

Welcome to

Holy Trinity Parish

407 Cherry St.
Weston, MO 64098
www.holytrinitycatholic.org

Twelve Apostles Parish

Church: 17900 Humphrey's Rd.
Platte City, MO 64079
Office/mail address: 407 Cherry, Weston, MO 64098
www.twelveapostlescatholic.org

Telephone: 816-640-2206

Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 13, 2016



Strong words come from Saint Paul in today's second reading. He reveals in no uncertain terms that life in Christ is our goal. Everything else, he maintains, is "rubbish." Junk. Trash. Garbage. Is that true? Is everything else "rubbish" compared to deepening our relationship with the Lord? What about putting recreational activities ahead of attending Mass? Or preferring uninterrupted hours playing the latest video games or watching TV to spending time in a bible study group, choir practice or serving in a soup kitchen? Or keeping late hours at work over sharing the gospel with friends and neighbors? To what extent do we exercise stewardship over our relationship with Christ?

International Catholic Stewardship Council E-news March 2016

Mass Times:

Saturday 5:00 PM – Twelve Apostles Church
Sunday 7:30 AM – Holy Trinity Church
9:00 AM – Twelve Apostles Church
10:45AM – Holy Trinity Church

Weekday Mass times are listed inside the bulletin.

Confessions heard: Saturdays: 3:15-3:45 PM at Holy Trinity; 4:15-4:45 PM at XII Apostles; First Fridays after 8am Mass & anytime by appt.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact the pastor, preferably before going to the hospital, to receive this Sacrament.

Parish Staff:

Father Steven C. Rogers - x203, pastorHT-XII@kc.rr.com
Mrs. Julie Hoffman, Office Manager - x201, secyHT-XII@kc.rr.com
Mrs. Susanna Bartee, Holy Trinity Dir. of Rel. Ed.-x200; dreHT@kc.rr.com
Ms. Katie Troup -x304, DRE-XII Apostles: dreXII@kc.rr.com; Youth Minister--both parishes: ymht-xii@kc.rr.com
Mrs. Judy Sloan, Child Care Coordinator (offered during 7:30am & 10:45am Masses at Holy Trinity)
Mrs. Darlene Darby, Office Assistant, x202
Mr. Gary Loveless, Holy Trinity Custodian/Maintenance
Mrs. Maureen Vernon, Parishes' Safe Environment Coordinator

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating 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 Valenti, 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 victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

Office Hours: M, W, Th, F – 9AM-Noon, 1-4PM (closed Tuesdays); PSR Office Hours: M & W–10AM-Noon, 1-4PM

Bulletin deadline: 8am Wednesday. Please notify us of change of address, phone, email, etc.

New Parishioners: Welcome! Holy Trinity and Twelve Apostles have been serving the northern Platte County area since 1842 and 2008, respectively. **We welcome all guests and newcomers to our parish families!** Newcomers are asked to register at the earliest opportunity. Forms are available in the back of church, on our websites, or from the parish office. We look forward to knowing you!

Is A Wedding or Baptism in Your Plans? Congratulations! Remember: sacramental preparation is required prior to these events. You must be a registered parishioner for the past year or have a letter from your previous pastor before dates are scheduled.

Weddings: Parishioners wanting to be married should contact Fr. Rogers nine months in advance.

Baptism: Expectant parents should contact Fr. Rogers comfortably prior to the baby's birth for baptism preparation.

First Penance/Eucharist, Confirmation: Children preparing for these sacraments must have completed the prior year of religious education.

Fifth Sunday of Lent - 13 March 2016
Readings: p. 89 in *Breaking Bread*

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 12

5:00pm--XII +Special Intention

Sunday, March 13

7:30am-HT

+Mark Harris

9:00am--XII

Parishioners of XII Apostles

10:45am-HT

Parishioners of Holy Trinity

Mon, Mar 14, 8am (HT) +Curt Niederee

Wed, Mar 16, 8am (HT) Private Intention

Thu, Mar 17, 6pm (XII) Welch & Lewis families

Fri, Mar 18, 8am (HT) +Fr. James Pecararo (former pastor)

Saturday, March 19

5:00pm--XII Private Intention

Sunday, March 20

7:30am-HT

+Suzanne Ferguson & +Cecilia Ferguson

9:00am--XII

Parishioners of XII Apostles

10:45am-HT

Parishioners of Holy Trinity

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE TODAY: Our parishes' Lenten Communal Penance Service will take place this Sunday, March 13, at 2:00pm, at Holy Trinity. Additional priests will be on hand to assist Fr. Rogers.

