

**Second Sunday of Lent:** When Sacrifice Becomes Mundane  
It seems to happen every year, like clockwork: we drag a bit, as we enter into the second week of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we feel a bit like soldiers banging our shields, rushing into battle. "We're ready, God!" our hearts cry out.



"Transform us through sacrifice! Your will be done!"

But by now, these Lenten resolutions are no longer novelties — they've joined the ranks of everyday inconveniences, which somehow are the hardest to bear. Because transformation, in real life, happens in inches, just as a battle is won slowly in the crash of one sword against another. It's not always a dramatic thing, to the naked eye. It's the perseverance in prayer despite weariness, or the continual denial of some pleasure even though there's that nagging voice in our minds saying: go ahead, God doesn't really mind.

It's a week when we all need a shock to the system — and wouldn't you know it, this Sunday God gives us a double-whammy of dramatic sacrificial scenes. We picture Abraham, who also cried "Ready!" when God called, never imagining what He would ask: the surrender of his long-awaited son. We see Christ himself transfigured, as God shows us what He is ready to give up for love of us.

We must remain committed, persevering daily in acknowledging that everything belongs to God. What we sacrifice, we simply give back to Him.

If God is for us, who can be against us? Can we still reply, "Ready!" when we hear the call of God?— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

### Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

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

Monday: Dn 9:4-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28/Ps 105:16-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8-11/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

### Mass Count

Date 2024	5:00p	8:00a	10:30a	Total
February 4	133	84	151	368
February 11	118	101	173	392
February 18	Not available at time of publication			

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### **MONDAY ~ February 26 ~ Lenten Weekday**

8:30AM Deceased of Vitas Family, *Dietrich Family*

#### **TUESDAY ~ February 27 ~ St. Gregory of Narek**

8:30AM Goldie & Stan Pokelsek, *Barb & Tom Kovacic*

**7:30PM Livestream Rosary on Facebook**

#### **WEDNESDAY ~ February 28 ~ Lenten Weekday**

8:30AM Annette Barzal, *Don & Loretta Vanagas*

**5-8PM Diocesan Evening of Confession**

#### **THURSDAY ~ February 29 ~ Lenten Weekday**

8:30AM Joseph & Mary Niemiec, *Dennis & Regina Kopera*

#### **FRIDAY ~ March 1 ~ World Day of Prayer**

8:30AM Barb & John Krizanic, *Rebolj Family*

**7:30PM Livestream Stations of the Cross**

#### **SATURDAY ~ March 2 ~ Lenten Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Frank Fraczek, *Fraczek Family*

**5:00PM Livestream Mass**

#### **SUNDAY ~ March 3 ~ 3rd Sunday of LENT**

8:00AM Mass for Parishioners

10:30AM Loretta Bozek, *Ralph & Roberta Smearman*



### Weekly Contributions 2/18/2024

**Collection not available at time of bulletin publication.**

**Thank you for your generosity!**



**THANK YOU to all who made a gift to the Catholic Charities so far during this**

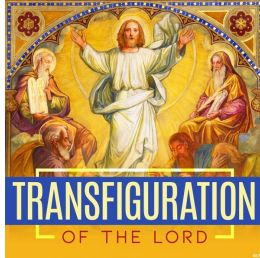
**campaign. We have collected 138 envelopes from parishioners.** The Bishop requests that every family fill out an envelope and return it through the collection basket. Because of your support, hundreds of thousands of individuals will be given help and hope in the Diocese of Cleveland. If you have not already done so, you can still make a donation by filling out an envelope in the pews and putting it in the offertory basket, texting CCHOPE to 41444 or by going to [www.catholiccommunity.org/2024appeal](http://www.catholiccommunity.org/2024appeal) and making a secure donation online.

## From the Desk of Fr. Kevin,

Dear Parishioners,

God spared Abraham's son, Isaac, but He did not spare his own Son Jesus whom He "handed over for us all." Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself for our salvation and the salvation of the whole world. Our Lenten sacrifices and all we sacrifice in living the Gospel in our world are ways we participate in the great sacrifice of Christ.

