

5th

SUNDAY OF LENT

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." - Jn 11:25

MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, March 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation
of the Lord**

9 am Int. of Theresa Randolph by family

4 pm +Andrew Piestrak by family

+Jack & Alma Fitzpatrick by family

+Dolores Dahman by friend

+Larry J. Peters 17th ann. By his loving family

Sunday, March 26 Fifth Sunday of Lent

8 am +Irene Blast by family

+Sal & Dee Rodriguez by John & Kathy Flora
People of the Parish

10 am +Gerald Goebel by family

+Helen & Win Seibert by family

Int. of Sean & Meredith Farkas

12 pm +Mary Sullivan by O'Connor Family

Int. of Andy & Mary Ellen Farkas by Sean &
Meredith Farkas

Int. of Gerhard and Sandra Schubert Families
by Frank & Theresa Gilbert

Monday, March 27 Lenten Weekday

8 am +Dorothy Amiot by Dave Dwornick

Tuesday, March 28 Lenten Weekday

8 am +Robert Risko

Wednesday, March 29 Lenten Weekday

8 am +Gabriel Mannarino 3rd ann. by Owens Family

Thurs., March 30 Lenten Weekday

8 am +Sharon Gardner by Antoinette

+Anne Lesniak bday by nieces & nephews

Friday, March 31 Lenten Weekday

8 am +Ernest Landvay by daughter Denise Murray

12:30 pm Stations of the Cross

6 pm Stations of the Cross

6:30 pm People of the Parish

1st Saturday, April 1 Lenten Weekday

8 am In reparation to the Immac. Heart of Mary

+Irene & Ted Pastuszka by family

4 pm +Helen Volger by Daughter

+Alex Broderick by family

+Int./health of Nate Statley (victim of MSU shooting)
by Connie Skocen

Sunday, Apr. 2 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

8 am Int. of the Labadie Family by Anonymous

+Leo & Florence Aniol by family

10 am +Jim Cayley by Betty Cayley

+Thomas Ronald Wall by family

+Stanley & Bernice Filipowski by family

+Valerie Feliks 30th ann. by the Schwartz Family

12 pm +People of the Parish

PLEASE HELP FILL THE BABY CRIB

Beginning ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22,
UNTIL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th the baby crib
will be available in church for donations.

The donations collected will be for the Lennon Pregnancy Center right here in Dearborn Heights. This Center works with parents throughout their pregnancy, after the baby is born and throughout the first five years of the baby's life.

The greatest need is for diapers, all sizes,
but ALL baby items are
needed and appreciated.



There will also be envelopes available at the crib if you wish to make a monetary donation instead of shopping. * (Checks should be made payable to

The Lennon Pregnancy Center and returned to the collection box for weekly donations.)

We thank you for your prayers to end abortion, for the parents who choose life for their baby, and for the continued success of the Lennon Center and all Centers working toward saving babies, and for any assistance you may provide in this endeavor. God Bless You!

*Monetary donations have enabled the Center to purchase and maintain Ultra Sound Equipment which goes a long way in changing the minds of these moms.

— The Christian Service Commission

Bake Sale

**2nd Annual St. Maria Goretti
Spring Bake Sale**

When: Saturday May 6, 2023 3 pm – 5:30 pm
Sunday May 7, 2023 7:30 am – 1:30 pm

Where: Meeting Room

**Baked Goods may be dropped off in the
Meeting Room on:**

Friday, May 5 3 pm – 5 pm

Saturday, May 6 After 2 pm

Sponsored by: Ste. Anne Altar Society

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER
UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**
5th Sunday of Lent

Of all Jesus' miracles, the most unsettling might be when he made a dead person alive. We know of three times when he did so: a girl, a young man, and Lazarus. The miracle teaches us he has the power of life and death. He anticipates his resurrection. Sin hurts us. Some sin kills us, spiritually. The three miracles reveal to us that no matter our circumstances, Jesus can give life to us.

The three miracles are instructive of the three ways we feel dead. The little dead girl symbolizes sin before it has time to mature. She's in bed and, once alive, gets right back to her life. The young man is lying in his casket in a funeral procession.

