

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

FAITH · FAMILY · FRIENDSHIP

March 2, 2025 ♦ The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MISSION STATEMENT:

We are called together in fellowship to witness to our Catholic faith through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. We give testimony to Jesus Christ by reaching out with compassion to others.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Cemetery Manager:

Steve Bebeau

TRUSTEES:

Lynn Eggert

Russ Ray

PARISH COUNCIL:

Adam Benney

Clark Grotte

Barb Carnes

Angie Haggerty

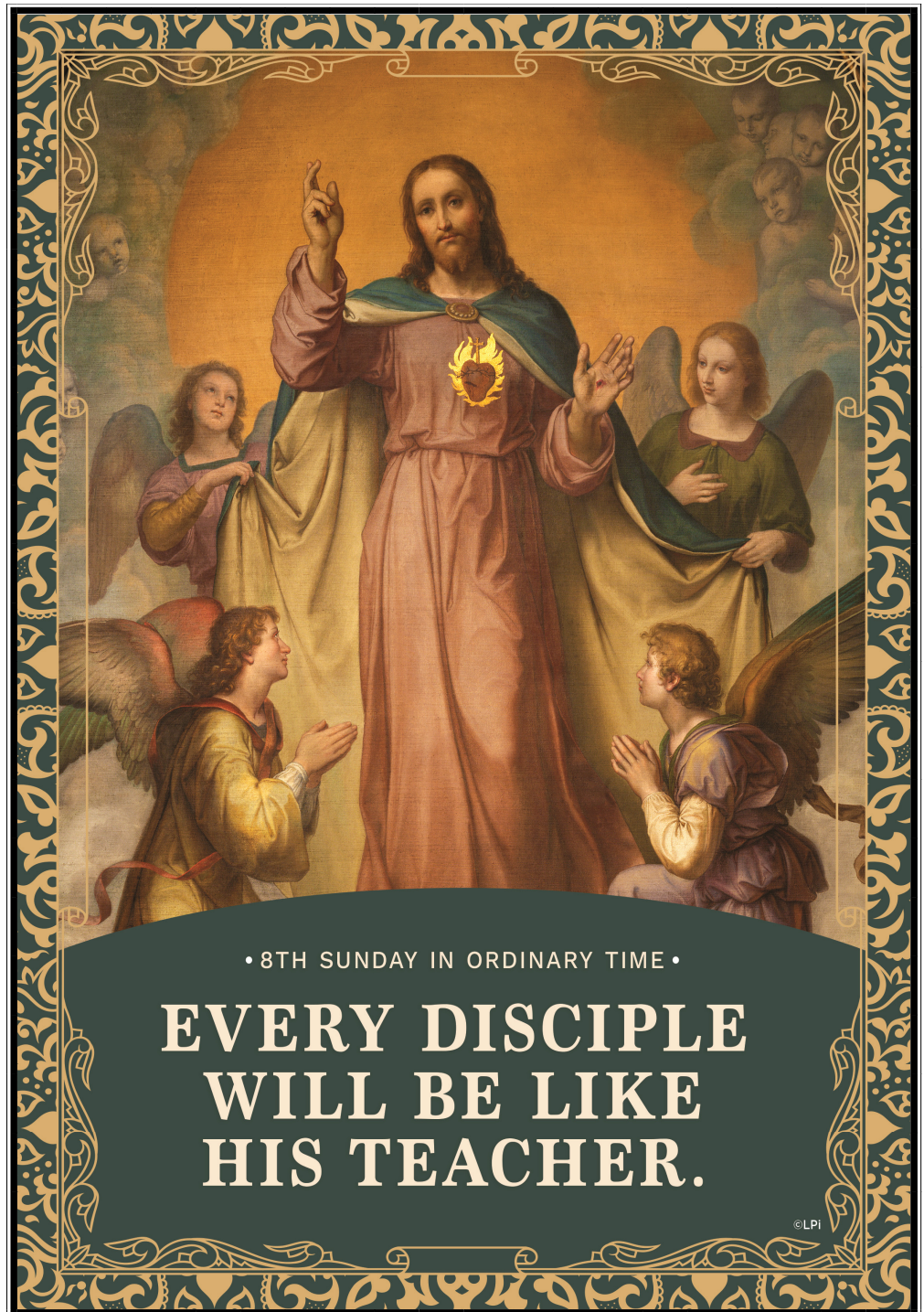
Lisa Crosby

Jim Penick

Cindy Gibbs

Jake Reining

Stacy Glass



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/
1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45
Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/
2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/
Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — One's speech shows the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he or she speaks (Sirach 27:4-7).
Psalm — Lord, it is good to give thanks to you (Psalm 92).
Second Reading — We are given victory over death through Jesus. In the Lord our labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:54-59).
Gospel — A good person produces good, an evil person produces evil. The mouth speaks from the goodness of the heart (Luke 6:39-45).

