

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

MARCH 23, 2018

A FEW WORDS FROM FR. DAVE:

Continued thoughts and commentary on highlighted items in my prayer books.

Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak... It is useless for a man to flaunt his knowledge of the law if he undermines its teaching by his actions.

St. Anthony of Padua

Another old saying: Actions speak louder than words. When I was a little boy my dad taught me many things. He was a teacher by trade and also a natural teacher. For example, when he was teaching me to shoot a layup left-handed (my off hand), he would say something like: Go off your right foot and push the ball off the backboard with your left hand. This was good and appropriate teaching, but it was much better when he'd say: "Let me show you," followed by a beautiful left-handed layup.

Do you learn by observing? I certainly do. It's the same thing with teaching your children about honesty and integrity. Teach them verbally. Tell them why those values are important. But follow it up with your own actions. That will really drive the point home.

I think of the disciples following Jesus around. Yes, they listened to him teach and preach. But they also watched him. I think Jesus' personal integrity was a major reason why people followed him. And with Jesus, his actions literally did speak louder than his words. Saying, "I love you" is one thing. Dying on the cross to show that love is much "louder."

DJN



NEFF TO ENTER CHURCH AT EASTER VIGIL

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.

If you or anyone you know has questions regarding the Catholic faith, contact Fr. Dave or join us on the first, second and third Wednesdays in the parish hall 6-7:30pm for RCIA.



HELP CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land.

Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

Donations on Good Friday Provide:

- Care for the Holy Places
- Humanitarian & Charitable Activities
- Pastoral Activities
- Educational Activities
- Archaeological Activities
- Liturgy & Ecumenical Activities
- Communication Activities

Last year's collection accomplished:

- Supported 29 parishes, four homes for orphans, three academic institutions
- Helped keep schools open for over 10,000 pre-K through grade 12 students
- Supported 120 men preparing to be priests or brothers
- Helped rehabilitate 80 homes for Christian families
- Provided senior care facilities in Bethlehem and Nazareth
- Created 1,500 jobs in the Holy Land for Christians
- Preserved 54 shrines connected with the life of Jesus and the prophets.

For 800 years, the Holy Land Franciscans have served in the land made holy by the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. With your support, the Holy Land Franciscans will continue to nourish Christians in the Holy Land with presences, care and service. Support Christians in the Holy Land.

FRUITFUL HARVEST UPDATE

Is your pledge up-to-date? All payments must be made by August, 2018, for the 2016 Fruitful Harvest Campaign.

St. John's payments to the end of February are \$39,465 toward an assessed goal of \$45,340. We are at 87% of our goal.

St. Mary's has reached their goal. All additional payments will be returned to the parish at 50 percent.

Please check where you stand on your pledged amount and do what you can to help us reach our goal. Many thanks to all who are helping us reach our goals in this campaign.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL— ST. MARY'S

April 1: **Reader:** Laverne Watson **Gifts:** Christa Stigleman **Communion Ministers:** Amy Grady & Dan Watson **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

April 8: **Reader:** Dan Watson **Gifts:** Dean & Loretta Wilson **Communion Ministers:** Connie Hartnagle & Danette Hamilton **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

April 15: **Reader:** Sandy Doyle **Gifts:** Connie & Ken Hartnagle **Communion Ministers:** Loretta Wilson & Kelli Grady **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

April 22: **Reader:** Bob Banser **Gifts:** Laverne Watson **Communion Ministers:** Colleen Bicknell & Ted Kolodka **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** Danette Hamilton & Jane Crouch **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

April 29: **Reader:** Dan Watson **Gifts:** Chuck & Sharon Fullenkamp **Communion Ministers:** Susan Louck & Laverne Watson **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Jane Crouch & Dan Watson **Song Leader:** Amy Blakely

BIKERS, BRUNCH AND BLESSING

All motorcycle riders are invited to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, for a blessing of bikes and their riders during “Bikers, Brunch and a Blessing,” scheduled for 10:30 a.m., on Sunday, April 8, at Providence Spirituality & Conference Center. All riders are invited to stay following the blessing for brunch, which will take place in the O’Shaughnessy Dining Hall. Those who stay for brunch will receive a reduced rate by registering for the event. All attending will be greeted by the sisters as they pray for safety on the road. Each rider will receive a medal of Saint Mother Theodore Guerin. There is no cost to attend the blessing. For more information, call 812-535-2952 or email jfrost@spsmw.org.



