

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

2nd Sunday of Lent



St. John Vianney

Catholic Church



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. - Mk 9:7-8

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a people called together by God and empowered by the Spirit to continue the mission of Jesus on earth. We are a community of faith, hope and love, who strengthen and encourage one another and share a common mission of building the Kingdom of God.



Vision Statement

Committed to growing in faith together, guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be the hands of Jesus, continuing His work in our parish, community and the world.

6400 McCarty Road | Saginaw, MI 48603 | 989-790-5086

MASS SCHEDULE:

Sat: 5:00 pm

Private confessions 4:00 pm-4:30 pm

Sun: 10:00 am

Wed: 12:00 pm

STAFF:

Director of Parish Life
Sr. Janet Pewoski,
CSJ

Sacramental Minister
Fr. Richard Jozwiak &
Fr. Bert Gohm

Music/Choir Director
Roberta Conley

Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper
Michelle Gombar

CONNECT:

Online: www.sjvsaginaw.org

Facebook: St John Vianney

Email: stjvianney64@aol.com

Fax: (989) 790-1681

Rectory: (989) 792-6582

Sister's Corner

Lent – The 2nd Week! Last week, we entered into the desert to begin our time of prayer, fasting and alms giving. We've begun a time of reflection, self-examination, and intimacy with Jesus. This week, we recall the obedience and faithfulness of Abraham, the sacrifice of God's own Son, and the Transfiguration of Jesus foreshadowing the power of God in Jesus and the Resurrection.

Our Virtual Lenten Study Groups continue to meet on Mondays Mar. 8 and 22 and on Wednesdays Mar. 10 and 24 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. There is also material for prayer and reflection on the weeks when we do not meet virtually.

Praying on Your Own: Hopefully, you've created a little Lenten atmosphere and decorative environment to call you to prayer. A simple table with a candle, Bible, religious picture, cross, or seasonal plant such as a cactus to represent the desert time of Lent, your devotional book, Little Black Book might be a helpful reminder to set aside some special time for prayer.

Wednesday Noon Mass: We continue to celebrate Mass at Noon on Wednesdays. This is a good time for folks to come to Mass who are afraid to come on the weekends. Wednesday attendance averages about 25 – 30 people so social distancing is easily maintained. This might also be an opportunity to spend some quiet time before or after Mass. You might make the Stations of the Cross privately or pray the rosary. Folks leaving Mass should be mindful of respecting the quiet before and after Mass for those who wish to pray silently. Conversations should take place in the Gathering Area with lowered voice as sound drifts into the worship space. The worship space is sacred space intended for prayer.

Confession/ Sacrament of Penance: In addition to our regular Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 time for private confession, our sacramental ministers will be available on Saturday, March 20 before and after the 5 p.m. Mass as well as on Wednesday, March 24 after the Noon Mass.

Finances: Christ's Mission Appeal (formerly CSA) target goal is \$60,754.50. We are grateful to those who have made and paid a pledge. If you have not yet done so, please consider helping us reach our goal. We still need \$11,277.00. **Building Loan Balance** is \$381,953.93. Please continue to help us pay this down by using the maintenance envelopes or making any extra contribution if possible. We do hope to hold a Parish Rummage Sale in mid-October to raise funds if pandemic guidelines permit. Save your stuff when you do your spring cleaning. If you need a **Year End Tax Statement**, contact Michelle by calling 989-790-5086 or emailing her at stvianney64@aol.com.

Catholic Leadership Survey – The Disciple Maker Index: All parishioners are encouraged to take the Disciple Maker Index Survey which takes 10 – 15 minutes. The link is <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/dcpy9d78y9>. This link is posted on the parish website and Facebook pages and will be available until March 22nd. This survey helps you to reflect on your faith journey and can provide the diocese with some insight into what sort of education or spiritual formation should be offered. If you do not have access to a computer, you may contact Michelle to use a computer set up at Church, or ask for a paper copy to fill out. Last week, I provided a single sheet bulletin insert attempting to recall some of the many things we have done over the past eight years and I did not include everything. I have done some programs on vocations when we had a youth group or children of upper grades and sent prayer buckets home on weekends with younger families. We also did two parish directories and the major building fund raising campaign and renovation.

