

**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 31  
4th SUNDAY OF LENT**

**Monday, April 1**

0:30 a.m...No Mass (*St. John's*)

**Tuesday, April 2**

5:30 p.m...Curt Smith (*St. John's*)

**Wednesday, April 3**

12:00noon...Jess Huggins, Jr. (*St. John's*)

**Thursday, April 4**

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

**Friday, April 5**

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

**Saturday, April 6**

5:00 p.m...Severino Sulit (*St. John's*)

**Sunday, April 7**

8:30 a.m...Walt Jackson (*St. John's*)

10:30 a.m...Parishioners of St. Mary's and St. John's  
(*St. Mary's*)

**PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS  
FOR APRIL:**

**Doctors and their Collaborators in War Zones**

For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

**PRAYER CHAIN**

If you have someone to put on prayer chain, please contact Janice at 348-1521 and please leave a message if no answer.

**SUNDAY CONNECTION:**

**Our Father Waits with Open Arms**

written by Br. John-Marmion Villa, BSC

So many times when we read the all-too familiar story of the Prodigal Son, we tend to focus on the action of the rebellious son, because it is so easy to identify with him. However, we shouldn't lose sight of the character of the father. The poignancy of the son's story is only because of the magnanimity of the father.

**LENTEN CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**There will be several Lenten opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation throughout our deanery:**

April 1, 7:30pm St. Joseph, Winchester

April 2, 7pm Immaculate Conception, Portland

April 4, 6pm St. Mary, Dunkirk

April 6, 1pm St. John, Hartford City

April 8, 6:30pm St. Mary, Muncie

April 10, 1pm Holy Cross School, Anderson

April 10, 6pm St. Ambrose, Anderson

April 10, 6:30pm St. Lawrence, Muncie

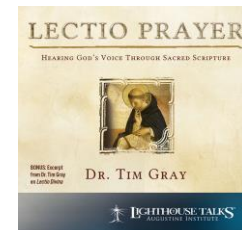
**SERVERS FOR ST. JOHN'S APRIL 6 & 7**

Sat., 5p.m...Helen Whitesell & Mason Merkel

Sun., 8:30...Kayli Henderson & Brianna Elkins

**Understand, Live, and Share your Faith!**

**THIS WEEK'S FEATURE CD:**



In this informative presentation, Dr. Tim Gray, Augustine Institute President, shares how *Lectio Prayer* enables you to enter into a dialogue with God. This prayerful reading of Sacred Scripture is a proven means to encounter God in daily life and will benefit those new to prayer and the more experienced alike.

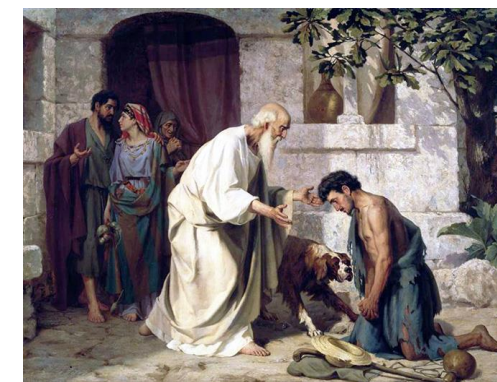
**These items are located on the kiosk in the parish hall.**

**GOSPEL REFLECTIONS:**

1 SM 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A; PS 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6; EPH 5:8-14; JN 8:12; JN 9:1-41

For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not "measuring up" in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. The Gospel Reading, the parable of the Prodigal Son, is filled with this theme of awakening and the extravagant, life-changing love that the Father has for each one of us.

We are all familiar with this amazing story — the bratty younger son who has the audacity to ask his dad for his inheritance early, only to squander it



sinfully away. It makes us bristle instinctively at his nerve when we read it. But isn't that exactly what we do when we selfishly turn away from God (in big or small ways) in our own lives? We squander away the inheritance of grace He has given us.

In desperation from the mess he had made of his life, the son finally "comes to his senses" — awakening to the truth that he is a beloved son of a loving and merciful father — and decides to return home. His contrition is faltering and imperfect and seems motivated in large part by his growling stomach. But it is enough for the loving father.

In fact, as soon as the father catches sight of his son he is "filled with compassion for him" and immediately sets about preparing a feast and fine clothes for this son. What an extravagance of love! What a beautiful picture Jesus gives us of our Father's love and mercy. Oh, how this should fill us with gratitude for such a Father!