Remaining Lenten Penance services in the area:

Sunday, March 13, 7pm, St. Therese, 7207 NW Hwy 9, Parkville

Tuesday, March 15, 7pm, St. James, 309 S Stewart Rd., Liberty

Fri, Mar 18, 7pm, Immaculate Conception, 711 N. 5th, Leavenworth

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday, March 18, at 7:00PM, at Holy Trinity—led by Holy Trinity's 4th grade PSR class.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy in prayer/song continue
~Holy Trinity – after 7:30 Mass; prior to 10:45 Mass (10:25)
~XII Apostles 20 minutes prior to Masses
Prayer pamphlets at entrances.
Join in praying this meditative devotion.

Each day at the 3 o'clock hour turn your thoughts to Our Savior's Passion and ask for His mercy. As revealed to Saint Sr. Faustina and recorded in her diary: *'In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul who makes a request of Me in virtue of My passion.'* (Diary 1320)

Liturgical Ministers and "footwashees" are needed for Holy Week services. Contact the parish office if you would like to volunteer or sign up at www.tinyurl.com/holyweek2016. Please note practice times for some roles:

PRACTICE TIMES:

For Holy Thursday — altar servers and footwashees—
Monday, March 21, 6pm, at XII Apostles.

For Good Friday — altar servers and readers,
Tuesday, March 22, 6:30pm, at Holy Trinity

For Easter Vigil—

- Lectors: Monday, March 21, 7pm at XII Apostles
- Altar Servers & RCIA candidates: Monday, March 21, 7:30pm at XII Apostles

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Lenten Study on Divine Mercy continues this Sunday, 9AM, at Holy Trinity.



EASTER VIGIL CHOIR PRACTICE CONTINUES

This Wednesday, March 16, at 7pm at Twelve Apostles. Questions? Please call Barb Bopp, choir director, at 816-665-5775.



EASTER FLOWERS

To donate an Easter Flower in memory of a loved one, to decorate our churches for Easter, please put their name and yours in an envelope with a suggested donation of \$15 and place in the collection basket or bring to the office **by Monday, March 21.**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS for all....

OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE KNIGHTS--Eligible Catholic men may join the Knights of Columbus either at Holy Trinity or at Twelve Apostles on one of the following dates: (1) Sun, March 13, Topeka, KS; (2) Mon, March 14, St. Therese, Parkville; (3) Sat, April 2, Lawrence, KS; (4) Sun, April 10 KCK; (5) Thursday, April 14 at Holy Family Parish in Kansas City (North), MO.

2ND AND 3RD DEGREE CEREMONIALS--Current 1st Degree members of the Knights can receive their 2nd (Formation) and 3rd (Knighthood) Degrees on one of the following dates: (1) Sun, March 13, Topeka, KS; (2) Sun, March 20, 1pm, Smithville (3) Sat, April 2, Lawrence, KS; (4) Sunday, April 10 in KCK.

Contact Steve Steiger, at (816) 431-6506 or Jim Rooney, 816.674.4268 if planning on attending, or for more information.

PARISH GROUNDS & HWY CLEANUP--XII Apostles Council No.16189 will clean the grounds of Twelve Apostles Church and Humphrey's Rd for Easter at **10 AM this Sunday, March 13**, immediately following 9 AM Mass. Questions, contact Chairman Bob Bailey, 858-3789. We should be finished by 11:15 AM.

Confirmation--Twelve Apostles Knights of Columbus sincerely thank the following for assisting at the Sacrament of Confirmation at XII Apostles on Feb. 29: Greeters/Ushers--Marlin Legault, Mark Reichert, Steve Steiger; Parking Lot Attendants--Paul Bobowski, Stephen Bobowski, Paul Banks, Mike Curry, Jim Glasbrenner, Mark Magennis. Bishop Johnston thanked us for our help.