CELEBRATIONS OF EUCHARIST:

Wednesday thru Friday 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Friday: 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.
Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 - 8:40 a.m.
Other times by appointment.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: Monday by 9:00 a.m.

PARISH REGISTRATION:

We warmly welcome new parishioners and request that they register by calling the parish office.

BAPTISM:

Congratulations! We are excited to help you welcome your child into the Church. Parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class prior to their child's baptism. Please call the parish office to register.

MARRIAGE:

Couples should contact the parish office as soon as possible after their engagement is announced. The preferred preparation period is 12 months. You must be a registered parishioner before setting a wedding date.

♿ HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

3 Mon. **No Mass**
4 Tue. **No Mass**
5 Wed. 8:00 a.m. St. John the Baptist Parishioners
6:30 p.m. St. John the Baptist Parishioners
6 Thu. 8:00 a.m. Brian Beltrand †
7 Fri. 8:00 a.m. Jim Chouinard † (4 year anniv.)
8 Sat. 5:00 p.m. St. John the Baptist Parishioners
9 Sun. 9:00 a.m. Bob and Doris Lee ††



LITURGICAL ROLES



Next Weekend - March 8 and 9

5:00 P.M.

Ushers: Lynn Eggert
Dawn Kennedy
Reader: Rena Hales
Server: Charlie Kennedy
Communion Minister: Mike Beauchene

9:00 A.M.

Ushers: Rob and Barb Carnes
Reader: Jim Penick
Servers: Jude and George Walton
Communion Minister: Cindy Gibbs
Children's Liturgy: Lead: Sarah Moylan
Aide: Melissa Reining



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS . . .

Char Barder, Bena Bourgeois, Marie Corbin, Ken Croteau, Donna Rivers Hauan, Bob Huss, Martha Killian, Wayne Lahn, Jane Lenz, Rick Marion, Barbara Mulcahy, Marilyn Nordine, Anné Otreмба, Viola Plante, Jodi Playle, Catherine Schumacher, Rosemary Steer, Mary Watson, Billi Jo Weekley, Sandi Weekley, and Anne (Loftus) Whiting. Raymond Bernard (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Linda Chase (daughter of Jim and Bonnie Haberle), Jeff Chouinard (son of Joanne Chouinard), Tammy Courtright (sister of Sue Harff), Sandy Delgehausen (friend of Tim and Kathy Timm), Darrell Delles (brother-in-law of Joan Playle), Julie Corbin Dray (niece of Joan Playle), John Elfa (cousin of Kathy Timm), Mike Gullickson and Bill Southworth (friends of Marilyn Nordine), Wayne Jurmu (father of Barb Carnes), Gregory Killian (son of Martha Killian), Scott Knowlan (son-in-law of Mary Christian), Jeff Nettleton (friend of Russ and Teri Ray), John and Virginia Resler (friends of Lynn Eggert), Dawn Schmidt (friend of Joanne Chouinard), Dave Stasson (brother-in-law of Lucy McAlpine), Karla Storlein (cousin of Tim Timm), Carol Ticky (sister of Mary Dahlheimer), Michelle Tuomisto (Teri Ray's nephew's wife), and Dan Zapf (grandson of Earl and Elaine Schulenburg).



From the Pastor

This week the Church begins our annual observance of Lent. As with Advent, the liturgical color becomes purple for preparation; but our preparations are for things even greater and more solemn than Christmas - the Paschal Triduum - the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord. The three days of liturgy from Holy Thursday to the Easter Vigil are the epitome and model for all liturgical action in the Church, so I would highly encourage you in this year dedicated to the mass to clear your calendars those evenings of April 17, 18, and 19. In addition the Church asks us to focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as exercises in spiritual devotion. While a lot of people tend to do a fasting action - giving up something or other - I think it is also important to set goals in the other two categories - of prayer and giving - as well. The Church also requires us to observe days of fasting and abstinence:

Days of abstinence - if you are over 14 you are required to abstain from the flesh of warm-blooded animals (with a few historical exceptions). Originally an act of solidarity with the poor, this discipline is still required of all Catholics on Fridays to remember our Lord's death. During Fridays outside of Lent, we are allowed to substitute some other penance, but during Lent, no substitutions are allowed. Days of abstinence may also be eclipsed by Solemnities or other major celebrations but there are none this year in Lent.

