



ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD

JOSHUA 24:15



March 5, 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT



"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him." - Mt 17:5b

March 5, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



We have been tasked with the awesome responsibility of bearing witness to Jesus transfigured. We have seen what is real. We have heard what is true. Do we have the courage to rise, and not be afraid?

Schedule

MASS

Monday through Friday 6:25 am
8:30 am
Saturday (weekday Mass) 8:30 am
Saturday (vigil) 4:30 pm
Sunday 7:30 am
9:00 am
10:30 am
12:00 pm

CONFESSIONS

(in church vestibule)

Monday through Friday 8-8:15 am
Saturday 3-4:00 pm

FUNERALS

Monday through Saturday Morning

WEDDINGS

Friday and Saturday

BAPTISMS

Saturday and Sunday

All services take place in our Upper Church

Pray for our Sick

names remain for two months



Delaney Bartz
Sunny Greinke
Carole Zachary

In Loving Memory

Please pray for the souls of the faithful departed in our SPC community. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Baptisms

JOHN ROBERT MERLO
son of Jimmy Merlo
and Jaclyn Etchingham

LILIANA ELIZABETH NIEMCZYK
daughter of Robert Stanley Niemczyk
and Karolina Maria Mroczek

SOPHIA KATE NICHOLAS
daughter of Andrew Nicholas
and Kathleen Schneider



We pray these newly baptized will grow to hold our Lord's hand, know his heart, and walk in his ways.

Stewardship Report

WEEKLY OFFERING (February 19th – 25th)

Envelopes	\$8,574.00
Loose	\$5,535.11
Electronic Giving	\$11,560.50
Total Weekly Offering	\$25,669.61

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS (thru February 25th)

Church in Central/Eastern Europe	\$1,270.00
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ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA

2023 Annual Catholic Appeal (through February 20, 2023)(goal: \$142,718)	\$51,082 paid (36%) \$56,572 pledged (40%)
Sunday Giving Fiscal YTD Total (July 1, 2022 through February 25, 2023)	\$1,234,681.04
Sunday Giving Fiscal YTD vs. Budget (July 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023)	+\$114,397.32

Readings for the Week

SUN, 3/5: Gn 12:1-4a / Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 (22) / 2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

MON, 3/6: Dn 9:4b-10 / Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 / Lk 6:36-38

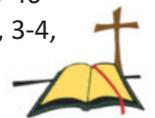
TUE, 3/7: Is 1:10, 16-20 / Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 / Mt 23:1-12

WED, 3/8: Jer 18:18-20 / Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 / Mt 20:17-28

THU, 3/9: Jer 17:5-10 / Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 / Lk 16:19-31

FRI, 3/10: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a / Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 / Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

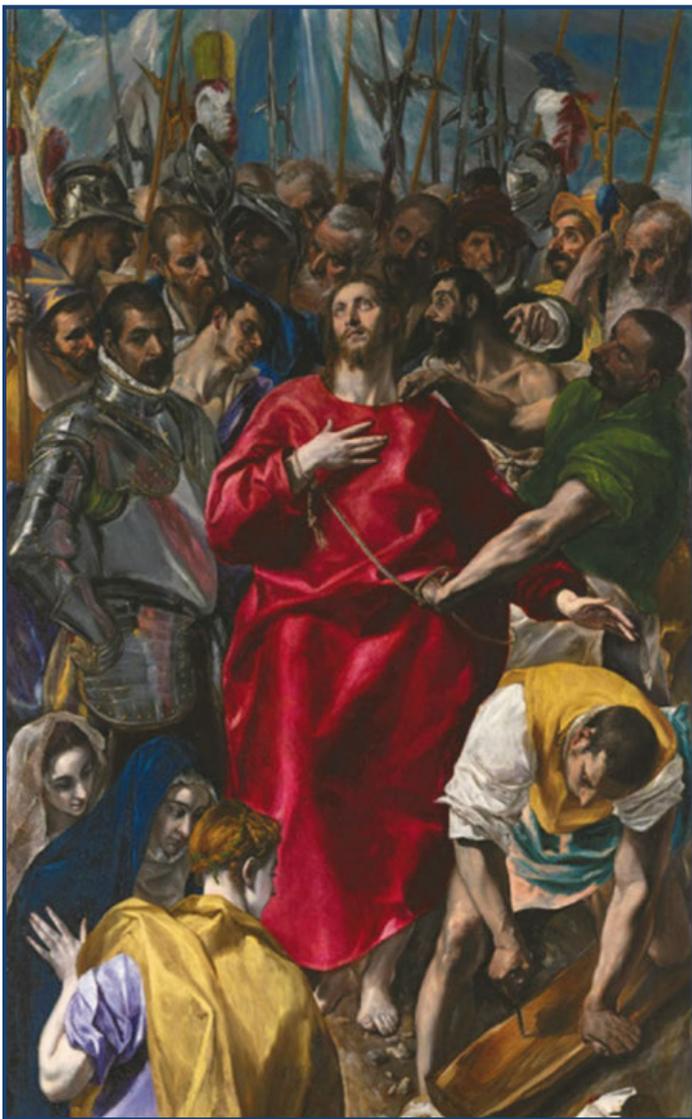
SAT, 3/11: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 / Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 / Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



Lenten Schedule

Please see page 6 for our Lenten schedule of services

Letter from a Pastor to his People



Dear Parishioners,

Peter generally gets a bad rap in the Gospel accounts, especially in the season of Lent. No such things will ever happen to you...Get behind me Satan. I will die with you... you will deny me three times. No one will arrest you... sheathe your sword!