The Knights of Council #12288 thank all who donated to The Solidarity Cross Program for their generous contributions. So far we have collected \$710 for The Knights of Columbus Fund to support Persecuted Christians in the Middle East. Every dollar that is donated to us will go to aid our brothers and sisters in Christ. We still have a few of the Olive Wood Crosses made in Bethlehem. Please contact Terry Morrison (tangomike47@embarqmail.com) or see him after 1045 Mass if you are interested in getting one.

Congratulations to the newest members of the Knights of Columbus: Patrick Faman and Daniel Cicha who took their 1st Degree (Admission) on Saturday 5 March at Holy Trinity Parish Hall. Thanks to all the members that showed support by attending the ceremony.

Thanks to members of the Council who participated in Hillcrest Ministries Workday Saturday on 12 March in Platte City.

Monthly Meeting of Holy Trinity Council 12288 is 17 March, Holy Trinity Parish Hall. Rosary at 7 pm, at followed by a short business meeting and then fraternal time. Since this is St Patrick's Day, corned beef and cabbage is on the menu.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

HOLY TRINITY PARISH COUNCIL MEETS this Monday, March 14, at 7pm, in the parish hall.



Pancake and Sausage Breakfast next Sunday 20 March, following both Masses at Holy Trinity. A free will offering will be taken up for the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus.

Thanks to both parishes for supporting the fish fry: the patrons, Kent Eagen and his group of fish fryers, all of the people who donated food or worked at the fish fry, and Celtic Ranch for providing the space to fry fish. Thank you again for all the things you did for us!
-Mary Esther

YEAR OF MERCY: our work of mercy this month is "Give Drink to the Thirsty"

Thanks to all who assisted with set-up and clean-up for the Year of Mercy Pot Luck luncheon last Sunday—the musicians, the kitchen helpers, and the technical support! Besides the great food, there were informative presentations on water filtration systems by St. Pius X High School youth, Keith Stutterheim on Catholic Relief Services overseas, and Rogers Strickland on his semi-annual construction mission trips to Guatemala. For more information about how you can help with water projects we heard about, contact the parish office.

Mark your calendars for our next events:

Sunday, April 3 - Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at XII Apostles Sat., May 14, 6pm, XII Apostles—cookout; program "Feed the Hungry"
Be sure to check the bulletin boards for more info on upcoming events!

High School Principal: St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel (SMAHS) is scheduled to open the fall of 2017, and the Principal position will be open July 1, 2016. During the 2016-17 school year, the principal will establish and implement a plan to transition students, faculty and staff from Archbishop O'Hara High School to SMAHS. With the 2017-18 school year, the principal will have full responsibility for all operations, academics, and programs at SMAHS. This position is full-time and includes benefits. To see the full job description, or to apply: <http://app.hireology.com/s/111348>

KATIE'S CORNER **YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

Youth group: Grades 7-12

This Sunday, join us for Pizza with Jesus. There will be pizza. And there will be Jesus. How can it get any better than that? March 13, 5-7pm at XII Apostles.

Next Sunday, March 20, 1:30-3pm at Holy Trinity: God's dream for you. Ever wonder what you should do with your life? Come find out! And have fun doing it!

Camp Savio for current 6th - 8th graders: June 6-11, contact Katie if you are interested!

Camp Bosco for current 9th - 12th graders: June 21-24, contact Katie if you are interested!



Save the Date: Float Trip July 11-13, 2016



Youth Group

TWELVE APOSTLES NEWS

PSR NEWS: Parents, please join us this Sunday, March 13, at 10:20am, led by the 5th graders. for the Parish Rosary Stay afterwards for the *Parents as Catechists* (PAC) meeting.

THURSDAY LENTEN ADORATION in this Year of Mercy

March 17, 2016 3:00 – 7:30 PM

7:30 -- Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



We are experiencing an awakening in this Season of Lent through quietly listening for His voice. Let us come to Him and be renewed through His Mercy.

MARGE JOHNSTON MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for life-long Holy Trinity and Twelve Apostles parishioner, Marge Johnston, who passed away on February 23, will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 11am, at Twelve Apostles Church. There will be a visitation beginning at 10am. May she rest in eternal peace.

Annual DCCW Lenten collection of hygiene essentials for shelters caring for women & children, for example, shampoo, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, comb, deodorant, socks. Put in large clear ziplock bags; leave in narthex for next 3 Sundays. Mary Calvert will deliver on March 30. Three agencies will benefit: Synergy Center, Hope House, and Rose Brooks. Questions? Call Mary 816-863-9511.

