

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 47

March 2025

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 Wednesday 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 by
calling the church office at 708-442-5250
or send an email message to
office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org.*

Ash Wednesday and the Forty Days of Lent

The holy season of Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 5th. 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. Please mark this holy day on your calendars.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 2nd



Photos by Emil Galdun

Passages

Baptism: Theodore “Teddy” Lee Murray was baptized on Sunday, February 16th. Teddy is the son of Tom and Kathryn and grandson of Philip and Linda Painter and great-grandson of Luddy and the late +Alfred+ Kovalsky of our congregation. Godparents for Teddy are Gregory and Jessica Murray.

MARCH

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 8th, 2003 - Andrew and Sarah Wilson

January 2025

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering
Budgeted Offering: \$1,962.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
1/5	\$1,445.00
1/12	\$1,835.00
1/19	\$1,450.00
1/26	\$1,195.00

Memorial Flowers

Feb. 9th: In loving memory of dear husband +Larry Bakalich+ on the 6th anniversary of his passing on February 8th by remembering wife Ruth.

In loving memory of +Marie Elizabeth Lauritsen+ on the 103rd anniversary of her birth on February 12th by her children and their families.

Feb. 16th: In memory of +Mary R. Sordel+ on the first anniversary of her passing on February 15th by remembering family.

Welcome, Lilian Marie!

Our prayers of thanksgiving and joy are with Gianna and Sam Lauritsen along with Pastor Dennis and Jane and family on the birth of Lilian Marie on January 10th! “Heavenly Father, we thank you for the precious gift of this new life. Please bless this baby with your love and protection. May her family’s days be filled with joy, and their hearts be filled with your grace. Amen.” Greetings may be sent to 10S211 Hampshire Lane East, Willowbrook, IL 60527.

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

In loving memory of beloved mother, grandmother, sister and aunt +LaVerne Hanzel+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Karen Cox, sons Kevin and David Hanzel and their families, sister Audrey Bucz, nephew Brian Bucz, and niece Adrienne Gana.

Lois Michaels, in memory of +Stephen Kubik+.

Lois Michaels, in memory of +Betty Bagel+.

Dee Miko and Family, in memory of mother +Darina Durkovic+.

Nancy Brown (*building maintenance fund*).

Saturday Morning Intensive Big Book Study (*facility usage*).

Sue Skudrna and Family, in memory of dear sister-in-law and aunt +Alma Cora Skudrna+ who passed away on January 22nd, 2025.

In loving memory of beloved father +Eugene Gana+ on the anniversary of his death by remembering daughter Adrienne Gana.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Darlene Roubal+.

John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Lester Broussard+.

In loving memory of beloved mother +Anne Gavac+ on the anniversary of her passing by remembering daughter Susan Hassel (*building maintenance fund*).

In loving memory of beloved grandmother +Anne Gavac+ on the anniversary of her passing by remembering grandchildren Joe, John and Sheryl Hassel, and Sarah Gavac (*building maintenance fund*).

Bob and Judy Hluchý, in memory of +Anne Gavac+.

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

Prayer for the Day

I pray that I may cut away the dead branches of my life. I pray that I may not mind the pruning, since it helps me to bear good fruit later.

Quoted from the app 24 Hours a Day.

Find recovery resources at www.hazeldenbettyford.org.



Ann Kmet (left) and Shirley Kostelny (right) made a visit to Ann Vana (center) in her new apartment in St. Charles on her birthday. Ann sends greetings to all. Picture taken by John Kostelny.

MARCH WORSHIP SERVERS

March 2nd:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Ash Wednesday, March 5th:

Greeters: Fred Kuzel
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Fred Kuzel

March 9th:

Greeter: Sandy Garvey
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: John Kostelny

March 16th:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Janet Broussard

March 23rd:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek

March 30th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: J. T. Tarbox
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Beverly Tarbox

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 8th. Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 9th.



O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

April 6th:

Greeter: Carole Pollitz
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Janet Broussard

Palm Sunday, April 13th:

Greeter: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Aidan Altavilla
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Maundy Thursday, April 17th:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

Good Friday, April 18th:

Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lectors: Philip Painter, Beverly Tarbox, Paul and Carrie Watkiss, Joanne Sefara, Jane Lauritsen, Charles Matthies and Kristine Boike
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Easter Sunday, April 20th:

Greeter: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

April 27th:

Greeters: Philip and Linda Painter
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Rafael Martinez

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara

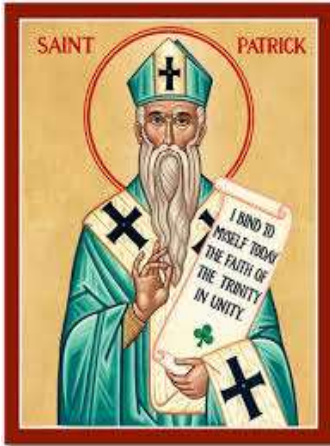
Stevenson High School Concert

On Sunday, March 9th at 2 p.m., the congregation will host a **concert by the Baroque String Ensemble and Viol Consort** from Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. The hour long performance includes music by Vivaldi, Bach, and Telemann. This program features such period instruments as harpsichord, theorbo and violone. A free will offering is welcome.

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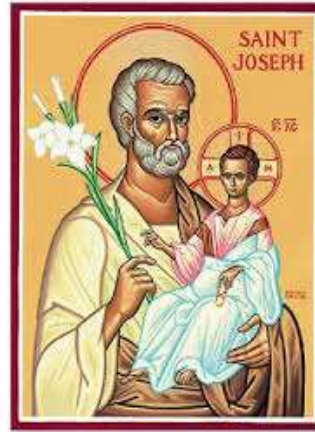


St. Patrick, missionary and bishop, March 17th

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, April 10th. You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.