February 18, 2018  First Sunday of Lent

Readings and Psalm: pgs. 99-101
Mass setting: pg. 850 Missa Simplex I (8am); pg. 887 Kyriale Mass XVII (Kyrie B) (5pm and 11am)
Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas (before Mass): pg. 1000
Entrance Antiphon: pg. 916 (#44) When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory.
Responsorial Psalm: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.
Offertory Hymn: #46 Again We Keep This Solemn Fast
Communion Antiphon: pg. 917 (#46) The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will trust.
(Scapulis suis @ 11)
Communion Hymn: #40 Forty Days and Forty Nights
Communion Motet (@11): O Bone Jesu-Palestrina
Marian Antiphon: Ave Regina Caelorum
Divine Mercy Chaplet: pg. 1032 in the red Missal
**Saturday February 17th** The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order  
4:30pm - Confessions  
5:00pm - Mass - (Betty Underwood)  
6:00pm - K OF C ~ ST. MARY’S STAKES HORSE RACES (FH)

**Sunday February 18th**  First Sunday of Lent  
7:30am - Confessions  
8:00am - Mass ~ (The James & Camille Holloway Family)  
9:00am - PSR (MC)  
10:30am - Confessions  
11:00am - Mass - (Curtis Robertson+)  
4:30 - Confessions  
5:00pm - Mass - (St. Mary & St. Cyril Parishioners)

**Monday February 19th**  Presidents Day  
11:30am - Confessions  
12:00pm - Mass - (David Barrett)  
6:30pm - Catholic Apologetics (MC)

**Tuesday February 20th**  
11:30am - Confessions  
12:00pm - Mass (Liz Crosby)  
6:30 pm - Choir practice (C)  
6:30pm - Scouts

**Wednesday February 21st**  Saint Peter Damien, Bishop and Doctor  
10:15am - CGS Atrium (MC Basement)  
11:30am - Confessions  
12:00pm - Mass - ~ Extraordinary Form - (Pete Madrid+)  
1:00pm - A & R Guild mtg. (MC)  
**Adoration to begin after noon Mass today through Thursday evening @ 6:00pm.**

**Thursday February 22nd**  The Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle  
10:00am - Secular Franciscans (MC)  
11:30am - Confessions  
12:00pm - Mass - (Emily Bagley)  
6:30pm - Choir practice (C)  
6:30 - Cub Scout mtg (MC)  
8:00pm - Venture Scouts (FH)

**Friday February 23rd**  Saint Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr  
11:30am - Confessions  
12:00pm - Mass - (Don & Wanda Sullivan)  
6:30pm - Stations of the Cross (C)  
7:00pm - Simple Soup Supper & Guest Speaker (FH)

**Saturday February 24th**  
4:30pm - Confessions  
5:00pm - Mass - (Beverly Bartels)

**Sunday February 25th**  Second Sunday of Lent  
7:30am - Confessions  
8:00am - Mass - (St. Mary & St. Cyril Parishioners)  
9:00am - PSR (MC)  
10:30am - Confessions  
11:00am - Mass - (David Barrett)  
4:30 - Confessions  
5:00pm - Mass - (The Gordon Family)
February 17 & 18, 2018
3rd Week

Altar Servers:
5:00pm - Volunteers
8:00am - T & T Spooner, A Rincon
11:00am - A Talato, N Smith, E Diamond

Lectors:
5:00pm - T Douglas
8:00am -M Pontalion
11:00am - E. Holder

February 25, 2018
4th Week

Altar Servers:
5:00pm - Volunteers
8:00am - A Holloway, A Rincon
11:00am - A Talato, N Smith, E Diamond

Lectors:
5:00pm - S. Leete
8:00am - J. Ryan
11:00am - D. Gilbert

Collection: 2/11/2018 4,190
Year to date total: 25,042

*Please call Tony or Debbie at the parish office (252-0121 ext. 101 or 110) if you would like us to send you a copy of your 2017 church contribution statement.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PARISHIONERS and FRIENDS IN YOUR PRAYERS:
Patty Rittel, Jeffery Klenklen, Joyce Klenklen, Betty Underwood, Annie Betty Kinnman, Alondra Gonzales, Ruth Stewart, Alice DeMoss, Patrick Holloway, Matthew Richter, Jeff Gray, David Barrett, Gary & Doris Riebel, Sara Diaz, Tim Hagins, Tony Macias, Patty Vasquez, Amy Salva, Ngo Ke Hun, Bobby Snook

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN:
SFC.Christopher Kinnaman - Wainwright, Fairbanks AL. (Grandson of Betty Kinnman)
Fr. CPT. Brian Klingele - Korea, (Nephew of Ken & Karen Klingele)
Cpl Trevor Melton - Camp Pendelton, CA (Grandson of Marilyn Pontalion)
Rev. Joseph Reardon - Bahrain (Persian Gulf) Command Chaplain
SGT Christopher Wood - Cherry Point, NC (Grandson of Jean Wilcox)

**St. Mary’s winter weather policy**
When Independence Schools close due to snow and ice, the parish offices will also be closed, and all parish events will be canceled.

If the Independence Schools close because of cold only, the parish offices will remain open, and parish events will continue.

*Masses will not be cancelled due to weather.

If there is snow and/or ice on Sundays, Parish School of Religion families may call the parish line (252-0121) and listen to the recorded message to check for class cancellation after 7:00am. Confirmation students will be sent class cancellations via text.