QUILT GROUP MEETS THIS MONDAY

Our parishes' quilt group will meet this Monday, March 14, from 11-4, to work on a new (simpler!) project — bring a lunch/snack item to share and join us!



A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who worked on completing two dozen jeans quilts for the homeless the past couple months— a tremendous accomplishment and sure to be appreciated by those served by Uplift!!!
Questions? Contact Lori Mathews at 807-3220.

CHRISM MASS this Wednesday, March 16

The annual Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception this Wednesday, March 16, at 7:00pm. At this beautiful Holy Mass, the Holy Oils that will be used throughout the next year in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders will be blessed. Also your priests renew the promises they made at their priestly ordinations to faithfully serve the Lord and you. Your presence at this celebration is invited and is a special way to show your appreciation and gratitude for the priests who have served you and your family over the years.

PALM SUNDAY EASTER CANTATA AT XII APOSTLES

Canto Chorale will perform an Easter Cantata next Sunday, March 20, at 3pm, at Twelve Apostles Church. Canto Chorale is a select adult vocal ensemble from in and around Platte County, directed by Darrell Willson. The Chorale will be performing "How Great Thou Art" by David T. Clydesdale. All are invited.



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN.....

"Anything you do to the least of these, you do unto me." This is a popular phrase we hear Jesus speak, especially during Lent. Jesus says it all the time. Perhaps we only hear him say it during Lent. In the world in which we live, it is hard to apply this teaching to our entire life it seems. We can barely keep up with it for forty days.

Each of us is hard-wired to survive. Surviving is instinct. We are born with it. We are taught *Survival of the Fittest* at a very early age. We are challenged throughout our lives to utilize such skills in every aspect of life and relationship. We have to get ahead. We have to succeed. Success is survival. There are many mentors that tell us to follow our instinct, to adapt to our human nature; winning is their mantra. Winning today is surviving.

Survival means we must learn to push or pull to achieve the success we desire. We have learned in order to succeed, it is necessary to push our competition out of our way. Everyone today is considered competition. People push a lot. Push or be pushed. People don't play by the rules; there's no good sportsmanship, there's no sense of fair play. If a rival won't go easily, we have been taught, pulling him down at any cost is perfectly acceptable. People pull a lot these days. Life in general has become a tug of war. Push and pull. Shout and shove. Explode, blow-up, criticize and campaign. Lead and control. Annihilate. Destroy. Wrangle and make war with others. Lie, deceive, mislead, embarrass, trick, swindle, defraud and hoodwink, are all acceptable practices today. This is not something that only exists in our fantasies of power, or something played out in video games. It plays out each and every hour of our days, and not just because we are in an election year.

It seems like we only fact check during an election year. We fact check to discredit the opponent, not to gain insight to the truth. The rest of the time no one checks the facts. Survival instinct causes people to turn a blind eye and deaf ear, as they go about playing the silly game of my existence is better than your existence. "I'll do anything to you, before you can do it unto me," has replaced the teaching of Jesus Christ. We have to survive.

It is no wonder our world is filled with fear and anger. We are sold on the prospect that if we help an alleged powerful person to succeed, we too will be better off, we would have a better chance at surviving. Sadly, for most, it is still a losing game. Today, the wise, the strong, and powerful of the world succeed from breaking all the rules of fairness, decency and common sense. Even the weakest and most vulnerable among us have learned to play dirty. Do-gooders and people who live by the teachings of Jesus appear to be at a disadvantage, they are easily exploited in a world predicated on survival of the fittest. Perhaps, that's why it is easy to ignore Jesus outside of Lent, and turn our backs on his teachings for most of our days. It's too difficult; we cannot turn our eyes away from the silly game.

My friend Dana was the quintessential self-starter and he was great at it. People said he must have a killer's instinct, only he killed with kindness. He had no trouble surviving. He succeeded on every level. He was top of his class. He was top of his game. He was always first in line, first to raise his hand, first to be chosen. He was easily motivated, and he could motivate others. He was admired by everyone, a man's man, a woman's man, and he was every dog's and cat's man too. He could have anything he wanted. He could have it all.