The Transfiguration is not, in my mind, one of those lowlights. True, Jesus doesn't respond to Peter's comment, "I will make three tents," but he also doesn't rebuke him. There is a desire in Peter to savor the glorious moment; to remain atop Tabor. How many of us, with a beautiful experience, race on to the next thing? Instead of looking at the beautiful sunset, we pull out the camera to take a picture of it. Instead of savoring the bite of delicious food, we scarf it down and shovel the next bite into our mouth (that's me). The invitation is to enjoy what

is before us. We can learn from Peter in this regard.

Peter also says something many of us struggle to say: "It is good that we are here." How many of us feel cursed in our job, in our marriage, in our body, in our city, in our life? We are not happy and we wish we weren't here. But it is not true. We are blessed. We should be here. Even though we may not instinctively feel it, if we pray what Peter said, we will see God's blessing in our lives. The darkness in our minds will break through like that radiance from the Lord atop Tabor broke through sleepy eyes of the apostles.



We continue this Monday with our **Lenten Monday Evenings of Prayer**, starting with Eucharistic Adoration in the church at 6pm. I will give the talk on prayer at 7pm. We will also have **Stations of the Cross** on Friday at 7pm. And, a reminder, the **booklet of daily reflections for Lent** can be found inside the bulletin here as well as on our website (the image to the left is for *Friday of the Second Week of Lent*).

Also on Mondays, as a reminder, is the **That Man is You** men's group. It's not too late to join the group. If you're looking for a group of guys to pray with and share your life experiences, you might consider stopping by the Kinane Center at 7:30pm on Monday.

Same goes for the women's Wednesday evening group, **Walking with Purpose**, as well as the **SPC Bible Study**, which meets Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings in Duffin Hall. The Bible study is an excellent opportunity to share your faith and learn more Scripture.

Religious Education will have Stations of the Cross this Tuesday for their classes. On Saturday there will also be the First Communion Retreat and Mass for the second graders. I want to recognize once again Anna Mae Parkhill and her team for the wonderful job they did with 8th Confirmation several weeks back, and First Reconciliation. They worked very hard to make these beautiful occasions, and they're doing the same for First Communion.

The **SPC School "Roundball Tournament"** starts this Monday. Good luck players and student-coaches.

Yours in Christ,

Reflections from our Community



In the waning days of last September, I pulled into the parking lot of a west suburban eatery. I was there to meet a father and daughter who had previously been members of our parish, but because of illness, they had moved away from the parish. They had been committed members of several ministries and truly loved the parish and the Church. As I exited my car, something caught my attention as I stepped out. There, growing out of the asphalt, was this beautiful pink flower (shown to the left). In the midst of something as harsh as the hot asphalt, this beautiful sign of life protruded through.

The same can be said of our own lives. Amid a culture that is often harsh and unforgiving, our lives can show forth as the flower growing out of that inhospitable condition. In the Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis encourages that all have a role to play in the *kerygma* of the Gospel. Pope Francis beautifully notes that “both (young and old) represent a source of hope for every people. The elderly brings with them memory and wisdom of experience... young people call us to renewed and expansive hope” (EV 108). We as faithful Catholics should not become discouraged by a culture that often fosters divisiveness. Our goal should be to grow spiritually regardless of the climate and be nurtured by the love and fellowship of Christ. In turn, we become the fertile ground for others to find the nourishment and stability they will undoubtedly need. As Pope Clement I instructed the early Church, “Let us, then, preserve the unity of the body that we form in Christ Jesus, and let everyone give his neighbor the deference to which his particular gifts entitle him” (*Corinthians Easter Letter*), so we too are called to play our part in the proclamation of The Joy of the Gospel.

As I concluded lunch with my fellow past parishioners, I was reminded that although we no longer attended the same physical church, we shared in a stronger and more significant bond. Our friendship that had begun years ago was centered on the belief that our faith community was truly universal, that Christ was at the center of that community, and that we would continue to be members of the same Body, regardless of physical proximity.