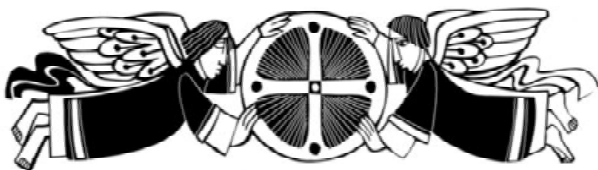


This is sin allowed to fester, to grow and become somewhat normalized. Once raised, he has a short walk back home. Lazarus, a full-grown dead man, lies wrapped in burial bands in the tomb. Once he is raised, much needs to be done. He'll need to

remove those bands, find new clothes, and travel all the way back home. That is sin allowed to go all the way, unchecked for months or years. It's the most spectacular of the three and reveals Jesus' glory more than the others.

What hope that should give us, for us and those whom we love! Jesus knows our sin hurts us and can even kill us spiritually. No matter the extent of the damage, he is always ready for the miracle of making the dead fully alive.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of the month following the morning Mass until 9:30 am. Come and offer your heart to the Lord in gratitude for the gift of the Jesus' Real Presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD
IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman
Offerings

Offer it up. My grandmother used this phrase with her children, and my mother, in turn, used it with me. It's a kind of verbal heirloom, a gift of wisdom from a generation that knew suffering all too well.



We know it to be true that God will work through our suffering if we invite him to. We know it and we have seen it — we have only to look at Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary.

But, often, I invite God into my suffering only to tell Him where I want Him to stand. I make an offering of suffering but expect God to do something very specific with it. Teach me this, please. Give me this specific grace. Show me this specific answer.

The happy ending in today's Gospel is not the alleviation of the sorrow Martha and Mary feel because it isn't alleviated, Lazarus is still human, and death still awaits him. Someday, his sisters will have to mourn at his tomb. That loss and pain will not be avoided.

The happy ending is that he is resurrected now, and in doing so, brings so many to belief. The happy ending is that Martha and Mary do not abandon discipleship because things didn't work out exactly the way that they wanted. They run out to meet Christ, eyes dim with tears. They fling themselves into his company and onto his providence.

They made an offering of their suffering, and their happy ending is that their offering was accepted.

"You are not in the flesh, on the contrary, you are in the spirit." — Romans 8:9 ©LPi



Please remember in your prayers the soul of **Robert Risko** whose funeral Mass was held last week. May he share in the glory of the Risen Lord. May his family be consoled in the promise of the resurrection.

These last two weeks we've been looking at two of the three pillars of Spirituality that are particularly important during Lent: Prayer and Fasting. This week I'd like to focus on the third pillar, ALMSGIVING.

I don't know about you, but when someone mentions almsgiving to me, my mind automatically pictures monetary donations to those assisting the poor. But almsgiving isn't limited to giving

money. As a matter of fact, I believe other forms of almsgiving have a more positive spiritual effect than giving money.

Don't get me wrong, monetary donations are a good and necessary thing. But money isn't our most valuable possession. Our most valuable possession is TIME. After all, when you spend a dollar, you can always replace it. But when you spend a minute, it's gone forever!

So, what are these non-monetary forms of almsgiving? Boy, am I glad you asked. Let's see what scripture has to say.

One of my favorite scripture passages is the parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25: 31-46:

"...Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' ..."

That passage my friends summarizes what is meant by almsgiving! Volunteer your time and talent to helping those in need!!

God is Good All the Time!
All the Time God Is Good!

Don't forget, join us this Friday and every Friday at 3PM to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM. See the ad in our bulletin or on the parish website for details on how to join in. Hope to see you there!

Grow Your Marriage with Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Any married couple who desires a richer, fuller life together deserves a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience! Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares together, whether they have been married a short time or for many years.

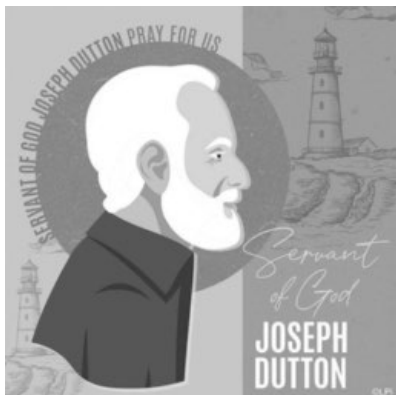
Apply at wwme.org for Grass Lake April 14-16 or Petoskey Sept. 29- Oct. 1, or contact Chris & Darla at 517-667-0433 for more info.