Weekly Readings

Old Testament:

Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18

Events in today's reading took place approximately 1800 years before Christ. In that pagan culture, child sacrifice was common. That's why Abraham believed God wanted him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Later generations constantly looked back to this event as an example of Abraham's great faith

New Testament:

Romans 8: 31b-34

Today's reading is part of a hymn that celebrates God's love and which concludes the eighth chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans. In our first reading, we heard how God spared Abraham's only son; in this passage we will hear how, out of love for us, God did not spare his only son.

Gospel:

Mark 9: 2-10

Journeys to mountaintops figure in both the first and gospel readings this Second Sunday of Lent. Every year on this Sunday, we hear the story of Abraham and Isaac and the Transfiguration story where Jesus' divinity is revealed to Peter, James, and John. It's on a mountaintop that these central figures find faith in God and continue to build their trust in God.

Faith Formation

Children's Program:

Congratulations to our Second Graders who successfully celebrated their first Confession last Sunday. Now we begin our preparation for First Communion which will be celebrated on Sunday, April 11 at the 10 a.m. Mass. Classes for our children continue to meet in person on Tuesdays from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Adult Lenten Virtual Program continues Mon. Mar. 8 and Wed. Mar. 10 with Sister Janet from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Widows group meets Mon. March 1 at 10:30 a.m. at church.

Adult Enrichment with Cindy Shea/Sue DeKett Book Study is also meeting. Interested individuals should have contacted Cindy to order a copy of the current book being studied: "The Return of the Prodigal."

Seeking Baptism, Marriage Prep, or an Annulment? Contact Sister Janet to set up an appointment to discuss the requirements and preparation needed. If you are planning a wedding, please do not rent a hall until you have met with Sister to discuss what is required and if the Church is available for your desired date.

Funeral Arrangements: Sometimes folks are not aware of what to do when. Ideally, the parish will be aware of the progression of your loved one's health. Pre-covid times, we probably would have been able to visit them in the hospital or bring communion to the home, but that is not as possible these days. Normally, when someone has passed, the family calls the funeral home to make arrangements with them. The funeral home calls Sister to let us know that a funeral for a parishioner is needed. The funeral director with the family and with Sister work out the best time or preferred date and time for the funeral. Sister contacts the sacramental minister to determine if he is available for the desired date and time. Sometimes we need to compromise to find a time that works for all. Advance planning: Some parishioners seek to plan their own funeral by selecting Scripture readings and hymns. Sister has copies of suggested readings for those who might like to do this. Some people also make advance arrangements with the funeral home to take this burden off their loved ones, so that all is arranged with the exception of the date and time of course.

Stewardship Message

When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane

It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out. "Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: *go ahead, God doesn't really mind.*

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

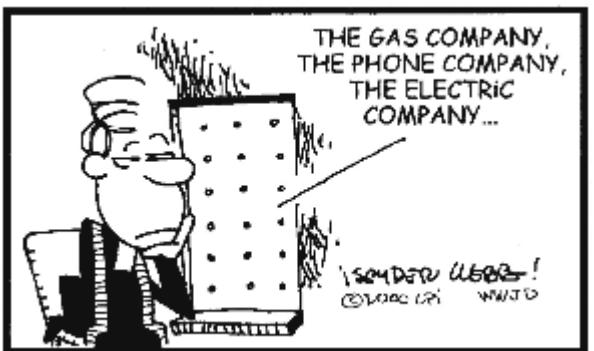
We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

On the Lighter Side

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



Readings

Week of March 1 - March 6, 2021

Mon: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tue: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wed: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thur: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

Fri: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Sat: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Parish Information

Disciple Maker Index Survey

The Parishes of the Diocese of Saginaw are actively participating in a survey about discipleship conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute! We need your help! **Please help us by participating in a 10-15 minute survey online.** The survey can be accessed at <https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/dcp9d78y9> from **February 17 thru March 22, 2021** and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as whole. You can access the survey on our website, sjvsaginaw.org, Facebook, Church by Ministry one mobile app. You may come and take the survey online at church in class room 1 during normal business hours. A paper copy can be requested thru the Parish Office at 989-790-5086. Once completed return the completed paper survey, to the parish office by March 22, 2021. Thank you for helping with this important project!