Days of fasting - Catholics over 18 until 60 are to observe fasting defined as "a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal." The obligatory days of fasting are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday - so this Wednesday, March 5th, and April 18th. We are encouraged if we can to also fast on Holy Saturday, April 19th, and of course these are the obligatory rules, meaning we can do more. If you are pregnant, nursing, sick, or your work requires heavy manual labor, you are not obliged to observe days of fasting or abstinence.

The express point of these rules per the Code of Canon Law is to unite ourselves to Christ and that these common practices help us grow (back to the theme of Lent) in prayer, in works of piety and charity, and self-denial.

- Fr. John Powers

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Fridays of Lent. Please join us for this traditional Lenten Devotion.

ASH WEDNESDAY

ASH WEDNESDAY

This coming Wednesday, March 5, is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Masses, with the blessing and distribution of ashes, will be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00 A.M.

Ushers: Lynn Eggert
Patti Fodstad-Bouley
Reader: Sheila Long
Altar Servers: Danny and Josh Moylan
Communion Minister: Mike Gilman

6:30 P.M.

Ushers: Rob and Barb Carnes
Reader: Scott Theisen
Altar Servers: Logan Crosby
Communion Minister: Jo Theisen

TRAVELERS For nationwide Mass times and locations visit www.Masstimes.org.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." - Luke 6:43

Are you using your gifts in the way God intended? Have you asked God how He would like you to use them? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.



OFFERTORY • FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Adult Envelopes (46)	\$ 1,950.00
Plate and Non-Parishioners	743.00
Misc. Contribution - QCD	225.00
Automatic Deposits (32)	<u>2,364.00</u>
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 5,282.00
Projected Need	\$ 5,243.00
Received Last Week	5,282.00
Projected Need to Date	183,505.00
Amount Received to Date	191,996.00
Surplus - Last Week	\$ 8,452.00
- This Week	8,491.00





C.R.O.S.S. FOOD SHELF NEWS

Monthly Collection - This weekend is our regular time to contribute non-perishable food and dry good items to the local food shelf. Please place your donation of items in one of the bins located at the exits. Monetary donations and/or Scrip gift cards may be placed in a specially marked envelope and dropped in the regular Sunday collection basket.

WE REMEMBER

Lavonne Meyer

May 28, 1931 - February 23, 2025

Your prayers are requested for fellow parishioner, Lavonne Meyer, who passed away recently. Lavonne is survived by her children, Pam (Jerry) Jordan, Deb (Bruce) Bebeau, Todd (Kelly) Meyer, and Lorrie (Cameron) Meyer-Nidever; 9 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; grandson, Eddie Bebeau; parents, Lawrence and Clarabelle Schake; and brother, Gary Schake. The Mass of Christian Burial for Lavonne will take place here at St. John's this Wednesday, March 5 at 11:00 a.m. preceded by a visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m.

May the Lord grant her eternal rest. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

BEST LENT EVER

This year's Best Lent Ever will take you through the ultimate journey: *Your Spiritual Pilgrimage to Divine Mercy*. Each day of BEST LENT EVER, you'll receive a short, FREE video from Matthew Kelly full of profound spiritual insight and intensely practical ways that will guide you through a life-changing journey to discover the very heart of God and His extraordinary plan for your life. With three simple daily steps, you can prepare your heart, mind, and soul for this powerful surrender. Sign up today at www.dynamiccatholic.com.



OPERATION RICE BOWL

Join Us for CRS Rice Bowl's 50th Anniversary - CRS Rice Bowl is

celebrating 50 years of helping Catholic faith communities bring Lent to life and encounter God through our global family. During the 40 days of Lent let us journey together through CRS Rice Bowl to meet people in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh who are rising above the challenges of hunger and malnutrition. Pick up your Rice Bowl on Ash Wednesday. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

NO FAITH FORMATION THIS WEEK - ASH

WEDNESDAY - We will not have TLC this week but instead expect that our faith formation families are attending Mass for Ash Wednesday. Mass times at St. John's this Wednesday are 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

FIVE MINUTES WITH THE WORD

During the Season of Lent, please take a few minutes a day and use *The Word Among Us* to grow closer to the Lord and prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Copies are provided by the parish and are located at the church exits. Please pick one up for your family and start a new Lenten tradition!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND

Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday at 2:00 a.m. Please remember to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before going to sleep Saturday night.