A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME

Deacon Regis





Servant of God Joseph Dutton

Ira Barnes Dutton, more commonly known as Joseph, the name he took after recovering from alcoholism in his adult life, was born in Stowe, Vermont on April 27, 1843, and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. After his time as a Union lieutenant, he successfully worked many different types of jobs before he converted to Catholicism on his 40th birthday and, later in life, became a lay member of the Secular Franciscan Order, often being referred to as Brother Joseph.

Shortly after his conversion in 1886, Dutton decided to start a new life. He went to the Hawaiian island of Molokai and offered himself in service to Father Damien De Veuster, who would later become St. Damien of Molokai, aiding those living with leprosy in government-mandated medical quarantine in a settlement on the Kalaupapa Peninsula of Molokai. Upon meeting Father Damien for the first time Dutton said, "My name is Joseph Dutton; I've come to help, and I've come to stay." He followed through with this promise and ended up serving this unique community for the remainder of his life.

He worked closely with Father Damien for two years before the priest's death. In 1889, before Fr. Damien died, he said of Dutton, "I can die now. Brother Joseph will take care of my orphans."

Through his written articles and letters detailing his life among those with leprosy on the island, Dutton was recognized and revered by many, including U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. He was known to sign his letters with "Joyfully yours." Throughout the rest of his life, he continued to manage the Baldwin Home for Orphan Boys and Elderly Men, tending to the needs of those who were quarantined there, and spent the pensions he had earned at his previous jobs to help those sick and dying in his care. After 44 years of service in Hawaii, Dutton died of leprosy in Honolulu on March 26, 1931, and is quoted as saying, before his death, "It has been a happy place — a happy life." In 2021 the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops affirmed their support for the advancement of his Cause of beatification and canonization on the diocesan level.

Prayer for Servant of God Joseph Dutton's intercession

God our Father, by the grace of conversion you raised your servant, Joseph Dutton, from the darkness of war, and despair. Wounded by the shock of battle and chained by addiction, he searched for You and found Your abundant mercy. In Joseph Dutton we see Your providence in his conversion from darkness to the light of the Gospel. May his total submission to Your purifying will encourage us on our own way of conversion. Hear our prayer now as we thank You for the gift of his life and the wonder of his witness. If it be for Your glory and the growth of Your Church in holiness, may he be counted among Your saints for all eternity. Joseph Dutton, please intercede for us and present our requests to God through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
©LPi

Coming Soon St. Maria Goretti Parish Garage Sale

**When: Friday April 21, 2023 9 AM - 4 PM
Saturday April 22, 2023 9 AM – 3 PM
Where: Parish Activity Center**

Drop Off Dates:

**Tuesday: April 11, 2023 9 am – Noon & 2 pm – 6 pm
Wednesday: April 12, 2023 9 am – Noon & 2pm – 6 pm
Thursday: April 13, 2023 9 am – Noon & 2 pm – 6 pm
Monday: April 17, 2023 9 am – Noon & 2 pm – 6 pm
Tuesday: April 18, 2023 9 am – Noon & 2 pm – 6 pm
Wednesday: April 19, 2023 9 am – Noon & 2 pm – 6 pm**

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Though weighed down by grief, Martha rushes out to meet Jesus. She may not understand why he was absent upon the death of her brother, but her faithfulness is undeterred. In the hour of her heartbreak, she knows her only solace is in the embrace of the Lord. ©LPi



Please
Pray
for...



Norm Abramczyk
Louise Ames
Anna Axe
Harry Bacalia
Sue Bacalia
Norma Bak
Violet Barrette
Bob Behmer
Bob, Jim & Vincent
Bellottie
Judy Bennett
Patricia Best
Sharon Bieniek
Cynthia Blaha
Marilyn Block
Robert Bott
Aaron Boyless
Thomas J. Brennan, Jr.
Joan Buzo
Stella Camilleri

Jacob, Gabriel, Lisa,
Nathan and Caitlin Cassar
Richard Cline
Connie
Carolyn Doran
Zoe Cossin
Betty Ann Crawford
Todd Dawson
Shannon Dawson
Tina Doney
Sandy Dudek
Marsha Farmer
Cecil Fernandez
Tina Fernandez
Lisa Foster
Rose Fraley
Duane Glossa
Roseann Gomez
Bob & Lori Gonzales
Gary Graham Jr
Abigail Graves
Jennifer Hanna Green
Charlotte Gutierrez
Eileen Halpin
Henry Hansen
Tina Hovis
Phyllis Ivy
Sue Jagodka
Joanne Kacher
Norman & Brenda Kaletto

