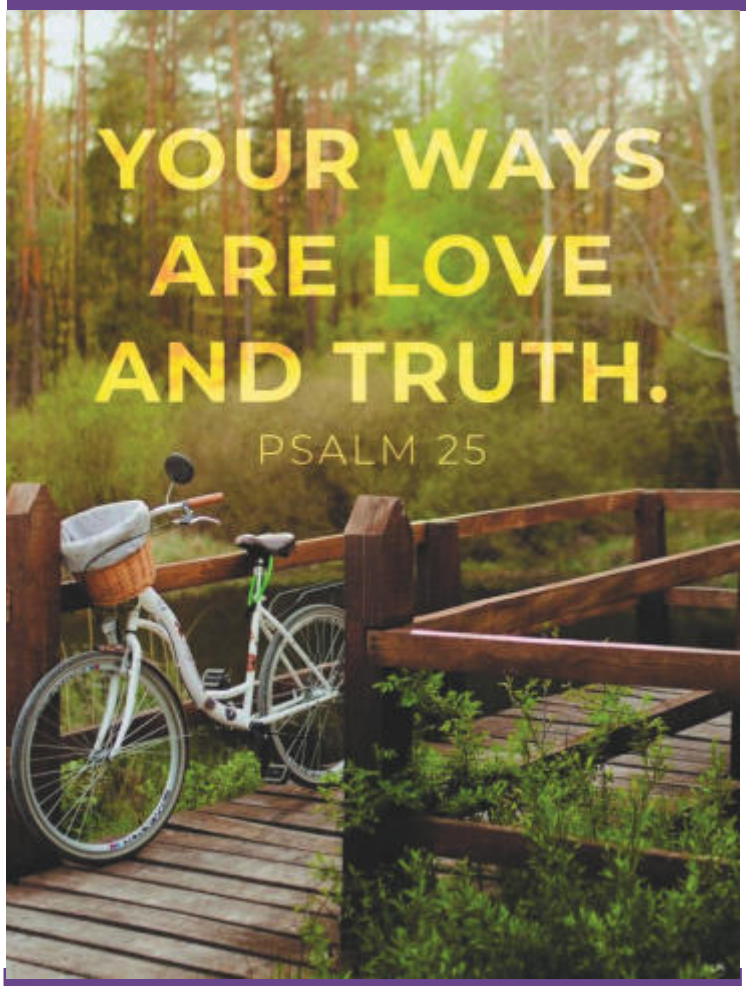
St. John's Catholic Church

Omaha's Jesuit Parish Located at Creighton University
2500 California Plaza Omaha, NE 68178 402-280-3031
www.stjohns-creighton.org
Cornerstone laid 1887—Established as a Parish 1897—Designated a City Landmark 1981

First Sunday of Lent – February 21, 2021



When you call on me,
I will answer; I will deliver you
and give you glory,
I will grant you length of days.

Sunday 10:30 am Music

The music for today's livestreamed liturgy can be found in the online worship guide available from the front page of www.stjohns-creighton.org.

When unable to be present to the Eucharist physically, the faithful are invited and encouraged to receive "spiritual communion" in prayer.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the bread of life and the one true vine.
I believe that you are truly present
in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I seek you.
I worship and adore you.
Since I cannot receive you
in the Eucharistic bread and wine,
I pray that you will come into my heart and soul,
that I may be united to you,
by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.
Let me receive you, and be nourished by you.
Become for me the manna in my wilderness,
the bread of angels
for my very human journey through time,
a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.
I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are
our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy.
Amen.

Prayer Requests

Terry Moore
Martha Granados
Linda Baker
Michael Jackson
Kevin Wilkins
Patrick Wilkins
Doug Oonus
Sarah McKito
Theresa Yost

St. John's parish is a Catholic Ignatian community committed to welcoming all, celebrating Eucharist, and empowering all to serve for the greater honor and glory of God.

OUTREACH

Hello!

January has been a simple month. After the rush of 2020 it has been a welcome break. Many things continue no matter what…

Hokie and Forrest are a couple of the six wonderful helpers who are filling the 100 food bags during the month. They come after school/virtual classes are finished for the day.

Br. Rene's walls got a fresh coat of paint…much needed too! There are few more things to accomplish in this building and with time all will be completed.

Louella continues to do an awesome job managing the many responsibilities as Office Manager. We are very fortunate to have her working here and I am very grateful for her care and time she puts into each thing she does.