Nick Testa, *Evangelization and Campus Manager, St. Paul of the Cross*

Mass and Presider Schedule / Mass Intentions

FEAST DAY	TIME	PRESIDER	MASS INTENTIONS
MONDAY, 3/6 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am	Fr. James	Steven Kleiner, Healing for Jenifer Matl
	8:30 am	Fr. Nick	Blessings for Brian Donahue
TUESDAY, 3/7 Saints Perpetua and Felicity	6:25 am	Fr. Nick	Leona Denton
	8:30 am	Fr. James	Michael Brydniak, Blessings for Grettel Donahue, Birthday Blessings for James Lynch
WEDNESDAY, 3/8 Saint John of God	6:25 am	Fr. James	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	8:30 am	Fr. James	Blessings for Ariella Donahue
THURSDAY, 3/9 Saint Frances of Rome	6:25 am	Fr. Nick	John Fitzsimmons
	8:30 am	Fr. Nick	Edward Curtis, John Harrison, William Bradna, Blessings for Giancarlo Donahue
FRIDAY, 3/10 Lenten Weekday	6:25 am	Fr. James	Marie Karasiewicz
	8:30 am	Fr. Nick	Margaret Schmidt, Blessings for Alinabella Donahue
SATURDAY, 3/11 Lenten Weekday	8:30 am	Fr. Nick	Richard Grafer, Edward Maschek, Blessings for Avamari Donahue
	4:30 pm	Fr. James	Eugene Nestor, Joseph Nowak, Louise Sottile, Cheryl Mueller, Bill and Fran Platt
SUNDAY, 3/12 Third Sunday of Lent	7:30 am	Fr. Nick	Blessings for Mauser Family, People of the Parish
	9:00 am	Fr. James	John Huber, Holy Souls in Purgatory
	10:30 am	Fr. Nick	Marilyn McGuire, George Roppel, Robert Bzdawka, Carol Schlereth, Brian McKernan
	12:00 pm	Fr. James/KG*	Ervin and Caterina Palacz

*LEGEND: /KG = Deacon Kevin Gregus preaching

Additional Opportunities

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

THURSDAYS from **MARCH 16th**
through **MAY 18th**
7:00 pm — PLC AB Room



Many of us struggle with our personal finances and are living paycheck to paycheck. Start the new year off with a plan to get your personal finances in order so that you can accomplish your financial goals. *Financial Peace University* is based on the Dave Ramsey approach to personal financial freedom. If you're interested in learning more, please visit www.spc-church.org or email FPU.SPCC@gmail.com.



TUESDAYS from
MARCH 21st through
JUNE 13th
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Kinane Center
(use 215 Ridge Terrace entrance)

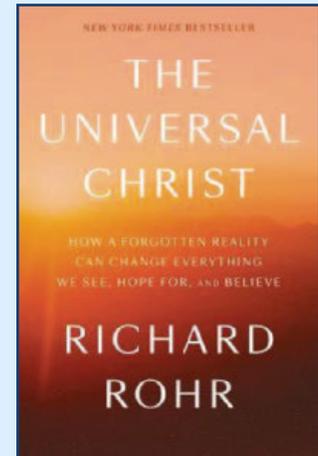
This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one.

Contact Adrienne Timm with questions or to register:
847-692-6767
adriennetimm@spc-church.org

Visit www.spc-church.org for more information

BOOK CLUB

MONDAY, MARCH 27th
7:30 pm
Parish Life Center AB Room



Join us for our next book club meeting where we will be discussing **THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST** by Richard Rohr.

All are welcome!

SPC BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd

8:00 am – 2:00 pm / PLC

Basic Requirements to donate blood:

- Must be at least 16 years old (16 and some 17 year olds will need permission forms)
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Be in good general health (no COVID symptoms or other illness)
- You must wait 8 weeks between whole blood donations

Eligibility has been expanded (travel, etc.)! For questions, call the Vitalant help line at **877-258-4825** and choose option 1, or visit the **Vitalant** website: www.vitalant.org/blood-donation-requirements

Appointments are recommended!

Call **Christine Perille** at **847-494-5150** or **Eileen Kaczmarek** at **847-533-7952** or visit vitalant.org/system-change and use code **ORDORG08** for St. Paul of the Cross.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES



MONDAY EVENINGS OF PRAYER

MONDAYS THROUGHOUT LENT

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Eucharistic Adoration in Upper Church
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Confessions
7:00 pm - 7:25 pm	Special Talks (per schedule below)
7:25 pm - 7:30 pm	Night Prayer and Benediction

SCHEDULE OF TALKS:

March 6 th	Fr. James
March 13 th	Deacon Bob
March 20 th	Deacon Andy
March 27 th	Visiting Priest
April 3 rd	Deacon Kevin

FRIDAY EVENINGS STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS THROUGHOUT LENT

7:00 pm every Friday evening in Lent
Upper Church

March Madness

THURSDAY, MARCH 16th at 6:00 pm

Tavern on the Point

6724 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago

The St. Paul of the Cross Men's Club is hosting our annual March Madness extravaganza. This year's event will be held at Tavern on the Point on March 16th beginning at 6:00 pm. For \$25 per person, our members will receive quality appetizers (sliders, meatballs, calamari, and more) a drink ticket, and brotherhood.

