



## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

Suzanne Brunner, Housekeeping, St. John the Baptist Rectory

Robyn Trannel, Director of Religions Education

Gwen Glaus, Housekeeping, St. John the Baptist Church

Vickie Hartung, Housekeeping, St. Joseph

Dorothy Kopp, Bookkeeper

Aletha Pullen, Secretary, Bulletin Editor

## PARISH COUNCILS

### St. John the Baptist

Parish Pastoral Council

Connie Ahlers, Kevin Coulson, Peggy Gilles, Gwen Glaus, Sarah Hinrichs, Steve King, Dianne Lecheler, Terry Pelzel, Mike Rhiel, Audrey Ryan, Jacqui Steele, and \*Dan Wieser (Chair)

Parish Finance Council

Lawrence Bechel, Jeff Bergmann (Chair), \*Todd Glaus, and Deb Radle

### St. Joseph

Parish Pastoral Council

Dave Anibas, Brad Bauer, Bud Bauer, David Drier (Chair), Gerald Leiffring, Linda Leiffring, Howard Martin, and Dennis Milliren

Parish Finance Council

\*Jeff Brunner, \*Dale Klein (Chair), and Sue Milliren

\*Corporate Board Members

## ORGANIZATIONS

Holy Name Society      Parish Council of Catholic Women

Knights of Columbus      St. Ann's Altar Society

## MARCH BIRTHDAY'S & ANNIVERSARY'S

Mary E. Wieser's Brithday: 3/3

Don Kane's Birthday: 3/6

\*Jim Klein's Birthday: 3/10

\*Todd Glaus's Birthday: 3/14

\*Mary Matzek's Birthday: 3/15

\*Catherine Steele's Birthday: 3/16

\*Ruth Redding's Birthday: 3/16

Cora Hinrichs's Brithday: 3/17

John Ryan's Birthday: 3/19

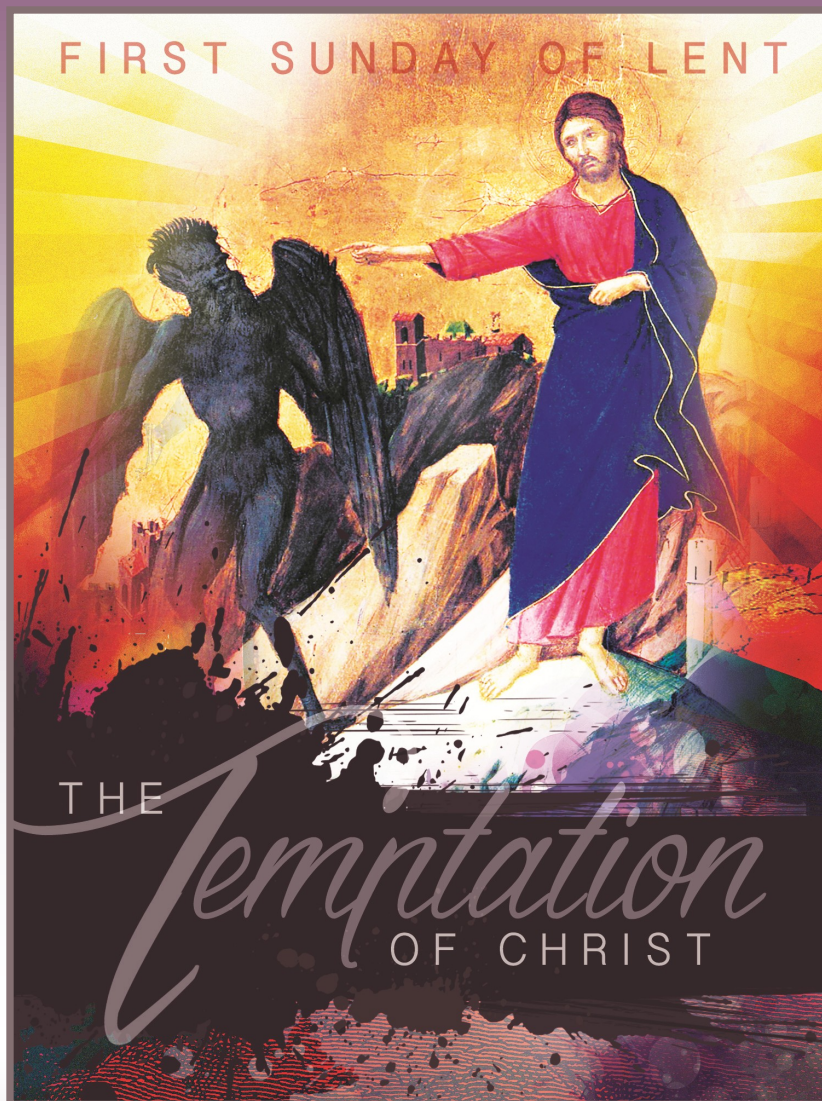
Connor Hinrichs's Birthday: 3/20

Connie Ahlers's Birthday: 3/25

Josalin Helmueller's Birthday: 3/28

**St. John the Baptist Parish, Plum City, WI**  
**St. Joseph Parish, Arkansaw, WI**

**March 10, 2019**



**Central Office, CCD, Rectory, and  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**

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**Bulletin Announcements**

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**Bulletin Deadline: Monday Noon**

## TO BE DIFFERENT IS NOT TO BE INDIFFERENT

Dear friends, the Season of Lent is here with us again. Like all other important moments in the Church's life it is a moment of grace. One grave danger with us is to be consciously or unconsciously indifferent to the motions of the season and let its fruits slip past us as smoke vanishes into thin air. Let us therefore take time this week to examine the canker of indifference in our global village. Literally speaking, indifference simply means no difference. It is generally described as a strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and compassion, good and evil. The indifferent person is perceived as one whose neighbors are of no consequence and their lives meaningless. He considers the hidden or even visible anguish of the other to be of no interest, thereby reducing the other to a mere abstraction.

In his 2015 Lenten Message, Pope Francis took time to reflect on the sin of indifference. Playing on the words difference and indifference, the Holy Father intimated that there is the tendency for us to be indifferent when we realize our differences. In other words, our differences in life, many a time, make us indifferent. When we realize we are different from others, when things and situations actually differ from how we anticipated them to be, there is the tendency of misconstruing the difference as an occasion to grow insensitive to the different people or the different things and situations.

