

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH A CAPITAL T

In the Gospel of today's Mass taken from St. John Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple. It was a really bold act. So the eyewitnesses wanted to know by what authority He had done this. His answer was even bolder than His action, astounding in fact. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." So the Jews retorted: "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" St. John then explained to his readers what Jesus had meant. "But He was speaking about the Temple of His Body."

Imagine that you are standing before Holy Name Cathedral when you hear someone say something like this: "Destroy this church and in three days I will build it all over again." You would be just as shocked as the Jews were when Jesus made His statement. It is estimated that Our Lord made His declaration in the year 29 A.D. The temple in Jerusalem that Jesus was referring to was not actually completed until shortly before the Romans destroyed it in 70 A.D. The Jews thought of their temple with a small "t", that is, the building itself. But the Christ was speaking of a temple with a capital "T", that is, His own Body. That includes us. We are the Temple of God with a capital "T".

The old temple in Jerusalem was a sacred, holy place where devout Jews came to worship the one true God. Much more sacred and holy was Jesus Himself. He was a Temple in the sense that He was the perfect priest, the worshipper of His heavenly Father. Jesus the Christ would complete His priesthood when the Temple of His Body hung in death upon the cross. It was His resurrection, however, that would fulfill His prophecy about the destruction of the temple. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." From the death of the Christ flowed a fullness of life which not only raised Him from the dead but also lifted us out of the grave of sin.

This life which flows from the cross comes upon us in the waters of Baptism and gives us a new life in the Christ, so that we become His Body, His mystical Body, the Church. From the destruction of the Temple of His Body, the Christ rose in glory as

Head of the Church, His mystical Body. All that the Christ said of His Body as the Temple applies to us now since we have become part of Him, many though we are, just as many elements went into the building of the Jerusalem temple.

Every weekend we come together inside this undersized building which we call the church of St. James. As we enter this church with a small "c" we should realize that through the Sacrament of Baptism we have been transformed into the Church with a capital "C", the new spiritual Temple with a capital "T". This little country church becomes a place of worship when the Christ gathers His people, the Church, to join Him in the worship of God His Father.

A lot more precious than the temple of Jerusalem is this new Temple, the Body of the Christ. A lot more lovely than Holy Name Cathedral or St. James at Sag Bridge are we who gather in the name of Jesus the Christ, for we are united with Him as the Head of His Body, which is the Church.

In spite of the small church which comfortably seats only about 170 people, we have many religious artifacts that remind us that we are part of the Catholic Church. Statues,

stained glass windows, stations of the cross, holy water fonts, the baptismal font, kneelers, pews, the tabernacle, the altar, the ambo, the big crucifix, and the eye of God. They all serve to remind us about the pious men and women who have gone before us in faith. Today, however, we look around at the living symbols of our Catholic Faith, the parishioners who are members of the Body of the Christ. Be perceptive; see beyond their exterior. Jesus stood in front of the temple, a mere building. But through His words He invited people to respond through faith to a reality deeper than the building before them. Likewise He invites us to look beyond mere externals and to see that we, the people in church, are the Church, the Body of the Christ.

God Bless Our Parish
FATHER ED GLEESON, PASTOR



FLOWERS

The two large bouquets adorning the main altar were made available through the kindness of **FRANK & CINDY STACH-PEARMAN** in memory of **Mr. Adalbert A. "George" Stach.**

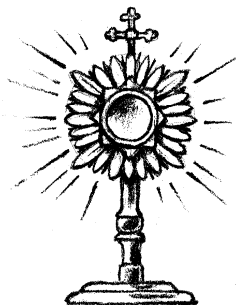


The collection for St. James on the weekend of March 12th was \$3,665.00
St. Paul was \$930.00

The number of March 12th Offertory Envelopes handed in the weekend of March 11 and 12 was 173. The amount of money coming out of those envelopes was \$3,155.00 which averages out to \$18.24 per envelope. Our many thanks to the 173 contributing families.

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED AND VALUED SUPPORT.

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



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LENTEN DAY OF ADORATION

March 30th, 9:00am to 9:00pm

Have you ever tried to spend a whole hour doing nothing but listening to the voice that dwells deep in your heart?

When there is no radio to listen to, no TV to watch, no book to read, no person to talk to, no project to finish, no phone call to make, you are better able to discover the great compassion and love of Jesus who died for our sins. This Lent attend the Lenten Day of Adoration for just one short hour meditating on the love of God for you and for the whole world.