The Knights of Columbus is proud to invite you to support the nationwide theatrical release of *Paul, Apostle of Christ*, March 23, 2018.

Produced by Catholic ministry ODB Films and starring acclaimed actors Jim Caviezel and James Faulkner, this movie dynamically and truthfully illustrates the beginnings of Christian persecution under the Roman Empire.

St. Paul’s story is one of conversion, forgiveness and perseverance in the face of extreme intolerance, not unlike that faced by many Christians today. This dramatic retelling of his life can move the hearts of both believers and nonbelievers.

The film, dedicated to the persecuted Christians of today, is an opportunity to spread awareness of their plight among your friends, family and community.

Invite them to watch this inspiring film, and help spread awareness for the future of Christianity!

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

Our cluster parishes of St. Mary’s and St. John’s now has a website. Check us out at: stmaryjohn.org.

We will post weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters on the site as well as a calendar and other parish happenings. The daily scripture readings are on there as well as a feature from Fr. Robert Barron and the Catholic Moment publication.

ELATE 8 ARE SET

Our Lent Madness saint bracket sheet is down to the Elate 8. They include: Peter, Esther, Martin de Porres, Maria, Anna, Eglantyne, Phocas the Gardener and Richard Hooker.

Hopefully, if you are playing along with the brackets, you have learned a thing or two about these saints who helped shape our history and give us examples of Christian living. There have been familiar names and not-so-familiar ones, but one thing they each had in common, as is our common goal, is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus!

Check the Easter bulletin to see if your saint pick earned the Golden Halo. If so, contact the office so we can announce our winners.

An Encounter with the Beloved

A retreat for married couples. In marriage, couples are either slowly growing ever deeper in love or are slowly drifting ever further apart. There is no standing still in such an intimate relationship.

Presenters: Fred and Lisa Everett co-direct the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend.

A Retreat for Married Couples
Date: April 28, 9am-April 29, 3pm, 2018

Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center

Visit
lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org to register

HOLY WEEK COMMEMORATION

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week begins with the Palm Sunday entrance commemorating Jesus' final week. We witness as Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey while people lay palms on his path. Then we read the story of his passion and death, this year from Mark's Gospel. This Holy Week experience is referred to as the mystery of our Christian faith.

Mark presents Jesus' suffering as the great reversal of the common expectation that we would be saved by a glorious king. But Jesus is hardly treated as a real king. Mark reveals that God has chosen to save us through Jesus' suffering. He presents Jesus' story as our story, and what happened to him is the pattern for what is happening and will happen to us. In our lives, we must strive to follow Jesus' example of dedication and commitment to God.

God does not save us from our suffering, but through our suffering leads us into a new life with Christ.

TRIDUUM

The most ancient and central celebration of the Church's liturgical year is the Easter Triduum, in Latin meaning three days. These three days are a special liturgical season all their own. They recall Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples on Holy Thursday, his crucifixion and death on Good Friday, and his resurrection at the Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

During these three days, we examine our own lives in relation to God, and come face to face with the mystery of our own dying and rising with Christ.

EASTER

"Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts,' the 'Solemnity of solemnities,' just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments' (the Great Sacrament). The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him." --*Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1169*

The Church's greatest feast and most important rites are celebrated on Easter. New members are initiated, baptisms, baptismal candles, and nourishment through the Eucharist are all part of the great celebration.

--*exerts from All Saints Press, 2018*

"Faith in the resurrection of Christ never misleads us, and hope in our own resurrection never deceives us, because God the Father both restored our Lord to life and will restore us to life too by virtue of his power." --*St. Bede the Venerable*

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL— ST. JOHN'S

Saturday 5:00 pm Readers: Lisa Rinker **Gifts:** Pam Hurley & Austin Mackey **Announcements:** Fred Hoffman **Communion Ministers:** Tina Johnson, Anna Cimino, Sonya Hoffman, Kellee Merkel, Gerard Merkel

Sunday 8:30 am Reader: Bethany Elkins **Gifts:** The Kitterman Family, Sr. Rita Musante 8, 15, 22, 29 **Greeter:** Kiara & Damien Shields **Announcements:** Bernadette Elkins **Communion Ministers:** Ruth Ann Clawson, Karen Shields, Kate & Alan Gordon, Tom Alfrey

ADULT GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

IU Health Ball Memorial Cancer Services hospice is offering a six-week adult grief group starting Wednesday, 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.

