

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

1st Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

www.HolySpiritStevensPoint.org

Prepare to be ...

THIS WEEK

All Meetings held via "Zoom" unless noted

MONDAY 22 FEB / 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19

- Point Catholic Busy Student Retreat
- 6:30 AM - St. Stephen Parish

TUESDAY 23 FEB / Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-7, 16-19/Mt 6:7-15

- Point Catholic Busy Student Retreat
- 8:15 AM - Public/Live Stream MASS (+ Steve & Phillip Kohl) FSB
- 9:30 AM - Staff Meeting/Prayer
- 4 PM - Salvation Army Meal Ministry
- 6 PM - Alpha Gathering

WEDNESDAY 24 FEB / Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

- Point Catholic Busy Student Retreat
- 8:15 AM - Public/Live Stream MASS (+ Conrad, Jerome & Jim Pieczynski) FSB
- 12 PM - Wild Goose Wednesday Video Series
- 4 PM - Finance Council Meeting
- 6 PM - Reconciliation, Ministry Center/Library
- 6:30 PM - Confirmation Yr. 1-2 & Faith Formation Gr. 7-8
- 8 PM - Point Catholic Late Night Mass FSB

THURSDAY 25 FEB / Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-3, 7-8/Mt 7:7-12

- Point Catholic Busy Student Retreat
- 8:15 AM - Public/Live Stream MASS (+ Mary Ann Krems) FSB
- 9 AM-3:30 PM - Eucharistic Adoration
-9 AM Stations of the Cross -3 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 6:30 PM - Stephen Ministry Training
- 8 PM - Thrive

FRIDAY 26 FEB / Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-8/Mt 5:20-26

- 8:15 AM - Public/Live Stream MASS (+ Noni Clark) FSB

SATURDAY 27 FEB / Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

- 9-11 AM - Reconciliation, Ministry Center/Library

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Lent / Feb 27/28

Gn 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15-19/Rom 8:31-34/Mk 9:2-10

- 5 PM - Public MASS (+ Alfred & MaryAnn Lietz) FSB
- 8 AM Live Feed/Video MASS (+ Albert Kubisiak) FSB
- 10 AM - Public MASS (+ Jerry Kunze & Sr. Mary Arthur Kunze) FSB
- 6 PM - Public MASS (+ for the people of Holy Spirit Parish) FSB

Happening This Week!

Jessica Enstad

**POINT CATHOLIC
BUSY STUDENT RETREAT**

**Fearfully
and
Wonderfully
Made**

"YOU FORMED MY INMOST BEING; YOU KNIT ME IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB. I PRAISE YOU, BECAUSE I AM WONDERFULLY MADE; WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS!"

PSALM 139:13-14

WHEN: February 21 - 25, 2021

WHERE: Holy Spirit Parish
Ministry Center

COST: Free!

Point Catholic's Busy Student Retreat - the biggest and most treasured retreat of the semester has begun! This retreat is unique in that it caters to a student's busy schedule! Students are paired with a spiritual director for the week and just need to find 30 minutes daily to spend time with them.. And, as a bonus if their schedule allows, there is a short talk, prayer & dinner to-go each evening! We're pleased to have the following directors this week: Anne Augustine, from Neilsville WI; Rae Ann Thomas, from Stevens Point, Patricia Pintens and Grant Van Lishout, from the Marywood Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae. Please hold the students and their directors in prayer this week as they unpack what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made by Christ. I look forward to sharing how the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of these directors and students after the retreat!

You get what you expect. And we have grown to expect bad news, worsening conditions, and increasing conflict. It is leading to increasing anxiety, depression and suicide. Christ's call to Repentance, to Metanoia, is a call to pivot from negative expectations based on past experiences to an openness to the God of surprises and infinite possibilities. Faith begins where human knowledge and power ends. The hidden blessing of these very difficult months is they lead us to the edge of our own human abilities and to the God who is waiting there to save us. "Prepare to be..." Is an invitation to be open to God's action in our lives. This theme will be developed each week as follows.

First Sunday: Prepare to be... Accompanied.

It was in the flood and in the desert that Noah and Jesus discovered they were being accompanied by God's angels and grace. In the midst of our Covid anxiety we choose to lift our eyes from expecting the worst to expecting God's action... To watch for our accompanying angels.

Second Sunday: Prepare to be.... Amazed.

Experiencing God feels like opening up to a call, a purpose, a vision far greater than what you have known yourself to be capable of. Abraham couldn't believe God's promise to him. And Jesus is filled with glorious light by the mission the Father has set before him.

Third Sunday: Be Prepared to be... Nourished.

When our hearts open in amazement a spring of life giving water, the life of the Spirit, awakens in our hearts. Like Moses bringing water from the rock and Christ bringing love from the hardened Samaritan woman's heart our desert is turned into garden. Disappointment turns into joy.