Christian Outreach Committee

For the months of January and February, we will be collecting food items for the 1% Veterans Food Pantry. Please send, canned fruits, vegetables, meats like tuna and chicken, pasta, rice, spaghetti sauce, canned or boxed meals, soups, paper products and cleaning supplies. We appreciate all your help. Thank you for being the light and the salt of the Earth by spreading the gospel through your good works.

Christ's Mission Appeal

Assessment: \$60,754.50

Pledges: \$49,476.90

(As reported by the Diocese 2/10/2021)

Balance Due: \$11,277.60

Our New Mobile App is Here!

This is a new app and we will be making changes as we go, so we need your help. As you use the app please let Michelle or Roberta know of things you would like to see, or difficulties you may come across.

Do you need your YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS? Please contact Michelle in the parish office to let her know you want your tax statement. Contact Michelle by email: stjvianney64@aol.com, phone: 989-790-5086.

Diocesan Information

Bishop Gruss Takes Us On A Lenten Journey With St. Joseph; Each week, Bishop Gruss will share a message related to the spirituality of St. Joseph as part of our Lenten journey. This message is the first of six in the series.

Greetings and blessings to all of you! Thank you for joining me on this Lenten journey with St. Joseph. In the Litany of St. Joseph, one of the titles given him is Joseph Most Obedient. Perhaps some people would not look at obedience as a virtue but as something negative, maybe even a vice.

Limits on freedom - The secular world prizes individual freedom above all else. Therefore, in a society that preaches independence, obedience is often seen as that which imposes or places limits on freedom, that in some way it requires handing over our rights to someone else, to another. Obedience then is seen as a deterrent rather than a virtue. So what is a virtue?

The best version of ourselves - "A virtue," according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good." Another way of saying this is, a virtue allows us to, not only be good in our actions, but to give the best of our self. Saint Thomas Aquinas, one of the great theologians of our Catholic tradition, gives us perhaps the most comprehensive explanation concerning obedience. And from his teaching, it is clear that obedience is indeed a special virtue. It is under obedience that we may perform great acts of heroism. One example – a soldier who remains at his post under strict military obedience – when to do so means possible imminent death – may demonstrate bravery in a way he would not have if not for his obedience to his commander, the one in charge of him. That being said, St. Thomas also explains that God must be obeyed in all things. Not out of fear of punishment, but out of love and trust. St. Joseph is a model of obedience for us. His deep love for God and his faithful trust is what allowed him to respond to the will of God in his life.

Deep faith and trust - How could Joseph respond to the Angel saying to him, "Have no fear about taking Mary to be your wife" without having a deep faith and trust? As soon as Joseph knew God's will for him, he obeyed. Even though Mary was almost 9 months pregnant, Joseph had to believe it was God's will for them to leave Nazareth and go down to Bethlehem. In the end, Joseph had to abandon himself to the will of God. He had to practice the virtue of obedience.

"Pray about it" - What about us? Have you every prayed for guidance in a decision, and then felt in your heart of hearts that what came to you was truly God's will? But it was not what you really wanted to hear? This was the case for me many years ago in discerning a call to become part of the faculty at the North American College in Rome. Though I had no interest in this position, my bishop asked me to pray about it. So I did. One act of obedience. The discernment or the answer was clear to me, and I believe that it was God's will that I go. But I did not like the answer. It would dramatically change my priestly ministry. In the end, I had to practice the virtue of obedience, and trust that the Lord had my best interest in mind. So I said yes, knowing this was God's will for my life. I believe that assignment had an impact on my future as well...in becoming a bishop. If we are always seeking the will of God for our lives, there may be times when the Lord will ask things of us that we don't want for ourselves or the cost may seem too great, or we can't see the end result, and we are therefore reluctant to say "yes."

