

Fourth Sunday of Lent

“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD”

Today's Gospel contains the best known and most often quoted passage in the New Testament. Who has not seen John 3:16 at a televised sporting event? Who has not heard and read the familiar and comforting words?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Like an old song or a soft blanket, the words comfort us.

THE REST OF THE STORY

But the rest of the Gospel verses are not so familiar—or so comforting: “Whoever does not believe has already been condemned” (John 3:18). Do my doubts condemn me? Just how strong is my faith? “People preferred darkness to light because their works were evil” (John 3:19). Can I justify my lifestyle when the world's children are starving? “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light” (John 3:20). What have I done that I don't want others to know about? Why do I look the other way when people or governments act unethically or immorally?

The image of Moses holding up the bronze serpent is a stark reminder of the purpose of the Crucifixion. The Son of Man will be “lifted up”—but first he will suffer a painful death on the cross. We are saved through his suffering love—if we will let him love us. “Whoever lives the truth comes to the light” (John 3:21). To “live the truth” is to accept ourselves as we are—good, bad, and ugly. Love can only enter when our defenses are down. Jesus does not condemn; we condemn ourselves by our non belief in our own essential goodness. It's an internal condemnation removed only by his gift—the gift of love. Jesus is love. We are saved by love. We save others through love. Love is the only thing worth living—or dying—for.

Today's Readings: 2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23; Psalm 137:1–6; Ephesians 2:4–10; John 3:14–21

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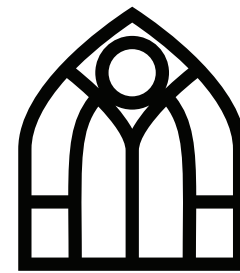
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The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church

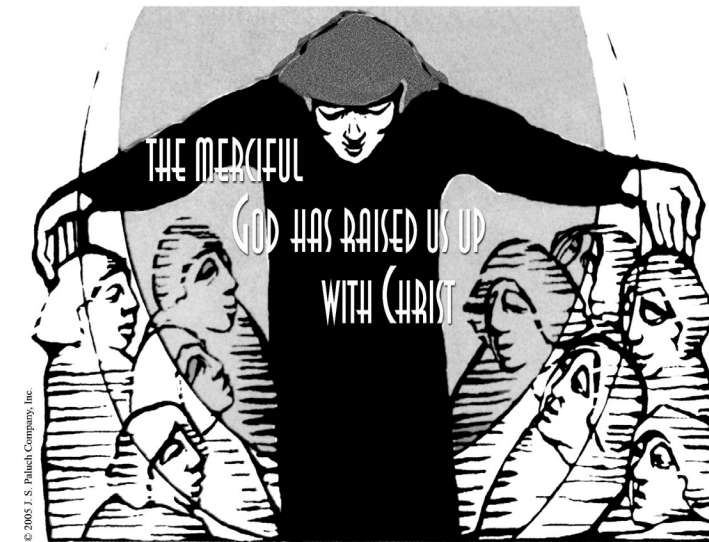
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Rev. Patrick Teter, Pastor

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

Sunday, March 10, 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., March 2 - Theda Westhoff

Sun., March 3 - William Sanders Sr.

Sat., March 9 - Clara Bell McDonald

Sun., March 10 - Michelle Brownlow

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

Catholic Women's 65th Annual Spring Assembly

From East to West, all Catholic women are invited to attend the 65th Annual Spring Assembly sponsored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) on Friday and Saturday, April 19-20, 2024, at the Drury Plaza Hotel & Conference Center, 3351 Percy Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO. If you have never attended an Assembly, this is a nourishing, full fellowship treat for your soul.

There is a line-up of outstanding speakers, raffle drawings, grab bags, a silent purse auction, vendors, a banquet with our very own Fr. Kelly's private band for entertainment, and many more surprises. Invite your friends and get ready to be filled with Spiritual, Service, and Leadership knowledge to take back to your parishes, homes and lives.

Register from the following link at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/18OhlwejosWXH0giEzDTsITSPXNXc9weV/view?usp=drive_link

Special Collection for Catholic Relief Services

This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Holy Week Schedule

<i>Holy Thursday</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>Saturday Easter Vigil</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
			
<i>March 28</i> <i>7 PM</i>	<i>March 29</i> <i>7 PM</i>	<i>March 30</i> <i>7 PM</i>	<i>March 31</i> <i>9 AM</i>

Liturgical Assignments

	March 10, 2024	March 17, 2024
Eucharistic Ministers	Francis Forst Connie Forst Cathy McDonald	David Walters Virginia Walters William Forst
Lector	Diana Forst	Terry Riegel
Altar Server	Jerome Weber Daisy Weber	Elizabeth Franklin Elaina Marti
Ushers/Collection	PSR Children	PSR Children

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays	Mar. 16 - Mar. 22	Anniversaries	Mar. 16 - Mar. 22
Levi Peters	March 21	Kenny and Anastasia Morris	March 18
Joseph Franklin	March 22		

Collection

March 3, 2024	
35 Envelopes out of 76	\$1,533.00
Loose collections	\$ 67.00
Total	\$1,600.00

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
- Brett Campbell
- Todd Cholka
- Fred Colglazier
- Ryan Davis
- Valeta Grunden
- Donnie Higgins
- Carolyn Isaac
- Sherina Morrison
- Jason Noel
- Donna Oswaldanders
- 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