

# Connection

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

St. Cyprian Catholic Church, Riverview, Michigan

April 3, 2022

### Marcings

The image of the crowd surrounding the woman caught in adultery in today's gospel is frightening. I can imagine the anger and rage in the eyes of the crowd surrounding the woman, and Jesus. The stones they held in their hands must have been large enough to cause mortal harm. Was the pain and suffering they were about to inflict upon the woman proportional to the offense she committed? We are so quick to condemn. When we condemn, we devalue the life of the person we condemn, and open the door to retribution and even violence. A talented and prominent actor this past week seemed to confuse his own angry and violent response with love. I hope we were confused by his explanation. While I don't doubt his love for his wife, his claim of protecting by harming others seemed to be misguided in the heat of the moment. Hopefully time will lead to a clearer reflection on his very public actions and their consequences. People will say inappropriate things, even terrible things, they will disrespect us. These are words, and we can decide how to respond to them. We can refuse to allow some people's words power over us.

Today's gospel, with its message that determining the worthiness of another life is not the role of flawed human beings, is often used as an argument against the death penalty. Saint Pope John Paul II taught that in modern times the conditions that would make capital punishment necessary "are very rare, if not

*(Continued on page 2)*

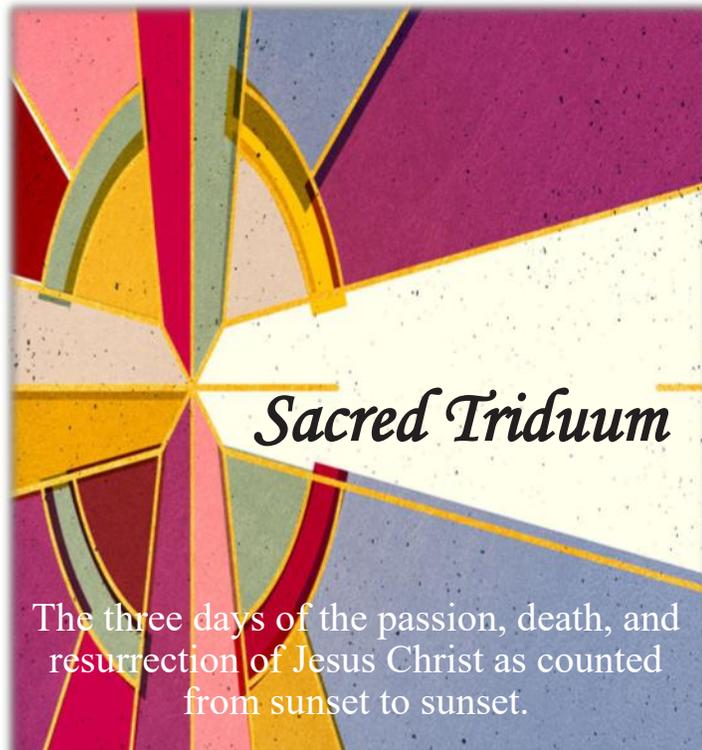


## Family of Parishes Sacrament of Reconciliation

**Tuesday, April 5 — 7:00 pm**

Join us as the Priests of our Family gather to help you prepare for the Sacrament of Easter through the Sacrament of Confession.

St. Roch, 25022 Gibraltar Rd., Flat Rock



The three days of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as counted from sunset to sunset.

**Holy Thursday, April 14**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

7:00 pm, Sacred Heart

Reception of Holy Oils

Washing of Feet & Eucharistic Feast

followed by Adoration at the Altar of Repose  
until Night Prayer at 10:00 pm

**Good Friday, April 15**

**Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**

12:00 pm, Sacred Heart

3:15 pm, St. Cyprian

*The Passion according to John*

Veneration of the Cross

*Holy Communion*

**Holy Saturday, April 16**

**Blessing of Easter Food**

11:00 am, St. Cyprian

12:00 noon, Sacred Heart

**The Easter Vigil Liturgy**

9:00 pm, St. Cyprian

**Easter Sunday, April 17**

**The Resurrection of the Lord**

9:00 am, St. Cyprian

11:00 am, Sacred Heart



*Marcings (Continued from page 1)*

practically nonexistent." In 2011, Pope Benedict urged world leaders to eliminate the death penalty. Continuing with the line of thinking of both is precursors. In 2018, Pope Francis revised the Catechism of the Roman Catholic Church, to describe the death penalty as "an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" that is "inadmissible". In the past few years there has been a significant increase in the number of people who would accept life without parole as an acceptable alternative. A recent Gallup poll indicated an increase in this country in support for live sentences as an alternative to the death penalty.