When we gather for the Eucharist we are something like the disciples at the Transfiguration. On the way up the mountain everything seemed 'normal.' In the Transfiguration the disciples glimpsed the hidden glory present in Jesus at all times, glory that enabled Him to speak and act the way He did. It was a revelation, one they would remember in the tough times to come. Our sharing in the Eucharist reminds us of the glory present in each of us, that we are God's beloved sons and daughters. After this encounter with God, we carry that glory into our "normal" lives.



On **Wednesday February 28**, we will celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** here during the **Diocesan Evening of Confession** from **5:00 – 8:00pm**. Fr. Bill Bouhall and I will hear confessions from 5-8pm. All parishes will

provide this celebration the same evening. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Come back to the Lord with all your heart. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration during this time, enabling us to draw close to the Lord in prayer for ourselves and our world.

Peace, Fr Kevin



## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please pray for all of our parishioners who are sick or hospitalized:** Margaret Abel, Susan Adler, Sandy Almas, Patricia Bacon, June Barr, Jeff & Sue Beam, Frank Brown, John Brown, Brian Bruening, Joan Bruening, Tom Bukovec, Kathleen Cassidy, Marc Christovich, Sam Cilaberto, Kelly Cipiti, Carolyn & John Cutler, Diane DeBaltzo, Paul Dendinger, Dan & Frances Eppich, Pauline Feterman, Frank Germano, Marge Gorenc, Joanne Grisanti, Julia Hill, Ann Hobart, Ed Hurayt, Melanie Hurayt, Daniel Jastredowski, Jela Katavic, Alexis Kramer, John Kelly, Katherine Kirsch, Jeri Kuzmak, Sherise Landrey, Brian Lloyd, Bob Marshall, Diane Marshall, Bud Martello, Pat Matala, Ed Mayersky, Gary Meinke, Ann Miller, Bill Monreal, Jenny Panella, Kellie Pastor, Cindy Pike, Joe Ritzu, Joshua Rosian, Tim Rosian, Joan Rozak, Joyce Russo, Jackie Scheid, Hannah Shell, Audrey Smith, Chris Stano, Carol Sternad, Dorothy & Joe Strand, James Urbanek, Gregory Usko, Eva Variano, Cheryl Wilson, Phil Wolfson, Michael Wrayno, Ken Zalar, the shut-ins, those in nursing homes, needing prayers, and all of the intentions written in our Book of Prayers located in the gallery. **Please call the office if you would like someone added or removed, or email [sjmoffice@stjustin.net](mailto:sjmoffice@stjustin.net).**



**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Save a Life, Give Blood**

Come to the parish hall **this Sunday from 8am-2pm** to help save lives!

**Walk-ins welcome!** There is a nation wide blood shortage. Please give to help those in need of blood!



### **Living a Eucharistic Life: A Lenten Mission** **St. Justin Martyr Church** **March 17-19, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Church with** **Very Rev. J. Thomas Lane, SSS**

Helping us to grow in our desire of Eucharistic living, worship and prayer especially through the season of Lent.

**March 17:** Eucharistic Holy Hour

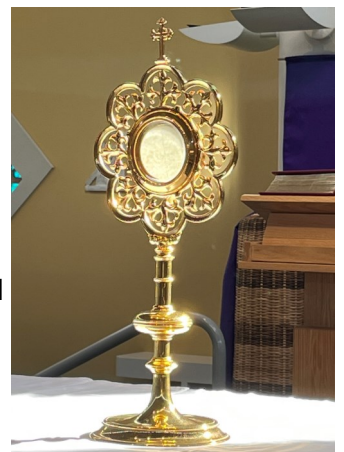
**March 18:** 8 Moments of Eucharistic Life

**March 19:** Healing Mass: Eucharistic Living That Heals and Glorifies God

### **Daytime Sessions: Why We Do What We Do at Mass**

March 18 at 10am & March 19 at 2pm

Sign up sheets are on the table in front of the parish office





## What if I fall asleep when I pray?

When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying during his agony, his disciples were there with him, but they fell asleep. He has asked them to pray with him, but they could not stay awake. This would lead us to believe that we need to stay awake and pray.