One of the goals for the Men's Club in 2023 is to grow enrollment in our highly desired Club. Please grab a buddy and use this event as an entrée for a new member. Let's let others see everything the Men's Club represents — camaraderie, service, faith, tomfoolery, etc.

Please send me your email if you are not on the mailing list or would like more information about becoming a member.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on March 16th!

Randy Bull

President, *SPC Men's Club*

rbull29@gmail.com / [847-644-3111](tel:847-644-3111)



Your Opinion Matters at SPC!

DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX (DMI) SURVEY



It's official! The **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey** is a great way to reflect on your own spiritual growth while helping our parish plan for the future.

Complete the short, 10-15 minute **anonymous** survey at catholicleaders.org/chicagodmi or scan the code, or find a paper copy in the narthex or parish office after Mass.

Available from **Ash Wednesday, February 22 to March 31**. Don't miss this opportunity to be heard.



Does our parish help you grow spiritually? How good are we at connecting you to others in the parish? In what ways do you feel invited to share your talents at our parish? Your honest answers to these types of questions are what will make St. Paul of the Cross a better faith community.

This Lent, St. Paul of the Cross invites all parishioners to share their input **by participating in a 10-15 minute survey by March 31st**. All responses will be confidential and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. Your feedback and input will help shape various ministries as we plan for the future and strive to be the best parish we can be. We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

If you prefer a paper copy, please call the parish office at **847-825-7605**.

Thank you for helping St. Paul of the Cross parish by providing your feedback through this survey.

Adoration Chapel

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

COME SPEND SOME TIME WITH JESUS!

Due to an insufficient number of overnight adorers, we have temporarily closed our Adoration Chapel from 11:00 pm until 5:00 am daily.

Our current adorer schedule is pictured to the right. The red boxes indicate where there is at most one committed adorer during the overnight hours. We need at least two committed adorers for each slot before we can reopen during the night. Yellow slots are times throughout the day when we have only one committed adorer; additional commitments are needed here to fortify the daytime schedule. Green indicates two or more adorers are present. If you would like to sign up for a timeslot, please call the parish office at **847-825-7605** or email: adorationchapel@spc-church.org



	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
12:00 AM	Red						
1:00 AM	Red						
2:00 AM	Red						
3:00 AM	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red
4:00 AM	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green	Red
5:00 AM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
6:00 AM	Green	clean	Green	clean	Green	clean	Yellow
7:00 AM	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
8:00 AM	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
9:00 AM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
10:00 AM	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
11:00 AM	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
12:00 PM	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1:00 PM	Yellow						
2:00 PM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3:00 PM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4:00 PM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
5:00 PM	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
6:00 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
7:00 PM	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
8:00 PM	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
9:00 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
10:00 PM	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
11:00 PM	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red

Message from Adoration Team

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Schedule time with Jesus in Adoration. Seriously, put it on your calendar! Jesus wants to spend time with you! It's a great way to grow closer to Jesus during our Lenten season.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					1 pm, Jesus time!	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			9-9:30, Jesus time!			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Noon, Jesus time!				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
				2-3 pm, Jesus time!		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
6-7 am, Jesus time!						

St. Paul of the Cross Celebrates Girl Scout Sunday



SUNDAY, MARCH 12th at 9:00 am

Please join us for Girl Scout Sunday March 12th at the 9:00 Mass as we recognize achievements of the St. Paul of the Cross' Girl Scouts, from Kindergarten Brownies through 8th grade Cadettes.

TROOPS WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING ON RELIGIOUS MEDALS WILL RECEIVE THEM AT THIS MASS.

All Girl Scouts from all troops are welcome to attend.

We thank you for your support of our Girl Scouts this year, and hope you are enjoying your cookies!

Central and Eastern Europe Second Collection



Did you know that the collection for the church in Central and Eastern Europe helps the Church in more than 20 countries, many of which were formerly under communist rule? Since the fall of communism, the church has been working hard to re-establish the Catholic faith in many parts of Central and Eastern Europe. This collection will fund the rebuilding of churches, establishment of ministries, and the propagation of the Catholic faith. It is not too late to give to this important collection.

You may give by placing your donation in the Sunday basket or dropping it off at our rectory. Please be sure to write Eastern Europe in your check's memo line. You may also give at our online GiveCentral page at: www.givecentral.org/location/133/event/3671.

Thank you for your generosity!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



VOCATIONS EVENTS

Do you think you might have a calling?

Fr. Tim Monahan, Vocations Director, wants to connect with you.

College men are invited:

Seminary Sprint in Mundelein, Mar. 10–11

High school men are invited:

Quigley Discerners event, Apr. 29

Scan for details and sign up!



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Spring SEMINARY SPRINT

Fri., Mar. 10, 5 p.m. – Sat., Mar. 11, 6 p.m.
Mundelein Seminary

Explore the Seminary, meet current seminarians and pray alongside fellow Catholic men striving for holiness.

