



4th Sunday
OF LENT

“Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” - Jn 3:21

ST. MARK PARISH



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we continue to walk our Lenten journey of transformation and growth, let us reflect upon the spiritual wisdom of the Saints. **St. Catherine of Siena:** "Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring." **St. Francis de Sales:** "You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, to pray by praying, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves." **St. Faustina:** "God our creator, you have spread so much beauty over the earth and it tells me about your beauty, even though these beautiful things are but a faint reflection of you. Although you have hidden yourself and concealed your beauty, my eye enlightened by faith reaches you, and my soul recognizes you." **St. Thomas Aquinas:** "Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust, and kindles the true light of chastity." **St. Theresa of Calcutta:** "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus. He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." **St. Boniface:** "Eternal God, in our weakness, you are our strength, in our darkness, you are our light, in our sorrow, you are our comfort and peace. May we always live in your presence, and serve you in our daily lives."

In Christ's abundant Life,
Fr. Stanley



MISSION STATEMENT

As the Eucharistic family of St. Mark Parish, we are called to welcome, love and serve. We continue the mission of Jesus Christ: "to transform our lives and believe in the Good News."

(Mark 1:15)

Lenten Spiritual Journey

*"Repent and believe
in the Gospel"*
(Mark 1:15)

Holy Mass
Wednesdays in Lent
9:30 am and 7 pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays in Lent, 11 am

Individual Confessions
Saturdays in Lent, 3 pm
St. John's room

Communal Penance Services
See listings at Vicariate Website
www.cmvic.net

MARCH 14, 2021

REFLECTIONS

LIVE THE LITURGY

God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others. People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at.

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EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Awake, O Sleeper!

This morning came a little earlier than I would have liked — Daylight Savings Time always does. Sometimes that morning sunlight seems more intrusive than illuminating. You're still half-lost in sleep, and that sun is demanding of you a lot more than you're ready to give.

I've said it, and I'm sure you've said it, too. "Just five more minutes." You hit the "snooze" button on your iPhone once (maybe twice? Show of hands?) and turn away from the window.

So many kings of the Old Testament were steadfast in their sleepy ways, rejecting the light their God tried to share with them. Likewise, John tells us that, though Light — Christ — was sent into the world, the world preferred darkness.

Sometimes it seems, when reading through Scripture, that all throughout salvation history, God has been trying to pull back the curtains, to rouse us from our defiant slumber. And we resist Him. Time and time again, we resist Him.

Light brings a certain responsibility with it. It seems to compel productivity. Furthermore, there's no hiding in the light. Any photographer worth his salt knows how to manipulate it, highlighting the good and casting some merciful shade on the bad.

As we enter into the fourth week of Lent, we're getting so close to the main event. Can we handle the light that will come on Easter morning, bursting into the tomb as the stone is rolled away? Can we keep ourselves from hitting the "snooze" button on our souls, and sit up to face the dawn of a new day?

— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

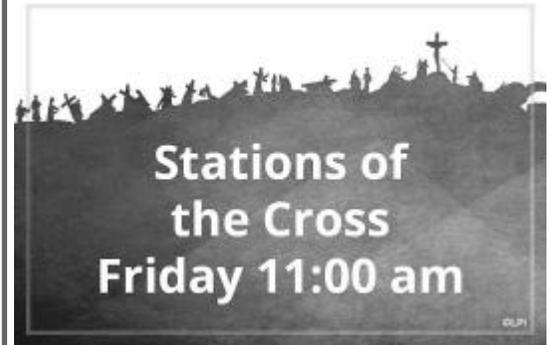
4th Sunday of Lent

Is there something to Lent that goes beyond our own spiritual house cleaning and spiritual refinement? Yes, there is! It has to do with listening and learning so that we can take up the task of the Gospel with greater clarity and fortitude. While the spiritual refocusing of Lent is necessary, the fruit of this Lenten conversion has much more to do with learning how we can be a better Church than it does about our eternal salvation. Salvation is a gift that flows out of God's unconditional Mercy and cannot be merited. The spiritual maturity we can experience as a result of our Lenten disciplines serves to reduce the anxiety and apprehension we may experience as messengers of good, but very challenging, and unsettling, news.