Errors in jurisprudence have played a role in changing minds, and the church's consistent teaching on the sanctity of life from the moment of conception until our natural death helped change hearts. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) said that "In this life guilt is not atoned for by any suffering simply as suffering, but rather by suffering borne with desire, love, and contrition of heart. The value is not in the suffering but in the soul's desire." Pope Francis described the death penalty as "both cruel and unnecessary" and noted that "modern society has the means of protecting itself without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform." Let us pray that we can all put down our stones long enough to reflect calmly on our own sinfulness and on God's abundant mercy for all.

Rev. Marc Gawronski



The Ladies Guild will be holding their regular meeting on **Tuesday, May 3, 6 pm** in the Social Hall. Light refreshments will be

served. Hope to see everyone there as it has been a long time since we've been together and we've got a couple of items that require your attention.

The Ladies Guild will be offering their \$500 *Scholarship for 2022* to any female graduating high school senior of a Guild member. The deadline for submission of an application is Tuesday, May 31. Applications are available in the Parish Office or by calling Beverly Nicholson, President of the Guild at (313) 806-7351.

Bless you for your patience & understanding during this long pandemic. Stay well and see you May 3 "God willin' and the creek don't rise."

Beverly Nicholson, President



## from our Director of Evangelization & Adult Faith Formation

This Fifth Sunday of Lent we will celebrate the third and final scrutiny for Marissa, our adult catechumen, and one of the Elect in our parish. The Gospel passage will be the Raising of Lazarus (John 11: 1-45) from Cycle A, as is consistent every year when the Scrutinies are celebrated. This gospel passage has the predominate theme of life, as Lazarus is a symbol of the real life that Jesus, dead and raised, will give to all who believe in him. Ironically, Jesus' gift of life to us leads to his own death. As the Elect prepare to enter the Baptismal waters they too will be brought to new life in Jesus Christ and be delivered from the spiritual death of sin and share in eternal life.



midst of their spiritual journey and that their hearts would be open to the gifts of Jesus Christ, their Savior. Also pray that they may progress in genuine knowledge of Jesus Christ, through serious examination of their lives and true repentance. Thank you for your continued faithful witness and prayers for them!

*“What then shall we say? Shall we persist in sin that grace may abound? Of course not! How can we who have died to sin still live in it? Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his own death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.” Romans 6: 1-4*

### Lenten Blessings to you,

Denise Gorski

Director of Evangelization & Adult Faith Formation  
734-283-1366 x112 ■ dgorski@stcypria.com

Scrutinies are a significant and important rite within the journey of Christian Initiation. The scrutinies are a series of liturgical rites that are for the spiritual benefit of the elect who will celebrate the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation during the Easter Vigil. There is a significant purpose of the scrutinies: *“The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. For the scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation and to give them strength in Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.”* (RCIA, #141) In Christian Initiation, exorcisms – both minor and major, that is, the scrutinies – are always pre-baptismal. They are never celebrated with the baptized as subjects of the rite, as the baptized have been freed from the power of sin and are no longer enslaved by Satan. Those who have not yet entered the waters of the font are still vulnerable; they have not yet been clothed with Christ; they have not yet been reborn as new creations. The baptized Catholic candidates for completing the sacraments of Initiation and the baptized candidates for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church derive benefit in the same way the faithful do – by joining in the prayer for the Elect. That is why those who have already been released from the devil's grip and are able to prayerfully participate in these scrutinies and exorcisms for the Elect.

I ask our parish community to please continue to keep all of our Elect in your prayers, as these next two weeks can be filled with fatigue and temptations for them. Pray that they may receive new strength and vigor in the



## Taizé Prayer Service

Take a break from the demands of your daily life to attend the Lenten Taizé Prayer Service on **Friday, April 8 at 6:30 pm** at St. Cyprian Church. Taizé (pronounced: tay-zay) is a prayerful form of music known for its simple, yet rich and meditative character. Taizé music often takes the structure of a simple melody that repeats over and over) and is meant to serve as a kind of musical centering prayer. Because Taizé music itself is intentionally simple, it provides a great way to move our prayer from the head to the heart.

