
UPDATE

Mary Mother of the Church

Volume 43 Issue 2

March, 2020

FROM YOUR PASTOR

*Fr. Chuck Barthel 894-1373
cbarthel@marymother.org*

In case you haven't heard the news yet, after 47 years of faith sharing, catechizing and praying here at our parish, **Ed Lewandowski (Mr. Lew)** has decided that it is time to move on to a new stage of his life known as retirement. And, after 14 years of leading and supporting our sung praises and worship here at our parish, and for 22 years prior to that at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in the city, **Ken Barnes** and **Mary Ann Blankinship** have decided that it is time for them also to move on to that same stage of their lives known as retirement. Officially, their retirement will begin June 30, 2020; and all three promise not to disappear. There will be a parish-wide farewell and thank you for Ed, Ken and Mary Ann **on June 14**.

In the meantime, you can be a part of the process of choosing our next parish staff members in the following ways:

1. By letting others know that we are looking to hire a Director of Faith Formation and a Director of Liturgy and Music.
2. By praying every day for the members of the two Search Committees and for whomever the Spirit leads to our parish.

**HAPPY
ST.
PATRICK'S
DAY**



**SPOTLIGHT
ON
STEWARDSHIP**

For the Spotlight this month is a couple who have been parishioners for many years. They've served the parish when helping with the variety shows, plays and musicals. For many years, they have served and still serve as Eucharistic Ministers and servers. More recently, they have been the leaders of the parish pancake breakfast. Look on page 2 to find out who this couple is.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

*Dick Roseland 486-8345
pcchair@marymother.org*

Do you ever look around in church and ask yourself, "where is everyone?" Do the pews look empty sometimes? We are told by the experts that an average church goer will miss Sunday service for 12 times in a year. I thought this sounded kind of high so I looked back this past year; and it turns out that it's not wrong. So, if someone who wants to attend Sunday Mass, can miss so many by accident, how many weeks will the casual church goer miss?

How do we approach this delicate topic of Catholics who have left the church, or just don't come on a regular basis? How do we gracefully extend the invitation to our family, friends and neighbors? Do we have the right words at the right time?

When we were kids, we got friends to do things together all the time, they called it peer pressure. Those things often ranged from the good to bad; but the impact to get them to participate was always felt. Have we lost this ability with our friends and family? Invite someone Back for Lent.

*** * IMPORTANT!! * ***

If you would prefer not to receive a printed copy of the Update and to access it on our Mary Mother website (www.marymother.org), please indicate that preference below. You can send it to the parish office, marking it ATTENTION: Jackie Wilson, or email at wilsjmar@charter.net.

I/We prefer to access the Update on Mary Mother's website. Please remove me/us from the Update mailing list: Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address (for reminder): _____

UPDATE STAFF

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LITURGY NOTES

*Ken Barnes 894-1373
kbarnes@marymother.org*

For the **Lenten Season, 2020**, we are creating a **quieter, more subtle beginning to our liturgical celebrations** while observing our seasonal focus: **“Is the Lord in our midst or not?”** There will be no formal Procession at the beginning of the liturgy; but rather, for a few minutes before Mass begins, we will **sing a Refrain entitled: “The Lord is in Our Midst”** as we answer the question posed by our Lent Planning Team. Then, Mass will begin with the simple *Penitential Rite*.

Here are some thoughts from our Planning Team about our seasonal focus for this Lenten Season: **“While God is always present, we often struggle to have the eyes of our hearts focused to find the Divine Presence in the midst of people, places, and events where we don’t normally look for it. [Our focus] for the season seeks to help us grow in our recognition of the LORD in our midst, and our union with the LORD in our midst, by asking us to seek the Divine Presence within some new circumstances.”**



THE SPOTLIGHT’S ON.....

ED AND BARB KILLIUS

The annual pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Youth Group would not be possible without the endless help and support that they provide us year after year. We, the Youth Group is very grateful. Thank you for supporting the us. :)

Submitted by Alex Norrenberns

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

*Michele Venable 894-1373
parishnurse@marymother.org*

Welcome, Lent! This holy season beckons us to renewal/ reflection of our faith. The way that friends and, in many cases, families in the parish, come together to get through very heartbreaking struggles, illnesses and deaths- has given hope to so many. Mary, Mother parishioners answer the call of supporting one another so compassionately and courageously.