There are, however, other times when it appears that sleeping is okay. Remember the time when Jesus and his disciples got into a boat. Jesus, exhausted from a days preaching, teaching and healing, fell asleep on a cushion. When the disciples become afraid when a storm kicks up, they wake him. Jesus took naps, so maybe its okay to sleep.



What does the Pope have to say? Pope Francis has been caught napping from time to time. When he visited the US, he fell asleep during the first Mass. He has also admitted that he falls asleep during other times of prayer. Pope Francis reasoned that God the Father liked it when someone fell asleep in prayer. That falling asleep during prayer can become a way of entrusting oneself to God.

What do the saints tell us? St. Thérèse of Lisieux admitted that she fell asleep in prayer. She said "I don't feel at all distressed. I know that children are just as dear to their parents whether they are asleep or awake." As parents we can relate to that. When they've fallen asleep, our children are completely docile and trusting. We can pick them up and put them in bed without any struggle, knowing that they are in a completely safe and loving environment.

Now, none of this is meant to say that it's okay to fall asleep **every** time we pray. We must strive to dedicate time in the morning and throughout the day to pray. But what if the next time we lay down with the anxieties of our day, or wake up in the middle of the night and stare at the ceiling...what if instead of turning to secular sleep apps or sleeping pills, we turn instead to God: 'Come to me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest.' (Mt. 11:28)

**Peace and Blessings, Deacon Tim**



**Please pray for our recently deceased from our parish:**

**David J. Lillash, husband of Charlotte Lillash**

## VOCATIONS AT THE CROSSROADS

The following parishioners are scheduled to receive the cross during the month March:

**Week of March 2-3 Carol Sternad**

**Week of March 9-10 Pat McGarry**

**Week of March 16-17 Sue Lewis**

**Week of March 30-31 Deacon Tim & Sandi Shell**

If anyone cannot make their week, please call Joanne Fox at 440-339-0503. Thank you for your time and prayers. Thank you to all who pray in this special way for vocations. If anyone is interested in also taking the cross home for a week, please call the parish office or Joanne Fox.



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Diocesan-Wide Evening of Confession | Wed., Feb. 28 | 5-8pm**

The Diocesan-Wide Evening of Confession is held at all churches in the Diocese. This special evening is way to bring back everyone to the graces that can be received in the Sacrament of Confession. It is not scary or judgmental, it is healing and life-giving! Come and be reconciled to the Lord and your Church! Fr. Kevin and Fr. Bill will be available at St. Justin Martyr for confessions.



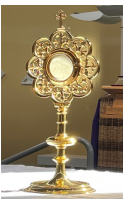
**Join us for Stations of The Cross Fridays in the Church at 7:30pm & livestreamed on the parish website or Facebook.**

"The Way of the Cross alone defeats sin, evil and death, for it leads to the radiant light of Christ's resurrection and opens the horizons of a new and fuller life. It is the way of hope, the way of the future. Those who take up this way with generosity and faith give hope and a future to humanity." — Pope Francis

**Eucharistic Adoration: Daily in the Chapel 9am-4:30pm**

"Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament remember that Jesus has been waiting for you for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you." -St. Josemaria Escriva

**Come spend time with Jesus.**



**St. Justin Martyr Prayer Chain**

Contact Mary Jane: 440-953-9729 or

[mjbuehner@ameritech.net](mailto:mjbuehner@ameritech.net)

Leave a message and we will add your intention to the prayer chain. If you would like to join us in prayer for our intentions, sign up to be a prayer warrior by contacting Mary Jane at the email above! **Thank you to all of our current prayer warriors!**

**Charles Hunt, MA**  
**Director of Religious Education**  
**Charles@stjustin.net 440-946-3287**

Join an in-depth book discussion of Bishop Robert Barron's book,

**This is My Body: A Call to Eucharistic Revival**

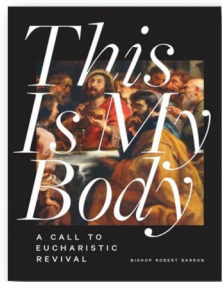
Discover more about & develop a greater appreciation for this central mystery of our Faith!