Reasons to attend a Taizé Prayer Service:

- Leave behind your many distractions and concentrate on the Lord
- Praising God with Taizé music can draw you deeper into relationship with God
- Taizé music can help you establish a rhythm of prayer

Please consider joining us for a pray experience that will draw you closer to the Lord.

## Go Make of All Disciples

Be an Ambassador for Christ



Our Second Reading for last weekend invited us to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). What does it mean to be an ambassador? It means

to be a representative. When we act on behalf of Christ and the Church, we are being ambassadors. This phrase struck me in a particular way this past weekend as a few of our parishes in the family were involved in gathering and transporting donated supplies for Ukraine. As we drove it all down to Hamtramck last Saturday, it all came together for me. We were truly acting as ambassadors of Christ. We prayed over all the supplies at St. Joseph before we left, particularly asking God to be with the recipients of these supplies. In spending time in a warehouse in Hamtramck dividing up the medical supplies, toiletries, and other needed supplies, all the volunteers were clearly impacted. Being able to be an ambassador for Christ by supporting those affected by the war in Ukraine was an act of love for our neighbor and a way to treat them as we would treat Christ.

### Attention Young Families with newly Baptized Children!

As our parishes consider ways to reach out to and minister to families after the baptism of infants, we will have a social gathering on the weekend of Pentecost (June 5). Plans are in the works, but if you would like to take part either as a participant or help in any way, please let me know!

### Catechist Formation

I had a meeting with the Catechists in our Family of Parishes last week. It was our first endeavor of working together as Catechists. One point that was made was the necessity of formation. To be a Catechist is simply to “echo” the faith. Being formed in this faith is what catechist formation assists us in. There is an online platform from Sacred Heart Major Seminary that allows an individual to go through some online modules, and then gather with a small group for reflection. If you are interested in becoming a catechist or are just interested in growing in faith, you can register at [www.explore.shms.edu/aod-catechist](http://www.explore.shms.edu/aod-catechist).

God bless,  
Sean Calvin, Director of Discipleship Formation,  
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(734) 676-9082 ext. 19, [scalvin@stjosephrenton.com](mailto:scalvin@stjosephrenton.com)

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## Knightly News from the Chancellor

April—A Time of New Life

The first fifteen days of the month fall during the season of lent which is represented by the liturgical color violet or purple – a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remainder of April falls during the Easter Season which is represented by the liturgical color white – the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

As our Lenten journey comes to a close, we prepare to follow Christ all the way to the cross and to witness His glorious Resurrection. Hopefully we have sacrificed and prayed so that we are now able to more fully reap the fruits of a well spent Lent. As spring breaks forth even nature will join us as buds and blooms begin to surface and we spend this month basking in the joy of the resurrection. We continue throughout the entire month crying out, “Christ is risen, Christ is truly risen.”

The Feast of Divine Mercy offers us the opportunity to begin again as though we were newly baptized. The unfathomable mercy of God is made manifest if we but accept His most gracious offer. Easter is the feast of feasts, the joy and gladness of all Christians. This truly is, “The day the Lord has made.” From Sunday to Sunday, from year to year, the Easters of this earth will lead us to that blessed day on which Christ has promised that He will come again with glory to take us with Him into the kingdom of His Father.

*Content of this article is taken from the Catholic Culture website.*

Carl Baltosiewicz, Chancellor  
Knights of Columbus Council 13980

**11th Annual**

save the date

**May 18, 2022**  
**5:30 — 7:30 pm**

**Pasta Fundraiser**  
Sponsored by  
**Crystal Gardens**

More details coming soon!

All proceeds to benefit the St. Cyprian General Fund

**Liturgical Minister Schedule for April 10**  
*Palm Sunday*  
 Minister Schedule also available at [www.stcyprian.com](http://www.stcyprian.com)

	<b>5:00pm</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>SACRISTAN/AA</b>	Marv Fusinski	Diane Zarosly
<b>GREETERS</b>	Nona Sehoyan, Pat Gildersleeve, Fusinski Family	Ellerbrock Family, Anne Gilhool
<b>LECTORS</b>	Annette & Gary Ennis	Susan & Al LaCroix
<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	Carl Baltosiewich	Andrew Whitman



**Religious Formation Schedule**

- April 4 Grades 1-5 6:15pm
- April 5 Last Class Family Program 6:30pm
- April 18 No Class
- April 25 Last Class Grades 1-5 6:15pm
- April 26 First Eucharist Practice 6:30pm
- April 30 First Communion at 5pm Mass

Stacey Sutowski-Shurtz  
 Director of Elementary Catechesis & Youth Ministry  
[sshurtz@stcyprian.com](mailto:sshurtz@stcyprian.com) ■ (734) 283-1366 ext. 118

**Liturgy Intentions**

*Donations have been made for the purchase of bread and wine in honor of the following:*

**April 9, 5:00pm Liturgy**

- † Carolyn Kacewicz from Family
- † Yvonne Cancilliari from Scott & Kathy Cancilliari

**April 10, 9:00am Liturgy**

- † JoAnn DeJaeger from Nancy Verdoot
- † Robert “Bob” Haarala from Kevin & Chris Huchla
- † Ted & Shirley Gwardinski from Allan Britz
- † Joseph Britz from Family
- † Gert Wisniewski from St. Cyprian Ladies Guild



**The Shroud of Turin**  
Thursday, April 7th  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
St. Joseph Church, Trenton

The Shroud of Turin is purported to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ.

It has been a mystery for hundreds, even thousands of years.



Deacon Bob has been interested in the Shroud for almost 60 years.

This presentation will unravel the mystery and reveal the Shroud for what it really is... The burial cloth of Jesus Christ.

Deacon Bob's background as a Permanent Deacon, Scripture Scholar and Research Chemist blend together well for this presentation. Bob will begin with the first hundred years of research.

He will then provide "the rest of the story" which will include the carbon dating controversy, the latest most up-to-date scientific research and the astounding conclusions drawn from this data.

**Let Perpetual Light Shine**

†Panayeota Tear  
 who entered eternal life on  
 March 23, 2022



Chuck Baker, Leah Steffensky Barbick, Noni Barry, Wes Barry, Tara Brandon, Larry Brown, Norman Burlinski, Florence Carli, Tom Claringbold, Rita Cook, Hudson Demick, Mary Ann Emerson, Diane Faimon, Dawn Favazza, Curtis Fisher, Bob Flood, Micky Gilhool, Tom Hoover, Nancy Hunt, Barbara Kubala, Aidan LaForest, Jan Leonard, Reese Lizyness, Joey Manzella, Retta Matt, Mike Michalak, Charles Neimann, Erica Paine, Marlene Perok, Don, Preston, Kathleen Preston, Roseann Prucka, Judy Roberts, Fred Rinke, Audrey Ruelle, John Santori, Rose Sebestyen, Michael Shelton, Carol Burbo Shirk, Joan Siwka, Jayne Slayden, Bob Stasak, Mary Stasak, Renee Sterner, Bill Susick, Robert Teeters, Francis Wash, Rita Whalen, James Whitenburg, Dorothy Withrow

### Readings for the Week of April 3

Fifth Sunday of Lent Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Monday Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps 23:1-6; Jn8:12-20

Tuesday Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Friday Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56

Palm Sunday Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56

**St. Cyprian**  
At this time we are in need of Spanish rice mix, taco seasoning, and refried beans.

**Food Pantry**  
*Thank you for all your support!*

### PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Collection 3/27/22	\$12,183.00
Total Collection 7/1/21 to present	\$356,567.00
Needed Weekly	\$9,664.00
Needed 7/1/21 to present	\$376,896.00
Over ( <b>Under</b> ) for Year	<b>\$20,329.00</b>

### ST. CYPRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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#### DOWNRIVER FAMILY OF PARISHES 3

**Rev. Marc A. Gawronski, Moderator**  
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**Sean Calvin, Director of Discipleship Formation**  
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**Sue Biedlingmaier, Director of Mission Support**  
(734) 676-1378 ext. 205 — [sue@sacredheartgi.com](mailto:sue@sacredheartgi.com)

#### WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00am

#### WEEKEND LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 9:00am

#### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

First Thursday of the month at 9:00am Liturgy or by appointment

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 4:15pm or by appointment



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