Incidentally, this is Something that cannot not be found in God's nature. God is love and His love does not allow him to be indifferent to us. Though He is to a large extent different than us, God out of love for us sent his Son. So while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God saw the difference between his holiness and our sinfulness, yet he did not stay indifferent to our plight. In His holiness he still took interest in us sinners as we stood in need of redemption.

On the contrary, we, in our fallen nature, realize our differences and remain indifferent and insensitive to situations and the plight of those who are not like us and more so are less fortunate. Often times, those in precarious situations and suffer injustices are easily forgotten. These are left to their plight and are made to suffer the consequences of their difference alone. Think of how we easily call for the sinner's head and rejoice to see them brought down, all in the name of justice today. This is something God the Father never does. This selfishness of man has assumed such great proportions that today we can talk about a globalization of indifference. In fact, it is one of the easiest ways that Satan tempts and seduces us to sin. The very first temptation of Jesus in the desert points to this. St. Luke tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." By asking Jesus to use his power to transform stone into bread, Satan launched a call on Jesus to indifference. Jesus' power was meant not for his own selfish gains. It was rather for the gains of the poor of the Lord. By virtue of his power he had been made a steward to see to the needs and the redemption of others. Employing his power arbitrarily to supply his own need was tantamount to forgetting the needs of those who are in most need of it. By his refusal then, Jesus refused to be seduced and swayed to be indifferent.

Like Jesus, one of our Biggest Temptations today is to be indifferent. Indifference rears its head in us in different dimensions. It could be personal, interpersonal, cultural and metaphysical.

Sometimes, unmet aspirations and disappointments can make us indifferent to the self. Realizing how different we have become from what we esteem ourselves to be, we begin caring less about the self and about our health. It is common sight to spot people who overindulge in alcohol and drugs use. Others overeat without any exercise; many more seek solace at the wrong places and yet many more care less about our dressing and personal hygiene. They do all these to the detriment of the self. Other times, realized dreams and aspirations also make a person indifferent to the self. Imagine someone who has secured his/her dream job and is making strides in life. They work themselves out to the extent of hardly finding time to rest. Even when the time is available, they have not got the courage to take a rest. It takes no time to realize how such persons overworked themselves to jeopardize their health. Many burn out, break down and their position is left for another to assume. If such people could detect the blurry lines between good and evil, darkness and light, they would take care of themselves and without giving up on the self, would rescue themselves from misjudgment, harm and danger.

