

5th Sunday In Ordinary Time - February 3rd & 4th, 2024

6th Sunday In Ordinary Time - February 10th & 11th

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own and my own know me." John 10.14

Collection As of Jan 18 & 25	Collections Required For 2 Weeks	Weekly Collection + / -	Year to Date Collections + / -
\$ 5,593.000	\$ 7,230.00	- \$ 1,637.00	- \$ 4,689.00



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS - Our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Helen Mulligan. Please remember her in your prayers. May she rest in the peace of Christ.



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome to come to the parish hall after Sunday Mass to enjoy a cup of coffee and fellowship.



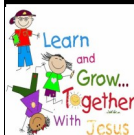
POTLUCK - February 18th after 10:30 am Mass. Please come and join us. Everyone is welcome. Please bring your favorite potluck dish item or a desert, (enough for your family plus one more). If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Monique at 872-7075.

DAY OF PRAYER AND RECONCILIATION FRIDAY, MARCH 15th



WORD AMONG US REFLECTION

BOOKLETS for the month of February are available in the gathering area. If you choose to pick up a booklet for yourself, the cost of these books are \$2.50 each. Please give as it helps to cover our costs.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

- is an opportunity for children to gather during the celebration of Mass to hear God's word proclaimed at their level of understanding and reflect on the Word in their own way. This is not catechesis (religious instruction) or babysitting. This is liturgy and prayer for the children. It is an experience of prayer, of dialogue with God at their level. This is for children between the ages of 4-12 (approx.). This opportunity for the children will be on **2nd & 4th Sundays** of the month.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- if you have moved and changed your address could you please let the office know. I will be working on the charity receipts in the next couple of weeks and I would like to have your correct address. If you have any questions, please give me a call at the office. Thanks, Bernadette



Mom asked little Johnny if was excited about Valentine's Day. Little Johnny replied, no! His mother asked why. He said he is more excited about February 15th, because of all the mark-down chocolate and that he hoped he would get twice as much. Everybody loves chocolate.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- the stations of the cross is a popular devotion used by individuals or groups who wish through prayer and reflection to follow Jesus Christ on His way to Calvary. It is one of the most important devotions honoring the passion of Jesus. What matters most in the stations of the cross is to follow Jesus Christ in his passion and to see ourselves mirrored in him. To face life's dark side in ourselves and in our world, we need images of hope, and Jesus offers images of hope in his passion. **Starting February 16th** and each Friday evening of Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be led by various individuals of our parish, beginning at **7:00 pm**. All parishioners are encouraged to attend this special Lenten devotion. **If anyone is interested in leading the stations, please contact the office at 207-857-5172 or Terry Giercke at 204-857-3358**



PALMS - there will be a basket at the back of the church to place last years palms in.



Ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year, which we will use on Ash Wednesday. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.



Four-year-old Marvin Just Loved Chocolate

On Valentine's Day, his father brought home a big heart-shaped box of chocolates for his mother. She rewarded him with a hug and a kiss, opened the box, had a couple pieces and brought the box over to Marvin. "Would you like a piece of chocolate from this lovely box Daddy gave me?" she asked. "Sure!" Marvin replied. He reached out for one, then reconsidered and reached out for another. "Be careful how you choose," his mother said. "Because if you touch one you have to eat it." "I do?" Marvin asked. "Yes you do," the mother came back. Marvin thought for a moment, then then ran his little hand over all the pieces, smiled and said, "Now I have to eat them all, right?"

"From the Eucharist, this sacrament of love, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness." (Pope Francis)



Ash Wednesday has always been a special day of devotion for Catholics. This year, of course, will be different as Ash Wednesday, to be celebrated on February 14, is situated at a time when we celebrate Valentine's Day. Nevertheless, Ash Wednesday continues to be an outward sign of the beginning of a season of penitence and we embrace the call to conversion that Ash Wednesday heralds. Christian stewards will greet Lent with the best of intentions. But sometimes, we reach Easter disappointed in our own efforts.

Here are some suggestions for keeping us on task during this Lenten season:

- Keep your eyes on Jesus. Coming closer to him through his passion and resurrection is our goal.
- Place a special candle on the dining room table, and when your family says grace each evening, encourage them to share the struggles and joys of their Lenten resolutions, or perhaps an act of kindness they did that day. This is a good activity for kids.
- Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the pillars of Lent. Try to do one thing in each of these categories. Stretch yourself a bit and come up with something new and challenging.
- Take your family to the Stations of the Cross at least once.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encourage your family to do so.
- Make it a point to prepare for and participate in the beautiful Triduum liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and even the Easter Vigil. Celebrate the completion of your Lenten exercises.
- After Easter, reflect on your Lenten practices. Remember, God's mercy to us is unlimited. It's not all about what "we" did, but what God does within us.