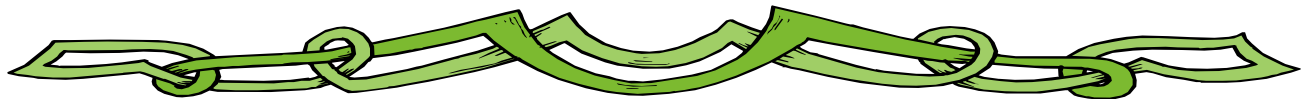
How will we spend these “40 days” of Lent? Deeper prayer life, focus more on Scripture, “giving up” some of our pleasures, offering help to others, simple acts of kindness and mercy? Whatever it is, we will grow, at any age. May Our Lord strengthen and guide us, as we care for one another.

In need of any medical/assistive items? Thank you to so many parishioners who have donated them! There have been many times to find homes for the items. Please call me if in need of a walker, rollator, walker with an attached tray, wheelchair, cane, dressing supplies...and many other items! If I don’t have something, I will work to find it. I am grateful to serve YOU!

Save the date

**PARENT WORKSHOP
for
FIRST COMMUNION**

is scheduled for Saturday, **March 7th**, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. This workshop is for all parents of second graders and older children preparing for First Communion. All parents are expected to attend; please make arrangements to do so. This workshop is for parents only as we plan for the First Communion Retreat Day and Family Dinner on March 28



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

If it’s time for you to be led by the Spirit,
Join us for the Life In The Spirit Seminar on

Thursdays, March 12, 19, 26

7-9 pm

In Parish Hall or Reilly Center (tbd)

Click SIGN-UP Genius at www.marymother.org Or call 314-894-4321 x218

“By saying the Holy Spirit will guide us, He means there will be a process of learning.
The Holy Spirit doesn’t only ensure the result, He guides the process.”
Archbishop Carlson, May 27, 2019

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

Steve Rothermel 308-8997
evangel@marymother.org

In these weeks leading up to the Lenten season, please consider exploring the following options to prepare your mind and heart for this holy time. In addition, consider inviting someone else to come with you.

The **St. Louis Catholic Women for Christ** conference is on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center <https://www.catholicwomenforchrist.org/> Contact Lynn Ewy at 314-200-9989.

The **annual White House Retreat for Men** is on Thursday, March 5 through Sunday, March 8, 2020. Contact Jerry Lesmeister at 314-585-2836 or Dave Baronowski.

Just a reminder: On Thursday, March 12, 2020, will be our next Forming Men for Christ meeting. As always, Father Mason will celebrate Mass at 6:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Clayton. It will be followed by his talk from 7 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. in the church basement.

During this Lenten season, I will be sending on some short video clips on why Catholics do what we do, through

BRING A CHILD UP IN THE WAY OF THE LORD



**NO CLASSES FOR PSR
ON
MONDAY, MARCH 16
AND
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

DURING MEHLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPRING BREAK

LITURGY COMMISSION

Carol Mason 287-0297
liturgy@marymother.org

The use of holy water fonts derives from the Jewish practice of purifying oneself before entering the temple (Lev. 12-15). Holy water fonts located at the entrance of churches are meant to remind us that we were purified in baptism and to seek forgiveness ("re-purification" so to speak) of our post-baptismal sins.

It is certainly most appropriate, and traditional, to bless ourselves with holy water upon entering a church, but there is no absolute requirement that we do so. There also is nothing that states that we cannot or should not use the holy water on the way out of the church. While it would not be the same symbol of "entering the temple," it could be used to remind us of our baptismal calling to live the gospel in the world. [Fr. Charles Grondin, Catholic Answers, 11-19-2018]

At Mary Mother of the Church, during Holy Week, the fonts will be emptied after Mass on Holy Thursday and replenished with new Holy water blessed at the Easter Vigil.

Have a blessed Lenten journey!

**GOD
BLESS YOU
THIS
LENT**

SOCIAL COMMISSION

Becky McDonnell 236-1421
social@marymother.org

Sensational Seniors

Thursday, March 12, Frank Lloyd Wright house tour and lunch at **Billy G's** in Kirkwood. The Seniors will carpool from church parking lot, leaving at 9:15am; house tour at 10am; and lunch at 11am.

Lenten Fish Fries

February 28, March 13, and March 27, 4-7pm in the parish hall
Dinners will cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.
Look for volunteer sign-ups (through Sign up Genius) and menu on our website www.marymother.org.

Quilters meet every Tuesday at 9am to work on quilts in the room across from classroom 5.