MARCH 25 & 26

The Altar & Rosary Sodality is once again sponsoring a food drive for the benefit of the St. Blasé Food Pantry. The drive will take place before the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday the 25th of March, and after all of the Masses on the 26th of March.

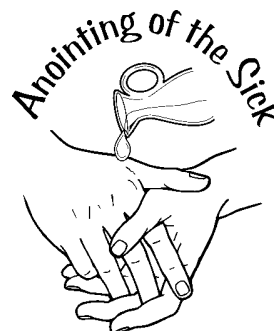


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Since we will be in the middle of Lent, this is the perfect opportunity to make a small sacrifice for someone in need. As children we were told to "GIVE UP" something for Lent as a penance. This could be the same thing: each day between Ash Wednesday and the food drive dates, set aside one item of non-perishable food that would normally have been used as a supplement or a treat at a meal. This small denial will be greatly appreciated by those who cannot afford some of the necessities of life.

If you are not sure what to donate please contact Beverly Lewis at 708-599-2413, evenings after 8:00pm or the rectory. I'm sorry, but we are not accepting any clothes.

Beverly Lewis, Food Drive Chairman



MASS & SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH AT 10:00AM FOR PARISHIONERS, THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is not meant to be a private action

involving only the priest and the sick person. Rather, it is a public action involving the whole Christian community, the whole body of Christ.

Ordinarily, the recipients of the sacrament are as follows:

- Those who suffer from a serious illness.
- Those who suffer from serious weakness caused by old age.
- Those who have already been anointed, but suffer from a different illness, or the same illness grows worse.
- Those who are to undergo surgery because of serious illness.
- Small children who are seriously ill and have sufficient reason to understand and respond to the sacrament with faith.

Immediately after the Mass and Anointing of the Sick there will be light refreshments served in the hall by the women of the Altar & Rosary Sodality.



JESUS I TRUST IN YOU

Our Parish of St. James has received a large beautifully antiqued framed picture of the Divine Mercy. It is a gift from the Karl H. Stockl family. The image was secured by Karl on a recent trip out east. He graciously has donated it to our Country Parish in memory of the members of his family who passed away in Austria. Soon this image will find a permanent place in our Sanctuary. May God bless the Stockl family. Let this image and the Devine Mercy devotion bring others to know Jesus.

Deacon John

**CONSTANTINE'S SWORD
REVISITED**



Looking to deepen your understanding of the church history or to brush up on your knowledge of the early church? The Holy Name Society has invited renowned lecturer and world traveler Carl DiNello to speak here at St. James at Sag Bridge.

A narrative of the beginning of Christianity and the Catholic Church in particular, as it evolved

from a small, clandestine, persecuted group to the state religion of the Roman Empire.

Carl, a Holy Name member, and his wife JoAnn are members of our parish and have traveled extensively throughout the world.

Plan to be with us on Tuesday March 28, at 7 PM in Saginaw Hall. Admission is free.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Bring the entire family and together discover the rich history of our Church.

Prayer to Saint Joseph

Blessed Joseph, we come to you in the hour of our need and implore your patronage. Through the holy charity that bound you to the Virgin Mother of God and through the fatherly love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we beg you to take note of the inheritance that Jesus Christ has earned with His blood. O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, with your power and strength to aid us in our tribulations, defend us, the chosen children of Jesus Christ.

Loving Joseph, ward off from us every error and corrupting influence, assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness even as you once rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, and protect God's holy Church from all adversity. Shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live and die in holiness and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

AMEN.

St. Joseph



WHERE AND HOW DID THAT START?

St. Therese of Avila is credited with beginning the tradition of burying a statue of St. Joseph to help a house sell.

According to legend, she prayed to St. Joseph when the convents needed more land and she encouraged the sisters to bury St. Joseph medals as a symbol of their devotion.

Another legend credits Blessed Andre Bessette who wanted to buy some land on Mount Royal in Montreal to construct a small chapel. When the landowners refused to sell, Bessette began planting St. Joseph medals on the property. In 1896, the owners suddenly relented, and Brother Andre built his chapel.

Most people say to bury the statue head first, with the feet pointing toward heaven. Once the house is sold, the statue is to be dug up and given a place of honor in the new home.

Nationally, an estimated two million St. Joseph statues are sold each year.