If you or someone you know is experiencing grief due to a death of a loved one, call 765-747-4273 to register for this group on or before April 9, 2018.

WHAT'S THE SMOKE FOR?

This year in this section of *The Good News Letter*, we will focus on Catholic furniture, fixtures, sacramentals and icons.

This month's sacramental items to be identified are ashes, holy water, and holy oils.

ASHES

On Ash Wednesday, the priest blesses the ashes and imposes them on the foreheads of the faithful, making the sign of the cross and saying, "Remember, man you are dust and to dust you shall return," or "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." When we begin the holy season of Lent in preparation for Easter, we must remember the significance of the ashes we have received: We mourn and do penance for our sins. We again convert our hearts to the Lord, who suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. We renew the promises made at our baptism, when we died to an old life and rose to a new life with Christ. Finally, mindful that the kingdom of this world passes away, we strive to live the kingdom of God now and look forward to its fulfillment in heaven.

—*catholicstraightanswers.com*

HOLY WATER

Traditionally, we have placed fonts of holy water near the entrances of our churches. This placement and usage corresponds to Old Testament Jewish practices of purification: We too have fonts filled with holy water for blessings for three reasons: as a sign of repentance of sin, for protection from evil, and as a reminder of our Baptism.

In making the sign of the cross with the holy water, we are mindful that we are called to renew those baptismal promises. Once again, we repent of sin, so that we can offer our prayers and worship to God with pure and contrite hearts.

Just as water and blood flowed from the Sacred Heart of our Lord as He hung upon the cross signifying the great sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist, the taking of holy water and making the sign of the cross remind us of our Baptism in preparation for the reception of the Holy Eucharist. Never should we doubt the power of this great sacramental.

—*Fr. Saunders, ND*

HOLY OILS

Oil of the Sick

The Church makes use of three holy oils: the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumens and the holy chrism oil. The first two are blessed, and the bishop consecrates the third, during the annual Chrism Mass. Each has a distinctive purpose in the Church.

The oil of the sick, which is pure olive oil, is used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The priest lays hands on the sick or elderly person, says special prayers and anoints the person by placing oil in the form of a cross on the forehead and hands. Through this sacrament, God gives the sick person grace and strength to bear the illness or infirmity.

Oil of the Catechumens

Both adults and infants prior to baptism are anointed with the oil of the catechumens, which is also pure olive oil. For adults, each person preparing for initiation into the Church is anointed with the oil of the catechumens. The priest anoints the catechumens. He prays that God will instill them with wisdom for discernment and the strength necessary to avoid evil during their inquiry into the Catholic faith and their preparation for a life with Christ. In a similar way, an infant is anointed just before receiving the waters of baptism. This anointing is to help the child ward off evil, avoid temptation and possess the faith necessary to carry the cross of Christ throughout life.

Holy Chrism Oil

The third oil, holy chrism oil, is olive oil mixed with balsam. The oil symbolizes strength, and the fragrant balsam represents the "aroma of Christ" (2 Cor 2:15). Anointing with chrism oil signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used to consecrate someone or something to God's service.

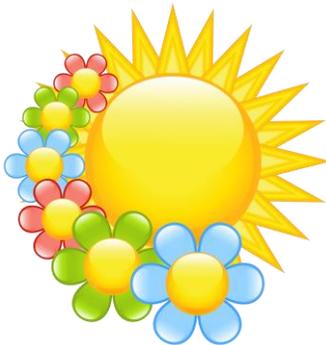
We witness the use of the holy chrism when young people are confirmed, and at the Easter Vigil when adults are confirmed. Chrism oil is also part of the baptismal rite. Following an infant's baptism with water, the cross with chrism oil is traced on the child's head, marking him as a Christian.

Holy chrism oil is used as well during the ordination of a priest (the Sacrament of Holy Orders) and the consecration of a bishop. It is the anointing used in the consecration of a church and the blessing of an altar and the vessels used at Mass.