I bet you didn't think I could have such a short letter! I pray your beginning of 2021 is off to a good start and blessings abound in each month ahead.

May the Creator embrace you in every whispering wind, delicate snowflake and sunbeams of love!

Sr. Barb Bogenschutz, OO
Parish Life Coordinator

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Saint Moses, the Black, was a desert monk, born around 330. He was an Ethiopian of great physical strength and unruly character. Moses was a big man and his enormous strength was well known. He belonged to a band of professional thieves and robbers in Egypt. Fearing eventual death from his Ethiopian master, or other criminals, Moses ran away into the Scete Desert. No regular people were there, only poor hermits with nothing worth stealing. The hermits converted Moses to Jesus; yet his former bad ways held on to him. In order to fight harder for Jesus, Moses moved further into the desert. As an old monk and abbot, bandits came to attack his colony. Moses forbade his brother monks to respond in violence, but rather stayed to greet the bandits while the other monks were able to retreat. St. Moses the Black offers an inspiring example of conversion, hospitality and non-violence

COMMUNITY

Rite of Election

During the 10:30am Mass on the First Sunday of Lent we will celebrate a milestone for St. John's catechumen, Suzette Deitchler. For the past year, Suzette has received initial instruction in the faith. The RCIA catechists and her sponsor have observed her sincere desire for conversion in mind, heart, and action. With 40 days until Easter she will embark on the final, more intensive "home stretch" of her journey into our faith community. The "Rite of Election" celebrates the moment when Suzette makes an official "pledge of fidelity" to enter into this period, inscribing her name as one called or "elected" by Christ for membership in the fullness of his body the Church. Normally, the Archbishop celebrates this ritual at the cathedral with all catechumens gathered. Due to COVID-19 precautions we will celebrate this as a parish community. The ritual will occur after the homily. Although it does not require prior practice from the assembly, your presence signifies the support we pledge to our sister at this special moment in her faith journey.
Please keep Suzette in your prayers.

A STEWARSHIP MOMENT

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his listeners to do two things: to believe in the Good News and to repent. The steward is called to repent, to be humble enough to open their hearts so they may begin anew, to change existing attitudes and habits, and to act with faith in the Gospel. In this season of Lent, now is the time to ask ourselves whether or not we truly believe in the Gospel; and if we do, to what extent are we willing to change our prevailing habits and be more faithful to the Gospel?

Weekly Offering Report for February 7

Weekly Budget Goal	8,326.95	Annual Budget Goal	441,328.40
Weekend Contributions	1,790.00	Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal	274.789.35
Other	7,528.29		
ONLINE	1,430.00		
ACH	3,145.00		
TOTAL	13,893.29		
Above (Below) weekly goal	5,566.34	Amount Collected YTD	315,453.51
		Above (Below) YTD Goal	40,664.16

If you would like to make donations on line please go to our website and look for this icon to click on.
www. stjohns-creighton.org

DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Below are the deadline dates for upcoming Parish Newsletters

Thursday Feb. 25th for Sunday Mar. 7th
Thursday Mar. 4th for Sunday Mar. 14th
Thursday Mar. 11th for Sunday Mar. 21st

Please submit all requests to jonherrington@creighton.edu AND stjohns@creighton.edu with the subject line: NEWSLETTER.

Masses at St. John's This Week

Date	Feast	Readings	Mass Time—Location—Intention
02/21 Sun	*First Sunday of Lent*	Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15	10:30 AM Livestreamed at St. Johns (Please register at St. John's Website) All Sunday liturgies are offered for the people of the parish
02/22 Mon	*The Chair of St. Peter*	1 Pt 5:1-4 Mt 16:13-19	Noon—Livestream—† Joann Hopp
02/23 Tues	*Saint Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr*	Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15	Noon—Livestream—† Mary Ellen Ascher
02/24 Wed		Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32	Noon—Livestream—Therese Rahme de Braiz (healing)
02/25 Thur		Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Mt 7:7-12	Noon—Livestream—†Dr. Cecil Marie Zielinski
02/26 Fri		Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26	Noon—Livestream—Amparo Regina del Valle (Intention)
02/27 Sat		Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48	NOON MASS IS SUSPENDED FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR 5:00 pm—Church (Please register at St. John's Website
02/28 Sun	*Second Sunday of Lent*	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10	10:30 AM Livestreamed at St. Johns (Please register at St. John's Website) All Sunday liturgies are offered for the people of the parish

Reconciliation is available by appointment.
Please contact Fr. Lorn Snow, S.J. 402-280-3262

