



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

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March 2026

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.

Holy Week 2026 March 29th—April 5th

Palm Sunday, March 29th

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms, Passion Reading of
Our Lord Jesus Christ based upon the
Gospel Accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke
by David H. Kehret
Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution,
and Foot-Washing

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 5th

10:15 a.m. Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Handbells, Choirs, and Trumpet

HOLY WEEK



Fasting and Feasting

Fast from judging others;
feast on the Christ indwelling in them.
Fast from emphasis on differences;
feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; feast on trust.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility; feast on nonviolence.
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from suspicious; feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken;
feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.
Gentle God, during this season of fasting and feasting,
gift us with your presence, so we can be a gift
to others in carrying out your work.
Amen.

Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch!

This year we will be hosting a Palm Sunday Coffee Hour Brunch on March 29th. Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to contribute to the brunch entrees that day. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of Sts. Peter and Paul.

MARCH

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

March 8th, 2003 - Andrew and Sarah Wilson

Memorial Flowers

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

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

In loving memory of dear mother +Joan Triska+ on the 10th anniversary of her passing by remembering children Jim, Carol, and Jeff and Lisa Triska.

Feb. 22nd: In loving memory of dear aunt +Mildred Beausejour+ on the anniversary of her birth on February 20th by remembering nieces and nephews.

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

Memorials and Honorariums

❖ For the Church ❖

- Edward and Joanne Sefara, in memory of +Milton Podzamsky+.
 John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Milton Podzamsky+.
 John and Janet Broussard, in memory of +Nick Sasuta+ on the seventh anniversary of his passing on February 13th.

What is Daylight Saving Time?

from the Old Farmer's 2025 Almanac

Daylight Saving Time (DST) is the practice of moving the clocks forward one hour from Standard Time during the spring and summer month, and changing them back again in the fall. The general idea is that this allows us all to make better use of natural daylight. However, DST has many detractors—and rightfully so.

Is It Daylight “Saving” or “Savings” Time?

The correct term is “Daylight Saving Time” and not “Daylight Savings Time” (with an extra “s”), though many of us are guilty of saying it the wrong way. The technical explanation is that the word “saving” is a singular because it acts as part of an adjective rather than a verb.

Why Did Daylight Savings Time Start?

Benjamin Franklin’s “An Economical Project”, written in 1794, is the earliest known proposal to “save” daylight. It was whimsical in tone, advocating laws to compel citizens to rise at the crack of dawn to save the expense of candlelight.

“Every morning, as soon as the Sun rises, let all the bells in every church be set ringing; and if that is not sufficient, let cannon be fired in every street to wake the sluggards effectually ... Oblige a man to rise at four in the morning, and it is probable that he will go willingly to bed at eight in the evening.”

Farmers did Not Favor DST

Many Americans wrongly point to farmers as the driving force behind Daylight Saving Time. In fact, farmers were its strongest opponents and, as a group, stubbornly resisted the change from the beginning.

When World War I ended, the farmers and working-class people who had held their tongues began to speak out. They demanded an end to Daylight Saving Time, claiming that it benefitted only office workers and the leisure class. The controversy put a spotlight on the growing gap between rural and urban dwellers. As a writer for the *Literary Digest* put it, “The farmer objects to doing his early chore in the dark merely so that his city brother, who is sound asleep at the time, may enjoy a daylight motor ride at eight in the evening.”

Daylight Saving Time Today

The current daylight saving period was established with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which went into effect in 2007.

Today, most Americans spring forward (turn clocks ahead and lose an hour) on the second Sunday in March (at 2 a.m.) and fall back (turn clocks back and gain an hour) on the first Sunday in November (at 2:00 a.m.).

—published by *Yankee Publishing Incorporated*
 Dublin, New Hampshire and *The Navigator Ministry*

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 7th. Daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 8th.



January 2026	
Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering	
Budgeted Offering: \$2,615.00	
Date	Offering
1/4	\$1,125.00
1/11	\$ 594.00
1/18	\$ 705.00
1/25	\$ 610.00

MARCH WORSHIP SERVERS

March 1st:

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

March 8th:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Janet Broussard

March 15th:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Rafael Martinez

March 22nd:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: Walter Cudecki

Palm Sunday, March 29th:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Beverly Tarbox

Happy 94th Birthday Ann Vana!



John and Shirley Kostelny visited Ann Vana on her 94th birthday with her church envelopes, a cake, and to sing "Happy Birthday". Ann sends her greetings to everyone at church. She watches our Sunday live stream service faithfully.

APRIL WORSHIP SERVERS

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd:

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

Good Friday, April 3rd:

Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lectors: Phil Painter, Paul and Carrie Watkiss, Charles Matthies, George Valek, and Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Easter Sunday, April 5th:

Greeter: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Joanne Sefara
Crucifer: To be determined.
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: George Valek

April 12th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lector: Aiden Altavilla
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Rafael Martinez

April 19th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

April 26th:

Greeter: Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: John Kostelny
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care:
Edward and Joanne Sefara



Prayer for the Day

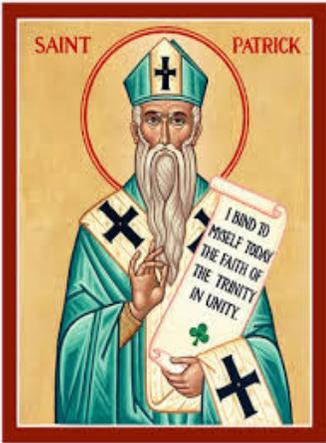
I pray that I may cut away the dead branches of my life. I pray that I may not mind the pruning, since it helps me to bear good fruit later.

Quoted from the app 24 Hours a Day.
Find recovery resources at www.hazeldenbettyford.org.

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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.



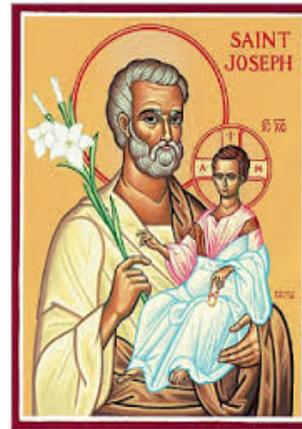
Lent is much like...

...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



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).

Easter Lilies

Easter lilies will be available for \$17.00 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 Tuesday, March 24th. You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.