Dana was good at everything. He was great at sports. He was great at church. He was great in academics. He was a great son and brother. He was a faithful friend, loyal, trustworthy, honest, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. In high school, he received a full ride scholarship to Northwestern University in Chicago. He sailed through his studies there, top of his class. After four years, he looked forward to grad school. Dana was great and there was something greater at work in Dana and he knew it. Dana could win every race he ever ran, only when he crossed the finish line he didn't pirouette and prance around in victory. Dana always turned the focus to the race and cheered for the other players, and cheered until the last runner crossed the finish line. With Dana, the race became more important than any one racer. Victory needs to be shared; after all, victory is only possible because of the other players.

It used to be that trophies were not given to people who didn't play by the rules, or given to those who would storm off, take their ball, and go home. Work and play used to be just that, work and play. Today, work and play is politics and politics is dirty play and work.

There was nothing political about Dana. He knew his place well, and he supported the place of others, no matter what, in every situation. That's how Dana rolled. He would ace his class work, and then volunteer his time to tutor lower classmen to excellence. All the attention Dana received from others did not cloud his judgment of what matters most in life. His spirit was fed by sharing firsthand his life and his experiences with others, by participating in the lives of his competition, and with those who had no advantage whatsoever. Sadly, not everyone in Dana's life connected with him in the same way. Nice guys are fair game in the competition called existence. There are those who will succeed at the expense of others, even those who are most fit. They will go to any extreme possible to leverage an advantage and take down a perceived opponent. There's no sport to it, no fair play. "Don't take it personally," they say, "it's just a game. I win!"

After finals week at the end of his last year of undergraduate school, Dana was invited to a victory rally. On his way to the party he drove by a car that appeared to be stranded on the roadside. He thought the driver was from his school and stopped to offer assistance. As he approached the car, Dana was struck by an oncoming driver and injured severely. Fleeing the scene, the driver of the car panicked and drove over him, breaking both his legs. The driver of the car he stopped to help drove off in a hurry for fear he would be caught driving while under the influence, since he had already started partying earlier in the day.

For three weeks, Dana barely hung on to life; the chance he would survive was slim at best. He had suffered massive trauma to his head, chest and lower body. The fittest was broken and bruised and the world around him gasped in disbelief. Everyone gathered in vigil to plead for understanding, and beseech God to come to his aid. They feared all was lost.

After fifty-six days, Dana opened his eyes. He looked around his hospital room. He blinked his eyes. He had survived. From ear-to-ear he smiled, under the layers of bandages and bindings. Then, he noticed a lower-classman. At his bedside was the young man he had tutored that last semester. He had visited Dana each day since the accident. While Dana was on life support, this young man read to him. He read lessons each day for the MCAT to help Dana prepare for grad school, to prepare for medical school. He had struggled with learning, and Dana was the key that unlocked his success. He knew that Dana would struggle to recover and prepare. He offered his help each day. He was the key to Dana's success.

Miraculously, Dana recovered, but what's most amazing is that Dana woke up with knowledge that he didn't work to acquire. He actually felt well-prepared to ace the MCAT. There was a third miracle they celebrated that day. Dana could recall that it was this young man who had coached him, and helped he prepare for the big test. Every day, Dana had heard his voice mentor him back into shape. Dana was unconscious to everything, except the help he had received from God, and this young man. "Anything you do to the least of these, you do unto me!" Indeed, it was a victory for Dana. The whole medical staff, his family and his friends were there to cheer him on.

There is another twist to this story. This young man Dana had tutored happened to be walking on the sidewalk near where the first car appeared to be stalled that fateful day. He witnessed everything, and recorded it on his cell phone. He had captured the license plate numbers of both cars and offered his testimony to the authorities. The drivers were apprehended; they pled guilty. The more reckless of the two attended the same school and was in Dana's class. He admitted he swerved toward Dana to scare him; he was envious of Dana, but he wasn't trying to kill him.

Another miracle happened once Dana was released from the hospital, the miracle of forgiveness. Dana spoke at orientation the following year, and in the presence of the whole school, he publically forgave his offenders, he wanted to help them as well. "Anything you do to the least of these, you do unto me!" The face of the least of these often looks just like each of us. We can be among the least and not know it until we someone helps us and when someone forgives us. Forgiveness is key to survival. Forgiveness helps us to succeed.

In Christ,

Father Steven C. Neje