—*Our Sunday Visitor*

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST

Apr. 1-Pope Francis I
Apr. 2-Bishop Timothy Doherty
Apr. 3-Fr. Dave Newton, St. Mary Dunkirk and St. John the Evangelist Hartford City
Apr. 4-Fr. Joseph Minuth, St. Thomas Aquinas West Lafayette
Apr. 5-Fr. Bob Moran, Immaculate Conception Portland
Apr. 6-Fr. Kyle Neterer, Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette
Apr. 7-Fr. John Nguyen, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Carmel
Apr. 8-Fr. Dennis O’Keeffe, St. Alphonsus Zionsville
Apr. 9-Fr. Mike Ondo, retired
Apr. 10-Fr. Coady Owens, Holy Spirit, Fishers
Apr. 11-Fr. Alex Paternoster, Our Lady of Mt.Carmel
Apr. 12-Fr. Dominic Petan, All Saints Logansport
Apr. 13-Fr. Sean Pogue, St. Maria Goretti, Westfield, with ministry at Pendleton Correctional Facilities in Pendleton.
Apr. 14-Fr. Richard Puetz, retired
Apr. 15-Fr. David Rasner, St. Mary of the Lakes, Monticello



PEOPLE WITH GOOD NEWS

Cole Stigleman was named Academic All-State honorable mention in basketball at Jay County High School.

Apr. 16-Fr. Christopher Roberts, St. Patrick, Kokomo, while continuing studies at U. of Dayton
Apr. 17-Fr. Ted Rothrock, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Carmel
Apr. 18-Fr. Anthony Rowland, St. John Vianney, Fishers
Apr. 19-Fr. Martin Sandhage, St. Augusta, Lake Village
Apr. 20-Fr. Daniel Shine, St. Mary and St. Ambrose, Anderson
Apr. 21-Fr. Robert Sell, St. Ambrose and St. Mary, Anderson
Apr. 22-Fr. Chris Shocklee, St. Bernard, Crawfordsville, Wabash College Newman Apostolate
Apr. 23-Fr. Stephen Snoich OSB, St. Augusta Lake Village
Apr. 24-Fr. Travis Stephens, St. Louis de Montfort, Fishers
Apr. 25-Fr. Stanislaw Tabor, All Saints, Logansport
Apr. 26-Fr. Clayton Thompson, St. Joseph, Delphi
Apr. 27-Fr. Eric Underwood, St. Lawrence, Lafayette
Apr. 28-Fr. Pete Vanderkolk, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fowler & St. Mary, Dunnington
Apr. 29-Fr. Mark Walter, St. Boniface, Lafayette
Apr. 30-Fr. Dick Weisenberger, St. Paul Marion, Holy Family Gas City

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

5 Gary & Bernadette Elkins
10 Ryan & Megan Trissel
23 Jacob & Diana Holsten

BIRTHDAYS:

2 Kathleen Inman
6 Jack Cain
12 Genevieve Trissel
16 Donna Schuck
22 Bethany Elkins
30 Max Uggen
30 Will Uggen

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*.

**St. Mary Parish and
St. John the Evangelist Parish**

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

PASTOR - Rev. David J. Newton

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Lord's Day Liturgy

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm at St. John's

SUNDAY: 8:30 am at St. John's

10:30 am at St. Mary's

- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: April 20, 2018

Editor: Diana Holsten



PALM SUNDAY

Usual weekend Mass Schedule

Monday of Holy Week

5:30pm at St. John's

Tuesday of Holy Week

No Mass—Christm Mass in Lafayette 7pm

Wednesday of Holy Week

Noon at St. John's

HOLY THURSDAY

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. John's

GOOD FRIDAY

3pm Passion of the Lord at St. John's

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

HOLY SATURDAY

8pm Easter Vigil at St. John's

EASTER SUNDAY

Usual weekend Mass Schedule

PRAYER FOR EASTER

O Risen Jesus, may I always seek and find you,
think about you, speak to you
and do everything, for your honor and glory.

Be always my hope, my peace,

my refuge and my help

in whom my heart is rooted,

so that I may never

be separated from you. Amen.

--St. Bonaventure