There is an indifference which goes beyond the self. When life is good for us we are indifferent to others and their plight. Like the proverbial Cain, we do not think we are our brother's keeper in good times. Do we not enjoy our comforts and care less about our brother or sister in crisis? Where is the priest in crisis? Where is the nun in crisis? Where is the Religious in crisis? Have we written them off? Haven't you given up on your sister or brother who is struggling to be good? Writing anybody off who needs our help and encouragement is being indifference to them.

Indifference can also take a socio-cultural dimension. Cultural indifference happens in the lack of awareness of values and in the lack of judgment on values. Today, people make free choices with very little or no assessment between good and evil. There is for instance a blurry line between mode and immodesty today. What used to be judged immodest by society yesterday, is considered fashionable today and many fall into it without qualms. In the trend to unify values, people no longer have the courage to point out what is evil in an apparent value. The end result is the fallen standards in values today. Sad to say that those of us who are supposed to be the conscience of society have become indifferent. We don't want to be bothered. Our lips are sealed when good is exchanged for evil. Social indifference also comes to the fore when societies sit unconcerned and unperturbed as others suffer. According to Pope Francis, we are a communion of saints. When one member suffers all suffer. It is thus important that we open our eyes to the plight of other communities and lift a finger to help or at least raise our voices in prayer through the saints for the needs of these struggling communities. In our benefits, God makes us stewards of His graces so that through us he can reach out to the poor, the needy, and the less fortunate communities. May we not fall to the seduction of indifference and so fail in our call to be each other's keeper.

There is also the indifference towards God. This is a pretense to be self-sufficient. It is a metaphysical indifference. We are the present day deists. God has created us but he is not interested in our affairs so we have either shelved him or killed him. We are in charge and at the helm of affairs, acting like the supermen of Nietzsche. We have taken our will and destiny into our own hands. God therefore, means either very little or nothing to us. We have lost the sense of sin and are busy subtracting God from the equation in order to solve our own problems. Remember King David after he sinned. Sin for him became a project to execute, a problem standing in need of solution. He thereby acted in his authority, putting God aside. He eventually became a murderer, advised Uriah to sin, commanded Joab to sin and profited from Joab's sin. All he did was to plant himself in further sins. The picture is better painted in the episode of the bad thief and the good thief in Scripture. Whiles the former lost the sense of sin and saw Jesus merely as a possible solution to his problem, asking Jesus to save himself and save them; the latter had a sense of sin. He acknowledged his own sinfulness and Jesus' innocence. He begged to be remembered in Paradise. Though he knew the difference between Jesus and himself, he never got indifferent with Jesus. Metaphysical indifference makes us forfeit the kingdom. It is the mother of all indifference. Indifference to the sacraments, indifference to the Real Presence, indifference to daily prayer life, indifference to the scriptures, Indifference to the needs of God's people, indifference to holy objects, indifference to annual Lenten observances, all stem from metaphysical indifference. When we stay connected to God, he infects us with his love and mercy; he spurs us on to not only see the difference but also to gather the courage to take positive steps at making a difference. Let us therefore, strive in this Lenten season to fight and overcome indifference in all its ramifications. May the Lord teach us to fast and abstain; may he instruct us to govern our urges and instincts, to master our passions and not be their slaves. May he enable us to be free to give ourselves to him and to our neighbors in spite of our differences. May we learn to make loving sacrifices as much a part of our lives as would make the world a better place to live in.