Fr. Terry Kerner
Evelyn Kisell
Chris Kovac
John Kovac
Jenene Kozinski
George Kramar
Matt Kulczyk
Patrica Lacopelli
Joseph Lasky
Margaret Lasky
Jennifer Mackaluso &
Family
Guadalupe Madrigal
Phyllis Mareck
Donald Martin
Erin Martin
Larry & Carol McGrew
Linda Molek
Dorothy Morse
Suzanne Nicholas
Gigi Novak
Diane Owens
John Palmer
Mary Pellegrini
Jenna Peters
Maryanne Peters
Jimmy Piche
Mary Pike
Jeff Pingilley
Jess Pingilley

Linda Pingilley
Robert Pingilley
Sam Pingilley
Wayne Pingilley
Carol Regnier
Whitney Regnier
Noemia Reid
Richard Roberts
Richard
Felice Roderigo
Laura Salazar
Richard Sanchez
Fred, Matt, & Joann
Sanscrainte
Dennis Scanland
Carol Schwartz
Darlene Shannon
Phil Shannon
Rose Shannon
Jaxon Shubik
Jimmy Stecki
Gerald Stevens
Jim Tokarczyk
Laurie Trupp
Beth Vaghy
Michael Wheelock
Eileen Winnie
The Wirick Family
Frank Wojcik
Stephen Zelle



Air Force

*Matthew Thornton, Nicole Thornton,
Michelle Thornton, Brittany Mack,
Tiffany Kay Smith (Ladd), husband, Don Smith*

Army

*Josh Harpster, Zachary Robbins,
Robert Truchan, Anthony Lemieux,
Bryce Bieniek, Tony Pernicano,
Jacob Grzebienik,
Matthew Hapunowicz*

Marines

*Joseph Krawczyk, 1st Lieutenant, Joseph
McGinnis, Corporal, Andrew Clark, 1st Lieu-
tenant,
Cody S. Pratt, Luke Cohen, Sergeant*

Navy

Ryan Detlor, Patrick Hanosh

Army National Guard

Vincent Nowak, Michael Dunne

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT



Question: Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

Answer: The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "Via Dolorosa" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "Via Crucis" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us. ©LPI



Fifth Sunday of Lent Ezekiel 37:12–14 A Change of Heart

Are you still being faithful to your Lenten resolutions? No matter how firm or weak your resolve, you have come to face the mystery of sin, loss, and death. Changing old habits is hard. To change something is to lose something.

Those chosen for Baptism this Easter will change their old habits. They will put to death whatever has kept them from life in Christ.

The faithful also will change old habits. They will put to death the sin that mars their faithfulness to God. All in the community need the prayerful and penitential support of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Ezekiel addresses people who have lived in exile and oppression, far from the center of their social and religious life. They have lived in a tomb. Now God promises, "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." God will dwell with them and give them the divine spirit.

This Lent, the church has invited you to examine your life, to confront your sin, and to secure your intent to change. The season is nearly over. The day of promise draws near. God stands ready to open your grave and bring you forth to new life. If you die to whatever keeps you from God, you will grow from the lessons of loss.



Fifth Sunday of Lent Romans 8:8–11 Dead from Sin, Alive with Spirit

As Lent nears its end, we become more mindful of our sins. We have promised to renew our hearts throughout this season. We have accepted a spirit of penitence. The elect, who are preparing for Baptism at Easter, have received our prayers in scrutiny rites that purify their intentions and turn their hearts more firmly toward Christ.

But at this stage of Lent, we may be even more aware of our sin. Perhaps we have not been completely faithful to our Lenten resolutions. Perhaps we feel more strongly the difficult challenge to overcome bad habits that have taken years to form. Lent offers promise, but it sometimes causes discouragement.

Sin is no stranger to the human condition. But sin is not our natural condition. Through Baptism, we are children of God.

St. Paul tells the Romans not to feel disappointed by their experience of sin, because the Spirit of God is much more powerful. "If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness."

God's Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. The same Spirit dwells within us. The same Spirit gives life to our bodies prone to death.

If Lent has made us more aware of our sin, it should also make us more aware of God's love. God's Spirit reaches us, holds us, and lifts us high—in spite of our sin.





