

SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois
Sunday, February 18, 2024



1st Sunday of Lent

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." -Mark 1:14-15

PASTOR NOTE

Lent and Easter by the Numbers...It's Confusing!

The Catholic Liturgical Calendar of seasons and feasts revolves around the greatest feast of all: Easter. The Resurrection of Jesus is the most central and greatest event of His saving work. And so, the date of Easter sets all of the other liturgical days of the year. For the first few centuries, there was great debate about the date for Easter. Some argued that it should be celebrated on the actual date of Christ's resurrection, as a fixed date every year. Most likely this would have been March 27th. Thus, Easter could be on a Monday, Thursday or Saturday. Others argued that it should be celebrated in relation to the Passover and always on a Sunday. Thus, the pattern of celebrating Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday would be preserved. In 325, the bishops at the Council of Nicaea settled the matter and their decision is the norm of the Catholic Church today. The Council declared that Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the new full moon which occurs on or immediately after the vernal or spring equinox. As a result, the date for Easter may range from March 22 to April 25.

By the time of the Council of Nicaea, the Church held to the importance of 40 days of fasting as preparation for Easter. This paralleled Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert. It also paralleled the Jews wandering in the desert for 40 years. They established that the season of Lent would begin on the 6th Sunday before Easter. The 40 days of Lent was calculated: six weeks of seven days is 42 days; take away the truly unique days of fasting on Good Friday and Holy Saturday; and the result is 40 days of Lenten fasting. These 40 days required serious fasting: no meat and only simple meals for all 40 days.

More than a few found 40 days of serious fasting a bit strict. Many rightfully argued that Sunday always was considered to be a "mini-Easter." People should not do penance while celebrating the resurrection. In about 600, Pope Gregory clearly stated: "We do not fast on Sundays. It is the Lord's Day." And so, fasting and doing penance ceased on Sundays during Lent.

Gregory's decree required recalculating the 40 days. They kept the 6 weeks before Easter and formally included Good Friday and Holy Saturday as part of Lent. This gave them 42 days. Subtract the 6 Sundays, now 36 days. They added four days resulting in the development of Ash Wednesday and the following days as now the start of Lent. Thus, 40 days of Lent and Lenten fasting (without counting Sundays).

Over the centuries, some liturgical abuses crept in. The important celebrations of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday gradually lost their unique importance. The reforms of Vatican II sought to correct abuses and "recapture" the importance of the Easter Triduum. They established the Sacred Triduum as its own short liturgical season. They declared that Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday evening. Also, they decreed that the Sundays of Lent are truly days of Lent. Furthermore, the strict rules of 40 days of fasting were relaxed. They were reduced to only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (which now is technically part of the Triduum Season and not the Lenten Season). People are now free to choose their personal form of penance throughout Lent. The Vatican II reforms did not clarify if the 6 Sundays of Lent are to be penitential days, or not. As a result, there is real confusion.

Now, there are 44 days of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday. So, more days of doing penance. But, if you uphold that the 6 Sundays are not to be penitential days, then there really are only 38 penitential days in Lent. The age-old tradition of an actual 40 days of Lenten penance has been confused. It has become more of a "spiritual" or "symbolic" forty days. (By the way, I argue that Sundays of Lent are not penitential days. But, it's OK if you do. The law is not clear.)

The Spiritual Life: Excerpt from *The Spiritual Life* by Adolphe Tanquerey, Desclee and Co., Belgium, 1951.

The Exercise of Piety for Beginners:

Prayer is one of the great means of salvation. Hence, the spiritual director should gradually initiate beginners into the practice of such spiritual exercises as form the framework of the earnest Christian life, taking account of their age, their vocation, the duties of their state, their character, supernatural attractions, and the progress they have made.

The objective in view is to train souls gradually in the habitual practice of prayer in such a way that their whole life becomes in a measure a life of prayer. It is evident that much time and prolonged efforts are required to approach this ideal, which is not within the reach of beginners, but which the spiritual director must know for the better guidance of his penitents.

Besides morning and night prayers, which good Christians do not fail to say, the following are the chief spiritual exercise that render our lives a constant prayer:

The morning meditation, of which we shall soon treat, Holy Mass and Communion show us the ideal we are to pursue, and help us realize it. There are persons, however, who are prevented by their duties of state from assisting daily at the Holy Sacrifice. They should make up for this by a spiritual communion to be made either at the end of meditation or even whilst engaged in manual labor. At all events, they must be taught how to profit from attendance at Holy Mass and the reception of Holy Communion. They must also be taught to follow intelligently the liturgical services of Sundays and Holy Days. The sacred Liturgy well understood is one of the great helps to perfection.