To register, scan code or contact
Katie Hazen for more information:
khazen@archchicago.org or
847.508.2023



Photo: Chris Strong, USML/Mundelein Seminary

Fr. James' Lenten Reflections

The Second Sunday of Lent

"When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid."

Matthew 17:6

The Transfiguration marks the half-way point in the Gospel. As Jesus descends Mount Tabor to make his way to Jerusalem following this event, the tenor of his teaching and encounters will be different. Opposition will harden and predictions of his death will be made. But for this one moment, glory abounds.

Why, then, were the three apostles filled with fear? Perhaps it was because they overheard the conversation between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Perhaps it was Jesus' countenance and the other two ghosts. Perhaps it was because Jesus, who had once seemed so relatable as a man, now seemed very distant.

"But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.'" Their fear at first may have been justified, but Jesus told them to be afraid no more. He touched them to assure them, much like he would use the sense of touch after his resurrection to dispel any fear or doubt.

Jesus Christ is relatable. He is our friend, the best of friends. But he is also God and, in many ways, frightening. When we are overcome with fear and awe at our Lord it is then he will come to us and touch us and say to us, "do not be afraid."

Directed Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to enflame in you the Fear of the Lord, one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pray with how awesome and mighty and omniscient Jesus is. See your desire to please the Lord and do him fitting homage. Then let him speak words of comfort to you: *Do not be afraid. You are very pleasing to me.*

Monday of the Second Week of Lent

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Luke 6:36

Much ink is spilled on the subject of mercy. Typically it is about *God's* mercy: how he is merciful to us sinners, how he is merciful to other sinners, how he is merciful to the world. But not much is shed on the mercy *we* are called to give to others.

Oh, mercy! Such a wonderful and easy gift to receive; such a difficult gift to give.

Yes, we are well aware of our faults and are inclined to seek pardon from the merciful God when we are low. This is a good thing, and if we hesitate in this, we must overcome it. God is not looking to shame us and make us feel worse, but to lighten our burdens.

Yet it is so hard for us to turn around and extend that same mercy to those who have offended us. For whatever reason we choose to hold onto the anger, the resentment, and the hurt. It is our attempt at control. It is our unfortunate thinking that holding it over the other will soothe our hurt. It is our means of self-defense and protection.

We trust in God when we ask him for forgiveness. We trust that he will pardon us. We need to exercise a similar trust in God when we forgive others. Lent is the time to pray with forgiveness.

Directed Prayer: Pray with one or two major faults in yourself. Rest in God's forgiveness of your faults and see the contours of his forgiveness. Then think of a person who has hurt you and is in need of your mercy, whether they know it or not. Ask God to help you see that person with God's eyes, to love that person with God's heart.

Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Matthew 23:12

The Old Testament is full of examples of the lowliest being chosen as the favorite. Cain was the stronger older brother – Abel's gift was selected by God. Ishmael was the first born of Abraham – Isaac, the latecomer, becomes the heir. Jacob, the second son of Isaac, was a runt compared to Esau – Jacob is named patriarch. Judah is the lowliest son of Jacob – his clan bears the king. King David was not as tall or prominent as Saul – Saul is deposed. The last shall be first.

But the first are not called to remain first. They are called back to their origin, to become last and be servants of the scorned. All of these Old Testament upstarts fail in that endeavor.

Christ was truly the first, the only begotten son and firstborn of all creation. He became last when he took upon flesh and was born in poverty. This humiliation exalted him to greatness, and once great he abdicated the position to serve. Thus, we see the cycle of holiness. Last

Fr. James' Lenten Reflections (continued)

to first, first to last, last to first; servant to master to servant and so forth.

Perhaps the point is that we never rest in one position in this life. We are given a throne upon which we never sit. The movement of exaltation and abasement is our fulfillment.

Directed Prayer: "The greatest among you must be your servant." Christ is your servant. How are you served by him? How can you be further served? Pray with how the Lord might be inviting you today or this week to serve someone. It can be as simple as a prayer for that person.

Wednesday of the Second Week of Lent

"Come, let us contrive a plot against Jeremiah. It will not mean the loss of instruction from the priests, nor of counsel from the wise, nor of messages from the prophets."

Jeremiah 18:18

People are more than what they do. A parent is more than just an adult who provides shelter, food, and clothing for a child. A single woman is more than just the job she has. The priest himself more than preaching, celebrating the sacraments, and administering a parish.

Anyone can do the above activities – earning a living, teaching, etc. In every age these tasks will be executed, and life will go on. But life is more than just 'going on'; more than 'keeping the place afloat.' Life is about being impacted, and it is the actual man or woman, and not their function, who truly makes the impact.

The opponents of the prophet Jeremiah recognized this truth. Eliminate the prophet and the people will not be deprived of instruction. There are other prophets and priests to do that.

Jeremiah, like Jesus, was powerful not so much in his words and deeds, but in his very being. This is why both were eliminated by the institution.

We long for the truth and we long for justice, true. But, really, we long for a person to love. We have that in our Lord.

