



# ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 19, 2023

### Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am

### Weekday Masses

Mon, Thu, Fri: 8:00 am  
Wednesday: 6:00 pm  
Tues: 8:00 am Communion Service

### Reconciliation

Saturday: 4:15-4:45 pm  
Wednesday 5:15-5:30 pm  
or by appointment

### Parish Office

**Location**..... 902 St. John Drive  
..... in the Activity Center  
**Mailing Address** ..... P.O. Box 229  
..... Sherman, IL 62684  
**Email** ..... parish@sjv.dio.org  
**Phone**..... 217-523-3816  
**Office Hours**..... Monday-Friday  
..... 8:30 am—1:30 pm

#### **Pastor:**

Fr. Fredrick Chima Mbiere  
*cmbiere@dio.org*  
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#### **Deacon:**

Andy Krug  
*parish@sjv.dio.org*

#### **Office Manager:**

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#### **Bookkeeper:**

Lynda Cliburn  
*lcliburn@sjv.dio.org*

Find us online at <https://sjvsherman.org>



<http://facebook.com/sjvchurchsherman>



YEAR A

## 7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” - Mt 5:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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### PARISH MINISTRIES CONTACT INFORMATION

#### **Parish Pastoral Council Chair:**

Molly Kershaw  
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#### **Women's Society President:**

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*bdoulinn@yahoo.com*

#### **Pro-Life Coordinator:**

Valerie Henderson  
*tvh@casscomm.com*

#### **Prayer Line:**

Terry Willis 725-2005  
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#### **Adult Faith Enrichment:**

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#### **Faith Formation Coordinators:**

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#### **Caregivers Ministry:**

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or *cbee355@aol.com*

#### **Tribunal Advocate:**

Rita Friedewald  
*ritafriedewald@yahoo.com*

#### **Council 14024 KC Grand Knight:**

John Ausmus  
*jpausmus56@gmail.com*  
or 217-415-2109

#### **Parish Nurse:**

Nancy Barrett  
*barrettncancy259@gmail.com*

#### **Youth Group Coordinator:**

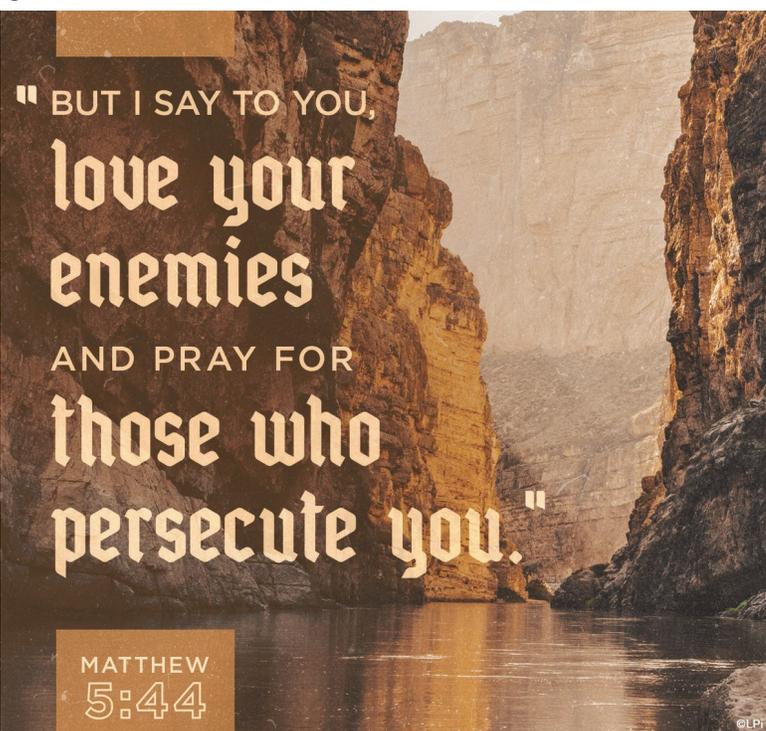
Molly Ishmael  
*mnh82@hotmail.com*

# A Call to Holiness for All

**Beloved brothers and sisters**, we are continuing with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount this Sunday. Of course, the Gospel of last Sunday dealt with murder, adultery, divorce, oaths and vows, and today our attention is drawn to the question of retaliation and hatred of enemies which pose some damning obstacles to our life of holiness or aspiration to be perfect as Our Heavenly Father is perfect.

The book of Leviticus from where we got the 1st reading has its central message as 'a call to holiness for all God's people, thus, "you shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy," (Lev. 19:2). This book contains equally the Ten Commandments as well as a number of other commandments, all of which are summed up in the commandment to love one's neighbor as oneself.

Jesus expands on this command in today's Gospel. He broadens this love of one's neighbor which was initially restricted to fellow-Israelites to include everyone, Gentiles as well as Jews, enemies as well as friends. We as his disciples are to love as God loves, thus, all-embracing love. What makes the disciples of Christ different from others is their ability to love even their enemies. Indeed, a response with love toward those who wrong us benefits both parties far more than does a response of hate. When we respond with love, we release love where it is needed most. We are holy to the extent we imitate the generosity of God by not exacting vengeance, or bearing a grudge against another. Indeed, violence begets violence. Alongside these, Jesus instructs us on how to react when injured. We are entitled to stand up for ourselves, but he wants us to let love guide us rather than vengeance. There is a lot of benefits in forgiving. Jesus says, 'pray for those who persecute you.' This thought can be helpful when we have difficulty in forgiving. If all of us had to get even for every hurt in life, we would all end up hating one another. Can I sometimes swallow my pride and move on in life? What a great challenge to our call to holiness. May God give us His grace! Amen.



**MY VACATION IN MY HOME COUNTRY NIGERIA:** I am writing this to inform you that I came back safely to the Diocese last Thursday evening, February 9, at the end of my annual vacation in Nigeria. Tremendous thanks to God for the journey mercies granted to me.

My last annual vacation in my home country Nigeria was generally a great moment spent with my family and friends irrespective of the disturbing and scary security challenges in my country, especially in my region. God really guarded me and my family in the face of all those. Among the major events that took place while I was on vacation were: the beginning of the Year Gathering for all the Priests in my home Diocese with the Bishop. In the course of such gathering our Bishop Jonas Benson Okoye took time to present all the priests in Diaspora to all the priests working at home. He mentioned the nature of our assignments in the various countries and dioceses where we are. Through our own individual introductions, he expressed his gratitude to all the Dioceses where we are serving and he mentioned the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois in a special way. The funeral ceremony of my late Grandmother Grace N. Azuka on January 11, was a huge success. More than 30 priests were there for the vigil and burial Masses. I was opportune to administer the infant baptism for my newest and youngest niece Emmanuella, who was born on December 7, 2022 by my youngest sister whose wedding I officiated at during my vacation in January 2022. The joy was overwhelming. On the downside, I celebrated a very limited number of public Masses and funerals, and my movements were restricted because of the security situation in the country. Although, I still managed to visit the 2 Orphanage Homes as usual with some surprising packages for each. My trip back to the States on the 8/9 February, was a hitch-free one. To God be the glory! My home Bishop hopes to visit the States by this summer and may probably plan to stop briefly down here in our Diocese.

I really appreciate your care, support and love, and especially your prayers for my safe travels. I assure you of my prayers always. I have attached some few photos from the events that took place during my vacation: the priests' gathering with the Bishop, the funeral of my 98 years old late Grandmother, my visit to the Orphanage homes and the baptism of my newly born niece, among others.

**DEATH AND FUNERAL OF LORI SAATHOFF:** Our beloved Lori passed away peacefully last Sunday evening, Feb. 12, 2023. I gave her the Last Rites few hours before she expired. Her funeral was last Friday, Feb. 17. We once again express our condolences to her family. Thanks to all who cared for her while at the hospital and those assisted in the course of her funeral ceremony. May Lori rest in the peace of the Lord.

Remember to begin the Lent with us on Ash Wednesday! Have a blessed Sunday and a great new week, up front.

**FR. FREDDIE MBIERE**



## LENTEN DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE

The season of Lent begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 and ends just prior to the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023, when the Paschal Triduum begins. Lent is the principal penitential season in the Church year. All the Christian faithful are urged to develop and maintain a voluntary program of self denial (in addition to the Lenten regulations which follow), serious prayer and the performing of deeds of charity and mercy, including the giving of alms.

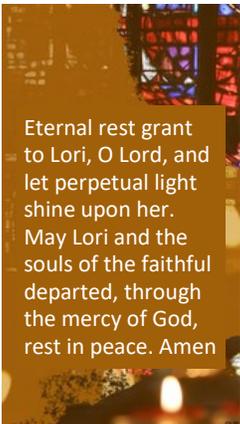
**ABSTINENCE** - Everyone 14 years of age and over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**FAST** - Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 is required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is permitted. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to each person's needs, but together these two should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids (including milk and fruit juices) are allowed.

To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is seriously sinful.

**St. Patrick's Day, March 17, this year falls on a Friday during Lent.** Adhering to the obligation of abstaining from meat on this day as on the other Fridays of Lent is a commendable way to honor the heroic virtue and sacrifice of St. Patrick's life as a disciple of Our Lord. For a just cause in individual cases, a pastor can grant a dispensation from the obligation of observing a day of penance or can grant a commutation of the obligation into other pious good works (per canon 1245 of the Code of Canon Law). The faithful who are desirous of such a dispensation or commutation of the obligation to abstain from meat on Friday, March 17, should speak with their pastor.



Eternal rest grant to Lori, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May Lori and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



**Lori Saathoff**, the St. John Vianney director of music, died at 6:30 pm, Sunday, February 12, 2023 at Springfield Memorial Hospital. She had led the SJV congregation in song for 17 years. In her time with SJV, she mentored several individuals to become cantors, conducted adult and youth choirs, and provided the musical component to vacation Bible school and other programs. Lori had served musically at many other churches in the area and would help out when needed. Lori was the daughter of SJV parishioners Ronald Lee and the late Nancy Ann (Peontek) Saathoff. Her survivors include her father, one sister, Christina (Bill) Tucker of Springfield; and several nieces and nephews and cousins.

SJV KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #14024

**\$10 ADULT MEAL**  
**Kid's Meal \$5 WITH 1 SIDE**

Assorted Desserts  
Beer, Wine, and Soda  
available for purchase

**FISH FRY FRIDAY**

JOIN US FOR  
**DINNER**  
**THIS LENT!**

SJV Activity Center

**February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31**  
Dine In: 4:30-7:00 PM  
Drive Thru: 4:30-6:30 PM  
Carry-out available

**The Ash Wednesday Collection is for Church in Central and Eastern Europe.** Please be generous to the collection as your support helps the Church bring Christ's mercy to the Ukrainian refugees, Moldovan children, and families most in need. For more information about the collection and whom it supports, visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee). Thank you for your help to restore the Church and build the future in Central and Eastern Europe.

**ST JOHN VIANNEY LENDING LIBRARY**

The SJV Lending Library is available to all who are interested in leading themselves to where God is calling them to be. At this time, there are approximately 300 books to choose from. It is located in the back of the church in the Adoration Chapel. Remember to fill out a library check out card with date of return.

**February 25th 3:30-5 pm**  
Jr. High and High School

**YOUTH Group**

**FUN AND FOOD AFTERNOON**  
Games, Snacks & Fun!

St. John Vianney WEEKLY PARISH OFFERING February 11 & 12, 2023		WeShare, our online donation tool, is not working properly for second collections, such as the collection for the <i>Catholic Times</i> subscription. Please write a check and drop it in the collection basket for any second collection until further notice.
Sunday Envelopes	\$ 1,460.00	
Loose Donations	\$ 546.00	
WeShare	\$ 800.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,806.00</b>	
Weekly Budget	\$ 4,788.46	
Capital Improvements	\$ 340.00	Thank you for your generous support of our parish needs and those of the greater Church.
Building & Maintenance	\$ 250.00	
Church in Eastern Europe	\$ 15.00	
Catholic Times	\$ 15.00	

**Is Ash Wednesday a holy day of obligation?** Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary's Immaculate Conception). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. It focuses on a concept rather than something particular and concrete. Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth. ©LPi

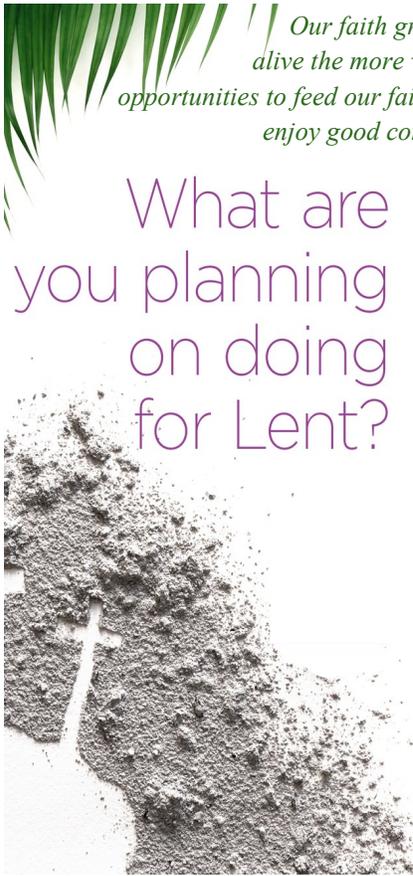
*Our faith grows and becomes more fully alive the more we feed it. SJV has two great opportunities to feed our faith, meet fellow parishioners, enjoy good conversation, and great coffee!*

## What are you planning on doing for Lent?

**EVERY SUNDAY** morning after Mass and after the opening of CFF, we watch videos from FORMED, drink wonderful coffee (or hot chocolate), and have some great discussions about our faith as we get to know fellow parishioners and maybe ourselves better. **Sundays 9:45—11 am**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY** evening after Mass we meet to watch videos or study the bible and share our thoughts. **Wednesdays 6:45-8 pm**

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
☞ come to one or both ☜



**Free to St. John Vianney parishioners!**  
Visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and type in **62684**

**FORMED**

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.



An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  ignatius press

**Word Among Us LENTEN 2023** issue is now in the back of the church. **The Little Black Book**, provided by the SJV Women's Society, is also available. Please take both for yourself and/or a friend!

## MASS INTENTIONS AND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	FEB. 18	FEB. 19	FEB. 20	FEB. 21	FEB. 22	FEB. 23	FEB. 24	FEB. 25	FEB. 26
	5:00 PM	8:30 AM	8:00 AM	8:00 AM		8:00 AM	8:00 AM	5:00 PM	8:30 AM
OBSERVANCES	VIGIL FOR 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		<i>St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr</i>		VIGIL FOR 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
MASS INTENTION	Roy & Alice McPherson †	For the People (Pro Populo)	Delores & Glenn Allison †	Communion Service		Evelyn Sweeney †	Lisa Marie Johnson †	Glenn Allison †	For the People (Pro Populo)
LECTOR	Stacie Henderson	John Ausmus						Amy Schutzbach	Terry Willis
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Barbara Doud	Deacon Andy						Barbara Doud	Larry Hoffman
SERVER	Connor Ausmus	Kade Gleason						Audrey Fox	Will Brumleve
SACRISTAN	Deacon Andy	Deacon Andy						Cliff Shehorn	
GREETER	Jean McCain	Jeane & David Kleiss Family						Jean McCain	1st Grade Kindergarten

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### *The hardness of holiness*

Want to know the words I find hardest to say? “Lord, give me the strength.”

The world tells us to push ourselves outside of our comfort zone if we’re training for a marathon or applying for a job — but if we’re talking about God, everything is supposed to be easy. If it comes “naturally” or without struggle it’s supposed to be right.

Only God is perfect, the world tells us. What’s the use of trying so hard?

I’m really good at finding excuses for myself, especially when it comes to holiness. Holiness, often (not always, but often), is about choosing the hard, but right, thing. The invitation to holiness is whispered in the hardest moments of my day when I am the most hopelessly human. After the kids’ bedtime, when I really just want to watch Dateline and eat too much ice cream instead of saying the Rosary. When I’ve committed to helping someone, but it suddenly becomes incredibly inconvenient. When I see a social media post that’s just begging for a snarky reply. When the conversation becomes gossip and I’m dying to make myself feel superior to someone.

The reason it’s so difficult for me to mutter these five simple words is because I know that if I say them and I mean them, they form a prayer that God will always answer in the affirmative. He will give me the strength I ask for, and then I will have no excuse.

It’s not unlike my kids claiming they’re too tired to clean up the playroom. If they would just ask me for help, it would all be so doable. But where would that leave them?

With a job to do, that’s where.

*“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.” — Leviticus 19:2*

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

©LPI

## Why do Catholics eat fish on Friday?

For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church’s thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on “why we do what we do” among the Church’s pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each Friday, to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy. ©LPI



**Activity in the Activity Center!** Over the last few weeks, members of the Knights of Columbus Council 14024 have replaced all the ceiling tiles and light figures in the carpeted side of the Activity Center. The materials were purchased by the Knights. The project finished up just in time for the Parish Council sponsored Valentine Wine and Cheese party. More than two dozen adult parishioners enjoyed the festive evening held Feb. 11.