Parish Staff

Pastor	Msgr. James E. Kruse, JCL jameskruse1996@gmail.com cell: 309-634-5822
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Music Director	Matthew Ernat stl.matthewernat@gmail.com

Parish Office

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YouTube Channel: youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton

FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton

Keep in touch with us via email or text

Text SLP To 84576 or

Connect with us online at

stlouiscatholicchurch.flocknote.com

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 19 Lenten Weekday
7:00am +Josephine King by Amie Neiman

Tuesday, February 20 Lenten Weekday
5:15pm +Ray DeMay by Vicky DeMay Family
4:00-5:00 Holy Hour

Wednesday, February 21 St. Peter Damian, Bishop and
Doctor of the Church
7:00am +Eva Mae Williamson by Mary Beth Crowe

Thursday, February 22 The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
5:15pm +Anthony Carr by Jim Whitmore
4:00-5:00 Holy Hour

Friday, February 23 St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
7:00am +Bartlett L. Kassabaum by Tim & Julie Puhr

Saturday, February 24 Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent
4:00pm +Angie Miller & Stephanie Colby Aburto
by Mary Jean Loftus

Sunday, February 25 Second Sunday of Lent
7:30am +Beth Uher by Former Staff of St. Louis School
9:00am People of the Parish
10:30am +Mary McCauley by Dave Yepsen

THE LITURGICAL CORNER

The season of Lent is related to spring and all that it evokes in our minds. The word “Lent” comes from an Old English word Lencten, from which our modern word ‘lengthen’ comes. The word “lencten” refers specifically to the lengthening of days in the springtime. Like its counterpart in the natural world, Lent is the season when we anticipate and prepare for the new life to come. As the days grow longer and the temperature becomes warmer, so it is in the spiritual sense: we are getting close to the celebration of Easter. In fact, Lent as a season of the Church year only has meaning in relation to Easter. Lent is a season of preparation, so that we can celebrate the Easter season with a renewed faith, hope and love. That is why we are so intent on ridding ourselves of the hidden corruption of sin: so that the new life which Christ came to give us may be more fully ours. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving we open our hearts to the transforming power of Jesus Christ.



Shrines of Italy tour with Father Tim Hepner, September 24, 2024 - October 4, 2024. An optional 2-Night Venice & St. Anthony of Padua Post Tour extension is available. Informational meetings on the tour will be held on March 4, 2024 at 6:30pm, Mary Twomey Hall, 200 W Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462 and March 11, 2024 at 6:30pm, Newman Shed, 2040 N 1100th Avenue, Lynn Center, IL 61262. Father Tim Hepner is Pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Monmouth, IL This tour will also be hosted by Bonnie Newman from Blue Horizon Travel and her husband Joel. Early booking discount available for reservations made by Mar 25, 2024! Kindly RSVP to Bonnie at 309-737-0059 or bonnie@bluehorizon.net

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, February 24th

Altar Servers: Gabby & Gretchen Carden
EMHC: Lynn Delaney, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Julie Hassler
Sacristan: Julie Hassler
Ushers: Dan & Cynthia Tracy

7:30 am: Sunday, February 25th

Altar Servers: *Servers needed, please check in at Sacristy*
EMHC: Mary Beth Crowe, Mandy Robinson
Lectors: Mary Murphy
Sacristan: Joann Bowman
Ushers: Tom Tracey, Bill Uher, Tom Ballard

9:00 am: Sunday, February 25th

Altar Servers: Angelo & Patsy Bystry
EMHC: Linda Carter, Gene Menard
Camera Operator: Marty Makransky
Lectors: Diane Carlone
Sacristan: Quint Quiram
Ushers: Dan Legner, Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker

10:30 am: Sunday, February 25th

Altar Servers: Roden Brennan, Anna Ellis
EMHC: Tim Smith, Tim Taylor
Lectors: David Roden
Sacristan: Tim Smith
Ushers: Bart & Anthony Maciczak, Michael Ellis

EMHC Homebound: Linda Carter 9/N
Gene Menard 9/S

EMHC for Nursing Homes: Mary Beth Crowe—
Liberty, Patty Daluga—Hawthorne; Colleen
Harmon—Aperion; Tom Jagers—Greenfield

CROWN OF THORNS FOR LENT

The crown of thorns is used as a table center piece with an empty jar or container nearby. For every sacrifice, good deed, corporal or spiritual work of mercy, one thorn should be removed from the crown and placed in the jar. The goal is for all of the thorns to be removed by Easter. Then, before the children wake up on Easter morning, all of the thorns in the jar should be replaced by jelly beans or some other favorite candies.

Recipe for crown of thorns

- Use A 2-1 ratio of flour to salt and add water or cold coffee (for color, if desired) until dough is moist and pliable.
- Divide dough into three equal parts. Roll each part into equal lengths. Braid these strands of dough and connect the ends to form a circle.
- Meanwhile, soak a good number of toothpicks in vegetable oil until saturated.
- Insert the toothpicks all around the crown.
- Bake the crown with the inserted toothpicks at 350 degrees until firm (roughly 15-20 minutes). Make sure to remove the crown from the oven before it gets extremely hard (otherwise the toothpicks will be very difficult to remove).