Directed Prayer: We receive messages all day long; business, political, academic, even religious insights. They pass through us. The medium of the message is inconsequential. Focus on the person of Jesus Christ before you in prayer and let his words specifically

intended to you truly impact your heart.

Thursday of the Second Week of Lent

"Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames."

Luke 16:26

These aren't actual flames of God's punishment the rich man suffers in Christ's parable. The suffering is within the man: psychological, we could say. A theologian once opined that heaven and hell are actually the same exact place. What makes the place heaven or hell is how each individual experiences it. The opera, for example, might be heaven for one and hell for another. The "flames" burned the rich man, but they warmed Lazarus.

Yes, indeed, there are fires of heaven in addition to the fires of hell. The heavenly ones are delightful. It is the heat produced by the communion saints, the Blessed Mother, the union with the Holy Trinity. For those who have longed for this divine love on earth, these fires will be a blessing. For those who have sought only worldly pleasures on earth, these fires will be a curse. Just like the torch that guided the Israelites through the Sinai desert at night was a curse for those who longed to return to Egypt; a blessing for those who sought the homeland.

It was Lazarus' suffering that made him long for God. It was his poverty that allowed heaven to be truly heaven for him.

Directed Prayer: Pray with an area of poverty in your life; the struggle that makes you like Lazarus sitting outside the house in destitution. It might be a personal weakness, a loved one who is suffering, a challenge you see in the world. Do not pray to have that poverty removed. Pray, rather, to be in touch with God. Pray the finger of God descends from heaven, cools your tongue, and enflames your heart.

Friday of the Second Week of Lent

"So when Joseph came up to them, they stripped him of the long tunic he had on; then they took him and threw him into the cistern, which was empty and dry."

Genesis 37:23-24

The painting *El Expolio* (see image on next page), completed by El Greco in 1579, hangs in the sacristy of the Cathedral of Toledo in Spain. It depicts the scene of Christ being stripped of his garment atop Mount Calvary.

Fr. James' Lenten Reflections (continued)



While everyone in the world, it seems, is angrily around him, the Lord calmly gazes heavenward to the Father. Christ is radiant in the swirl of hatred and commotion.

The priest is often likewise in a swirl of busyness and turmoil, people grasping at him and the world trying to strip away his identity. He can be swept up in the tide of furor, or, like Christ, he can center his heart in a gaze upon the Father. The way to true peace isn't to resist every

combatant, but to pray. We can lose everything, but we can never lose our relationship to God, and that is all that matters.

Joseph's stripping of his glorious robe was a precursor to the tenth station. Joseph was able to enter a period of silence and prayer as he dwelt in the dry cistern. Jesus in this moment was in the cistern of his heart. He didn't hear the noise, didn't feel the coldness on his naked body, didn't see the hateful scowls. The Father is eager to shield us too from the chaos if we enter the cistern of prayer.

Directed Prayer: Who or what is grasping at you, assaulting you? What is your "robe of comfort" the world is trying to strip away? Breathe deeply as you pray and know that the Father is holding you. Ask the Holy Spirit to allow you to let go of your robe.

Saturday of the Second Week of Lent

"A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them."

Luke 15:11-12

The late Jesuit priest and accomplished scholar, Father John O'Malley, chose the prodigal son as his funeral Gospel. An atypical selection, but fitting nonetheless. Fitting not because O'Malley was a particularly wayward son – who isn't? – but because his life demonstrated the forbearance of the Father. The prodigality of the father is what we all will rely upon at the conclusion of our life.

The father in the parable first accedes to his son's request for the inheritance. He then embraces him upon his return. The father brushes aside the insult at the beginning; brushes aside the apology at the end. It's as if the father says, "never mind all that."

Same too is the treatment of the elder son, who is as troubled as the younger. "All that is mine is yours." The

father has nothing left for himself. It makes no difference.

Wherever we might be at this stage in our life – in the distant land, working at home, enjoying the party, forgiving our children – when our time comes to an end, we can be assured the Father will brush aside any speech we have prepared and welcome us home.

Directed Prayer: Read the entire fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, which includes the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. Are you the one who is lost or are you the one who is searching? Either way, you are not alone. The Father is with you as you search; the Son is with you as you wander.

Coda to the First Week of Lent: Pontius Pilate

"Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.'"

John 19:6

Paul Maier's 1968 documentary novel, *Pontius Pilate*, concludes with the title character retiring from civic life to a villa outside of Rome with his wife. It would appear to be an anticlimactic ending for one of the most notorious characters in history. But the author's point is clear. Pontius Pilate may not be all that notorious. "Therefore," says the author in a personal note at the end of the novel, "with Josephus' recording Pilate's humanity, as well as his blunders, and the New Testament reading casting him virtually as Jesus' lawyer for the defense debate before capitulation to popular pressure, a more balance portrait of Pontius Pilate is possible, even if he is hardly the saint the Ethiopians would make of him."

