

LENTEN CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesday/Thursday 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.
 Wednesday/Friday 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00-10:00 a.m.,
 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday 9:15 - 10:15a.m.



LENTEN FISH FRIES AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Meals began Friday and continue for 5 more weeks. Take-out is from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. and Dine-in from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall, followed by Stations of the Cross in the church at 7:00 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS

*Volunteer of the Month for March is **Teresa Gorham**. We appreciate your efforts on behalf of St. Louis, Teresa!

GROUNDWORK DAY

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, March 16, 8:00 a.m. thru 12 noon. Please plan to join us in volunteering to continue the cleaning efforts at your church grounds. We will be loading cut limbs, branches, and logs onto trailers to be hauled off to a burn pile. Other trimming and beautification tasks may be ongoing as needed. It would be most helpful to bring tools and protective gear to aid yourself during this event: work gloves, protective eye-wear, hearing protection, leaf rakes, chain and pole saws, axes and

hatchets, pitch forks, pickup trucks with flatbed trailers (and tie down straps or rope), and strong arms and backs. Your voluntary attendance and participation in the continued care of your church's grounds is greatly appreciated!!



CRS RICE BOWL

Encounter Norma

In Guatemala, we encounter Norma, who as a young mother supports her family and shares her skills with her community. Reflect on the importance of family in your life. How can you contribute to support families in your community? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

SAVE THE DATE:

The Sisterhood will be sponsoring a Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 23, beginning with Mass at 8:30 a.m. Fr. Stevens will be speaking on "Our Lady of Sorrows: Joy in the Midst of Suffering." R.S.V.P. to lori.hocking@comcast.net or 570-1237, no later than 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 20.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Please consider donating non-perishable food items for the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Please place donations in the collection box located in the parish hall.

HOMELESS SHELTER

Many thanks to all who consistently give generously by putting food and supplies in the "gray bin" for our community's homeless members. This monthly ministry guarantees a healthy meal to over 250 adults on the First Saturday of each month at the Kearney Center. Keep up the

good works, St Louis!

ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

The St. John Paul II Catholic High School Drama Club will be presenting a MainStage musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" on April 12th, 13th and 14th, at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. This jazzy tale centers around a young woman, Millie, who moves to New York City with dreams as large as the city itself. Tickets are being sold at the St. John Paul II Catholic High School front office, Trinity Catholic School front office, and online at <http://www.sjpiichs.org> for \$10 per person, and \$12 at the door. If you have any questions, please e-mail the director, Ms. Ruiz, at lruiz@jpiichs.org.

DONATE BLOOD

Sunday, March 17
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 St. Louis Catholic Church. All donors will receive a OneBlood St. Patrick's Day T-Shirt and a wellness checkup including blood type and iron count.



RED MASS

Ever since the 13th Century the Red Mass has been a formal occasion set aside for the asking of God's help and wisdom upon our lawmakers. This time of prayer to the Lord for our government leaders and legislators is a significant and unique opportunity. You are invited to attend the 44th Annual Red Mass on Wednesday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More. A reception will follow Mass.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 9

5:00 p.m.
 Patricia Ann LeBlanc (D)

Sunday, March 10

8:00 a.m.
 St. Louis Parish
 10:30 a.m.
 Edward Veccia (D)
 Richard Sullivan (D)

Tuesday, March 12

6:00 p.m.
 Patricia Ann LeBlanc (D)

Wednesday, March 13

8:30 a.m.
 Marge Derwort (D)

Thursday, March 14

6:00 p.m.
 Daniel Dikman (L)

Friday, March 15

8:30 a.m.
 Patricia Ann LeBlanc (D)

Saturday, March 16

8:30 a.m. (Latin Mass)
 All Vocations

5:00 p.m.

St. Louis Parish

Sunday, March 17

8:00 a.m.
 Dana McMillin (L)

10:30 a.m.
 Jose Leopoldo Pujals Mederos (D)

MASS INTENTIONS

Contact the office if you wish to schedule a Mass intention



THE PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Parish Family,

The tradition of offering to God the "first fruits," which Moses establishes in today's First Reading, was a key spiritual practice in ancient Israel. It was how they kept in tune with God. And whenever they slacked off in this practice they ended up drifting away from God and being attacked by their enemies. What were these "first fruits" that Moses taught the Israelites to offer to God? They were the first batch of the annual harvests. Whether olives, grapes, or grains, when harvest time came, the farmers would bring the very first batch of produce to the tabernacle, or the Temple, and offer it to God. They wouldn't just offer to God the "leftovers"; they would offer the "first fruits."

Moses points out the two reasons behind this practice: justice and hope. It was a matter of justice because the land that produced those harvests, the Promised Land, had been miraculously given to the Israelites by God. They owed God everything and giving him the first fruits acknowledged this. It was also a matter of hope for the happiness they longed for could only come from God, not from any merely earthly wealth and prosperity. Offering God their first fruits reminded them of this too: that no amount of material prosperity or pleasure could give them the fulfillment that comes from friendship with God. The offering of first fruits, in other words, helped the Israelites remember the true context of their lives. They were part of a bigger story, the story of God's salvation, a story that had roots in the past and would reach its climax in the future. And so, by remembering their past, they kept their future safe. The same thing goes for us.

We too are part of a bigger story, the story of salvation, and Lent is a season meant

to remind us of this bigger context of our lives.

Peace to you and yours,

Fr. Stevens

**TIME / TALENT / TREASURE
 March 16/17**

**Extraordinary Ministers
 Of Holy Communion**

5:00 p.m. B. Mueller, E. Hawkins
 8:00 a.m. W. Vargo, J. Vargo
 10:30 a.m. M. Macko, K. Onokpise

Lectors

5:00 p.m. C. Morris, K. Radford
 8:00 a.m. E. Campos, J. Piotrowski
 10:30 a.m. Youth Mass

Sacristans

5:00 p.m. M. Reeves
 8:00 a.m. T. Cross
 10:30 a.m. L. Davis

Altar Servers

5:00 p.m. (Open) (Open)
 8:00 a.m. V. Nguyen, (Open)
 10:30 a.m. Youth Mass

Liturgical Assistants

5:00 p.m. R. Larson
 8:00 a.m. S. Ball
 10:30 a.m. Open

For Sunday, March 3

Offertory this week:	\$6,523.00
Target:	\$5,713.03
Collected vs Target for month	\$809.97
Collected vs Target since July	\$26,381.74
Projected Offertory for year:	\$289,333.17
Annual Budget:	\$250,000.00

Building Fund this week	\$634.00
Collected this month:	\$634.00
Target for the month:	\$2,713.00
Collected since July	\$21,033.00
Collected vs Target since July	-\$3,384.00

Improvements Collections	\$4.00
Total collected to date:	\$5,170.00