ST. LOUIS PARISH SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, WED, FRI	7:00 AM
TUE, THR	5:15 PM
SAT	4:00 PM
SUN	7:30, *9:00, 10:30 AM

First Saturday Devotion 7:00 AM

*SUN 9:00AM Live-streamed on YouTube & FaceBook (when a volunteer camera operator is available)

RECONCILIATION

TUE, THR	4:00—4:50 PM
SAT	3-3:45 PM

Or, by appointment. Call or email Msgr. Kruse to make an appointment. In order to maintain privacy, he will be in the confessional a few moments before the arranged time. 309-634-5822 | jameskruse1996@gmail.com

HOLY HOUR

TUE, THR	4:00 PM
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PRIVATE PRAYER: The Chapel is open for Private Prayer— Contact the Parish Office for access code.

STEWARSHIP

Church Monetary Support Through February 11, 2024

Amount Budgeted	\$	6,750.00
Amount Received	\$	<u>6,543.00</u>
Amount Over (Under)	(\$	207.00)

Fiscal Period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Amount needed to date:	\$	222,750 00
Amount Received to date:	\$	<u>229,194.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date:	\$	6,444.00

End of Year Contribution Statements

BY REQUEST ONLY, 2023 contribution statements are now available. If you desire a statement to prepare your personal income tax return, please call or email the parish office, and one will be provided to you. Please indicate if you would like the statement mailed to your residence, or provided electronically via email. Note: contributions made to the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) will receive a separate statement directly from the Catholic Diocese of Peoria, in compliance with IRS requirements for charitable giving. The faithful sharing of your "treasure" is sincerely appreciated!

Readings for the week of February 18th

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



Save the Date!
**PARISH LENTEN
 RETREAT**

March 24th | 1:00 - 6:00 PM

"GRANT, ALMIGHTY GOD, THROUGH THE YEARLY OBSERVANCES OF HOLY LENT, THAT WE MAY GROW IN UNDERSTANDING OF THE RICHES HIDDEN IN CHRIST AND BY WORTHY CONDUCT PURSUE THEIR EFFECTS"

MAGI BABY CHEST



Lent is here! Chelsea Sanchez aka "Chelsea Gives Back" on Facebook is hosting an online Facebook fundraising event for the Magi Baby Chest called "40 Days of Giving" for Lent. We are so grateful to her. Please join her group "40 Days of Giving for the Magi Baby Chest" on

Facebook and share it with your friends. We'd love to get the ball rolling for this wonderful event! Thank you Chelsea for supporting local families! It means so much.

Our next distribution is Saturday March 2nd, 9AM-12PM. We will have items to help families prepare to celebrate Easter on March 31st!

High Need Items: unscented wipes, baby bottles, baby food, toddler socks, diapers (size newborn, 3, 5, 6, and 7), spring rain jackets/windbreakers (sizes 12mo-4T), spring clothing (sizes NB to 4T), baby wash/lotion, diaper cream, baby laundry soap, dish soap, pacifiers, sippy cups/bowls/baby utensils, crib sheets, high chairs, potty training seats, car seats/toddler booster seats.

Last weekend, we collected several baby items and \$3,402 for the MBC! Thank you to all who support babies! You are much loved by our families.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FEBRUARY 16TH — MARCH 22ND
FRIDAYS 5PM



"We adore you
 O Christ and we
 praise you,
 Because by your
 holy Cross you
 have redeemed
 the world."



GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH
AT NOON



\$15 per person
Kids 5 and under
eat for free!

Dinner Includes:
 Baked or Fried Fish
 French Fries/Baked Potatoe
 Coleslaw; Mac & Cheese;
 Bread; Dessert & Drink

The perfect Lenten Friday Night Out! Pray the Stations of the Cross at 5pm followed by a delicious fish dinner at the St. Louis Fish Fry!

Baked Cookies/Desserts Needed for Trivia Night March 2nd. If you would like to donate some baked cookies or desserts for this event, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Susanna if you are able to help with some goodies. 815-915-6960/
stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FOOD PANTRY WEEKEND: Next weekend, February 24 & 25 the Knights of Columbus will be collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Bureau County Food Pantry. All of the high need items are still in short supply due to the large demand. Those include; breakfast cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit, hamburger helper, boxed potatoes and a new one, canned chicken. We all know prices at the grocery store remain high. With recent Food Stamp reductions, there are additional pressures on families to provide healthy meals. Thanks to all who donate so generously each month. God bless you for your continuing support.

Parish Schedule Changes

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19th in observance of Presidents' Day.

Check us out at...
ST. BEDE ACADEMY
8TH GRADE SHADOW DAYS

- Meet students and teachers
- Sit in on freshmen classes
- See a school WHERE YOU BELONG!

Scan this QR code to sign up or visit www.st-bede.com

QUESTIONS? CALL JON STEBEN 815-250-0279