Do you have one of the following?	*Do you have 2+ of the following?*	*Have you had close contact with someone positive for COVID-19?*	*Have you been directed to self-isolate due to a positive COVID-19 result or for having contact with someone with COVID-19?*
• Fever of over 100.4 °F • Onset of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • New onset of dry cough • New onset of loss of taste or smell	• Chills longer than two hours • Congestion and/or runny nose • Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea • Sore throat • Headache • Muscle pain	*Close contact means contact longer than 15 minutes within 6 feet without a face covering or residing with someone who is positive.*	

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

We enter our Lenten journey continuing to confront the pandemic and social turmoil. Our hearts and souls, as well as our minds and bodies, feel the challenge of this time. And yet, we know that Lent is always a journey to resurrection and Easter joy. It is a season of healing, hope and conversion. Though we journey with our own pain, struggle, even loss--the burdens of our life, we know that the end of every pilgrim's path is the light and joy of the paschal mystery. Emblematic of this journey we invite you to consider making a Lenten pilgrimage right here to our shared sacred home of St. John's Church. There are many ways to live our Lenten journey:

- Consider registering for one of our Sunday Masses, Saturday 5PM or Sunday at 10:30AM. Asking all attendees to register in advance helps us keep numbers low, around 40 households. We maintain social distance and require masks for the safety of all participants.
- If you are worried about crowds our daily 12 noon Mass does not require registration because our numbers of in-person attendees are quite low. We still maintain social distance and require masks.
- If you have a preexisting health condition or need to isolate because of the risk of COVID we continue to invite you to participate from home with our live stream services. Perhaps ask us to journey with you, by bringing communion to your front stoop.
- Attend the Novena of Grace March 4-12 and listen and pray with the emerging voices coming from our faith community. This year's theme is "Prophetic Voices of the Church." Our keynote speaker is Bro. Mickey McGrath, OSFS. Mickey is an artist and author of many spiritual works and projects.
- Another way to make a pilgrimage is to simply stop by the Church and spend a moment in prayer and solitude. St. John's is open and available:
  M-F 8 am – Noon and T – F 5 -8 pm
  Saturdays Feb 20, 27, March 13 8 am – 4 pm
  Sundays 8 am— 10 am and Noon – 4 pm

We want you to feel welcome in your sacred home. We work to keep our environment safe by requiring masks and social distancing for all guests.

If you choose to make a pilgrimage by just stopping by the church these might be some helpful Lenten practices:

- Spend time in prayer before the crucified Christ in the main sanctuary of the church.
- Simply stand or sit in silence before the image of the crucified Lord, contemplate Christ on the cross surrounded by Mary and the Beloved Disciple. Then pray this simple prayer: "Jesus you love me, transform me."
- After welcoming God's love and forgiveness allow Christ to gaze upon you and to open your life to conversion and transformation. Amen.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross. You can find a version of the stations on our parish website (under the liturgy tab) and either print them, or pull them up on your mobile phone. Walk the stations quietly by yourself or with your household.

Enjoy the silence and beauty of our church. Though these months of distancing from others might feel like it has provided, at times, too much quiet it can feel very different to intentionally enter into the silence of prayer with the God who is never distant from you.

FAITH FORMATION

All are invited to join the
2021 Adult Faith Formation Lenten Series via Zoom.

It will begin on Sunday, February 21
and end on Sunday, March 28.
We will meet via Zoom from approximately 9:00 AM-10:15 AM
(with the first 15 minutes serving as social time).
Our topic is "Finding Hope and Comfort in Despair:
God's Accompaniment through 2020."
If you are interested in joining or have any questions about the series please email
Marjorie Brennan at brennanmarjorie@gmail.com.
We look forward to this time of faith sharing with you.

Renew within me a steadfast spirit.
Psalm 51:12 (Ash Wednesday)
"Our call to love [is] one that transcends all prejudices,
all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests."
Fratelli Tutti 83

During Lent, in these turbulent times, how can we persevere in our work for justice with a steadfast spirit, rooted in love?

Join writers from the Jesuit and broader Catholic network as we seek to answer this question, renewing each day throughout Lent our commitment to care for both our fellow human beings and our common home.