Readings for the Week of February 18, 2018

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6 [1]/Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:
1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (If the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valent, at 816.812.2500 or JeniferValenti@att.net, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.
This past Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, we began the holy liturgical season of Lent. This period of approximately 40 days is a penitential season meant to prepare us for the holiest days of the year: namely those of Holy Week and Easter.

Why is Lent 40 days? 40 is a significant number in salvation history and signifies solemnity and penance. In Genesis 7:12, the flood that covered the earth destroying every creature save those Noah brought aboard the ark, lasted for 40 days and 40 nights. In Numbers 14:33 the people of Israel wander for 40 years in the desert before coming to the promised land. Moses, who represents the Law, and Elias who represents the prophets, both had encounters with God on mountains; Moses on Sinai and Elias on Horeb. Before each of these holy meetings, they were required to fast for 40 days in expiation. There are various other examples, but the most eloquent is that of Our Lord Himself who spent 40 days and 40 nights fasting in the desert before beginning His public ministry. As Christians, we are called to imitate Jesus as perfectly as possible. That is why we practice Lent for 40 days and nights.

The Church teaches that Lent is a time of spiritual battle. We are fighting three enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Jesus faced these same temptations for us at the end of His 40 days fasting in the desert. (Matt 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-12) The devil tempts Him to satisfy His hunger and turn stones into bread—battle with the flesh. Next Satan challenges Jesus to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem to find out if God will save Him. This is a temptation towards power—worldly power. Finally, he promises Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He will bow down and worship him. This is the direct temptation to yield to the devil. Like Jesus, we will experience these three temptations. Like Jesus, we can overcome them…with His grace!

Lent is a time of strong grace. It is a dramatic season, a call to fight for our souls and for the glory of God. In “The Liturgical Year” by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B., it states that “it is of the utmost importance that our hearts be spirited and brave…” during our Lenten observance. Yes, the battle is before us. But what a prize awaits us at the end! The victory of the Cross and Resurrection will be ours if we are faithful. They are worth striving for!

It can be easy to view Lent as a negative thing, full only of denial and suffering. Those are indeed elements of Lent. However, they are the means, not the end. It is important to keep in mind the reason for our practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. By turning away from the things of the world, the flesh, and the devil, we turn towards God. By emptying ourselves, we open up our souls to be filled…with God! If Lent is a challenge to grow stronger, we know God will provide the corresponding grace. Let us begin this season with joy and with courage. We do not fight alone. Our God is with us, and we know the battle is already won!

Some ideas for this article were drawn from “The Liturgical Year” by Dom Prosper Guéranger, O.S.B., Volume V-Lent.
With heartfelt thanks....
The Altar & Rosary Society would like to thank everyone that supported the Sweetheart Bake Sale by providing baked goods, helping during the sale or purchasing items. Because of your support and generosity, we raised $246.00.

(Above) After 32 years of serving on St. Mary’s Finance Committee, Rita Hunter retired recently. Rita was presented with a flower arrangement from the committee by Father Matthew. In addition, the committee made a cash contribution in honor of Rita to the Renovation Fund. These days Rita can still be seen at the Outreach Center on Tuesday mornings and Thursday mornings serving as a member of the Board of Directors for the Outreach, as well as overseeing these two shifts.

**Altar & Rosary News**

**General Altar & Rosary Society Meeting & Circle meetings**
The Guild will meet on Wednesday, February 21st, 1 p.m. in the Ministry Center.
Circle 6 will meet on Wednesday, February 28th, 6 p.m. in Fitzgerald Hall. **Please note location/time change.**

**March A&R Mass:** Sunday, March 4th, 11:00am, is our next monthly mass. A&R encourages all members to sit together in celebration of Mass. Family members are welcome to join us.

**Nut Sales**
We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting our fundraiser. I am happy to announce that our nut sales garnished a profit of $1,077.60.

**Did you know…..**
By supporting the bake sales, nut sales and purchasing candles for devotions, this helps to support our endeavors of supplying St Mary’s with the needed items of wine, altar breads and candles (both for devotions and altar use). As a reminder, the stipend for devotional candles is $3.00 for the large candles and $1.00 for the small candle. Money can be placed in the cash box located by the candle holder, next to the statue of Mary. Once again, many thanks to everyone who supports our mission.

**Our current expenses from fiscal year July 1017 thru December 2017 are as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A&amp;R Church Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 2017-December 2017</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candles</td>
<td>$1,978.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wine</td>
<td>$148.46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar Bread</td>
<td>$114.70</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$2,241.8</td>
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Respectfully,
Cathy Anderson
Altar & Rosary President
816-718-6547

**1st Annual St. Mary’s 40 Cans for 40 Day’s Lenten Challenge**
We’re asking each family to donate 40 canned goods, (one for each of the 40 days of Lent).
The Outreach needs: Canned soups, canned meats, spaghetti sauce, tuna, pork n’ beans, canned milk.
Items can be dropped off a few at a time or all at once!
Collection area is on the north side of the Church (opposite the south chapel). Thank you for your help and generosity! ~
**sponsored by The Knights of Columbus**

**FEATURED CD OF THE MONTH**

Could God Love Someone Like Me?: Fr. Mike Schmitz, one of the leading presenters in the Church today, speaks powerfully about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He makes clear the truth that Christ deeply loves and wants to encounter each of us as we are, with all our imperfections. Fr. Mike debunks the lies we often believe about not being good enough to approach Jesus, and he draws upon Scripture to explain rationally why we go to priests to encounter God’s mercy and forgiveness in Confession. Please visit our CD kiosk at the front of the church. We have many great topics on CD about the Catholic faith. We ask for a nominal donation of $3 for each CD.