



The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 * (708) 442-5250

“Faith Active in Love”

www.stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Volume 43

March 2022

Issue 3

We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

The Disciplines of Lent

Almsgiving: Giving alms, Jesus teaches, means making the hardships and needs of others our own: the young and the old, the sick and the suffering, next door neighbors and people in distant lands—people it would be easy to forget. Rather than simply looking out for ourselves, Jesus urges us to see those in need. And what shall we give? Some time, some of our talent, material resources. Whatever we give should be something that costs us, given in a spirit of gratitude to God for the life that fills us each day. What shall we give (up) in Lent? Maybe a visit to a homebound or hospitalized neighbor or friend or member of the congregation; maybe some time after school helping a child with homework; maybe an evening at a shelter for homeless men or women; maybe a gift to Lutheran World Relief. Maybe a new niche for ministry in the congregation. After all, before us are the great alms Jesus gave: “He loved us, and gave himself up for us.”

Prayer: The Lenten season calls us to pray, but prayer, Jesus teaches, is much more than saying words. “Go into your room, and close the door, and pray to your Father in secret.” Before we pray, we need to shut the door to the noise, the trivialities, the distractions, the countless cares grabbing for our attention. In the quiet place of our hearts, we speak and listen to God. We trust that God helps us pray in this season. For those who have stopped praying, or pray with little fervor, God gives graces for praying again. Usually the graces come as we turn to prayers and practices already there: reflective reading of the Bible and devotional materials, the liturgies of the Lord’s Supper and other opportunities for public worship, simple grace-filled prayers, like the Lord’s Prayer or the psalms. “What a Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion,” Pope Leo told Christians of the 6th century who were beginning their Lenten observance. Lenten devotional materials are available in the sanctuary or by request, including various sets of *CareNotes* for Lent and devotional booklets entitled *Grace Unbounded: Devotions for Lent 2022*.

Fasting: This discipline is likely the greatest challenge. Our society looks on fasting itself as peculiar, perhaps even abysmal. Urging everyone to eat, drink, and buy more and more, our world today has made fasting unfashionable and perhaps even un-American. Yet the gospel message warns us that more and more can ruin creation. An acquisitive spirit is a selfish spirit. The taste for too much can destroy. The good things of life can turn into our captors. In our society, fasting could be viewed as a gift to free us from those things to which we have attached our lives. This Lent, recognizing the hold some things have on us, we can try with God’s help to keep them in their

right place. For many good reasons, not all of us are physically able to fast due to health problems, work situations, family responsibilities, etc. But some reasonable abstaining from something which obstructs our relationship to God can be a liberating experience. Some may find that they are able to do without food during a day of the week, perhaps Friday in remembrance of our Lord’s suffering and death, or Saturday evening before Communion on the Lord’s Day. Others may find it helpful to set aside certain ways of spending time or money, addictive behaviors or manners of treating others. We need to develop a leaner, less wasteful way of life for the sake of all creation. Can the discipline of fasting lead us to a gentler style of living in communion with the earth and one another?

However you decide to practice the disciplines of Lent, let them be offered freely and generously, not unwillingly and begrudgingly, and in love for our Lord and in gratitude for the gift of life and redemption.—*djl*

Ash Wednesday and the Forty Days of Lent

The holy season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. The service time is 7:15 p.m. with a spoken Liturgy of Holy Communion. Christians gather on this holy day to mark the beginning of Lent’s baptismal preparation for Easter. On this day, we receive an ashen cross on the forehead—a gesture rooted in baptism—make extended confession, hear the solemn proclamation to keep a fast in preparation for Easter’s feast, and contemplate anew the ongoing meaning of our baptism into the Lord’s death and resurrection. While marked with the ashes of human mortality, the church hears God’s promise of forgiveness and tastes God’s mercy in the bread of life and the cup of salvation.



Don’t forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 12th. Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 13th.

From the Parish Register

Passages:

Donna Jean Tuider, 69 year old wife of Robert, mother of Kristina Patel, and sister to Ann Pennino, passed from this life on January 23rd. A funeral service for Donna was held on January 28th at Sts. Peter and Paul. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park.