Food Pantry

St. Maria Goretti Parish

Please drop off your donations on
Mondays and Wednesdays between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm
or call Matt at 313-595-1317

Here is our current list for our pantry for the month of March. These are the items we could use the most:

Sugar	Ramen Noodles
Canned Pears	Pineapple
Mixed Fruit	Peaches
Toilet Paper	Paper Towels
Kleenex	Small Powdered Milk
Female Personal Hygiene Pads (need badly)	

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: God revealed to the prophet Ezekiel his divine plan for the resurrection of the dead: "I (will) open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!" As a person of faith, how does this promise give you hope?

Second Reading: Paul insists that for believers, the Spirit dwelling within us gives life to our mortal bodies, raising us from the dead as Christ was raised from the dead. How does this impact your thoughts about death itself?

Gospel: In her grief and sadness at the death of her brother Lazarus, Martha professes her belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. As the season of Lent draws to a close, in what ways have the last 40 days strengthened your faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. ©LPi



ROUGE FAMILY OF PARISHES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The All-Saints Soup Kitchen is open, and we need helping hands!

What you need to know:

- The hours of service - 10:30 am to 2 pm
- Lunch is served at noon until 1:30
- You can volunteer any time during those hours
- Volunteers needed the third Wednesday of each month to help serve.

All Saints Food Pantry needs volunteers.

Monday and Thursday 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Address for Soup Kitchen & Pantry:

6945 Wagner, Detroit, 48210

Please call St. Kateri at 313-336-3227
for more information and to volunteer.



BULLETIN EDITOR

** bulletin@smgoretti.com **

**All submissions are due 10 days
before publication date.**

The deadline for bulletin submissions is
**2:00pm on Thursday,
10 days before the bulletin date.**

Exceptions occur when the bulletin is required to be sent early due to holidays.

Please plan ahead as submissions received past the deadline will be published in the following week's bulletin.

Submissions should be sent as a Word document (single spaced), PDF or photo format (JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PNG), attached to or in the body of an email

give online

Online giving makes it easy to give! You never have to bring envelopes, cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan its budget.

There are no fees for on-line giving.

- ★ Visit the St. Maria Goretti website at **www.stmariagorettiparish.com**
- ★ Click on the Online Giving link on the right side of the home page.
- ★ Complete the registration form

Please feel free to call the Parish Office if you should have any questions or want to know more about Online Giving.

Your donations are vital to the success of our Parish community.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

with Deacon Regis

Join us on

*Fridays at 3:00pm to pray the
Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM.*

*To connect by computer use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85478055945>*

*To connect by smart phone call
1 (312) 626 6799*

PARISH COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND GROUPS

Parish Council

Chairperson: Chris Bergeron

Secretary: Thomas Koselka

Members at Large: Barbara Balnius Mario Ferrante
Pat Wallace David Griswack Valerie Koselka
John O'Callaghan Marge Taylor Sandy VanAssche
Linda Wielkopolan

Worship Commission: David Griswack

Education/Formation Comm: Marge Taylor

Christian Svc. Commission: Cathy Nagle

Finance Council: Dianna Dunne

Ushers President: Dave Griswack
313.999.5144

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PARISH DEACON
Rev. Mr. Regis Buckley deacon@smgoretti.com

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ORGANIST ELYSE PENZATO

BULLETIN EDITOR bulletin@smgoretti.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY EXT. 107
Matt Kulczyk Direct Number: 313.563.3970

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 12 Noon

DAILY MASSES:

Monday through Friday: 8 a.m.

First Friday: 8 a.m. & 12 Noon

First Saturday: 8 a.m.

CONFESSIONS Saturday: 3 - 3:30 p.m. or by request

HOLYDAYS TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Fridays following the morning Mass until 9:30 a.m.

BAPTISMS Contact Parish Office for arrangements.
Pre-Baptism Class required.

MARRIAGES Please contact Parish Office at least six (6) months in advance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Closed to visitors until further notice due to surge in covid cases. Please telephone or email. Calls after hours should be limited to emergencies only.

