

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 46

March 2024

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.



Lenten Vespers, Holden Setting
will be sung every Thursday evening at
7:15 p.m. during the weeks of Lent
preceded by a supper of soup and bread
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

*Supper hosts may sign up on the list
posted at the lower west entrance to the dining
hall or please leave a voice mail message in the
church office box at 708-442-5250
or send an email message to
office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org.*

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).

Don't forget to turn your
clocks ahead on Saturday,
March 9th. Daylight savings
time begins on Sunday,
March 10th.



Passages

Anna Gavac, 103 year old mother of Susan Hassel and the late Paul Gavac, passed from this life on February 4th. A liturgy of the resurrection and service of thanksgiving was held at Sts. Peter and Paul on February 10th and interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

MARCH



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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 8th, 2003 - Andrew and Sarah Wilson

News from Riverside Preschool at Sts. Peter and Paul

We are ready to spring into Spring! 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

Memorial Flowers

Feb. 11th: In loving memory of dear mother +Joan Triska+ on the 8th anniversary of her passing by remembering children, Jim, Carol, and Jeff and Lisa Triska.

In loving memory of +Marie Elizabeth Lauritsen+ on the 102nd anniversary of her birth on February 12th by her children and their families.

Feb. 25th: In loving memory of beloved father +Eugene Gana+ on the anniversary of his death by loving daughter Adrienne Gana, sister-in-law Audrey Bucz, and nephew Brian Bucz.

Welcome, Jordan Samuel!

Our prayers of thanksgiving and joyfulness are with Katia and Nick Riha and their families on the birth of a wonderful, beautiful baby boy, Jordan Samuel, on January 29th! Jordan joins older brother Isaiah. "We thank God for walking us through the nine months strong and healthy!" Greetings may be sent to 829 Carmen Street, Forney, TX 75126.

Directory Updates...

Zachary and Jenean Sawyer
2201 S. Austin Blvd., Apt. 2R
Cicero, IL 60804

Why Go to Church?

Jewish theologian and rabbi David Wolpe writes: There is a wonderful Hasidic story about the child of a rabbi who used to wander in the woods. At first his father let him wander, but over time he became concerned. The woods were dangerous. The father did not know what lurked there. He decided to discuss the matter with his child.

One day he took him aside and said, "You know, I have noticed that each day you walk into the woods. I wonder, why do you go there?"

The boy said to his father, "I go there to find God."

"That is a very good thing," the father replied gently. "I am glad you are searching for God. But, my child, don't you know that God is the same everywhere?"

"Yes," the boy answered, "but I am not... I am not [the same everywhere]."

Memorials and Honorariums

♣ For the Church ♣

Steve Cuvala, in memory of +Robert Kavicky+.

In loving memory of beloved father +Eugene Gana+ on the anniversary of his death by loving daughter Adrienne Gana, sister-in-law Audrey Bucz, and nephew Brian Bucz.

Kelly Hetzler, Dan Kavicky, and Alexandra Myers, in memory of father +Robert Kavicky+.

Charles Matthies, in memory of +Liliia Prokopchenko+.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Liliia Prokopchenko+.

♣ In Memory of Anna Gavac ♣

The Estate of Anna Gavac

Susan Hassel, in memory of mother

Joseph Hassel, in memory of grandmother.

John and Sheryl Hassel, in memory of grandmother

Bob and Chris Edmier

Betty Buffa

George, Joy, and Pamela Hodul

Bob and Judy Hluchy

Elaine Kucharski

Peggy Vogel

Gladys Adams

John and Deanna Dudasik and Family

Ken and Joyce Hurbanis

Mildred Londak

Lois Michaels

Janina Yezo

Dan and Betty Pierog

Jim and Beverly Yurik

Pauline Kozubik

Ann Kmet

Ed and Joyce Svancara

Dan and Jill Leary

Karyn Bute

Ann Vana

Edward and Joanne Sefara

John and Janet Broussard

MARCH WORSHIP SERVERS

March 3rd:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: Kristine Boike
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