For more information and sign-up sheets, visit the parish website www.marymother.org

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMISSION

Carl Cooper 200-9138
adfin@marymother.org

The finances for Mary Mother of the Church are within the budget. If you missed the "FESTIVAL OF MINISTRIES." Here is what we do:

ADMINISTRATION -

1. Report monthly to the Parish Council
2. Monthly meetings except December to review and evaluate on-going programs
3. Review and update Procedures and Policies i.e. Office Procedures; Mary Mother of The Church Bylaws
4. Property Management: tuck-pointing, repair pavement, facility improvements (canopy over the vestibule doors, replaced telephone system, additional storage, solar panel to reduce electrical costs, etc.)
5. Safety; emergency response to natural disasters; in process a plan for intruder alert, replace and add AED units.

FINANCE

1. Prepare annual budget.
2. Review monthly financial data to evaluate costs with the annual budget.
3. Develop and implement annual Major Projects.
4. Report weekly the financial information to the parish (Sharing "Our Treasure")
5. Annual financial update in the bulletin
6. Evaluate financial options to improve Mary Mother of the Church reserves.
7. Administer funds from the BEYOND SUNDAY.

The nominations for Parish Council are closed for this year; but there are many options to volunteer for the program you prefer.

**LORD,
MAKE ME
AN
INSTRUMENT
OF
YOUR
PEACE.**

YOUTH COMMISSION

Alex Norrenberns 435-3104
youth@marymother.org

Hello Mary Mother,

I hope everyone had an amazing start of 2020!

The Christmas sale was a huge success! Thank you for your donations and for supporting the Youth Group at this event. The money raised will go toward Mary Mother teens attending the annual Steubenville conference in July.

Another thing that I'd like to share is that we put on a retreat for the Confirmation students. Every Sunday, until the retreat on February 15—16., the Youth Group met to plan out a fun and spiritual weekend for Mary Mother's 8th graders going through the Confirmation process. We are so excited to be a part of these kids' spiritual journey and to hopefully make a positive impact on their life.

We have a lot of fun events coming up. I can't wait to see how they turn out and their impact on our wonderful and supporting Mary Mother community.

Lastly, like always, I'd like to extend a warm invitation to reach out to me with comments, questions, or prayer intention requests. Stay warm :)

RAFFLE BASKETS and GIFT CERTIFICATES

and

**FISH FRY
ON
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
FRIDAY, MARCH 13
FRIDAY, MARCH 27**

BASKETS AND GIFT CERTIFICATES
ARE SPONSORED BY
THE HEALTH MINISTRY
COMMISSION.

WE'RE SEEKING FOR DONATIONS OF
NEW OR LIKE-NEW ITEMS, GIFT
CARDS, GIFT CERTIFICATE OR
DONATION FROM YOUR
PLACE OF BUSINESS

QUESTIONS?
CALL MARY SCALZO, (314) 842-3827.
THANK YOU

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION

*Rob Telthorst 320-0605
service@marymother.org*

Christian Service was on the road in February. Four members of the Christian Service Commission, Mary Factor, Ed Pieper, Linda Wisneski, and Rob Telthorst attended the Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) annual meeting which was held at the New Northside Baptist Conference Center. I wanted to share a bit about MCU for those of you who may not be familiar with the organization.

Metropolitan Congregations United has a membership made up of congregations of all faiths, organizations working on compatible social issues and people not affiliated with either a congregation or organization.

Membership requires dues and involvement. MCU's goal is not to be one more membership a congregation can list on its letterhead. MCU wants to build the kind of powerful organization necessary to transform our community.

Each member church was asked to focus on one of this year's actions issues, which included the following:

Sacred Votes: This is an effort to spur voter engagement in those issues which touch our church conscience. This program was behind the recent Medicaid expansion petition which Mary Mother helped circulate. Volunteers are needed to help publicize relevant issues, circulate petitions, encourage voter turnout and encourage active census participation. Spanish speaking volunteers are particularly needed.

EXPO works to end mass incarceration, eliminate all forms of structural discrimination against formerly incarcerated persons and restore the formerly incarcerated to participation in the lives of communities. EXPO seeks change in any areas that prevent healthy integration of the formerly incarcerated into society. One of the primary missions this year for EXPO is passing legislation to allow the formerly incarcerated to vote (unlock the vote).

The Education Taskforce which seeks to improve behavioral health issues in schools and decrease the use of school suspensions.

Breaking the Pipeline-Creating a better future for St. Louis' children. This program seeks to end the criminalization and incarceration of youth by organizing school, police, and juvenile justice reforms.