Have a fruitful Lenten Season  
Fr. Joseph Okine-Quartey

## MASS SCHEDULE & DAILY READINGS

### Monday: March 11

- **No Mass**
- Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 152/Cor 6:2b/Mt 25:31-46

### Tuesday: March 12

- Mass: 10:00 a.m., Plum City Care Center - Al & Ruth Johnson
- Readings: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 4:4b/Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday: March 13

- Adoration: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m., St. Joseph
- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. Joseph - All of the Souls in Purgatory, Especially Deceased Members of the Friends of the Suffering Souls
- Stations of the Cross: 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph
- Readings: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Jl 2:12-13/Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday: March 14

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Laverne White
- Followed by Communion for the sick and homebound
- Adoration & Stations of the Cross: 4:45 p.m., St. John the Baptist
- Readings: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Ps 51:12a, 14a/Mt 7:7-12

### Friday: March 15

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Arthur & Dorothy Sticht
- Followed by confessions and Holy Hour until 10:00 a.m.
- Readings: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Ez 18:31/Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday: March 16

- Mass: 8:30 a.m., St. John the Baptist
- Mass: 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph - † Gaylen & Dorothy Lind
- Readings: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/2 Cor 6:2b/Mt 5:43-48

### Sunday: March 17 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

- Mass: 8:00 a.m., St. John the Baptist - † Florence Jakes
- Mass: 10:15 a.m., St. John the Baptist - St. John the Baptist & St. Joseph Parishioners
- Readings: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1/Cf. Mt 17:5/Lk 9:28b-36

**The Rosary is prayed before all Masses**

### POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY INTENTION

March: That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

## SACRAMENTS

### Confessions *(anytime by appointment)*

- Saturdays at 3:15 p.m.: St. Joseph, Arkansasaw
- Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 10:00 a.m.: St. John the Baptist, Plum City
- Sunday at 7:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.: St. John the Baptist, Plum City

### Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office when needed.

### Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like this special blessing.

### Baptism

Please call the Parish Office for an appointment at least one month in advance.

### Marriage

Please call the Parish Office for arrangements at least six months prior to the intended date.

### Hospitalized / Homebound

Holy Communion to the sick and homebound is on Thursdays & Saturday evenings and Sundays after Masses. Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements to be made.

### Funerals

Please contact the Parish Office before making arrangements.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISHIONERS

### Finance Council Meeting

The next Finance Council meeting will be Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.

### Karnival Committee Meeting

The next Karnival Committee Meeting will be Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in the St. John the Baptist School Basement.

### Pastoral Council Meeting

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory.

### Coffee & Donuts

Join us! The PCCW will be serving a morning snack on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> following both Masses in the back of the Church.



### PCCW Meeting

The next PCCW meeting will be Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in the rectory. We will pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m. with light refreshments to follow. All ladies in the Parish are encouraged to attend. Children are welcome.

### On-line Giving

In the coming weeks the Finance Council will be exploring the concept of online giving and automated tithing options for our parishioners. We welcome any thoughts, opinions, and comments on this technology. We will keep you informed as we learn more.

## OUR WEEK: ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Money Counting

Monday, March 11, 9:30 a.m.  
Monica Krings, Teresa Fedie,  
& Suzanne Gilles

### Announcements

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Pat or Kevin Coulson  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Extraordinary Minister

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Pat or Kevin Coulson  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Ann Bechel

### Gift Bearers

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Scott & Suzie Brunner Family  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Dan & Mary Wieser Family

### Lector

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Pat or Kevin Coulson  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Peggy Gilles

### Music

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Musicians: Paul & Char Fetzter  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Musicians: Bob & JoAnn Larson

### Rosary Leader

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Bernadine Bechel  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Sacristan

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Laurie Heit  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Teresa Fedie

### Servers

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Parker Bechel  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
The Bergmann Family

### Usher

Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m.  
Chad Steele & Mel Pittman  
Sunday, March 17, 10:15 a.m.  
Dan & Mackenzie Wieser

## FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

### Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Adult Envelopes (48).....	\$	2832.00
Capital Improvements (3).....	\$	120.00
Offertory.....	\$	162.75
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3114.75</b>

## ST. JOSEPH PARISHIONERS

### Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting

The next Pastoral & Finance Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Basement.