And how it should inspire us — with just the tiniest bit of spiritual "spring cleaning" we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father's loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what lent is all about.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

April 1: Is 65: 17-21; Jn 4: 43-54  
April 2: [*St. Francis of Paola, hermit*] Ez 47: 1-9, 12; Jn 5: 1-16  
April 3: Is 49: 8-15; Jn 5: 17-30  
April 4: [*St. Isidore, bishop & doctor of the Church*] Ex 32: 7-14; Jn 5: 31-47  
April 5: [*St. Vincent Ferrer, priest*] Wis 2: 1a, 12-22; Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30  
April 6: Jer 11: 18-20; Jn 7: 40-53  
April 7: Is 43: 16-21; Phil 3: 8-14; Jn 8: 1-11

**FORGIVEN: THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF CONFESSION**

from Augustine Institute comes to St. John's and St. Mary's this Lent. Fr. Dave and Sr. Rita will team up to lead the five-week program each Tuesday at St. John's in the parish hall and each Thursday at St. Mary's, both after 5:30pm Mass. The sessions will last about an hour and will consist of DVD presentation and discussion. Please plan to join us this week even if you missed any of the other weeks. You are always welcome.

**THIS WEEK:**

Tuesday 2, Women's Bible Study 9-11am at St. John's  
Forgiven Lent Program 6pm at St. John's Cemetery Board 6pm in Montpelier  
Wednesday 3, RCIA 6pm at St. John's  
Thursday 4, Forgiven Lent Program 6pm at St. Mary's  
Altar & Rosary 6pm at St. John's  
Friday 5, K of C Fish Fry 4:30-7pm at St. John's  
Sunday 7, Bible Study 9:30am at St. John's



**Walk with Jesus through Holy Week each Friday of Lent through the STATIONS OF THE CROSS. They will be held each Friday at St. John's at 5:30pm.**



### NEW-TO-YOU REOPENING

A sure sign of spring is the reopening of our New-To-You Thrift Shop.

**April 4: 11-5, April 5 & 6: 11-2**

Under new direction of Donna Schuck and Karen Uggem, the shop will reopen with a new look and many new items collected over the winter months.

Stop by to check out the new selections. As always we appreciate our volunteers and the donations received. We wish to especially thank Claire Aulbach and Renee Gillis for their several years of service and offer Donna and Karen our support and prayers as they continue this parish and community ministry of St. John's. **THANK YOU ALL!!**

### CELEBRATE SIX YEARS

Arts Place, Blackford County Arts Center, is celebrating six years next Saturday, April 6, 2-4pm. All are invited to the opening reception for Voyages-Near and Far by Kathy Ayers.

**LENT MADNESS**, a fun study of Saints and history. The Sainly 16 are set: Martha, Nicodemus, Tabitha, Photini, Ignatius, Marina, Gobnait, Paula, John, Ephrem, Zenaida, Nicholas, William, Richard, Marguerite, and Pandita.

How are your brackets? More importantly, what are you learning from these saintly souls this Lent?

From 32, we are set with the Sainly Sixteen, moving toward the Elate Eight and the Faithful Four before two advance to the Championship to see who will receive the Golden Halo.



**Friday, April 5, 4:30-7pm**

Knights will host their final Lenten fish fry with desserts provided by Altar & Rosary. All-you-can-eat Fish, potatoes, coleslaw, dessert, and a drink

\$9 Adults; \$5 kids under 12

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**St. Mary's March 24**

Collection: \$715.00

Needed Weekly: \$887.87

**St. John's March 23 & 24**

Sunday Collection: \$1,878.00

Building Fund: \$75.00

Food Pantry: \$30.00

Catholic Moment: \$22.00

Needed Weekly: \$3,225.23

**The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.**

### HELP JESUS IN DISGUISE

This week our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in Disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad in struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters. Please give generously to the collection, and help Jesus in disguise.

### RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES—ENCOUNTER KUMBA

We encounter Kumba from Sierra Leone, who, through her education, is providing hope for her family and community. How has education given you opportunities in life? How do you use your education for the common good?

### ENCOUNTER PRAYER INTENTION

**For Kumba, whom we encounter through CRS Rice Bowl, and all students, that through education they find new opportunities to grow—and to give back to their community.**

**For all young people, that their right to education is respected—and that they do not forget their responsibility to use their gifts for the common good. We pray to the Lord.**



### 4rd SUNDAY OF LENT

#### 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](mailto: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.