Tuesdays, February 20, 27 & March 5

1:00 - 2:30 pm and 7:00 - 8:30 pm

R.S.V.P by contacting Charlie Hunt at (440) 946-3287 or [charles@stjustin.net](mailto:charles@stjustin.net)

(We will use the book given at Christmas.)



**RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Becoming Catholic:** Teresa Rosian and Richard Wiggins went to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for the Rites of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. The rites were

celebrated by Bishop Malesic along with hundreds of others seeking to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. The bishop formally recognized Richard's call to be baptized into Christ and then he prompted Teresa to be faithful to her baptism. The bishop challenged both to be open to the Holy Spirit in Confirmation and look forward to receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Both continue to prepare for full initiation at the Easter Vigil. Let us pray for them!

**First Reconciliation & Communion: Youth**

*Preparing to Receive the Lord:*

Second graders of our parish celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday the 18th. On the 12th, they participated in the Sacrament of Penance Workshop, getting ready for is important moment. The workshop allowed parents and children to learn more about God's mercy and grace, His Commandments, along with the steps of making a good confession. Please pray for the children, parents, catechists, and priests involved in this wonderful celebration and the future celebration of First Communion.



**Catholic Humor:** There's a little old Catholic lady living next door to an atheist. Every morning the lady goes out on her front porch and shouts, "Praise the Lord!" And every day, the atheist yells back, "There is no God!" After a while, though, the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. But every morning she goes out on the porch and asks God for help with groceries and then shouts, "Praise the Lord!" One morning when she goes out on her porch, she discovers the groceries she's prayed for, and of course she shouts, "Praise the Lord!" Just then the atheist leaps out from behind a bush and says, "Ha, there is no God—I bought those groceries for you!" The lady looks at him and smiles. Then she shouts all the louder, "Praise the Lord! Not only did you provide for me, Lord, you made Satan pay for my groceries!"

**Beth Rossetti, Pastoral Associate**  
**Lay Ecclesial Minister**  
**beth@stjustin.net 440-946-1177**

**CONFIRMATION 2024** Our next session will be **Sunday, March 3** beginning with **10:30am** mass. At Mass we will have our sponsor blessing. Following Mass we will go to the Spirit Room complete our annual service project of Easter Baskets for the West Side Catholic Center. If you have any questions, please contact Beth via email or at the Parish Office.



Thank you to all of our prayer partners that remember your candidates. Please remember to drop off all notes and cards to Beth.



**Coffee and Conversation**

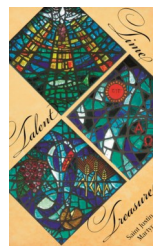
Join us in the ATR during the winter. Stop by between 11:00am-12:30pm. We provide the coffee, you provide the conversation.



**Our St. Justin Martyr Spirit Wear is being sold.** Order forms can be found in the gallery of the Church.

Some sample shirts can be found in the parish office. Read the order forms for important directions

when ordering. An order will be place the end of February so get your order forms and payments turned into the parish office as soon as possible.



**Our next stewardship committee meeting will be held Tuesday, February 27 in the Church Meeting Room at 6:30pm.** We will continue working on our programs coming up like the Bunny Hop Eggstravaganza! If you would like to get involved, call Beth for more information.

