

Christ Our Light Parish

Saint Benedict Catholic Church, Corner of North 7th Street & Gomber Avenue, Cambridge OH
Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory, 136 East High Avenue, Lore City OH

Mailing: Christ Our Light Parish Office, 701 Gomber Avenue, Cambridge, Ohio 43725

Phone: (740) 432-7609 **Fax:** (740) 439-0800 **Email:** col_office@catholicweb.com

Website: www.christourlightparish.com

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Chapel
and continues from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church.

BAPTISMS: Families desiring baptism for their child must be
registered in the parish. Parents must attend a preparation class.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Articles must be submitted in writing
by noon on Wednesdays, inserts a week early, and are subject
to approval by the pastor. Space is limited, so we reserve the
right to edit.



FACEBOOK PAGE: Live-Streamed Mass every day.

"Christ Our Light Parish, Guernsey County, OH."

HOSPITAL VISITATION: Please call immediately if you or a
loved one is in the hospital.

**MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NURSING HOMES, HOSPITALS,
AND THE HOMEBOUND:** If you or a loved one wishes to
receive the Eucharist or have regular pastoral visits, please call
the parish office.

RECONCILIATION:

St. Benedict Church - Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory - Sundays at 11:45 a.m.

And by Appointment

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Parish School of Religion (PSR)
classes for children in grades K through 8 are held Sunday
mornings from September to May.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):

Adult preparation for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Call
Fr. Hrezo or Pat Farley for information.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS: Anyone wishing to
schedule Masses on special days, especially weekends, should
do so at least 6 months in advance.

WEDDINGS: Arrangements must be made six months in
advance.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: Registration forms can be
found at the church, oratory and parish office.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Sunday, March 14, 2021



But whoever lives the truth comes
to the light, so that his works may
be clearly seen as done in God.
- John 3:21

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Pastor

Fr. Paul Hrezo phrezo@diosteub.org

Pastor Emeritus

Fr. Robert D. Borer rdaleb9940@gmail.com

Office Manager

Therese Terrell col_office@catholicweb.com

Office Assistant

Nancy Bryan col_office@catholicweb.com

Director of Religious Education

Patricia Farley col_dre@catholicweb.com
(home - 740-439-2255)

Bulletin Deadline Noon Wednesday

Pastoral Minister

Sister Sharon Paul 740-255-5912 (cell - 740-680-1297)

St. Benedict Church Social Hall 740-432-6751 x 123

Parish Offices 701 Gomber Avenue

Office Hours 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Convent 319 North Seventh Street

Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity 740-255-5912

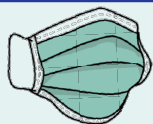
St. Benedict School 220 North Seventh Street

Phone 740-432-6751

Web Site www.stbenedictschool.net

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Web Site...www.colsvdp.org **Phone** ... 740-432-7609 x 207



JUST A REMINDER: We request that everyone wear a face mask at Mass and when in the church buildings. Let's protect each other!

Mass Intentions for the Week of March 14, 2021

Saturday, March 13	5:00pm	SB	People of Christ Our Light Parish
Sunday, March 14 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)			
	8:00am	SB	† Sister Mary Bride Grubbs (Anniversary) by the Grubbs, Grace and Lohman Families
	10:30am	SB	† Frances Jurkovich by Fr. Hrezo
	12:15pm	SSPP	† Christine Lackney by Jim Reese
Monday, March 15	8:35am	SB	† Dorothy Lackney by Bev and Ken Choma
Tuesday, March 16	8:35am	SB	Intentions of Helen DeStephen 100th Birthday by Norma and Family
	6:00pm	SSPP	† Patricia McConkey by Ed, Debbie, Kathy, Grandchildren and Great Grandsons
Wednesday, March 17	8:35am	SB	† Vincent Mohn (Birthday) by Ron and Jane Engott
Thursday, March 18	8:35am	SB	† Rebecca Lehotay by Family
	9:45am	SB	† John and Anna Skeslock by Jim and Christine Larsen (School Mass, not open to the public at this time)
Friday, March 19	8:35am	SB	† Josephine Parker by Betty George
	7:00pm	SB	† Mary Jo Manocchio by St. Benedict School Staff
Saturday, March 20	8:35am	SB	† Robert Grywalsky by Family
	5:00pm	SB	People of Christ Our Light Parish
Sunday, March 21 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)			
	8:00am	SB	† Sister Miriam Dosch by Albert and Sara Natale
	10:30am	SB	† Sally Hoey by the Grubbs, Grace and Lohman Families
	12:15pm	SSPP	† Joe Krall by the Medical Associates of Cambridge