Christ was obedient to death - The season of Lent is about conversion to what the Lord wants for our lives. In praying to God, let us seek transformation from our resistance to obedience. Christ was obedient to death, death on the Cross (cf. Phil 2:8). He was obedient to His parents (cf. Lk 2:51) and advises us to be obedient as well: to Him, to His commandments, and to the truth. If asked, St. Joseph will increase the virtue of obedience in each of us. He will assist us to discerning the will of God for our lives, so that like him, we too may respond with great love and trust in the God who loves us. In the words of St. John Paul II, "Joseph, in obedience to the Holy Spirit, found in the Holy Spirit the source of love." God bless you all. Bishop Robert Gruss

Financial Stewardship Update

Parish Support:

February 20/21, 2021

Collection..... \$ 4,002.00

ACH \$ 501.00 through the website

Online \$ 250.00 www.sjvsaginaw.org.



Online giving is different from ACH and is now available through the website www.sjvsaginaw.org.

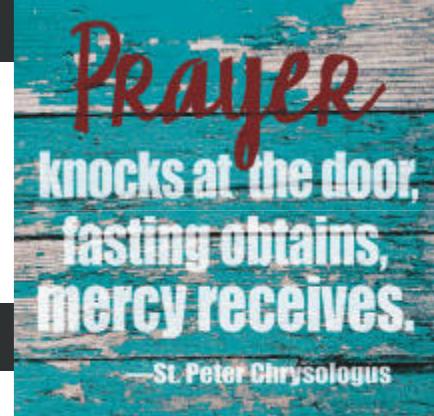
Gospel Reflection

2nd Sunday of Lent

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them.

Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day.

How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual. For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently. After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.



Music Ministry



LENT—WEEK 2
St. John Vianney
Music for Mass



Gathering: If God is For Us By: John Foley

Psalm: 116: I Will Walk before the Lord

Gifts: Instrumental

Mass Setting: Mass of St. Mary Magdalene By:
Sarah Hart

Communion: Transfigure Us By: Bob Hurd

Sending Forth: To the Desert Follow Me
By: Sarah Hart

You can find all these links on our Music Ministry Facebook Page

Prayer Request

Requests call: Sue Rapin 799-7588

Cancer:

Daniel, Randy, Beryl, Robert, Yvonne, Alan, Terry, Marsha, Melissa, Theresa, Steve, Charlie, Janine, Annette, Nicole, Marta, Richard, David, Karen, Sr. Elaine, Gary, Tony, Sue, Omar, Linda, Kim, Danny, Manny, Brenda, Eileen, Tammy, Marlene, Dick, Bill, Gerry, Brian, Sherry, Erin, Toni, Jason, Dottie, Sharon, Jennifer, Dave, Jean, Pat, Cindy, Beth, Meredith, Donna, Dennis, Kent, Art, Ann, George, Joe, Bobbi, Mel, Gary, Ben, Vicki, Bob, Herrick, Lori, Judy, Evelyn, Jack, Angelica, Jerry, Diane, Connie, Don, Lowell, Lisa, Jim, Ted, Lucy, Amber, Jennifer, Steve

Health:

Mary Jane, Marcella, Marcile, Jacob, Jean, Maddison, Joanne, Carson, Carol, Cecelia, Wayne, Claudette, Brian, Dave, Andy, Paul, Tiffany, Kelly, Remi, Marty, Holly, Janis, Nancy, Marcia, Dee, Amber, Kirsten, Laura, Mike, Luke, Brian, Lynn, Ron, Steven, Joan, Cyndi, John, Ann, Jennifer, Jeremy, Jan, Rebecca, Dennis, Elijah, Charlotte, Julie, Michelle, Stan, Mary, Marilyn, Kevin, Dorothy, Linda, Doris, Betty, Tim, Lennon, Jim, Steve, Ken, Tammy, Diane, John, Bill, Sandra

Surgery/Help/Military:

S: Doreitha

H: Alison, Norm, Family of Wayne, Chad, Kathy, Bethany, Lynn, David, Alex

M: Nicholas, Robert Zamora
Army - Suzanne Nielsen, Chad Bailey
Navy - Nathan LaClair, Paul Lewis, Josh Geese
Air Force - Tom Czerwinski

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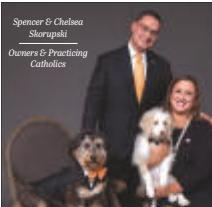
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