Lent and the Desert Experience - *And at once the Spirit drove Jesus into the desert and he remained there for forty days, and was put to the test by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and the angels looked after him (Mark 1:12-13).* The season of Lent is quickly approaching and these forty days leading up to Easter make up one of the most important times of the year for those who exercise good stewardship of their Catholic life of faith. It is more than just a time of giving up our favorite sweets or beverages; it is a time when we seek personal and communal renewal through our own "desert" experience so that we might welcome the risen Christ with joy on Easter Sunday. Lent is inspired by those forty days Jesus spent in the desert prior to beginning his ministry. Interestingly, the Gospel of Mark reveals to us that immediately after John baptized him in the Jordan River, Jesus was driven by the Spirit into the desert to be tested by Satan. It was during this time of testing that Jesus' resolve and identity were called into question by Satan himself. But when Jesus emerged from the desert he began to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples (see Mark 1:14-20). Lent gives us the opportunity to be led into the desert as well, allowing us to remain there for forty days, and challenging us to be tested. The Gospel of Mark uses the word "test" in the sense of proving and purifying someone to determine readiness for the task at hand. The church provides some traditional guidelines for this Lenten testing: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. How we integrate these three guidelines into our "desert experience" is a personal decision. But let us remain mindful that the desert story of the Gospels is our story. Just as we followed Jesus into the waters of baptism, so must we follow him into the desert. The Gospel inspires us to believe that being tested in the desert is not something to shy away from, but rather to be embraced. Creating a desert experience for ourselves can lead to a profound renewal and restoration of our spiritual lives. Let us take advantage of this Lenten season to embrace a desert experience, and pray that we emerge from our personal desert prepared to proclaim the Gospel and become more devoted disciples of Christ Jesus.



PRAYER FOR THE SICK - **Our Father** (Protector and sustainer of all people) **Who art in Heaven** (But also in this room, this facility, this home) **Hallowed be thy name** (Your names are many. May I call you "healer" this day?) **Thy kingdom come** (May your peace and joy one day again be mine) **Thy will be done** (I drop my pleas, and hand everything over to you) **On earth as it is in Heaven** (Here and now, as I remain in this world) **Give us this day our daily bread** (Provide me with the strength and resources I need this day) **And forgive us our trespasses** (Transform my weariness of this bed, these walls, this confinement) **As we forgive those who trespass against us** (Enlarge my understanding of people who don't come, or who stay too long; Or those who seem insensitive, or slow to respond to my needs) **And lead us not into temptation** (Restrain my desire to scream, lash out, accuse, find fault) **But deliver us from evil** (Relieve my apathy, impatience, and despair.) **For thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory** (For only you can give me the hope that truly sustains me in life) **Forever and ever** (Today and always) **Amen.** Chaplain Patricia Duffield, BCC

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5th Sunday In Ordinary Time Saturday, February 3rd Sunday, February 4th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Frank & †Sophie Ryzner by The Family †Raoel & †Alice Ducharme, †Walter & †Rita Leclerc by Juliette & Ernest Leclerc
6th Sunday In Ordinary Time Saturday, February 10th World Day of the Sick Sunday, February 11th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Madelene Provo by Dave & Rosemary Barney †Louis, †Julia, †George & †Janet Kelemen by The Family
Ash Wednesday - February 14th	7:00 pm	Good Shepherd	For All Parishioners
1st Sunday Of Lent Saturday, February 17th Sunday, February 18th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	1st Birthday Wishes For Jenita Shince by The Family †Gene Hutlet by The Bullock Family
2nd Sunday Of Lent Saturday, February 24th Sunday, February 25th	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	Special Intentions for The Alinsod Family †Clara Marriott by John & Patty Geffert
Wednesday, February 28th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	†Noelle Des Laurier by Rachael & Enda Murray
Thursday, February 29th	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	Deacon Rick & Joyce Loftson by Friends
Friday, March 1st	10:00 am	Good Shepherd	Special Intentions of The Bullock Family
3rd Sunday Of Lent Saturday, March 2nd Sunday, March 3rd	7:00 pm 10:30 am	Good Shepherd Good Shepherd	†Helen Mulligan by Kevin & Bernadette Le Lievre †Trudy & †Ernie Laing by The Laing Family



WORLD DAY OF SICK

- Pope Francis releases his message for the 32nd World Day of the Sick, and calls for a ‘therapeutic covenant’ between people who are ill and their caregivers, family members, and God. **“It is not good that man should be alone—**Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships,” is the theme of Pope Francis’ message for the 2024 commemoration of the World Day of the Sick, held on **February 11**. In his message, the Pope explores the fundamental importance and healing power of our relationships with others and with God. Drawing on God’s words about Adam in the Biblical Book of Genesis, he notes that God’s first thought for the first man was that he should be in communion and relationship with other beings. “Our lives, reflecting in the image of the Trinity, are meant to attain fulfilment through a network of relationships, friendships and love, both given and received,” says the Pope. “We were created to be together, not alone.” This relational aspect of humanity, he adds, retains its importance even in moments of vulnerability, illness, and insecurity, which are often caused by the onset of a serious illness. Pope Francis points out that the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing wars have isolated many people. Yet, he says, even countries living in peace and enjoying greater resources have a large number of people who face solitude and even abandonment due to old age and sickness. The Holy Father calls for healthcare systems to be accompanied “by a ‘therapeutic covenant’ between physicians, patients, and family members.” Returning to God’s words—“It is not good for man to be alone”—Pope Francis says human sin wounds a person by severing their relationships “with God, with themselves, with others, with creation” and going against the “profound meaning of God’s project for humanity.” Such isolation causes us to miss the meaning of our lives,” he says. It takes away the joy of love and makes us experience an oppressive sense of being alone at all the crucial passages of life. The Pope therefore invites everyone to offer compassionate and loving closeness to those who are ill, following the example of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37). “To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others—family members, friends, healthcare workers—with creation and with themselves.” The Holy Father invites Christians to draw inspiration from Jesus’ compassion-filled gaze through prayer and the Eucharist, so as to “heal the wounds of solitude and isolation.” “The sick, the vulnerable, and the poor are at the heart of the Church, they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention.”

“From the Eucharist, this sacrament of love, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness.” (Pope Francis)