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 1 pm

Friday: CLOSED for the time being

If you need to contact the parish office, please call during regular business hours. You can also reach the parish office by email: parishoffice@smgoretti.com



Sunday, Mar 26, 2023 Hints of resurrection While the Hebrew scripture written before Jesus lived doesn't explicitly speak of resurrection in the same way it is spoken of after Jesus is raised from the dead, there are certainly rumors and whispers. Perhaps the most explicit references are in chapter 37 of Ezekiel, where God, working through the prophet, raises a valley of dry bones to new life and promises to restore them to the promised land after their captivity in Baby-

lon centuries before Christ. Saint Jerome called the vision of the valley of bones a "simile" of the Resurrection to come. There's hope for these old bones yet! **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT TODAY'S READINGS:** Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45 (34). "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people!"

Monday, Mar 27, 2023 A profile in courage In the last week of Women's History Month, here's another Catholic woman who made history: Servant of God Catherine de Hueck Doherty (1896-1985). Born wealthy in Russia, she escaped the Russian Revolution and fled to Canada. During the Great Depression, she founded Friendship House, a Catholic outreach movement to serve the poor and promote interracial friendship—a movement that started in Toronto and spread to Harlem, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Portland, Oregon. As a nation and a world community, we face trials comparable to the ones Doherty faced. She responded with courage, generosity, love, and gospel witness. Let us do the same! **LENTEN WEEKDAY TODAY'S READINGS:** Deuteronomy 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11 (251). "Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

Tuesday, Mar 28, 2023 'Tis a gift to be simple Happy birthday to Saint John Neumann today—nicknamed the "little bishop" not only for his stature but for the humility that came from his Redemptorist vow of poverty, which he honored even after becoming bishop of Philadelphia. Neumann's simplicity invites rich reflection for Lent. "Our great mistake is that we allow ourselves to be deceived by the spirit of worldly shrewdness, the desire for fame, and the love of comfort," he wrote to a fellow priest. "The principles of faith fade out of our hearts in proportion as we allow the principles of the world to come in." Simplify your life to make more room for what feeds your faith. **LENTEN WEEKDAY TODAY'S READINGS:** Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 (252). "You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world."

Wednesday, Mar 29, 2023 Redemption is at hand Though they, along with other ancient societies, engaged in some forms of household slavery, Jews as a general rule frowned upon the institution. Slaves who were not Jewish were to be offered conversion to Judaism and if they became Jews, immediately freed. Jews were also required to redeem Jewish slaves from non-Jewish owners. Memory of their own captivity in Egypt and Babylonia loomed large, and they resented Jesus promising to free them. But when Jesus spoke of the truth setting Jews free, he was talking about another kind of enslavement, the kind we all fall into through unskillful actions, behaviors, habits, compulsions. Look honestly at what might be restricting your inner freedom and ask Jesus to redeem you. **LENTEN WEEKDAY TODAY'S READINGS:** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253). "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How can you say, 'You will become free'?"

Thursday, Mar 30, 2023 Help your unbelief Can a believer doubt? It can be a relief to learn that a whole school of thought among Catholic theologians asserts that doubt, while seemingly corrosive, can actually bolster faith in the end. Doubt can lead to exploration, which often leads to better understanding, greater clarity, or sometimes simply a willingness to not know, to live without all questions fully answered, leaning into religious practice with an open heart. Most would call that an adult faith. What questions nag at you? Doubt, dig, and remain open to God. **LENTEN WEEKDAY TODAY'S READINGS:** Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254). "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death."

Friday, Mar 31, 2023 Miles to go Women's History Month concludes today, but the work of ensuring the rights of women continues. In a November 2022 press conference, Pope Francis acknowledged that more work needs to be done. "We have to tell the truth," the pope said. "The fight for women's rights is an ongoing fight." This includes equality in public life and also "equality of opportunities." How might we each open a door of opportunity for women in our own families, parishes, neighborhoods, schools, or offices? **LENTEN**

WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255). "If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works."

Saturday, Apr 01, 2023 A well-traveled pilgrim helped shape Holy Week

Holy Week begins tomorrow. It's in the description of Jesus' last week—immediately ahead of his death and Resurrection—that all four gospels resemble each other the most.

The church's liturgical celebration of Holy Week, however, was a late development. Originally, Christians had only a single Pascha liturgy to observe Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection. Specific Holy Week liturgies for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday grew from individual shrines in Jerusalem where each event occurred. Thanks to a detailed travel journal, written in 383 by a remarkable woman pilgrim to the Holy Land named Egeria, these liturgies began to take shape. As Holy Week begins, let's not only honor the women at the empty tomb but the woman who helped define Holy Week. LENTEN WEEKDAY TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256). "He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation."



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