March 10th:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: George Valek
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: George Valek

March 17th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lector: Fred Kuzel
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Janet Broussard

Palm Sunday, March 24th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lector: Beverly Tarbox
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

Maundy Thursday, March 28th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
 Assisting Minister: John Broussard
 Lector: Tom Myers
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Janet Broussard

Good Friday, March 29th:

Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
 Lectors: Carrie Watkiss, Jane Lauritsen,
 John Broussard, Charles Matthies,
 Brandon Michaels, George Valek,
 J. T. Tarbox, Kristine Boike
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: John Kostelny

Easter Sunday, March 31st:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
 Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
 Lectors: John and Shirley Kostelny
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Rafael Martinez & John Kostelny

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Beverly Tarbox

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

April 7th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
 Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
 Lector: Fred Kuzel
 Live Stream: Charles Matthies
 Usher: George Valek

April 14th:

Greeters: Betty Harden and Staci Harden
 Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
 Lector: Beverly Tarbox
 Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
 Usher: Rafael Martinez

April 21st:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
 Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
 Lector: Kristine Boike
 Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
 Usher: Walter Cudecki

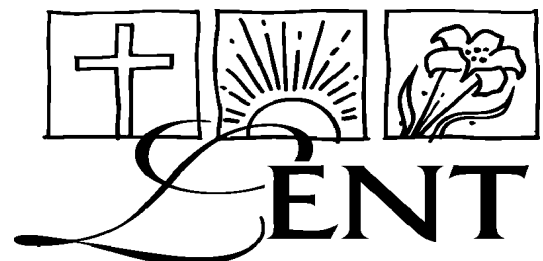
April 28th:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
 Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
 Lector: Tom Myers
 Live Stream: John Broussard
 Usher: Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Edward and Joanne Sefara

January 2024	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
Budgeted Offering: \$2,524.00	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
1/7	\$1,125.00
1/14	\$ 340.00
1/21	\$1,440.00
1/28	\$1,371.00



For more information, news,
 photos, worship videos and
 sermons, visit us at:



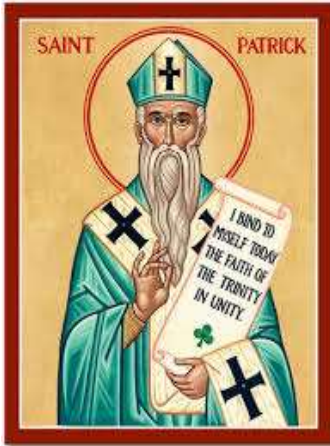
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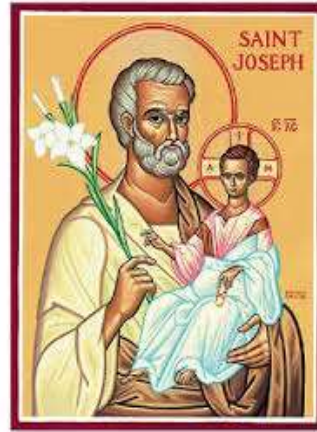
DATED MATERIAL



**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.



**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).

Lent is much like...

...the act of sitting down while riding a bus. Though you are moving forward and going toward a destination; ultimately, you are stationary. Sitting down is what allows you to reflect, remember, and be, even though you are still going somewhere.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is our permission to sit back and go with the ebbs and flows of the bus ride. There is an element of mystery because it is ...most likely a new route of prayer, repentance, fasting, and reflection. Receiving the ashes, made with palms from the previous year's Easter celebration, reminds us where we have been and where we are to go.

The spiritual acts of denying ourselves simple luxuries allow us to find renewed focus. Lent, these intense forty days of focus, prepare us for the emotional events of Christ's death and resurrection. Ash Wednesday is when we find any seat (because they are equally challenging) on the bus, sit down, and prepare for the long ride toward Easter's hallelujah.

—Blair Tolbert

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies will be available for \$16.00 for those who wish to place a lily or lilies in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or use the sign-up sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall (lower west entrance). The final day for ordering is Thursday, March 21st. You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.