

CELEBRATE THE LORD'S DAY MASSES:

Saturday: 5:00pm at St. John's
Sunday: 8:30am at St. John's
10:30am at St. Mary's



LITURGY SCHEDULE MARCH 25

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Monday, March 26

5:30 p.m...Stephanie Isenberg (St. John's)

Tuesday, March 27

5:30 p.m...No Mass (St. John's)

(Christ Mass 7pm in Lafayette)

Wednesday, March 28

12:00noon...Deceased of Pursley Family (St. John's)

Holy Thursday, March 29, Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 p.m...Gerard Merkel, Sr. (St. John's)

Good Friday, March 30, Passion of the Lord

3:00 p.m... -- (St. John's)

Holy Saturday, March 31, Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m...Rollin & Helen Waters (St. John's)

Easter Sunday, April 1

8:30 a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's (St. John's)

10:30 a.m...Jim Grady (St. Mary's)

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS FOR MARCH:

Formation in Spiritual Discernment

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

If you need to put someone on the prayer chain, please call Janice Jackson, 348-1521. Thank you.

LENTEN REGULATIONS:

- **Good Friday is day of Fast and Abstinence**
- **Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence**

On days of Fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken but should not equal another full meal. No eating between meals, but liquids are permitted. Persons age 18-60. On days of Abstinence, no meat is allowed. Persons 14 years of age and older.

ADULT GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

IU Health Ball Memorial Cancer Services hospice is offering a six-week adult grief group starting Wed., April 11, 2018, and ending May 16, 2018. This grief group may be helpful to those who have experienced the loss of a friend or family member. We will meet in the IU Health Ball Memorial Cancer Center, 2401 W. University Avenue, Muncie, in conference room C from 6-7:30pm. The cost is \$10 per family unit. Call 765-747-4273 to register for this group on or before April 9.

Sunday Morning Bible Study will not meet today, Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. We will resume on Sunday, April 8th following 8:30 am Mass. We meet in the school on the stage. We meet during the same time period as the students in Religious Education and dismiss at 10:30 am.

Catholic Book Club will meet Tuesday after Easter at 6 pm to discuss our Lenten book selection. The third book selection is a 6 week Bible Study for Catholics on the Eucharist written by Father Mitch Pacwa. Father Mitch writes with clarity, enthusiasm and brevity! This selection is for those of us who need a break from scholarly writing. We will begin on April 15 and meet June 5 in the school basement at 6 pm to discuss the book.

PRAY THE ROSARY

Let us pray the rosary that we can see God's image in others and find ways to show others His love and grace.

FINAL PREPARATIONS INCLUDE OUR PRAYERS
As the RCIA process continues for Carol Neff, she will be making her final preparations this week to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church and enter into full communion next weekend at the Easter Vigil. Having already been baptized, she will be Confirmed and receive Holy Eucharist on Holy Saturday.

As she continues to prepare, we too should continue to help her through prayer in this process asking the Holy Spirit to guide her and continue to lead her in this faith journey.

HELP US DECORATE

It's time to change the church decorations over to Easter. We will be doing this Good Friday at 5pm at St. John's. If you have an interest in this ministry, we would love your help. Thanks

Stations of the Cross will take place this Friday at 6pm at St. Mary's. Walk with Jesus through this Holy Week experience.

REPENT AND BELIEVE

Each week we will have a reflection question to help guide you through these 40 days.

How might I be more ready to take up my cross this week?

SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S FOR HOLY WEEK

Thurs., 7p.m...Laurel McVicker & Kellee Merkel
Fri., 3p.m...Serena Merkel
Sat., 8p.m...Cameron & Kelli Rinker, Serena & Kellee Merkel
Sun., 8:30a.m...Bethany Elkins & Kayli Henderson

HISTORY SERIES CONTINUES

April 3, the second in History series sponsored by Friends of the Library and Blackford Historical Society. **WWI is the topic.** Excellent timing because this year is 100th anniversary of our entry in that war and the armistice signed on November 11, 1918. 6-7 p.m on April 3 at THE ART CENTER. Coffee and goodies after presentation.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

St. Mary's
Sunday Collection: \$
Needed Weekly: \$887.87
St. John's
Sunday Collection: \$2,102.00
Building Fund: \$195.00
Food Pantry: \$55.00
Holy Land: \$120.00
Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

Good stewards strive to conform their lives to that of Christ – emptying themselves of all pride and putting themselves at the service of others.

WE ARE READY FOR THE FAITHFUL FOUR

Half of the faithful four has been decided. Esther defeated Peter and Maria defeated Martin de Porres. Our Golden Halo winner will be determined this week. Let us know how your bracket fared.