Juvenile Restoration Family Partner Campaign. This initiative is designed to partner families who are navigating the juvenile justice system, with trained volunteers who can help those families through the maze of emotional, psychological and legal issues within the juvenile justice system.

Please give the matter of volunteering for one of these worthy initiatives some prayer. Contact Rob Telthorst for more information: christianservice@marymother.org or call at 314-320-0605.

TITHING

January, 2020 – 4 Sundays

\$1,121 each agency

- 1) Arnold Food Pantry – Offers non-perishable foods and a Thrift Shop for those in need.
- 2) Energy Care – Provides financial assistance for utility bills for those facing loss of gas/electric service.
- 3) Living Well Village – Instructs and encourages youth with medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, obesity, etc., in an intense camp experience with a health and wellness focus.
- 4) Footprints – dedicated to improving the quality of life for children living with complex medical conditions and supporting their journey, providing comfort, advocacy, and support to help families cope and thrive.
- 5) Vincent Gray Alternative High School – Helps to provide an education for poor, at-risk young men and women in a supportive and respectful atmosphere.
- 6) Microfinancing Partners in Africa – A micro-financing ministry of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood and the Sisters of St. Joseph that provides help for women establishing cottage industries to support their families.



**This
Lent
be ready!
It
isn't
always
easy!**

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Karen Karr 416-1992
karenkarr7@gmail.com

I can't believe that Lent is starting. We will be having the Life In The Spirit Seminar on three Thursdays in Lent this year (March 12, 19 and 26). This should be a Spirit-filled experience. Consider taking two hours each week to attend. Be sure to register on Sign Up Genius.

People from other parishes will be joining us. Consider inviting friends, just be sure they are registered.

This will take place in the Reilly Center. There will be music, speakers and we will break out into groups for discussion.

Hope to see you there.



GROW IN SPIRITUAL STATURE DURING LENT



FEBRUARY 28
MARCH 13
MARCH 27
4 PM—7 PM

IN OUR PARISH HALL

DINNERS: \$10 FOR ADULTS
\$5 FOR CHILDREN

Help Wanted

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
THROUGH
Sign up Genius
on
www.marymother.org

PRO-LIFE

Leslie Najjar 369-5474
leslienajjar@gmail.com

March looks to be a busy month for Pro-Life events and listed below are events that have just occurred or will be happening very soon!

March on the Arch (Coalition for Life)

When: Saturday, March 7

Where: St. Louis Planned Parenthood (Forest Park Avenue in the Central West End)

Contact/More Information: Ashlyn Myers, (314) 827-4039 or ashlyn@coalitionforlifestl.com Website: <https://www.coalitionforlifestl.com/march-on-the-arch/>

Pro-Life Mother's baby shower will be on March 29 (Birthright of Hillsboro). Please donate items needed for baby care and bring to the back of church. Please email to birthrightofhillsboro@gmail.com for more information.

Show Me Life Lobby Day (Missouri Right to Life)

When: Tuesday, March 10, 10 a.m.

Where: Missouri State Capitol Buses: leaving from multiple points in the St. Louis area Contact/More Information: mrl.eastern@yahoo.com or 314-434-4900 Website: <https://www.easternregionmrl.org/actionday>

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM. All are welcome to attend.