JESUS' PILGRIMAGE TO US HOLY HOUR

Thursday, March 27, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. here at St. John the Baptist. In this time of preparation for our Lord's resurrection at Easter, take some time to prepare your heart and meet Jesus as He pilgrimages to you in the Blessed Sacrament. Sponsored by the Archdiocese as part of the Synod Year II focus to come to know and love our Lord in the Eucharist, join us for this beautiful Holy Hour with prayer and meditation.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NW DEANERY CCW LENTEN DAY RETREAT - All women of the parish are invited to attend the NW Deanery Lenten CCW Day of Prayer on Thursday, March 13 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, Minnesota. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." Suggested donation is \$60 per person and includes lunch. Please call Deanery President, Betty Thomes by March 5 at 763.443.9452 or email thomesbetty@gmail.com to make a reservation.

2025 MEN'S CONFERENCE: MEN OF CHRIST - STRENGTHENED BY HIS REAL PRESENCE - Saturday, March 22, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Epiphany, Coon Rapids. This year's Catholic Watchmen Conference will begin with Mass with Archbishop Hebda and Bishop Kenney at 8:00 a.m. Dr. Edward Sri will be the keynote speaker. Find more information and registration at archspm.org/2025-mens-conference-men-of-christ-strengthened-by-his-real-presence.

ASH WEDNESDAY ASHES

Question: Why do we place ashes on our forehead each Ash Wednesday?

Answer: Ashes are rich in spiritual symbolism. We recall in the second chapter of Genesis, when the human person is fashioned "out of the dust of the ground" and receives the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). In death, a person returns to the ground from which we came. The ancient Hebrews used ashes as a sign of repentance, reminding themselves that God is God and we are not.

As the minister places ashes on our forehead, we hear either "remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return" or "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." When we receive ashes, we remember our own mortality. We're reminded that we have limited time on this earth and we ought to make the best use of it that we can! People are in need of love, care, and compassion. We all need to continually rediscover the love of God. The Gospel invites every person in every stage of life to encounter and imitate Jesus here and now. The forty days of Lent are the perfect time to assess our own awareness of these realities. ©LPi

LENTEN REGULATION REMINDER

The Christian faithful are called to do penance through prayer, fasting, abstinence and by exercising works of piety and charity throughout the season of Lent. All Fridays through the year, and especially during Lent, are penitential days.

Abstinence All who have reached their 14th birthday are to abstain from eating meat (beast or fowl) on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during Lent. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

Fasting - All those who are 18 or older, until their 60th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Only one full meal is allowed on days of fast. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's need; but together, they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. The obligation does not apply to those whose health or ability to work would be affected seriously.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - All the faithful who have reached the age of reason (second grade) are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins as least once a year. Lent is a good time to fulfill this precept of the Church.

Lenten Observances - Each weekday of Lent is also an obligatory day of penance. Some recommendations include the participation in daily Mass, increased prayer or spiritual study, self-imposed fasting or abstinence, Eucharistic adoration, works of charity, generosity to programs which benefit others especially the poor, and participation in traditional Lenten Devotions.

THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, March 2

- 8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 9:00 a.m. Mass
- Food Shelf Collection Weekend Hospitality hosted by the KCs

Monday, March 3

- 6:00 p.m. Adult Faith Formation - The Rescue Project! (till 7:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

Day of Fast and Abstinence

- 8:00 a.m. Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 6:30 p.m. Mass with Distribution of Ashes

No TLC Sessions



Thursday, March 6

- 8:00 a.m. Mass

Friday, March 7

Day of Abstinence

- 7:30 a.m. Confessions
- 8:00 a.m. Mass
- 8:30 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration (till 7:00 p.m.)
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 8

- 4:00 p.m. Confessions (till 4:30 p.m.)
- 4:30 p.m. Rosary
- 5:00 p.m. Mass

Sunday, March 9

First Sunday of Lent

- 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins - Set clocks ahead 1 hour
- 8:00 a.m. Confessions (till 8:40 a.m.)
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary
- 9:00 a.m. Mass

NEW IN THE COMMUNITY? WE WELCOME YOU!

Please call the parish office at 763.428.2828 to register.



SCRIP NEWS

Scrip is fundraising while you shop. Our program allows St. John's parishioners to purchase gift certificates for every day expenses like food, clothing, gas, and entertainment while earning a percentage of each dollar of SCRIP purchased back in revenue for St. John's. So instead of writing checks at the gas station and the grocery store, you write a check to St. John's and receive gift cards for the merchants you patronize for those items. The certificates are purchased in bulk at a discount and sold at face value.