**Guatemala Family Development: You make a difference!**

Each year our community of St Justin Martyr has been so generous in supporting the work that our team does in the mountains of Guatemala. I will be returning to Guatemala on April 6th of this year with a team of doctors & nurses to run healthcare clinics for the Mayan Indians, both young and old. This year, two other young members of our community will be joining me to offer help. **We will be speaking at all the masses on the weekend of February 24th and 25th.** Please help us to raise the money necessary to buy the medications and supplies needed to help these impoverished children of God. Thank you so much, Margie Drew



## St. Justin Martyr Lenten Fish Fry

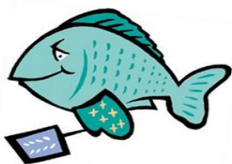
*...featuring all you can eat dine in fish fry!*

**February 23, March 1 and 8 from 5-7pm**

**Adult Dinner: \$14 Senior Dinner: \$12**

**Child Dinner: \$7**

**Adult/Senior Dinner includes:** 2 pieces of fried sole OR 1 piece of lightly seasoned baked cod, Fresh Cut French fries, Macaroni & Cheese, Homemade Coleslaw, Roll w/butter and beverage.



**Child Dinner includes:** 1 piece fried sole or 1 piece baked cod, Fresh Cut French Fries, Macaroni & Cheese, Homemade Coleslaw, Roll w/butter and beverage.

**Ala Carte:** Pizza \$3, French Fries \$3, Cabbage & Noodles \$3, Pierogi \$3, Mac & Cheese \$4, Pop/Water \$1

**Take out orders available!**

**VOLUNTEERS CAN STILL SIGN UP TO HELP WITH THE FISH FRY ON THE PAPERS OUTSIDE OF THE PARISH OFFICE! Newcomers are welcome!**



### Parish Lenten Service Day for the Unsheltered of Lake County

On **Sunday, March 10** from **1:00-3:30PM** in the parish hall, St. Justin Martyr Parish will sponsor a Lenten

Service Day. Our service will be making lunches and wash bags for the Unsheltered of Lake County. A bin is in the gallery for collection. If you have any questions or if you are bringing fresh items please contact Beth at 440-946-1177 ext. 105. Thanks for all you do! Come and help make a difference this Lent.

#### Items Needed are:

- \* Individually Wrapped Snacks
- \* Homemade cookies/ Candy and Gum
- \* Bottled water
- \* Fresh lunchmeat/cheese (no bologna)  
\*\*Drop off weekend of 3/10 before 11am
- \* Hamburger Buns
- \* Playing cards
- \* Bar Soap and Hand Cream
- \* Washcloths and Hand towels
- \* Tarps/Tents
- \* **Cash Donations** can accepted so we can buy in bulk. Drop off in the parish office attention: Beth.



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

The beginning of the end of abortion...

From February 14-March 24 you are invited to join with other Christians for 40 days for Life—40 days of prayers and fasting for an end to abortion. You are also invited to stand peacefully and pray anytime between 7am to 7pm during the 40-Day vigil in the public right-of-way at Family Planning, 54 South State St. in Painesville. Our volunteers go on **THURSDAYS**. Join us by signing up at the table in the gallery.



All Are Welcome!

## Bunny Hop



## EGGZtravaganza



Indoor Easter Egg Bunny Hop

**Saturday, March 23**

**Noon-1:30PM**



## St. Justin Martyr Church

Play Games—Win Prizes

ALL eggs are prize filled!

Win a Raffle Basket!

Come see the Easter Bunny!

Do a craft!

Bring your phone to take your picture with the Bunny

If you would like to participate by decorating a table on the Bunny Trail RSVP to beth@stjustin.net.

Easters Eggs are supplied



**Pilgrimage to Fatima,  
Lourdes & Spain | October  
14-22, 2024**

**Hosted by Mary Ann Blase,  
Pam Anthony with Fr. Kevin  
Liebhardt**

Lisbon, Portugal, Santarem, Church of the Holy Miracle, Fatima, Mass/Tour Basilica, Spain, Lourdes/Grotto, Home of St. Bernadette, Healing baths, This pilgrimage will be a refreshing spirit-filled journey! We would love to have you join us. Email maryann@stjustin.net for questions!  
**There are still some seats available! Call Mary Ann 216-287-5935.**

[https://www.eocatholic.com/tours/lf24101424b61745#eoto\\_urs](https://www.eocatholic.com/tours/lf24101424b61745#eoto_urs)