Ministers of the Altar for Saturday & Sunday, March 20-21, 2021

	Saturday (SB) 5:00 p.m.	Sunday (SB) 8:00 a.m.	Sunday (SB) 10:30 a.m.	Sunday (SSPP) 12:15 p.m.
Lectors	Peggy Adams	Theresa Poulos	Jacob Padden	Greg Mitts
Ushers	Donald Poole	Victor Orange	Alan Bay	David Casasanta
Cantors	Folk Group	Alycia Oswald	Choir	

The Pro-Life Committee will meet next Sunday, March 21st, at 4:00 p.m. in the St. Benedict Church Marian Room. Join us to defend life from womb to womb. Contact: Joyce Day at 740-584-3780.

The Bereavement Haven will meet this Sunday, March 14th, at 2:30 p.m. in the St. Benedict Social Hall.



Schedule for This Week

Sunday, March 14

After Masses Scrip Sales (SB Marian Room)
 9:15am Parish School of Religion (SB Church)
 11:30am Confession (SSPP Oratory)
 2:30pm Bereavement Haven (SB Social Hall)

Monday, March 15

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 9:30am Saint Joseph Faith Formation
 (SB Conference Room)
 5:00pm Samaritan Center (SB Conference
 Room)
 6:00pm Saint Joseph Faith Formation
 (SB Social Hall)
 7:00pm Pastoral Advisory Council
 (SB Conference Room)

Tuesday, March 16

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 6:00pm Mass (SSPP Oratory)
 6:30pm Catholic Women's Club Meeting
 (SSPP Social Hall)

Wednesday, March 17

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 9:00am-4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration (SB Chapel)
 4:00pm Eucharistic Adoration Continues
 (SB Church)
 4:30pm Evening Prayer and Benediction
 (SB Church)
 6:30pm Stations of the Cross (SSPP Oratory)

Thursday, March 18

9:00am Rosary (SB Marian Room)
 6:30pm RCIA (SB Social Hall)

Friday, March 19

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 6:30pm Stations of the Cross (SB Church)
 7:00pm Solemnity of St. Joseph Mass (SB
 Church)

Saturday, March 20

9:00am Rosary (SB Church)
 3:30pm Confession (SB Church)

Sunday, March 21

After Masses Scrip Sales (SB Marian Room)
 9:15am Parish School of Religion
 11:30am Confession (SSPP Oratory)

Lenten Vocation Crucifix

All are invited to take part in the Vocation Crucifix Program this Lent. Each Sunday in Lent a family, couple or individual will be called forward at the end of Mass to receive the Vocation Crucifix. In taking the Crucifix they commit themselves to pray during the week for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Sign-up sheets are available in the Marian Room at St. Benedict Church and at the back of Sts. Peter & Paul Oratory. If you need more information, please call Jacob Padden at 740-421-1393.



Lenten Stations of the Cross

- 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday (Sts. Peter & Paul)
- 6:30 p.m. each Friday (St. Benedict)

Lenten Reconciliation (Confession)

- 11:30 a.m. each Sunday (Sts. Peter & Paul)
- 3:30 p.m. each Saturday (St. Benedict)

The Catholic Women's Club will meet

Tuesday, March 16th, with Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Oratory at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting to follow in the Social Hall. Masks and social distancing will be required. All women of the parish are invited to attend. The Mass is open to all parishioners.

Please note that this year:

Confirmation will be celebrated Sunday, April 18th, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church with a retreat on Saturday, April 10th, at Sts. Peter and Paul in Lore City.



First Communion will be celebrated Sunday, May 2nd, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Benedict Church, with a retreat to be held on Saturday, April 24th, at 10:00 a.m.



