

First Sunday of Lent

A POWERFUL PROCLAMATION

As we reflect on how we spend our time, we could well ask ourselves, "What would you want to be caught dead doing?" If we take seriously Jesus' Gospel proclamation, if we chew on the words until they become part of us, we will find our answer.

After coming out of the desert and learning of John's arrest, Jesus knew it was time to act. Forty days of prayer and fasting had prepared him well. He knew exactly what he wanted to be caught dead doing. His desert experience had prepared him. Fully aware that his actions would put his life in jeopardy, he went to Galilee, where he made the powerful proclamation found in today's Gospel.

"THIS IS THE TIME OF FULFILLMENT"

This is the time. Not tomorrow, or after Lent, or after you finish your degree, or after you feel a little better about yourself, or after you retire. This is the time and the place. Here, today, this minute, now. By your baptism, you are fulfilled. All you need to do is realize it.

"The kingdom of God is at hand." It is in the present moment, mirrored back to us many times each day. It is everywhere, even in the darkest corners of the world. To gain access to the kingdom, we just give ourselves to Jesus each morning, and examine ourselves in light of his love each evening. Submit and commit—day after day.

"Repent, and believe in the gospel." For those preparing for full Church membership this Lent, today's message is especially liberating. When we drop our own agendas and tune in to God's, miracles begin to happen. And if angels ministered to Jesus in the desert, we know that they will be there for us, too. So as we begin our Lenten observances, let's listen openly and trustingly to the still small Voice whispering in the silence of the season and then pray for the courage to believe and act on what we hear. We will be changed, and the world along with us.

Today's Readings: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 25:4-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

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Parish Contacts

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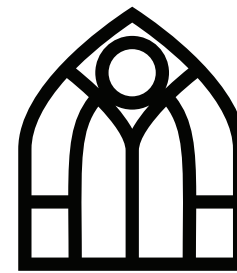
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Diocese of Springfield/Cape Girardeau: <http://dioscg.org>

Sunday, February 18, 2024



Parish Schedule/ Mass Intentions

Reconciliation/Confession

Sat. at 4:30 p.m. or by appointment

Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

Mon., Thurs., Fri. - 6:00 p.m.

PSR/Eucharistic Revival

Following Mass on Sundays in the parish hall

Rosary

First Sunday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the quiet room

Mass Intentions

Sat., February 17 - Joe Pace

Sun., February 18 - Claude McDonald

Sat., February 24 - Gene Davis

Sun., February 25 - Joe Westhoff

Canon 946 states: "The Christian faithful who make an offering so the Mass may be applied for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by their offering take part in the concern of the Church for the support of its ministers and works." We ask for the standard Mass offering of \$10 per Mass; there are envelopes on the table on the east of the entrance for your offering.

Our Home



Parish Established in 1869

Church Dedicated in 1904

News and Announcements



Special Collection Next Week for Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that struggle to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. You can find more information at www.usccb.org/ccee

Understanding the Real Presence

Join us in the parish hall following Mass this Sunday for a special presentation by our own parishioner, Michael Pommier. He will be presenting on evidence from the Last Supper and Jewish tradition which give proof to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Light refreshments will be available.

Join us for this excellent opportunity to kick off your Lent with some spiritual growth and fellowship.

There's a fine line between a long sermon...



and a hostage situation.

Need a sign to go to confession?



Cecilia Cicone
@cecsquared

After a particularly difficult Confession of mine, a priest said, "Never be ashamed of what you bring to Confession. When I see someone in the confessional, I see a saint in the making."

I don't know who needs to hear that, but there it is.

Liturgical Assignments

	February 18, 2024	February 25, 2024
Eucharistic Ministers	William Forst Michael Pommier Tom Shaw	Virginia Dobler Terry Riegel Karen Riegel
Lector	Rebecca Boyer	Greg Clements
Altar Server	Landry Morris Jasper Weber	Elizabeth Franklin Natalie Pommier
Ushers/Collection	PSR Children	PSR Children

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays	Feb. 24 - Mar. 1	Anniversaries	Feb. 24 - Mar. 1
None		None	

Collection

February 11, 2024	
33 Envelopes out of 76	\$ 1,400.34
Loose collections	\$ 116.00
Votive Stand	\$ 5.00
Mirror	\$ 255.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 15.00
Total	\$ 1,791.34

The discipline of tithing is the "Square Knot" by which God blesses the tie which binds us to Him, our church and others.

Prayer List

We pray for those who are sick or in the hospital:

- Josh Blanchard
- Kenny Blanchard
- Michael Blankenship
- Patrick Blankenship
- Brett Campbell
- Todd Cholka
- Fred Colglazier
- Ryan Davis
- Valeta Grunden
- Donnie Higgins
- Carolyn Isaac
- Sherina Morrison
- Jason Noel
- Donna Oswald
- Jackson Revelle
- Robert Sanders
- Sondra Riegel
- Kenneth Stegman
- Isabel Weber

We pray for our military, especially

- Wyatt Davis
- Derek Forst
- Hunter Forst
- Seth Fullerton

Parish Membership/Communications

The parish family of St. Mary Catholic Church welcomes you; we are blessed and honored you are here, and we look forward to your registration as one of our parishioners. Fill out a form located on the table at the east side of the entrance. Place the registration slip in the basket at the offering and we will take care of the rest; you may also visit with Father Teter next door at the rectory, or send us an e-mail: elvadweber@gmail.com