St. Oscar Romero said that, "a church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed, what gospel is that?" When we listen to those descriptive and provocative words, do they resonate with anything in our experience? As messengers of the Gospel, we are called to bring an unsettling message to the world. If our main concern is protecting our self-interests, then we are missing something huge! Many really struggle with being rejected, dismissed, or perceived as someone who is speaking out of turn. There is a counter cultural message that must be preached that clearly sides with the poor, marginalized, victimized, oppressed, neglected, disregarded, and lost souls throughout the world. There is a widespread misery among the peoples that is all too often allowed to fester with no one coming forward to offer a change or resolution.

The Church can speak to the needed structural changes that will allow people to earn just wages, feed their families and share abundantly and equally in the gifts of God's good earth. Such a vision is not some optimistic fairy tale, but the vision of the Creator himself. Lent reminds us, as St. Oscar Romero also states, that, "we are workers, not master builder, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own." We are not called to labor simply for the benefit of the here and now but of the "what is to come." Our myopic vision can be replaced by a more far reaching Lenten vision that is much greater and deeper in scope. As long as we are carrying the right blueprints with us and our thoughts extend beyond ourselves, then even the little things we do and the simplest prayer we utter go a long way. They give witness to our preference for the light of Christ and not the darkness of error and sin.

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HANDS**

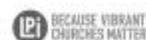


**DON'T TOUCH
YOUR FACE**



**KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE**

Stay Connected While You're Away.



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Go to www.parishesonline.com to view your church bulletin and stay up to date.

THE WORD

Readings for the week of March 14, 2021

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

Monday: Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33



Saturday, March 13

4:00 pm Tony & Jenny Benicek
Richard & Lorena Harrison
Herbert Dempz
Isabelle McLaughlin
Polo Marcin Kowski
Joseph Pawlica
Elsie Newton

Sunday, March 14

8:30 am Jackie Loch
The Souls in Purgatory
Sue Dziamski

11:00 am Ray Kusza
James & Lisa Lafferty
Mildred Posavetz
John Newman

Wednesday, March 17

9:30 am The People of St. Mark

7:00 pm The People of St. Mark

Saturday, March 20

4:00 pm Nancy Rezich
Frances Szpont
Jerry Woodworth
Ann Marie Dzinbinski

Sunday, March 21

8:30 am Jackie Loch
Alan Amons
Leon & Dolores Kozemchak
Anthony Kasprzak

11:00 am Ray Kusza
Karen Taylor
Frances Szpont
Bradley Gresens

ST. MARK OUTREACH



THE PANTRY NEEDS:

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Tuna



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

The author of 2 Chronicles reflects on how historically God's fidelity and mercy was often met with Israel's disobedience and arrogance. How does the Lenten journey provoke an examination of conscience for you and your faith life?

Second Reading:

Paul speaks of our faith and our salvation as "the gift of God" to us. In what ways do you show appreciation for God's grace?

Gospel:

Jesus taught Nicodemus that God sent His only Son into the world to offer eternal life to believers. Who in your life needs to hear this message?

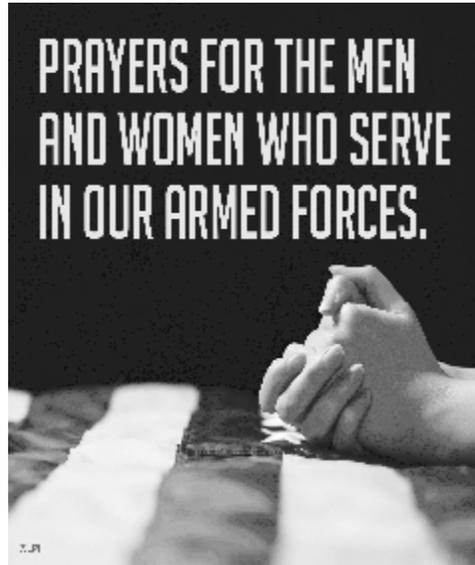
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PRAYER INTENTIONS



Ed Podgorny
Marlene Sienko

Only immediate family members may request a 'prayers for the sick' listing. Call the Parish Center: 586-759-3020. Names remain on the list for 4 weeks.