Featured Contributors:
Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. - Homeboy Industries
Marcia Chatelain, Ph.D. - Georgetown University
Fr. James Martin, S. J. - America Magazine
Fr. Bryan Massingale - Fordham University
Rev. Michael—Ray Mathews - Faith in Action
Olga Segura - Writers

Steadfast: A Call to Love will be delivered to your inbox each morning. To sign up for this please go to
https://ignatiansolidarity.net/steadfast-lent-2021/?utm_source=igsol.net&utm_medium=urlshortener

First Sunday in Lent
[23] Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

Daily Reflection
of Creighton University's Online Ministries
by Larry Gillick, S.J.
Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality

"That we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ."

These words are taken from the Opening Prayer of this Sunday's liturgy. So our prayer these days is oriented towards understanding Christ's life, death and resurrection. We are invited to pray then to understand what it means to be loved beyond all our understanding, because that is what His redemptive life offers us. We are oriented to try in our little ways to comprehend in our meager human ways, the incomprehensible love of the creating, redeeming reality, mystery, person, we fumblingly call "God".

To do this properly we must pray also for humble patience as our minds trip over images, metaphors, intellectual concepts, and human experiences of love. We are invited to pray as well for the grace to reflect our being so loved in the loving way we walk our paths. We pray then for the freedom to astonish this world by how our love for others and the dying to our selves that love demands to manifest itself. We will need more than forty days to advance these desires.

REFLECTION

In the first few verses of Genesis, God is pictured as hovering over the waters and breathing upon them and bringing about light and dark, heaven and earth and God saw that it was "good". In today's First Reading, we hear a secondary creation narrative. The story goes that God's creation forgot the Creator and lived unloving lives of selfishness and disrespect. God, the story runs, just almost brought back the waters of chaos and dis-created what God now saw His creation, and especially humanity, as "bad". Just almost God did this, except for the second-chance "luxury" liner, the Ark. I deliberately use the word "luxury", because its root meaning contains the image of "light" which was the very first of God's creation."Let there be light." So the Ark of "Light" extends God's covenantal-creational love.

Noah and his crew of life weather the storm of God's anger and when this storm blows itself out, God rested the case against creation and repented as the boat rested again on the earth. If you are sensitive to proper English usage, you have noticed that God, while pronouncing the new covenantal sign, says, "me and you" which violates our polite way of putting "you" before "me". It happens three times in these verses and this is correct theologically, if not perhaps grammatically. In the "Covent" form, the initiation of the covenant is offered by the more powerful and generous party. God is doing the offering, the recreating, the redeeming of all creation. The "bow" in the sky, the rainbow is placed there by God as a reminder to God, of the promise to continue creation through God's redeeming love.

The Gospel opens with Jesus having a little Lent Himself: forty days in the desert facing "wild beasts". It is difficult to know why Mark's account of this experience is so brief. What we do know is that immediately after the angels ministered to Him, Jesus began proclaiming His central truth, that the time has come for God's love to flood the earth and of salvation and the Rainbow of God's Fidelity.

God "repented" in Genesis from the dis-creational judgment. Jesus' Gospel asks for a "repenting" on the part of humanity from its irreverent relationship with God and God's creation. Jesus begins proclaiming that the reception of God's love is the number one priority for living as one of God's creation which God saw was "very good". In the same first Chapter of Genesis, from verse 27 through 31 -the end of the chapter- God is pictured as creating male and female and giving them all creation as a gift to be received and reverenced. Jesus begins recalling God's people back to their original relationship with God through creation.

All things were created in Him and so Jesus is the Ark containing all life's meaning. All creatures, large and small, all things bright and beautiful, all these revelations of God can dominate human beings with their facility to be taken as gods. The repentance Jesus is calling for in today's Gospel is a recovery of sight. The "light" has again appeared dividing heaven and earth and showing the earth as having come from the God of heaven and earth. Jesus is the new Ark containing the light to see once more who we are and what we are to God.

This Lent is a joyful time as we spend these days taking off the bandages from our eyes and earmuffs from our heads so as to see and hear again more clearly the goodness of creation, the goodness of ourselves, and all as a revelation of the goodness of God. We may have to face the "wild beasts" within us which just might be the causes of our being "wild beasts" in the lives around us. Forty days of repenting from disrespectfully eating, drinking, self-hating, silence-smashing, relationship-wrecking, beauty-marring, ungiftingly-grabbing, dark and numbing existence. We repent from calling this "very good" and return to seeing ourselves and all as "very good" in Christ.

Forty days we have, to prepare for reflecting the meaning of Christ's life, death and resurrection in just how we relate with ourselves, with creation around us and with God. Forty days we have to get back into and on board the New Luxury-Liner where all are safe, blessed, and glad to be back home.

"The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under His wings you will trust." Ps. 91:4

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