MARCH

Mar. 3: Kathryn Murray Jennifer Painter Sara Watkiss	Mar. 13: Pat Gavac Cynthia Papadatos
Mar. 4: Karin Kubo	Mar. 15: John Kozik Carol Ruiz
Mar. 5: Alison Jones	Mar. 18: Charlotte Bennett Anita Henley Dolores Krc
Mar. 6: Heather Greer Rachel Michaels Beverly Tarbox	Mar. 19: Carrie Watkiss
Mar. 7: Ruth Hurbanis Jeffrey Triska	Mar. 22: Isaac Lauritsen Mar. 23: Vicki Michaels
Mar. 10: Jocelyn Drahos Nancy Mathis	Mar. 24: Anita Horak Mar. 29: Hailey Greer
Mar. 11: Christopher Painter	Mar. 30: Alicia Waldman
Mar. 12: Ronald Krueger	

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 8th, 2003 - Andrew and Sarah Wilson

Happenings

Congregation Council Meeting

Thursday, March 17th, 7:30 p.m.

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

Edward and Joanne Sefara, in memory of +Bobby Hicks+.

Ann Neimes, in memory of parents +George+ and +Elizabeth Palencar+.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Nick Sasauta+ on the 3rd anniversary of his passing.

Adrienne Gana, in memory of beloved father +Eugene Gana+ on the 30th anniversary of his death.

❖ In Memory of Walter Kessler ❖

Edward and Joanne Sefara

Lois Michaels

Beverly Podzamsky

John and Shirley Kostelny

Ann Vana

William Boor

Suzanna Skudrna

Vera Borysek

Mildred Mendel

Ruth Hurbanis

John and Janet Broussard

Saundra and Peter Spilotro

Ann Kmet

Karyn Bute

Thomas and Vicki Michaels

James Triska

Ruth Bakalich

❖ In Memory of Donna Tuider ❖

Tuider Nieces and Nephews

John and Janet Broussard

Suzanna Skudrna

William Boor

Saundra and Peter Spilotro

John and Shirley Kostelny

Karyn Bute

Paul and Pat Gavac

Anne Gavac

Mildred Mendel

Beverly Podzamsky

Mark and Liz Rouck

Kathryn Garlow

Donald E. Morris Architects P.C.

David and Sherry Walters

Charles Matthies

Joe and Tracey Sandman

Brian and Patti Basek

Kaushik and Minaxi Patel

Carol Simon and Family

James Triska

Liliana Carrillo

Hitesh B. Patel

Philip E. Davis

Curtis and Betty Mitchell

Karen Kodl

Casey Wiedenski

Joseph and Millie Novak

Jerry and Debbie Higgins

Alan and Paula Dorobiola and Family

Michael and Lynn Schumacher

Joanna Brzostowski

Vicki Kozar and Ro Dasho

Dave Tomalis

Alex Alonso and Beth Kaufman

Tom and Vicki Michaels

Dr. Robert Kany

Marilyn Sutphin

Frank and Ann Cale

Cathy Ruszel

Jim and Karen Jensen

Richard and Eileen Kocourek

Ken and Karen Rouleau

Sean and Me'chelle Finn

James and Renee Martocchio

Charles Kuhn, Jr. and Andrea Kuhn McFarlane

Memorial Flowers

Feb. 13th: In loving memory of +Marie Elizabeth Lauritsen+ on the 100th anniversary of her birth on February 12th by her children and their families.

In loving memory of dear mother +Joan Triska+ on the 6th anniversary of her passing by remembering children, Jim, Carol, and Jeff and Lisa Triska.

Feb. 20th: In memory of +Martin Selecky+ on the anniversary of his death on February 19th, his parents +Mary+ and +Martin Selecky, Sr., and sister +Anna Dzurja+.

Feb. 27th: In loving memory of beloved father +Eugene Gana+ on the 30th anniversary of his death by loving daughter Adrienne Gana.