THE STORY

The Bible as one continuing story of God and his people continues each Tuesday, at 6:30pm at Grace United Methodist Church. The study will feature video, reflections and discussion. All are invited to any or all sessions. No cost. Call 348-2801 for more info. **This week's topic: God Builds a Nation.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Mar. 26: Is 42: 1-7; Jn 12: 1-11
Mar. 27: Is 49: 1-6; Jn 13: 21-33, 36-38
Mar. 28: Is 50: 4-9a; Mt 26: 14-25
Mar. 29: [Holy Thursday] Ex 12: 1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11: 23-26; Jn 13: 1-15
Mar. 30: [Good Friday, Passion of the Lord] Is 52: 13-53: 12; Heb 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9; Jn 18: 1-19: 42
Mar. 31: [Holy Saturday] Ex 14: 15-15: 1; Is 55: 1-11; Ez 36: 16-17a, 18-28; Mk 16: 1-7
Apr. 1: [Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of the Lord] Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Col 3: 1-4; Jn 20: 1-9

WEEKDAY MASS FOR HOLY WEEK

We will have 5:30pm Mass on Monday in place of Tuesday this week as the priests of the diocese gather in Lafayette for the Christ Mass on Tuesday. Check the Liturgy Schedule box for full details of the week.

THIS WEEK:

Tuesday 27, Women's Bible Study 9-11am at St. John's

Wednesday 28, K of C 7:30pm at St. John's

Holy Thursday 29, Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm at St. John's

Good Friday 30, Passion of the Lord 3pm at St. John's

Stations of the Cross 6pm at St. Mary's

Holy Saturday 31, Easter Vigil 8pm at St. John's

Easter Sunday 1, Usual weekend Mass times

UP FOR A DAY TRIP?

To Ladies of our cluster parishes: You are cordially invited to visit and tour the Victory Noll campus in Huntington, Indiana on Saturday, April 7.

Come and see Sister Rita's motherhouse, the "**Victory Noll Center**" for retreats and conferences, "**St Anne Retirement Community at Victory Noll**" and the "**Acres at Victory Noll Land Trust**". We will be guests of St Anne's for lunch and there is no other fee for the day; donations are accepted.

Carpooling will leave St John's parking lot at 9 am, returning around 3 or 3:30 pm. For any questions call Sister Rita at 260 - 402 - 5034. **RSVP to Sr. Rita or Diana at 348-3889 by Wednesday, March 28.**

HOLY LAND GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Through the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace, supporting Catholics there in parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines and caring for refugees in the Holy Land. A basket will be out for your donations.

GOD OF THE JOURNEY, WE ENCOUNTER YOU IN OUR NEIGHBOR...

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives?

SHARE THE JOURNEY: How can you welcome the stranger in your own community?

Be sure to turn in your Lenten Rice Bowl by April 15.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Even though the weather doesn't act like spring, the calendar says it has arrived. Another sure sign is the opening of our New-To-You Shop. **April 5 is opening day 11-5, Friday 11-2, Saturday 11-2.**

Of course we can't open without your help. Contact Janet Pluimer 728-2715 if you can give 3 hours a month to work a shift. Thank you to all our volunteers and for your donations.

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:



In his letter to the Philippians, our Second Reading on this Palm Sunday, St. Paul writes, "...he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he

humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Everything we hear today and during Holy Week relates to this statement. For some 2,000 years scholars and theologians have debated what the phrase "emptied himself" means. As is sometimes the case, in the midst of these debates and discussions they lose focus of what is really Paul's point and teaching perhaps. One of the things Paul might be trying to get us to think about is emptying ourselves to a certain extent. If you have ever been a retreat or been part of a spiritual exercise, you may be encouraged to "empty yourself" so you are prepared to in reality add something.

Jesus gave much up to be the Son of Man. At this point in our Lenten journey, we need to grasp that He gave up His life so that we might have life. That is what should be on our minds as we hear the Passion today and as we continue and complete our own preparation for Christ's resurrection on Easter.

Have you ever heard someone say about someone else "He (or she) is so full of himself (or herself)?" Jesus was not "full of Himself." He emptied Himself, and that is something we, too, must strive to do to be His disciple.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact the parish office about preparation. The sacrament is normally celebrated with the community during Mass.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are available by appointment as well as:
St. Mary, the first Thursday 6:00-6:30pm
St. John, the first Saturday 1:00-1:30pm and third Saturday after 5:00pm Mass.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the parish office to begin the preparation at least six months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Generally, Fr. Dave is available after Mass for anointing, or you may contact the parish office to arrange a time.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Sessions for children and youth (grades pre3-12) are available on Sunday morning. Contact the parish office for details.

The Clustered Parishes Of

St. Mary, Dunkirk

**St. John the Evangelist,
Hartford City**

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Pastor, Fr. David J. Newton

PARISH OFFICES

e-mail: stmaryjohn@att.net

St. Mary, Dunkirk

P.O. Box 286, Dunkirk, IN 47336

Office: 765-768-6157

Church Basement: 765-768-1283

St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

Rectory and Office: 765-348-3123

Secretary's Office: 765-348-3889

Fax: 765-348-4399

PARISH REGISTRATION

Visitors are always welcome. Residents are invited to join the community by calling the parish office.

RCIA

People interested in knowing about the Catholic faith and way of life meet each week. Contact the parish office for information.