### OUR WEEK: ST. JOSEPH

#### Money Counting

Monday, March 11, 8:30 a.m.  
Denny Hutter, Galen Radle,  
& Elaine Brunner

#### Announcements

Saturday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.  
Annie Bauer

#### Extraordinary Minister

Saturday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.  
Dale Klein

#### Gift Bearers

Saturday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.  
Cindy & Danny Hutter

#### Lector

Saturday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.  
Galen Radle

#### Music

Saturday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.  
Organist: Annie Hansen  
Cantor: Sara Hansen

#### Rosary

Saturday, March 16, 4:00 p.m.  
Joyce Haigh & Betty Lauer



### FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY - ST. JOSEPH

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Adult Envelopes (20).....	\$	685.00
Building Fund (1).....	\$	25.00
Fuel Fund (6).....	\$	220.00
Offertory.....	\$	309.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1239.00</b>



### Plum City Community Blood Drive

There will be a Blood Drive at the American Legion Hall in Plum City on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call Verna at 715-285-5884 or Pat at 715-647-4952 to schedule an appointment. **St. Bertha's Group from St. John the Baptist's PCCW will be serving lunch.**



### FARMER HOTLINE FOR HELP & HOPE

There is a current crisis in farming: historic low margins and high rates of suicide. There is help and hope. The Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection's Wisconsin Farm Center offers a hotline for farmers looking for advice – everything from financial to succession planning for the future. The hotline is available weekdays from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1-800-942-2474.

### PROJECT SEED SALES COMING SOON

A Forage & Seed Corn sale, supported by the Diocesan Rural Life Committee, offering high quality, low cost seed in the midst of a challenging economy. Seed corn is offered in both conventional and glyphosate tolerant varieties. There will be alfalfa and clover ready for sale and non-GMO seed can be ordered. Comparable yields make this seed an attractive alternative. Sale dates and locations: March 16 in Richland Center; March 23 in Kendall; March 30 in Stanley/Boyd; April 6 in Cassel; April 13 in Colby. Full details can be found at <https://diolc.org/social-concerns/rural-life/project-seed/>

### PRAYER WARRIORS

If you would like to offer prayers for those who are in need or are aware of someone who needs prayers please contact the Parish Office or send an email to [prayer.warrior.st.john@gmail.com](mailto:prayer.warrior.st.john@gmail.com).



### ABOUT THE GOSPEL

Sunday's Gospel reveals Jesus as fully human and fully divine. The devil tempts Jesus in the desert, promising him human power and earthly goods. Jesus shows us how to resist temptation by holding tightly to the promises of God found in Sacred Scripture.

### IN CHURCH

Spend some time looking at each one of the Stations of the Cross and imagine being there with Jesus.

### FAMILY PRAYER

Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Focus on the words "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are some temptations you experience? How does the Church help you to strengthen yourself against them?

### SUPPORT OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES THROUGH PRAYER & ENCOURAGEMENT!

- 3rd Year: Ethan Holmstadt (Sponsor: Tom Pullen)
- 2nd Year: Blair Bechel, Colton Coss, Caitlyn Helmin, & Makena Moline
- 1st Year: Allyson Fleishauer, Gabe Helmin, Grace Hinrichs, & Gavin Trannel



### THAT MAN IS YOU

"That Man Is You" program meets again this Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. in **THAT MAN IS YOU!** the St. John the Baptist School Building in Plum City. The topic for week six is 4<sup>th</sup> Day – The Annunciation. All men are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Dan Wieser at (715) 279-2152 or Tom Pullen at (607) 244-3010. Thanks!



### HOT DISH & SALAD SUPPER

Please join us for a Hot Dish and Salad Supper at St. Joseph's Parish in Arkansaw on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.. Take-outs are available. Good-will offering. Everyone is welcome to attend!



### RAISE THEM WELL WEBINAR

#### March 11<sup>th</sup> | Understanding Physical Maturity

Parents: need help to talk with your kids about their changing body? Do you know what to say, when to say it and how to give them the truth about puberty? Plan to join Jeff Arrowood and Alice Heinzen on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. for this webinar on physical maturity. The evening's discussion will equip and give you confidence to talk with your children as they become adults. The webinar costs \$5. It includes the live event, multiple downloads and access to the post recording.

Register at: [diolc.org/marriage/webinars](https://diolc.org/marriage/webinars).

### St. John the Baptist

Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and Benediction will be offered every Thursday at St. John the Baptist during Lent. Adoration will begin at 4:45 p.m., followed by the Stations of the Cross at 5:45 p.m., and conclude with Benediction.

### St. Joseph

Stations of the Cross will be offered every Wednesday at St. Joseph's at 7:00 p.m. during Lent.