"For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." Luke 1:44 ESV

**O GIVE
THANKS
UNTO THE
LORD
FOR HE IS
GOOD: HIS
MERCY
ENDURES
FOREVER.**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<h1>March 2020</h1> <p>For more details, go to : www.marymother.org/calendar-1</p>						Mar 11st Sun of Lent 9am Children's Choir 9am Family Mass 11am Confirmation Candidates 1pm Life in the Spirit TEAM TRAINING 6:30pm Men's B'ball
2 9:05am AA Group 11:45am Meat Slicing (SS II) 12:30pm Pickleball 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Pickleball 6:30pm PSR 7pm Men's Prayer Grp	3 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am Sandwich Shoppe II 9am TOPS 9am Walking/PAC 4:30pm Basketball 7pm PC Evening of Discernment 7pm SVDP	4 9am Adoration 9:30am Cornerstone 9:30am Tai Chi 12:30pm Pickleball 6pm Basketball 6:30pm PSR 7pm ProLife 7pm Youth Comm 7:15pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Grp 8:30pm Men's Basketball	5 9am Walking/PAC 10:30am Zumba 4pm Adoration 4:30pm Basketball 5pm Yoga 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Liturgy Mtg 7pm Prayer Group	6 3pm Stations 6:30pm Pickleball	7 9am Basketball 9am Contemplative Prayer 9:30am Parent Communion Workshop (Gr 2) 3:30pm Confession 5:30pm bridge bread 5:30pm Jonah Team	8 2nd Sun of Lent DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS 9am Jonah Team 9am bridge bread 11am Confirmation Candidates 11am Praise & Worship Band 1pm Basketball 6:30pm Men's Basketball
9 9:05am AA Group 12:30pm Pickleball 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Pickleball 6:30pm PSR 7pm Men's Prayer Grp	10 5am Election - Polling Place(President Primary) 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am TOPS 9am Walking/PAC 4:30pm Basketball 7pm Women Sharing Faith 7:30pm Adult Volunteers Mtg (Youth grp)	11 9am Adoration 9:30am Tai Chi 12:30pm Pickleball 5:30pm Children's Choir 6pm Basketball 6:30pm Young Women's Prayer Group 6:30pm PSR 7:15pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Group 8:30pm Men's Basketball	12 9am Walking/PAC 10am Contemplative Gathering 10:30am Zumba 3pm Fish Fry Prep 4pm Adoration 5pm Yoga 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Life in the Spirit 7pm Prayer Group	13 3pm Stations 4pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Pickleball	14 3:30pm Confession 5:30pm BP Screening	15 3rd Sun of Lent 9am BP Screenings 11am Confirmation Candidates 12pm UPDATE Due 7pm Youth Group rec nite
16 9:05am AA Group 12:30pm Pickleball 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Pickleball 6:30pm No PSR 7pm Christian Service 7pm Men's Prayer Grp	17 8:30am Meat Slicing (SS III) 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am TOPS 9am Walking/PAC 3:15pm Contemp core team 4:30pm Basketball 6pm Ad/Fin Mtg 6:30pm SS III 7pm Health Ministry 7pm SVDP Mtg	18 9am Adoration 9:30am Tai Chi 12:30pm Stitching 12:30pm Pickleball 6pm Basketball 6:30pm No PSR 7:15pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Group 8:30pm Men's Basketball	19 9am Sensational Srs Planning Mtg 9am Walking/PAC 10:30am Zumba 4pm Adoration 5pm Yoga 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Life in the Spirit 7pm Prayer Group	20 7am Room at the Inn (5pm till morning) 11:30am Friday Friends 3pm Stations 6:30pm Pickleball	21 9am Contemplative Prayer Grp 3:30pm Confession	22 4th Sun of Lent-Laetare Sunday 8am Youth Pancake Breakfast 11am Confirmation Candidates 6:30pm Men's Basketball
23 9:05am AA Group 12:30pm Pickleball 1pm Meat Slicing (SS I) 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Pickleball 6:30pm PSR 7pm Men's Prayer Grp	24 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am Sandwich Shoppe I 9am TOPS 9am Walking/PAC 4:30pm Basketball 7pm Parish Council 7pm Women Sharing Faith	25 9am Adoration 9:30am Tai Chi 12:30pm Pickleball 5:30pm Children's Choir 6pm Basketball 6:30pm Young Women's Prayer Group 6:30pm PSR 7:15pm Traditional Choir 8pm Youth Prayer Group 8:30pm Men's Basketball	26 9am Walking/PAC 10:30am Zumba 4pm Adoration 5pm Yoga 7pm Contemporary Choir 7pm Life in the Spirit 7pm Prayer Group	27 3pm Stations 4pm Fish Fry 6:30pm Pickleball	28 12:30pm 1st Communion Retreat & Potluck 3:30pm Confession 5:30pm bridge bread	29 5th Sun of Lent 9am bridge bread 9am Children's Choir 9am Family Mass 11am Confirmation Candidates 6:30pm Men's Basketball
30 9:05am AA Group 12:30pm Pickleball 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm Pickleball 6:30pm PSR 7pm Men's Prayer Grp	31 9am Adoration 9am Quilting 9am TOPS 9am Walking/PAC 4:30pm Basketball 7pm Reconcil'tn Svc					

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Page 8

UPDATE

BAPTISMS:

Felix Andrew Murphy

DEATHS:

Bev Carroll

NEW PARISHIONERS:

Genevieve "Gen" Eiler
Angela Smith

FAREWELL:

Bill & Jessica Pracht Family



HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY