

**LENT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM OUR**

**LIVES.**

Lent is a season of change, a season of transforming our spiritual lives, a time of spiritual transfigurations. Our natural inclinations are to avoid the effort. Transformation requires energetic effort. It challenges and disturbs our comfortable patterns of behavior.

The episode in today’s gospel occurred just prior to the time Jesus was to enter Jerusalem, and there suffer His passion and death. He knows the trauma His Apostles are about to experience, and so He gives them a preview of His ultimate transfiguration.

Isaac Newton, one of the greatest scientists of all time, famously formulated his universal laws of motion. His first law of motion tells us that an object at rest stays at rest, and that an object in motion stays in motion. While that is true in the world of physics, we know that psychologically we all experience procrastination, laziness and resistance to change. We want to stay at rest.

Jesus had to deal with that same tendency in His apostles. Jesus knew the Apostles needed to see the ultimate outcome that would follow after all of the suffering they and Jesus were about to face in Jerusalem. Transformation is not easy. It costs.

And so we have the yearly season of Lent.

We all know that Lent is more than simply having ashes placed on our foreheads. Entering Lent, we made resolutions to take specific actions, such as attending Mass more often, reading spiritual books, increasing our times of prayer, performing acts of charity, and other actions that involve making some change in our lives. All of these involve movement toward one form or another of transformation – of transfiguration.

An object at rest tends to stay at rest, whereas an object in motion tends to stay in motion. The Church challenges us to move, to change, and get out of our comfort zones. Peter wanted to hunker down in three tents. He was resisting movement and change. I can recognize myself in his attitude. I know a thing or two about staying in my comfort zone – about procrastination and resistance. That is why I need Lent. And that is why I need to keep in mind Easter and the resurrection toward which we are all journeying.

This is only the second Sunday of Lent. Many more days of Lent lie ahead of us. Let’s keep in mind the ultimate outcome that is presented to us in today’s Gospel. Let’s you and I move, knowing that a body in motion tends to stay in motion.

**Dear Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of your light in our hearts, allowing us to have faith in you. We thank you for your light, which shows us the many ways you save us from need, darkness, and death. In the midst of this darkness you keep our hearts safe so that we can be faithful until your time comes, the time when you will reveal yourself to the world, and when all voices will cry out as one, “Yes, Father in heaven, we thank you. You have redeemed us all.” Amen.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK	
Mon	Mar 13 Dn 9:4b-10, Lk 6:36-38
Tues	Mar 14 Is 1:10, 16-20, Mt 23:1-12
Wed	Mar 15 Jer 18:18-20, Mt 20:17-28
Thur	Mar 16 Jer 17:5-10, Lk 16:19-31
Fri	Mar 17 Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a, Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Sat	Mar 18 Mi 7:14-15, 18-20, Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun	Mar 19 Ex 173-7, Rom 5:1-2, 5-8, Jn 4:5-42, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS	
Regular Collections	\$ 13,448.82
Nativity Maintenance	\$ 988.00
Nativity Elem.	\$ 28.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 449.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$ 14,913.82</b>
<b>CASH NEEDED</b>	<b>\$ 14,400.00</b>

**SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUND**

<b>TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$174,166</b>
<b>PAYMENTS TO DATE</b>	<b>\$167,941</b>
<b>BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES</b>	<b>\$ 6,225</b>

**BINGO MANIA**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for March 14th. Robertson (Shawn & Mirna), Ross (Thomas & Julie), Tarrant (Gerald & Alicia), Wooden (Graham & Bianca), Burke (Sam & Sarah), Canon (Ryan & Summer) and Dagenais (Amanda). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

**R.C.I.A.**

This weekend the RCIA Candidates are celebrating their Rite of Sending Forth. This is an important step towards their Sacraments of Initiation and full participation in the Catholic faith community at the Easter Vigil. Please remember that we are called to accept them into our Community of Faith and we are to pray for each of them as they continue their faith journey. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

**ST. JOSEPH ALTAR CELEBRATION – “A LABOR OF LOVE”**

The Parish Life Committee of the Cathedral of the Blessed Virgin Mary is proud to announce the St. Joseph Altar will be on display at the Sacred Heart Center on Sunday, March 19, 2017, St. Joseph’s Day, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We invite all members of Nativity Parish, as well as all parishes and visitors along the coast to view the altar. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. The altar is a true “Labor of Love” for the committee and we hope everyone will stop by, view the altar, leave your petitions and honor St. Joseph on his feast day.

## SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
<b>Mar 18 4:00 pm</b> 1. Gerrie Weldon 2. Linda Welter 3. Gayle Mavar 4. Helen Languirand 5. Liz Joachim  <b>Mar 19 7:00 am</b> 1. Marcia Mayfield 2. Collin Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh  <b>9:00 am</b> 1. John Sherman 2. Marianne Sherman 3. Jim Compton 4. Judy Trahan 5. Barbara Ziz  <b>11:00 am</b> 1. Deacon Ben 2. Brad Butterfield 3. Susan Toche 4. Judy Steckler 5. Sandy Steckler  <b>5:30 pm</b> 1. Roland Creel 2. Tricia Creel 3. Kristy Arguelles	<b>Mar 18 4:00 pm</b> Michael Bruffey  <b>Mar 19 7:00 am</b> ???  <b>9:00 am</b> Al Simons, Jr.  <b>11:00 am</b> Michael Kessler  Youth Ministry  <b>5:30 pm</b> Youth Ministry  <b>CANTORS</b>  <b>Mar 18 4:00 pm</b> John Welter  <b>Mar 19 9:00 am</b> Peter Abide  Choir  <b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Mar 18 4:00 pm</b> Simon Randall Kingston Widell Cayden Canon  <b>Mar 19 7:00 am</b> Makayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan  <b>9:00 am</b> Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge Arny Gollott, IV Emma Theobald  <b>11:00 am</b> Hadyn Hollis Greysen Ross McRae Ross Aidan Tarrant  <b>5:30 pm</b> Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Taylor Yehereskin

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 13 - Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.  
 Mar 14 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC  
 Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.  
 Mar 15 - **Cleaning Team “B”**  
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.  
 Mar 16 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.  
 Mar 17 Station of the Cross at 6:00 p.m.

## COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, “You are the salt of the earth”. No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be “salt of the earth”. Sister can be reached at 228-223-8129 or the rectory at 228-374-1717.

## NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY

\*Youth from our parish are preparing for the 2017 Diocesan Youth Celebration, which takes place at the MS Coast Coliseum March 17-19. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare and spend a faith-filled weekend with youth from across our Diocese.

\*Youth meeting will take place on March 12th, following 5:30 p.m. Mass. Please join us! Show your Support!!! Youth will be present after Masses March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to collect baby diapers (all sizes). They will prepare baby items as a service project on Saturday afternoon, March 18, at the Youth Celebration. If you have a youth, grades 6-12, that is interested in joining Youth Ministry, please email [nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com](mailto:nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com) or contact Kristy Arguelles 228-324-9934 or Kim Audo 228-365-3248.

## Mass Intentions

	<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Mon Mar 13	Gabe/Doris Kasovich	Chester Balius Fly.
Tue Mar 14	Jerry O’Keefe	Clare Sekul Hornsby
Wed Mar 15	Collins-Sims Fly.	M ary Lou Ardoline
Thur Mar 16	Gary Michiel	Clare Sekul Hornsby
Fri Mar 17	Herbert/Bertha McDonnell	Jimmy Braun, Jr.
Sat Mar 18	<b>8</b> – Dan Williams	<b>4</b> Jacinto Baltar
Sun Mar 19	<b>7</b> –Sonny/Helen Ross	<b>9</b> - For the Parishioners
	<b>11</b> – Dan Williams	<b>5:30</b> - Gary Michiel

## PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling and Richard “Red” White.

## NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\*We offer our prayer and support to the children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Thank you to their families and to their teachers, Mrs. Naomi Foster (Nativity School) and Mrs. Cynthia Powell (Parish Religious Education Program) for their work with the children.

\*Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is taking place for all families until all openings are filled. Nativity School provides a well rounded, Catholic education for children in prek 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. For more information, please visit our website or contact our school office.

\*Nativity School continues to collect Box Tops for Education, Community Coffee UPC codes and aluminum beverage cans. Please continue to help our school in this way!

## CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m., in the Chapel.

## GIRL SCOUT COOKIES FOR SALE!

Girl Scout Troop 6460 from Nativity BVM Elementary School will be selling Girl Scout cookies after all masses on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Please help support our girls!

## FUNDRAISER FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PHARMACY

- We have a new event that will be benefiting the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy. The event is White Coats and Wine. The Beau Rivage has graciously offered to host the event pool side on April 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be nearly 40 different wine vendors on hand with over 100 assorted wines to sample. We will have live music from Award winning New Orleans Jazz pianist Matt Lemmler. There will be a silent auction and many other entertaining things throughout the evening. Tickets may be purchased at the Pharmacy or online at [www.svdprx.org](http://www.svdprx.org).