Attention Knights and Catholic Men:

**Breakfast at Bob's (Bob Evans Restaurant)
 Friday, March 19, 8:45 a.m.**

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is not required. Come join us in a fun, friendly event. PLEASE call Ron Engott at 740-685-5759 for seating purposes. Looking forward to seeing you at this enjoyable social.



Table of Plenty

Suggested food donations for Grace Pantry for March are peanut butter, soups and ramen noodles. Please place your donations in the marked box in the Marian Room of St. Benedict Church.

*With faith and hope in the
Risen Lord, we pray for the
eternal peace and happiness of:*

Tom Beck

(Brother-In-Law of Sylvia Choma)

Lois Kuchinka

(Sister-In-Law of Tom and
Rose Kopyar)

Mary Jo Manocchio

(Sister of Sue Sanders)



**Please pray for all God's
children who are ill, home-
bound or in nursing homes, and
those who care for them.**

Megan Archer, Judy Beaver, Larry Beck, Dorothy Bednarski, Joe Bennor, Whitney Benson, Kathy Billi, Bill Bodner, Steve Bodner, Frank Booth, Brinley Boyd, Imelda Bruney, David Callihan, Rosie Campbell, Diane Carkin, Jeff Carpenter, Patti Cartner, Milt Cerny, the Chesler Family, Monica Chicwak, Yung Chuang, Karen Chumney, Lee Cline, Mike Cowgill, Anita Cox, Jennifer Cox, Linda Delik, Peggy Ditto, Angie Doerfler, Carl James Duch, Michael Duke, Patty Eibel, Liam Elliott, Mary Evans, Don Fairchild, Betty Fannin, Jen Fannin, William "Buzzy" Ferguson, Irene Feyko, Marsha Finley, Greg Gibson, Pat Graven, Louise Hack and Family, Steve Hall, Dave Hanes, Stephen Hannum, Mark Hayes, Mary Ann Haynes, Jane Hemlar, Violes Henry, Betty Hill, Karen Jakubisin Hinrichs, Dolly Hitzel, Ted Hoey, Angie Pruneski House, Sally and Payton Hubal, Laverne Ingles, David and Paul Iten, Rachel Jirles, Josh Jones, Diane Krall, William Kyser Jr., Amara Larrison, Martin Lehotay, Mary Long, Andrea May, Lisa McGregor, Joyce McPeak, Keagan Meek, Angela Merva, Haley Morris, Alice Orr, Mary Ann Pachuta, Christine Palmer, John Palmer, Dick and Frances Pavlov, Linda Pawlowski, Sally Pfalzgraf, Ben Pickenpough, Don Ross, Emma Ross, Mary Schmid, Jett Schmitt, Terri Scott, Vi Scott, Rosemary Sebek, Irene Sekel, Steve Shedlock Jr., John Shipley, Pat Siegwarth, Joe & Joan Sikora, Carys Singler, Mallory Smith, Mike Smith, William Smith, Ramona Springer, John Sprouse, Louie Stahovec, Mark Stahovec, Mary Stoner, Stephen Storch, Ken Stump, Loran Stutz, Chris Seward, Steve and Ethel Stasny, Margaret Urdak, Valerie Wallo, Gerald Warner, JoMarie Wasik, James Weidlich, Matthew Wentzel, Bill and Cathy Whitmire, Diana Whitmire, Don & Grace Whitmore, Jodie Williams, Andrea Yakubik, Helen Yakubik

**We ask your prayers for
all men and women
serving in our armed
forces and those who put
themselves in harm's way
to protect and serve
others, especially those
connected to our parish:**

Steven Barrows, Makenzi Carna, Becky Chesar, Billy Church, Phillip Cram, Carl Duch, Scott Fearn, Josh Fletcher, Luke High, Travis Jackson, Jeremy Jones, Stephen J. Kraizel IV, Michael Kuhns, Joshua Lucas, Ryan McGough, Jeff McKnight, William Miller, J.C. Minarchek, Josh Norris, Anthony Stevens, Trever Terrell, Jesse Walters, Sean Weir, Steven Whaley, Zac Wilson, Ethan Wray



Prayer List

Have you asked
that your name or
that of a loved one
be placed on one of our prayer lists **and
he/she has recovered or is no longer in
the military?** Please let the office staff
know. Call us at 740-432-7609.



Please Pray for our Priests

March 14	Bishop Gilbert I. Sheldon
March 15	Rev. Joseph Martinkosky
	Msgr. Frederick Pasquinelli
March 16	Rev. Donald Calloway, MIC
	Rev. Virgil Reischman
March 17	Rev. Dale Tornes
	Rev. John Mucha
March 18	Rev. Timothy Davison
	Rev. Stephen Hwang, ec
March 19	Rev. Jonathan St. Andre, TOR
	Rev. Jonathan McElhone, TOR
March 20	Rev. Timothy Shannon
	Rev. Vincent Hubel
March 21	Msgr. Donald Horak
	Rev. Timothy Kozak

The Chalkboard

St. Benedict School
Faithfully Educating God's
Children Since 1911

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's online Annual Auction and Raffle. The online format was new territory for the school, but I am pleased to announce that over \$21,000 was raised through the auction and over \$7,500 in raffle tickets was sold! Thank you to the following Auction Chairpersons for their dedication and long hours of preparation: Missy Nau, Tracy Saling, Cathy Keyser and Erica Cunningham.

Congratulations to the lucky raffle winners:

- \$1,000...The Kiggans Family
- \$100 Becky Robertson, Mike Church, Jason Roffee, Samuel Nau, Molly Farley, Lori Jirles, Chuck Yonker, and Victoria Wertz

We are now accepting registrations and scheduling individual tours for the 2021-2022 school year. The Ed Choice Expansion (income based) scholarship program is now open for next year. Information regarding all scholarship opportunities can be obtained by contacting the school office. Don't forget to spread the word to family and friends about our wonderful school.

Please continue to pray for our students, staff and school as we journey through this year with "Jesus as our Guide".

In His Name, Sue Sanders

The Pastoral Advisory Council will meet this Monday, March 15th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CASH BONANZA TICKETS ARE HERE!

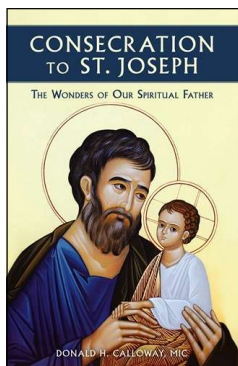


Take a chance to win one of 25 PRIZES totaling \$108,000. All you need to do is to buy a winning ticket. Tickets are only \$5 each or 4 for \$20.

Your participation gives us the opportunity to support charitable causes, such as the Salvation Army, Right to Life, St. Benedict School, Christ Our Light Parish, St. Vincent de Paul, Freedom House (Cambridge's homeless shelter), homes that were hit by fire, special needs kids, and more. We distributed approximately \$8,000 last year. Because of a challenging 2020, it took away our fundraising breakfasts and fish fries.

This year at our Council's first ticket turn-in we will draw a ticket and give \$250 to the lucky winner! The winning ticket will then go back in to the State Council drawing of \$108,000. You could actually win twice!

To purchase tickets see a local Knight, get tickets at the Church office, contact John Sprouse at 740-432-3254 or Ron Engott at 740-685-5759. If you would like to make a DONATION, you can place a check in the church collection made payable to the *Knights of Columbus #1641* and in the memo space, write *donation*. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



St. Joseph Faith Formation

Consecration to Jesus through St. Joseph

Mondays, February 15th through March 15th

(You can choose to attend whichever time is more convenient for you.)

- 9:30 a.m. in the St. Benedict Conference Room
- 6:00 p.m. in the St. Benedict Social Hall

The final event will be held on Friday, March 19th, the *Solemnity of St. Joseph*.

Those who would like to make the consecration to Jesus through St. Joseph could do so immediately following either the regular 8:35 a.m. Mass or after a Mass that evening at 7:00 at St. Benedict Church, following the Friday evening Stations of the Cross.



Offertory for March 6-7, 2021

Adults	\$9,246.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Religious Education	130.00
Monthly Collection for Those in Need	1,621.00
Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$9,000.00

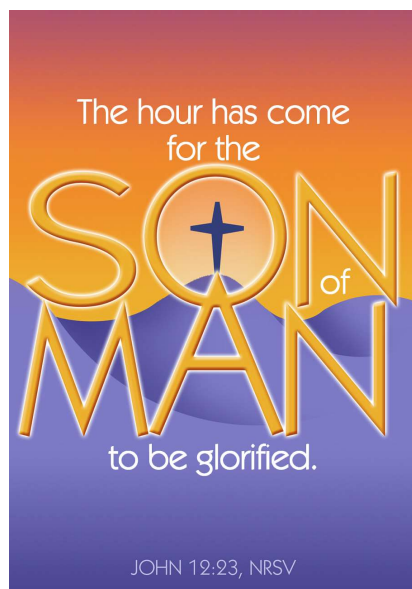
READINGS FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 21, 2021

As our Lenten journey draws to a close, the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Jesus tells us that whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Mindful of our need for repentance, let us seek mercy for our sins from our loving and compassionate God.

We live in a world broken by exaggerated individualism and personal gain. We have fallen into this trap and have sinned.

The reading from **Jeremiah** assures us that although we broke the covenant, God takes us back, forgives our sins, and starts anew with us. We hear the consoling words again, “I will be their God, and they will be my people.” The Gospel calls us to live as God’s people by dying to our selfish-ness and living for others. This is our baptismal covenant, and, like Jesus, our true life comes from living with and for others. In him, we too must face the paradox of the cross — we too must die and be raised to new life.



Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel.

How faithful have I been to keeping the commandments as Christ taught them?

Hebrews 5:7-9

Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered.

What have I learned from difficulties in life God has asked me to face?

John 12:20-33

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

How can I prepare today if “my hour” will come when I least expect it?

Next Sunday’s Mass readings focus us on the theme of prayer.

We read about Jesus’ very passionate outpouring of his heart in prayer in the 2nd Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews. In the 1st Reading the prophet Jeremiah describes a time when people will be able to have an interior relationship with God: “All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord” (Jeremiah 31:34). Then, in the Gospel, we see Andrew and Phillip interceding (a form of prayer) for the Greeks who were participating in the Jewish Passover festival in Jerusalem.

In the early 200s, a spiritual writer named Tertullian wrote a treatise “On Prayer.” Here are some excerpts from that treatise.

“Prayer is the offering in spirit that has [replaced] the [animal] sacrifices of old. What God has asked for we learn from the Gospel. *The hour has come, he says, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in*

truth. God is spirit, and so he looks for worshipers who are like himself.”

“We must dedicate this offering with our whole heart, we must fatten it on faith, tend it by truth, keep it unblemished through innocence and clean through chastity, and crown it with love. We must escort it to the altar of God in a procession of good works to the sound of psalms and hymns. Then it will gain for us all that we ask of God.”

Tertullian then describes some of the effects of prayer. Some of the situations he describes as “no longer happening” do still happen if we read about lives of the saints and exceptional experiences of healings that do in fact still happen. This description, nevertheless, is meant to give us great encouragement that when the Lord answers our prayer, He answers them in a way that is meant to strengthen us.

“How great is the evidence of [the power of this kind of prayer], as we read and hear and believe! Of old, prayer

was able to rescue from fire and beasts and hunger, even before it received its perfection from Christ. How much greater then is the power of Christian prayer. No longer does prayer bring an angel of comfort to the heart of a fiery furnace, or close up the mouths of lions, or transport to the hungry food from the fields. No longer does it remove all sense of pain by the grace it wins for others. But it gives the armor of patience to those who suffer, who feel pain, who are distressed. It strengthens the power of grace, so that faith may know what it is gaining from the Lord and [may] understand what it is suffering for the name of God.

“In the past prayer was able to bring down punishment, rout armies, withhold the blessing of rain. Now, however, the prayer of the just turns aside the whole anger of God, keeps vigil for its enemies, pleads for persecutors. Is it any wonder that it can call down water from heaven when it could obtain fire from heaven as well? Prayer is the one thing that can conquer God!”

May we experience the Lord drawing us into a closer relationship with Him, through all the various facets of prayer!

Pastor's Letter

As noted before, Pope Francis has designated this year, between December 8th, 2020 until December 8th, 2021 as a Year of St. Joseph. This celebrates the 150th Anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as the “Universal Patron of the Church” by Pope Pius IX.

Each year we celebrate two feast days on the Church calendar focused on St. Joseph. One of those is this upcoming Friday, March 19th. So, in addition to our usual daily Mass at 8:35 a.m., we are planning to offer another Mass that day in the evening at 7:00 p.m. at St. Benedict Church, starting after the weekly 6:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross.

Another of the ways we have been trying to tap into the spiritual benefits of this year is by conducting faith discussion groups based on a recently published book, *Consecration to St. Joseph*. These groups have been meeting on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. over these past four weeks. The participants have been reading several pages each day and offering the prayers associated with this devotion to St. Joseph. After the Masses on March 19th, the participants will profess a “consecration to Jesus through St. Joseph.” This is a profound way to strengthen our relationship with Jesus by growing to appreciate the powerful spiritual gifts that St. Joseph was given to be the husband of Mary and the legal and foster father of Jesus. Please keep the participants in prayer this week as they complete the consecration.

I have discovered this book and the discussion groups to be very helpful and insightful. So, I would like to

offer these groups again, if we have sufficient interest. We celebrate the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker on Saturday, May 1st. So, we could conduct another round of discussion groups, starting on Monday, March 29th, and on successive Mondays (or some Tuesdays) until April 26th with the consecration after the 8:35 a.m. Mass on Saturday morning, May 1st. Or perhaps another group could meet on Wednesdays (in Lore City?) from May 19th until June 16th with the consecration after the Mass on Sunday, June 20th, which is Father's Day. Again, please let me know if you are interested in participating in another group.

Our Bereavement Haven group is planning to meet this Sunday, March 14th, at 2:30 p.m. in the St. Benedict Social Hall. Please note that the next two meetings are on Sunday, April 11th, and on Sunday, May 16th, which is the 3rd Sunday of May since Sunday, May 9th, is Mother's Day.

Several years ago I mentioned a desire to form an outdoor activities group. I would like to go ahead and try to form this group now that the weather is getting a little warmer. How about planning for a couple of hiking outings along the trails at Salt Fork, one on Saturday morning, April 17th, and another one on Sunday afternoon, May 23rd? Please let me know if you are interested and I will let you know as this continues to develop.

May the Lord continue to bless us with joy and peace as disciples of Jesus and to help us to be always ready for the gift of eternal life in Heaven!



The visible, public centerpiece of 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility. Each day during 40 Days for Life (which happens to correspond with Lent this year),

individuals, churches, families and groups will be asked to join together in prayer for a specific request so the entire Body of Christ can unite around a common focus. (You are encouraged to check the website for more info ... www.40Daysforlife.com)

Devotional for Day 26, Sunday, March 14

Intention: Pray that those who have forgotten their purpose may discover it in God and therefore have the courage to choose life.

Scripture: These all wait for you, that you may give them their food in due season, what you give them they gather in; you open your hand they are filled with good. You hide your face, they are troubled; you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth your Spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. — Psalm 104:27-30

Prayer: Beloved Father, remind us today that there is no truth but you. Do not let us fall prey to the evil one's lie that we may choose death. Remind us right now that you, who created all life, are in control of all life, and let us know right now that you who created all life, are in control of all life, and let us choose life always. Father, please let us hear your voice more today than yesterday. Keep lighting the pathway home, for us and for all who participate in this 40 Days for Life campaign. Father, we're on our way. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.

Devotional for Day 27, Monday, March 15

Intention: We pray for humility in our work for God's Kingdom.

Scripture: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

— Philippians 2:5-8

Prayer: O Lord, help us follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Let us humbly and diligently work to restore legal protection for the unborn, the disabled, the medically dependent and all innocent children of God whose lives are threatened. Let us remember the old adage that "He can never lead who has not first learned to obey." And, Lord, grant us a peaceful heart as we labor in your name. Amen.

Devotional for Day 28, Tuesday, March 16

Intention: We pray for the conversion of abortionists and all abortion advocates.

Scripture: Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. — Isaiah 1:16-17

Prayer: O God, our heavenly Father, give us courage and wisdom as we seek to eradicate the evil in our society. Help us to realize that your divine Spirit alone can change hearts and minds so that all your human creatures may enjoy the fullness of life you intended for them. I pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

February 26, 2021

Vigil participants at the Columbia, South Carolina 40 Days for Life vigil noticed a sign taped to the door of their local Planned Parenthood announcing.... ***the abortion facility was closed for the day!*** The state had just enacted a law banning abortion after a fetal heartbeat can be detected, forcing Planned Parenthood to shut down.

If abortion makes up only 3% of Planned Parenthood's services (as the abortion giant likes to claim), why did the entire facility need to close?

"There are usually about 20 abortions on abortion day," said Columbia campaign leader Mark. "But none of them will happen today."

Devotional for Day 29, Wednesday, March 17

Intention: Praise God for His compassion in pardoning our sins and forgiving our transgressions. Give praise that He delights in showing mercy.

Scripture: Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgressions of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us; and will subdue our iniquities. —Micah 7:18-19

Prayer: Heavenly Father, eternal, changeless, and faithful Lord, we recognize that we are in need of forgiveness as a nation, for turning our hearts away from you. Hear our prayer of repentance Lord and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We praise you for your tender mercies and your compassion that never fails. Lord, it is only by Your grace that we can live lives that are just, and merciful. May Your Holy Spirit enable us to walk humbly in Your presence and may You be pleased to restore America so that a generation not yet born may praise you. In the name of Christ Jesus, who has done great things for us, amen.

Devotional for Day 30, Thursday, March 18

Intention: That those tempted to abort may understand that their child is already present, and already a real person.

Scripture: And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. —Luke 1:41-44

Prayer: Jesus, open my eyes to your presence in the life of every child. Open my heart to joy in the birth of every child, a birth that reflects the joy of your own birth in Bethlehem. As you shared life in the womb of Mary, so now send your protection upon every child still in the womb, and grant to their mothers the strength and joy that comes from welcoming the gift of life. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Devotional for Day 31, Friday, March 19

Intention: For the medical community, that the truth they know about the human body may become awe and wonder at the God who made it.

Scripture: Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. —Psalm 139:16

Prayer: Gracious God, help us to appreciate the wonder and beauty of Your creation. Help us proclaim on behalf of every one of our fellow human beings, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” May the knowledge that we are intimately known by You shape our lives and actions. Amen.

Devotional for Day 32, Saturday, March 20

Intention: As we pray for the end of abortion, let us pray for the expansion of the pregnancy help center movement worldwide.

Scripture: The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne. — Revelation 12:4-5

Prayer: O God, from generation to generation, you have called your people to be the very aroma of life amidst a culture of death. Now it is our turn. Prepare me. Send me. Use me. I am eager to do my part. Stir your people everywhere to take up this great work. Amen.

Have You Ever Thought of Praying Outside an Abortion Clinic?

**BY KATHRYN JEAN LOPEZ
NATIONAL REVIEW EXERPT**

Do you know about 40 Days for Life? It's a campaign of prayer outside of abortion clinics. I've been trying to stick with it most days, often signing up for a slot at 3 in the afternoon on weekdays. I quickly learned that 3 is an especially hard time. At this particular clinic, the girls (and really, that's who I see — I'm not questioning that they are at least 18, but they are so young) are leaving the clinic after what seem to be 1:30ish abortion appointments. It's such a miserable scene. They do not look empowered. They look like they don't want to face the world again. They look like something awful and traumatic and unnecessary and wrong has happened. Yes, they look as if they are numb to grieving. Death is so clearly real there, even if it cannot be acknowledged.

If Planned Parenthood is a beacon of freedom, it sure doesn't show as the girls are walking in and out. And, yes, so many of them are black. Black lives do matter. Which is why anyone with a Black Lives Matter sign should make sure there is no woman of any race who feels like she has to have an abortion because she does not have the resources to bring her child into the world.

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