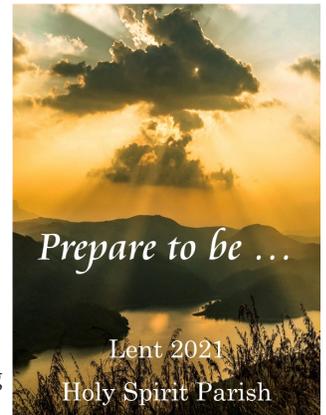
Fourth Sunday: Prepare to be.... Anointed

Amazed and nourished, our vision is restored. Like David anointed king or the blind man getting his eye's smeared with mud, we are able to walk in a new light where before we stumbled in darkness.

Fifth Sunday: Prepare to be... Called

Accompanied, amazed, nourished and anointed we leave death behind and live now at Christ's beckoning. No less than Ezekiel's prophesy of tombs opening or of Lazarus stepping out of the tomb, we will say: Not I, but he living in me.

For this wonderful sense of direction for our Lenten season we owe thanks to planning team members: Mike & Judy Splinter, Steven & Sue Bergin, Duane and Terri Greuel, Mary Jo Holzhaeuser, Dave Rosenthal, Dan & Tina Sivek and Mary Pi-onkowski.



Lent 2021 Grades I-8 Faith Formation Families

Julie Meadows



Prepare to be . . . accompanied, amazed, nourished, anointed, called!

Faith Formation families were invited to begin their celebration of Lent-in-the-home on Shrove Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, with a festive meal and a King Cake. It is traditional for people around the world, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, to enjoy eating foods they will not consume during Lent as they prepare to encounter Jesus in the Paschal Mystery through prayer, fasting and works of love.

To help center our families in prayer during each Lord's Day Mass – and throughout the week – parents and children are invited to create a Lenten Sand Garden, similar to the one shown in the picture above. Each Sunday, following the proclamation of the Gospel, naturally colored or painted stones may be placed in the garden, with colors signifying the central element of each Gospel account. If sands and stones aren't readily available, try using dried lentils or beans for the desert and roll and paint clay "stones" together. The stone colors for each week are listed here:

- First Sunday, February 21 – Jesus in the Desert: Natural Stone
- Second Sunday, February 28 – The Transfiguration: White Stone
- Third Sunday, March 7 – The Woman at the Well: Blue Stone
- Fourth Sunday, March 14 – The Man Blind from Birth: Gold or Yellow Stone
- Fifth Sunday, March 21 – The Raising of Lazarus: Green Stone

Sharing in works of love is natural for our families but, perhaps, not for 40 days straight! This Lent, we invite you to take on an activity each day of the 40 days in Lent to express the love of Christ within your family, the parish family, the broader Stevens Point family and the universal family we know within and beyond the Church. An activity sheet, "40 Lenten Activities for Catholic Families" is included in this bulletin. You can find other Suggestions for Lenten activities at the parish website.

Lenten Reconciliation Opportunities

There are additional/expanded opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. The Sacrament will be offered each Wednesday between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday's between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and is a wonderful chance to deepen one's relationship with the God who always loves and forgives us.

Recognize God in Ordinary Moments

The Unlikely Suspects: Have you ever taken a nature walk? Have you leisurely strolled through a forest or field, with no real destination in mind and your only objective being receptivity to and observation of all God's creation?

Sometimes, Scripture readings can feel like a nature walk. All of salvation history plays out against the backdrop of the natural world, with all elements of God's creation — plants and animals and the dust of the earth itself — turning in a supporting performance. How about Jesus in the hot and dusty desert, tempted, living "among the wild beasts?" Noah departed from his ark with the animals he rescued, observing God's sign in the very clouds of the sky. Even God Himself, offering us salvation from original sin through the waters of baptism.

How often do we remember that God speaks to us through all of His creation, even in the unlikeliest suspects?

Let's go back to the nature walk. It sounds like a lovely way to pass an afternoon, amongst wildflowers and butterflies, but don't forget the beating hot sun, mosquitos, and threat of rain on the horizon. Remember, we're not in heaven yet. Here on earth, God may be present in His creation, but that doesn't mean it's always easy to endure.

Lent is, essentially, a time to listen for the voice of God in places we may not expect: the mild irritations you experience when you're craving the chocolate you gave up, or the dull pangs of hunger during the Ash Wednesday fast. It's a golden opportunity to see the divine hand in all of creation, even those unlikely suspects.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

BEING GOOD STEWARDS

Of time, talent and treasure

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH GIVING

Week Ending Feb 12, 2021

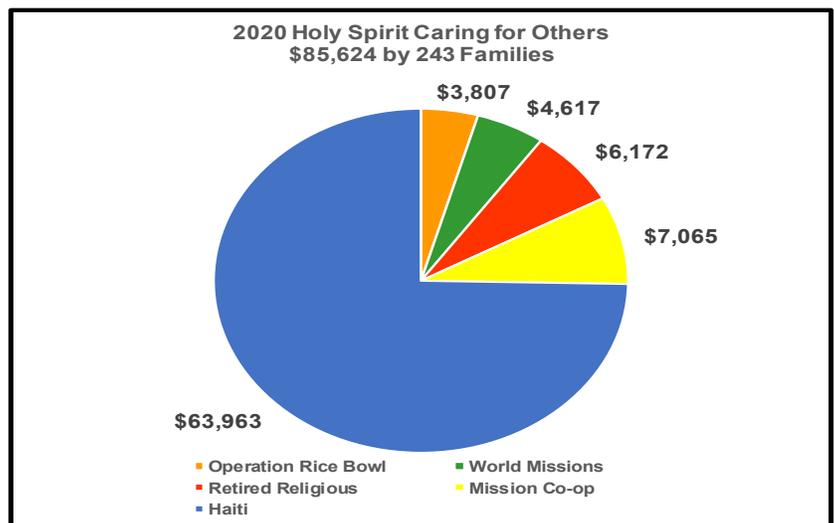
Autodrafts & Debit/Credit Cards.....	\$8,116
ACH Giving.....	\$7,859
Offertory.....	\$80
Total:	\$16,054

2020 GIVING STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP IN THE GATHERING SPACE

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal.....	\$123,605
Pledged.....	\$90,993
Balance to Goal.....	\$32,612
% of Goal Achieved.....	73.6%
Participation Goal.....	500 families
# of Donors.....	338 families
% of Donors Goal Participating.....	67.6%

New Donors.....23 families
Donated Last Year But Not This Year.....73 families



Holy Spirit Finances

John Clifford, Finance Council

It seems January's foggy weather influenced the parish's financial results. Revenue for the month was about \$10,000 less than last year. Expenses were also less than last year, but were still \$14,081 more than our Revenue. So our YTD cushion is down to \$10,023. Year end expenses will still be more than a million dollars so our challenge is to get Year End Revenue to the same level.

Holy Spirit Financial Picture for January 31, 2021

Revenue vs. Expense

7 months thru 01-31-2021 Item // Time Period=>	Cur Mo Actual	YTD Actual	Yr End Estimate 6-30-2021
Total Revenue	\$64,427	\$587,738	???
Total Expenses	\$78,508	\$577,715	\$1,000,000 plus a little bit more
Excess Rev [Exp]	(\$14,081)	\$10,023	\$0

CONFIRMATION AND HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY



Lenten Challenge

Prepare to be . . .

*accompanied, amazed, nourished,
anointed, called!*

FASTING: *You Can Do It! Really, You Can!!*

If you are 14 -18 years old simply abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday. Take it one step farther and keep your meals small on these days. Fasting and abstinence remind us of Jesus' self-giving and allow us, in a small way, to participate in the deprivation and suffering He experienced in His passion. Fasting and abstinence also provide us the chance to reflect on men, women and children here, and around the world, for whom hunger and want are an every day experience, helping us to consider how we may live more simply than others may simply live.

PRAYER: *24 Hours for the Lord – Youth and Young Adult Edition!*

Jesus-Be-In-The-House! And, we're joining forces with students from our Point Catholic College Ministry to adore and glorify Him. Mark your calendars: **FRIDAY / SATURDAY, 5TH – 6TH MARCH!**

- Our 24 hours begins Friday at 6:00 pm with silent Exposition & Adoration and the opportunity to share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Our 24 hours ends on Saturday at 6:00 pm following a *Pack the Mass* event, done in the way only Holy Spirit Youth can!
- Come for half an hour, 1 hour or the whole 24! Come in-person, or ZOOM in! However you come, remember you never come alone . . . we're all in this together, with Jesus!

WORKS of LOVE: *What's Love Got to do With It? Everything!*

"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but, the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

"In the end, the love you live is equal to the love you give." – The Beatles

Do you know how Christ loves you? I mean, do you know how Christ really loves you? When we allow ourselves to meet Christ in other people and to love Him, through them, as He loves us we begin to get a taste of how Christ loves us . . . and how He delights in His love of us. So, go ahead and love someone today: look after someone in kindness, care for someone in her distress, encourage someone in his fear, serve another - *and* GOD - with humble abandon. Need some ideas to help you get started? Check out the chart, "40 Lenten Activities for Catholic Families" on the next page of this bulletin!

40 Lenten Activities for Catholic Families

Give up television and internet for one day.	Genuinely compliment someone who isn't expecting it.	Donate a bag of food to a local church or charity.	Go to a weekday Mass.	Pray for good things for someone who has been unkind to you.	Visit an elderly friend or relative who doesn't get a lot of visitors.	Make homemade pretzels, a traditional Lenten food.	Make an alms-giving box and collect change throughout Lent to donate.
Plan a simple meal and talk as a family about how to help the hungry.	Pray for people in your parish's RCIA program preparing to enter the Church.	Do a craft, piece of art, or creative project that glorifies the Lord.	Send a card or note of encouragement to a priest or a member of a religious community.	Pray for an increase in religious vocations.	Ask for forgiveness from someone that you have wronged.	Not just Friday. Have an additional meatless day one week during Lent.	Pray for someone preparing for First Communion or Confirmation.
Light a candle at church and pray for someone in your life.	Volunteer some of your time to help at church, school, or home.	Clean up a mess that somebody else made (without complaining).	Memorize a prayer that you don't already know by heart.	Surprise someone by doing a task or chore that they normally do.	Donate a bag of things that are still nice, but that you just don't use.	Pray the Rosary (or even just a decade) as a family.	Thank someone who has been a good influence in your life.
Read a religious book individually or as a family.	Listen to religious music while doing a task you have been putting off.	Attend (or read at home) the Stations of the Cross.	Pray for world political and religious leaders.	Make hot cross buns.	Learn more about a saint that your family is unfamiliar with.	Do something healthy to take care of the body God gave you.	Clear your mind of other things and sit quietly with God.
Do something to help the Earth.	Go to Adoration, even if it's just for a little while.	Pray for the Pope.	Watch a religious movie together as a family.	Give up sweets and other snacks for a day.	Read one book of the Bible.	Do a foot-washing with your family members.	Attend a Holy Week Mass.

What's Happening With The Building Project?

Fr. Steve Brice

So much has been accomplished! We are blessed with the wonderful new Ministry Center Phase I of our Building Project finished and dedicated March 8 2020. As terrible as the pandemic has been, the empty church has allowed the Phase II renovations to move ahead of schedule. We now have new energy efficient heating, cooling, ventilation, lights, sound, video, handicap ramp and a gorgeous baptistry in the Church. All that remains of Phase II is the painting of the Church and replacing the sanctuary carpet.

There are now Paint Scheme Boards in the Gathering Room showing samples of the actual paint colors for the

three color scheme options we are now considering for the interior of the Church. The Sacred Worship Committee is welcoming feedback on the three options. There are note cards and deposit box if you would like to express a preference or suggestion. You may also send an email or call the parish office.

The Sacred Worship Committee will take all comments into consideration at their March 4th meeting and make the final decision. That will give Church Interiors time to gather their materials. We will begin to prepare the church immediately after Easter, removing the stations, and all other moveable furnishing. The organ will be wrapped and sealed again. Our last Masses in the Church will be April 10 & 11. On the 12th Audio Architects will come and remove the new speakers from the walls and

Church Interiors will start putting up scaffolding. Masses beginning Tuesday the 13th and for the next three months will be in Spirit Hall. Just when we were settling in... it's time to move again!

With the last component of Phase II about to begin, we've begun talking about Phase III of the Building Project. Phase III includes one thing we weren't sure how to complete, a few things we did not foresee and things that were removed from the final project list to reduce the cost. The one thing we weren't sure how to complete was the rectory. Originally the plan was to turn it into



parking but spending \$150,000 for 9 additional parking spots was not acceptable. We are actively pursuing the possibility of turning it into a women's university student house of formation.

An example of the "unforeseen" is our ongoing issue with ice on the parking lot near the school has been exacerbated by the new parking and traffic pattern in addition to the ramped sidewalk. Examples of things that were taken out of the original project list are interior signage (indicating where the bathrooms are, etc.), new furniture, information kiosks, and a memorial wall including pictures of past pastors.

Thank you for your tremendous fidelity to your Capital Campaign pledges that have made all this amazing progress possible!!

Environmental Stewardship Sub-Committee

Susan Zach

Thank you to all the parishioners who responded to the Environmental Stewardship survey in January. A total of 167 people answered all or some of the 5 questions on the survey.

- * 134 parish members "are concerned about climate change"; 13 others were uncertain
- * 71 people would like to learn more about the care of our planet as it relates to Church teaching ; 32 were uncertain
- * 26 parishioners would like to read and discuss Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, in a small group
 - * 12 parish members are interested in working with the Environmental Stewardship Committee
 - * 8 people have specialized knowledge or experience to share with our parish about environmental issues



The Environmental Stewardship Sub-committee is planning a parish-wide activity for Earth Week in mid-April. Your participation is welcomed and needed as we grow together in knowledge and awareness of how to better care for our common home.

We will be contacting those parish members who indicated an interest in working with the sub-committee and who left us their name and email address, so please stay tuned.

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