Pilate most likely never officially converted to Christianity. But he respected and appreciated both Christ and his followers, and he attempted, to the best of his ability, to make sense of it all. Sometimes this is all we can ask of someone.

Pilate stands for the limited man. He is not religious, but he is also not hostile to religion. He can accept the truth of Jesus in his mind, but he cannot believe it in his heart, such that it changes his life. There is a room for the Pontius Pilates in our church. They cause suffering, but we must love them nonetheless.

Directed Prayer: Most of us have a "Pontius Pilate" in our life. Spend some time praying about that individual, and notice what arises in your heart: anger, pity, hope. Ask Jesus what he thinks about that person; what he thought about the actual Pontius Pilate. Then pray for their conversion, knowing that the conversion may look very different than what you picture.

Lenten Almsgiving

THIS LENT, WE ARE PARTNERING WITH CATHOLIC EXTENSION TO HELP FEED THE RELIGIOUS IN CUBA FOR A YEAR

You can make a big difference by helping feed 1,000 priests, sisters, and pastoral leaders in the 11 Catholic dioceses of Cuba for a year.



Vital support is needed in a country where practically everyone makes \$20 a month. Daily life is hard in Cuba and it's getting more difficult. For example, many of us in America have the romantic idea of Cuba's old cars — which are actually used as a ploy for tourists in downtown Havana — an area that local Cubans call “the movie set,” because it is so far removed from the lived reality of most Cubans. Only the lucky people even have cars. Transportation is a constant challenge for Cuban people. Many Cubans travel by horse or bike, but most get around by walking or catching a ride in the back of dump trucks. This is the real Cuba.



Please use the envelopes provided in the pews to make contributions and place it in the collection basket on Sundays during Lent or drop it off at the rectory. Donations can also be made online via GiveCentral at the link below:
www.givecentral.org/location/133/event/29561

There are regular shortages of food and basic necessities throughout the year. This is particularly observed in the rural areas of the country. Food is in short supply in Cuba, and hunger is real, long lines for bread and other staples are daily occurrences. People cannot make small every-day purchases with dollars. The only legal way to buy items is to stand in the long lines and purchase items with the national currency. This process takes hours, has limited sales, and can become problematic.



In the wake of recent policy changes both in the U.S. and in Cuba, the daily struggle of many Cubans has only intensified in recent years. Yet the Catholic Church, its parishes, and social agency, are a beacon of hope to the Cuban people. In a country where the government controls every aspect of people's lives, even what career they can pursue or what they can say in public without being arrested, the Catholic Church has been a place of refuge and hope. In each Cuban parish, not only do they offer religious services... they feed hungry children, provide after school tutoring, care for the sick and elderly languishing alone in their neighborhoods, provide help to those with basic medical needs, and have a profound effect on Cuban society beyond the four walls of the Church.

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RCIA Rites Celebrated February 26th

OUR RCIA CANDIDATES CELEBRATE RITES AT THE PARISH AND THE CATHEDRAL



On Sunday February 26th, our RCIA Catechumens (those who are to be baptized) and Candidates (those who will come into the full communion of the Catholic and the reception of the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation) went to Holy Name Cathedral for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion. They were presented, along with hundreds more coming from the different parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago who are going through the same journey, for the first of four celebrations of these Rites, to Bishop Bob Lombardo who, in the name of the Church, called them to the Easter sacraments of initiation.

Earlier in the morning of that same day, the Candidates attended the 10:30am Mass in the upper church to celebrate the Rite of Sending. During that rite, their sponsors and our parish sponsors also affirmed that the Candidates were ready to be presented to the bishop. They also received the encouragement and the support of the parishioners attending the Mass.

The RCIA Candidates are preparing to come into the full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. They will be joined by an adult Catholic who is preparing to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

Please keep our RCIA Candidates, and our adult Confirmation candidate in your prayers as they journey through the intense, final preparation period leading up to the Easter Vigil. We now have prayer cards for each of the candidates at the entrances of the church. Please pick one — or a few them — up and pray for them.



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5:30 - 8:30 pm

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Please consider bringing soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, and/or diapers (sizes: newborn - 6 mos.) for **donation to The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland.**



COST

- **Adults \$14 each** if pre-order received by 3/19/23 (\$16 at the door)
- **Seniors: \$12** if pre-order received by 3/19/23 (\$14 at the door)
- **Children: \$6** (children 3 and under are free)

Add \$4 to any ticket to add 3 pieces of shrimp to your meal

Note: **Proceeds to benefit local Seminarian/Novitiate education and SPC's AOW**



PURCHASE TICKETS:

Deliver your completed order form below with payment (cash or check) to SPC's rectory by noon on Sunday, March 19th. Please make checks payable to K of C – Maria Council 4836, with **SPC Fish Fry** on the memo line. To pay by credit card, email your order to kofcmaria4836@gmail.com, and a PayPal link will be emailed to you for payment.