WE PRAY FOR ALL OF OUR MILITARY, & PARTICULARLY:

- Sr. CPO Michael Brightman
- Lt. Commander Adam Craig
- LCPL Sarah J Page
- Sgt. Steven Parisi
- Major Michael F. Weigle

Family members who wish to have their loved ones prayed for may do so by submitting names to the parish office.

Prayer Resources

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

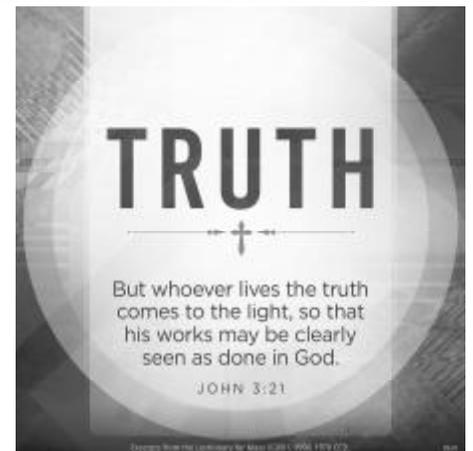
Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To thee do we come. Before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us.
Amen.

POPE TWEETS

"#Lent is a journey that involves our whole life, our entire being. It is a time to reconsider the path we are taking, to find the route that leads us home and to rediscover our profound relationship with God, on whom everything depends."

- Pope Francis
@Pontifex Twitter (March 9, 2021)



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Central Macomb Vicariate: www.cmvic.net

Archdiocese of Detroit: www.aod.org

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Cynthia Filipovich

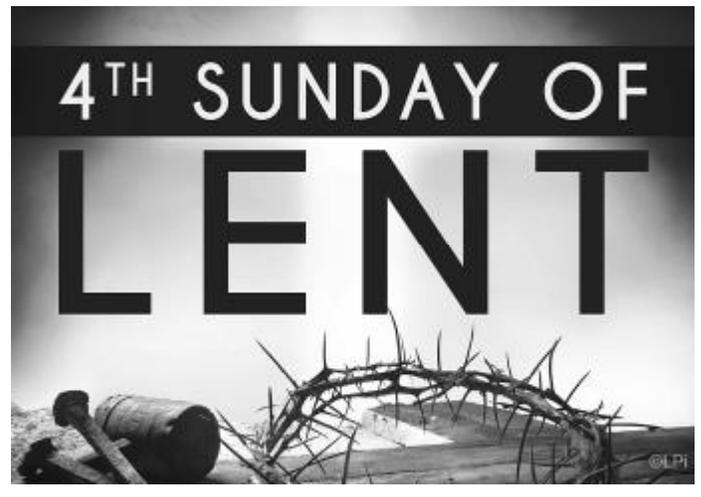
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Tom Harm

Phyllis Wisniewski (Christian Formation)

Karen Kowalski (Stewardship)

Michael Powell (Worship)



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SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

Parents are asked to contact the Parish Center Office to arrange for Baptism instruction and a date for the Baptism.

MARRIAGES

Couples wishing to celebrate the sacrament of matrimony at St. Mark Parish are asked to allow at least six months to complete arrangements.

RECONCILIATION

Private Confessions: Saturday 3:00 PM.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

LAST Sunday of every month after all Masses.

View this bulletin online at www.parishesonline.com

Photographs are taken at all public parish events for use on the St. Mark Parish website. For questions or concerns, please contact the Parish Center Office.

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