MARCH WORSHIP SERVERS

Ash Wednesday, March 2nd:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

March 6th:

Greeter: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Walter Cudecki

March 13th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: J. T. Tarbox
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Janet Broussard

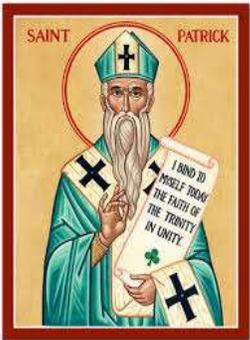
March 20th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

March 27th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Joanne Sefara
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Edward Sefara

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Ruth Bakalich



St. Patrick, missionary and bishop, March 17th *from Catholic Online*

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In it he wrote: "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was aroused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain." Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

April 3rd:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Palm Sunday, April 10th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Maundy Thursday, April 15th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

Good Friday, April 15th:

Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lectors: John Broussard, Jane Lauritsen, J. T. and Beverly Tarbox, Carrie Watkiss, Tom Myers, Brandon Michaels, and Joanne Sefara.
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Janet Broussard

Easter Sunday, April 17th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: John Broussard
Ushers: Fred Kuzel and John Kostelny

April 24th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara

News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

Spring is right around the corner and we are "snow" ready. We will be learning, singing, and making projects about Dr. Seuss, St. Pat's Day, and Spring!

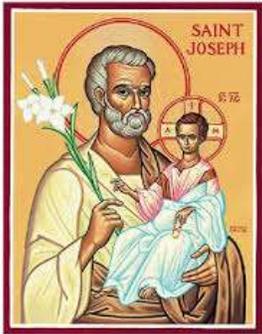
We will also be celebrating our preschool dads with projects, journaling, and gifts just for Dad.

—Lisa Manganiello, Preschool Director

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St. Joseph, guardian of our Lord, March 19th

from Catholic Online

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from the Scriptures, which has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him. We know he was a carpenter, a working man, for the skeptical ask about Jesus, “Is this not the carpenter's son?” (Matthew 13:55). He

wasn't rich for when he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified he offered the sacrifice of two turtle doves or a pair of pigeons, allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24). Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. Luke and Matthew disagree some about the details of Joseph's genealogy but they both mark his descent from David, the greatest king of Israel (Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38). Indeed the angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as “son of David,” a royal title used also for Jesus. We know Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins,” he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:19-25).



Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes
at 7:15 p.m.

(In-person and live-stream options
available with service recorded.)

Stream of Consciousness

by Richard Rohr

Most of us have lived our whole lives with a steady stream of consciousness, with a continual flow of ideas, images, and feelings. And at every moment of our lives we cling to these thoughts and sensations, so much so that I don't have the idea; the idea has me. I don't have the feeling; the feeling has me. We have to discover who this “I” really is, the one who has these always passing feelings and thoughts. Who am I behind my thoughts and feelings? The fixed point that watches things pass through me—is the real ME! Learn how to abide there in peace.

I'm sure that most people in the Western world have never really met the person they really are. We have to find a way to get beyond our self-image and our ideas about who we are. We have to discover the face that we already had before we were born, who we were in God all along, before we did anything right or wrong. This is the first goal of contemplation. This “I” is capable of union with God.

Imagine a river or stream. You're sitting on the bank of this river, where boats and ships are sailing past. While the stream flows past your inner eye, I ask you to name each one of the “vessels” or thoughts floating by. For example, one of the boats could be called “my anxiety about tomorrow.” Or along comes the ship “objections to my spouse” or “I don't do that well.” Every judgment that you pass is one of these boats. Take the time to give each one of them a name, and then let it move on.

For some people this is a very difficult exercise because we're used to jumping aboard our boats immediately; in doing so, we give them “gas”! As soon as we own a boat and identify with it, it picks up its own energy. We have to practice un-possessing, letting go, detaching from our thoughts and feelings, or they own us. With every idea or image that comes into our head, we have the opportunity to say, “No, I'm not that; I don't need that; that's not me.” This frees you to intentionally choose your divine identity instead.

Some of the boats that are accustomed to us jumping aboard immediately head back upstream and return, trying to catch our attention again. Some people feel the need to torpedo their boats. But you must not attack, hate, or condemn any idea or thought; that would merely be your perfectionistic ego trying to “win.” This is basic training in nonviolence. You must not hate your soul. The point is to recognize thoughts and feelings and to say, “That's not necessary; I don't need that.” But do it very amiably. If we learn to handle our own souls tenderly and lovingly, then we'll be able to carry this same loving wisdom into our other relationships. A thousand seeming “distractions” are now a thousand opportunities to choose God instead. So there is really no such thing as a distraction! Why didn't someone tell me that as a novice?!

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5).