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(kids 3 and under are free)

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* The price of Adult and Senior meals ordered after 3/19/23 will increase to \$16 and \$14, respectively

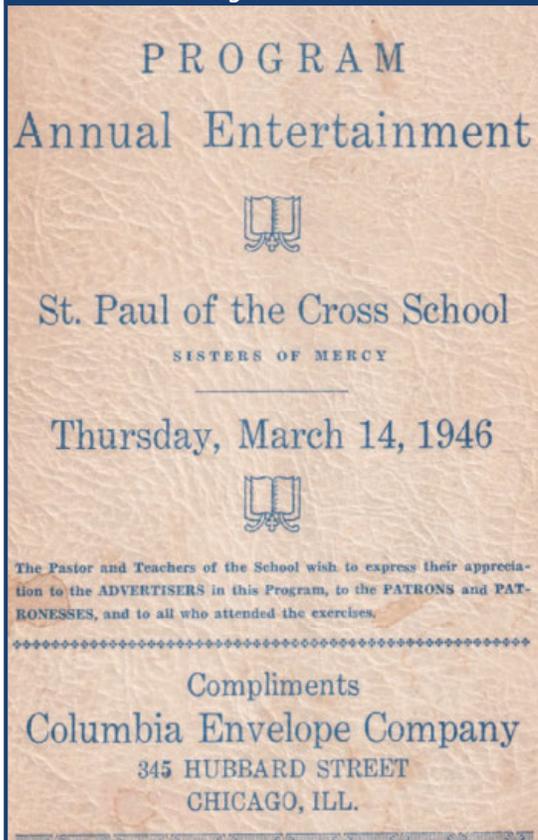
Questions? Contact Robbie Gawronski at kofcmaria4836@gmail.com

Archive Corner with Mark Miller

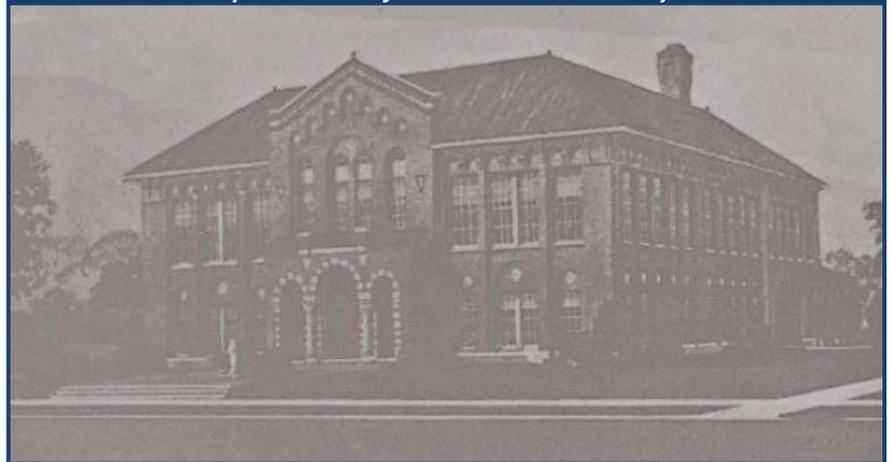
1946 SCHOOL PLAY PROGRAM, part 3

As we await some information before we can conclude our Saint Paul of the Cross history series, we would like to present a rare gem. Last year, we received a 77 year old program for a play performed in March 1946. Plays were performed by each grade, and the program also included sponsors for the event. Enjoy below the snippets of the plays and sponsors for grades 1 through 4.

Program cover



School picture taken from the 50th anniversary book



PROGRAM

The Magic WoodFirst Grade

PROGRAM

To Be An IrishmanSecond Grade

PROGRAM

When the Little Moon Boy Learned to SmileThird Grade

PROGRAM

Cow Boys and Indians. The Pride of the WestFourth Grade

COMPLIMENTS

First grade

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Third grade

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PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Above right: play titles

Lower left/right: grade sponsors

Second grade

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CORRECTION: Denny Aranda Francis didn't provide last week's photos. But we aren't sure who did. Please let us know. **Thanks!**



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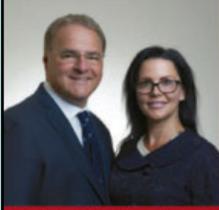
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UPCOMING BULLETIN CONTENT DEADLINES

March 12th issue: Friday, March 3rd
March 19th issue: Friday, March 10th

Schedule

MASS

All Masses are in our Upper Church

Monday through Friday	6:25 am 8:30 am
Saturday	8:30 am - <i>daily Mass</i> 4:30 pm - <i>vigil</i>
Sunday	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm

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8:30 am to 12:00 pm
Please note that there will be no Donut Sundays during Lent

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call Rectory Office (847-825-7605)

COMMUNION FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Please call Rectory Office (847-825-7605)

ROSARY

After 8:30 am Daily Mass

LENTEN MONDAY EVENINGS OF PRAYER

Monday evenings throughout Lent
6:00 pm—7:30 pm
Upper Church