Scrip Sellers for Next Weekend

- Mar. 8 5:00 p.m. Deb Stang and Chrissy Kennedy
- 9 9:00 a.m. Joanne Chouinard and Darlene Hagel

ASH WEDNESDAY



Returning to God

Gracious God,
we have strayed from you,
yet you call us to return with our
whole heart.
We give thanks for your mercy
and yearn for the joy of your salvation.
Grant that our hearts might
be cleansed
and our spirits renewed!
Strengthen us
to give generously and authentically,
to pray humbly,
and to fast with our hearts set only
on you.
Sustain us as we embark on this
journey back to you.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Rend Your Hearts



Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18. In today's first reading, the Lord calls us to return to him with our "whole heart." During Lent, our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving prepares us for the new life in Christ that Easter celebrates. The Lenten season is an opportunity to practice self-discipline to refocus on God. Our prayer, fasting, and charity as we seek conversion allows us to more faithfully follow Jesus.

Aside from abstaining from eating meat on Fridays, self-discipline can be practiced in a number of ways. Some people give up sweets or caffeine during Lent, others attend daily Mass or serve at a soup kitchen. While contemplating a practice that you will work to keep in preparation for

Easter, consider asking yourself: What will encourage me to regularly turn to God? How can I give to others, particularly those who may be impoverished in some way? How can I make my sacrifice or dedication a rending of my current ways to return to the Lord? Our Lenten commitment should challenge us to open our hearts so that we can share our praises to God.

Jesus reminds us that it is important to authentically pray, fast, and give alms. Our Lenten practices are to redirect us to God, not to receive praise from others. As we begin this season, ask God to open your heart and renew a steadfast spirit within you. Turn to God for strength as you prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at Easter.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 3

St. Katharine Drexel

Today is the Memorial of St. Katharine Drexel, the second person born in the United States to be canonized. St. Katharine, a member of a wealthy family, learned from her parents the importance of serving others and giving from one's abundance. After seeing a need among indigenous and African Americans in her nation, she dedicated her life to serving and educating people in those communities. How can you give from your abundance to a community in need? *Today's readings: Sirach 17:20–24; Psalm 32:1–2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 10:17–27.*

Tuesday, March 4

St. Casimir

Today, we pray with St. Casimir. Born a prince of Poland in 1461, St. Casimir rebelled against his wealthy upbringing by rejecting a lavish lifestyle and committing himself to Jesus. Despite being rejected by his father for prioritizing loyalty to Jesus instead of to the king, St. Casimir remained steadfast in his prayer and dedication to serving the impoverished. Today, reflect on your loyalties. How can you reorient yourself to serving Jesus? *Today's readings: Sirach 35:1–12; Psalm 50:5–6, 7–8, 14 and 23; Mark 10:28–31.*

Wednesday, March 5

Be Reconciled to God

St. Paul reminds us that “now is a very acceptable time; . . . now is the day of salvation.” Choose daily to return to God through prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. Even if you stumble in keeping your fast or promise this Lent, recommit to returning to God by saying a prayer every evening. Turn to God, for he is “gracious and merciful . . . slow to anger, rich in kindness.” *Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 12–13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18.*

Thursday, March 6

Choose Life

Today we are reminded of the choice that is always before us: life or death. Just like the Israelites, we must make the daily choice to fast from the things that keep us from the Lord. This evening, reflect on your day. When did you choose to love the Lord, heed his voice, and hold fast to him? How can you choose life and follow Jesus tomorrow? *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6; Luke 9:22–25.*

Friday, March 7

The Fasting That I Wish

The prophet Isaiah calls us to a particular kind of fast today. He reminds us that our return to the Lord requires acts of service. Spend time praying with today's first reading. After praying with the excerpt from Isaiah, sit in silence and ask God how you might serve the oppressed, the hungry, the homeless, and the naked. Make a commitment to respond to this call sometime this week. *Today's readings: Isaiah 58:1–9a; Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6ab, 18–19; Matthew 9:14–15.*

Saturday, March 8

Teach Me

Set aside time to pray with today's psalm. Familiarize yourself with the excerpt by reading it slowly. Then read it again, paying close attention to a word or phrase that stands out to you. Sit with that word or phrase for a few moments. Read the psalm once more and pause to listen to what God may be saying. Spend a moment in silence, allowing the psalm to sit in your heart. End your prayer with a word of gratitude. *Today's readings: Isaiah 58:9b–14; Psalm 86:1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Luke 5:27–32.*



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