**LENTEN, HOLYWEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE
OF DEVOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES**

Sunday, March 19
Third Sunday of Lent

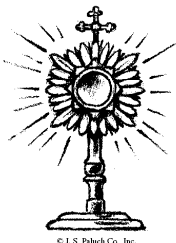
Friday, March 24
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm



Saturday, March 25
MASS FOR THE
ANNOINTING OF THE SICK 10:00 am

Sunday, March 26
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



Thursday, March 30
DAY OF ADORATION
9:00am to 9:00pm

Friday, March 31
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm

Sunday, April 2
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Friday, April 7
Sacred Heart Novena 6:45pm
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm



Saturday, Sunday,
April 8 & 9
Passion Sunday
(PALM SUNDAY)
Masses with the
Blessing and
Distribution of Palms
5:30pm, 8:30, 10:00,
11:30am

Monday, April 10
Confessions 7:00 to 8:00pm

Wednesday, April 12
Confessions 6:00 to 7:00pm
Mass 7:00pm
Confessions 7:45 to 8:30pm



Thursday, April 13
HOLY THURSDAY
Mass of the Last
Supper
7:00pm
Adoration of the
Blessed
Sacrament

8:30pm to 12:00 Midnight
Bus Leaves to Visit Churches
8:30pm

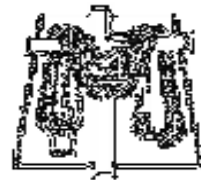
Friday, April 14
GOOD FRIDAY
Outdoor
Stations of the
Cross
3:00pm



Divine Mercy Novena 6:30pm
Good Friday Liturgical Service
7:00pm



Saturday, April 15
EASTER VIGIL
Blessing of Food Baskets
1:00pm
Divine Mercy Novena
6:30pm
Mass of the Easter Vigil 7:00pm



Sunday, April 16
EASTER SUNDAY
Masses with the Sprinkling of
the Holy Waters
8:30, 10:00, 11:30am
Divine Mercy Novena 7:00pm

Monday, April 17 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30pm
Thursday, April 20 at 7:00pm
Friday, April 21 at 7:00pm
Saturday, April 22 at 5:00pm
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Divine Mercy
Sunday



Sunday, April 23
DIVINE MERCY
SUNDAY
Adoration 1:00 to 3:00pm
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00pm
Benediction 3:30pm

VOTIVE CANDLES

Votive offering for the week of March 19h

In memory of Darren Chud	Tony & Denise Aragon in honor of St. Joseph
In memory of Adalbert A. "George" Stach	The Hilan Family
Brandon Doyle, Safety in Iraq	Bronislawa Raj
Intention of Michael Nelson	Ellen & Robert Chio
Intention of Starha's Sons	In memory of Louise Apyar

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL LOOKING FOR ALUMNI

The St. Christopher School Alumni Association (Midlothian, IL) is looking for all alumni. There will be a All-Alumni Homecoming Social in the school gym on Saturday, March 25th from 6:30 to 11:00pm. At the social, you can enjoy snacks, vintage school pictures and memorabilia, a DJ, and more, in the company of old friends, all for a cost of \$10 per person. Alumni are invited are invited to go to their website at www.stchrisalumni.org for more information about the Homecoming Social. On the website, you can also register to receive emails and newsletters with the latest news and information about events, reunions, and activities.

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 24	7:00PM
Altar Servers	M. Witter S. Witter M. Walls
Lector	D. Witter



Monday 8:15 AM	March 20 St. Joseph ✠Rose Stanek
Tuesday 8:15 AM	March 21 Lenten Weekday ✠Rose Stanek
Wednesday 7:00PM	March 22 Lenten Weekday ✠Adalbert A. "George" Stach
Thursday 8:15AM	March 23 Lenten Weekday ✠Dominic Violante
Friday 7:00PM	March 24 Lenten Weekday MASS & STATIONS OF THE CROSS ✠Louise Guzior
Saturday 4:30 to 5:15PM 5:30PM	March 25 Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent Confessions ✠John Loye
Sunday 8:30AM 10:00AM 11:30AM	March 26 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Living & Deceased Parishioners Irene Slosowski—Birthday ✠Josephine Toldness

March 25 & 26	5:30 PM	8:30AM	10:00 AM	11:30 AM
Celebrant	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson
Altar Servers	K. Janociak T.J. Nicholson K. Nicholson	A. Gorniak R. Podkowski Z. Reitz	P. Tishuk M. Witter S. Witter	J. Haluska S. May M. May
Lector	N. Konieczny	M. Dillenburg	D. Lasica	T. Kulawiak
LEM	Deacon John	Deacon John	Deacon John	Deacon John
Ushers	P. Walsh C. Hughes E. Liczwek N. Nowaczyk	J. Starha T. Lang F. Pearman H. Grutza	D. Witter D. Butalla M. Wall M. Lavery	B. Czaja M. Fleckenstein J. Neadly N. Konieczny