

**He himself bore our sins  
in his body upon the cross,  
so that, free from sin,  
we might live for  
righteousness.  
By his wounds  
you have been healed.**

1 Peter 2:24

**LENT**



# Mass Intentions

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

8:00am: +Sue Wessling  
5:00pm: +Cornelius O'Keefe

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:15am: Cathy Wissel  
11:15am: For the Parish  
5:00pm: Br. Joseph Kreutzler, S.D.S.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:00am: +Helen McGraw

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

7:00am: +Robert Ellis

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:00am: +Victor Pesqueira

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7:00am: Jeremiah Carrillo

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00am: +Nancy Marie Leslie

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

8:00am:  
5:00pm: +Stasia Ragoza

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

8:15am: For the Parish  
11:15am: +Hollis Hopkins  
5:00pm: +Cramin Wiltz, Sr.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

*We are here to pray for you!*



James Hudson Miller, Janice Mazikowski, Marie McCune, George Franklin, Debi Royer, James McGee, David Miller, Barbara Brodeur, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Teresa Gregory, Rachel Johnson, Faye Fletcher, Batchelder Family, Stachura Family, Sayre Family, Richard Wertz, Maddie Clearly, John Rourke, Jr., Cindy Morales, John & Linda Dimmock, Sharon Vandurn, George Wertz, Dollie Jackson, Josephine Stratton, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Dan Vandergrift, Marissa Lefebvre, John Howard, Lisa Andrews, Sondra Adams, Judi Trygg, Marianna Young, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Antonio Beltran, Catherine Algie, Ramona Hallit, Lola Light, Rene Gonzalez, Bernice Geigel, Mary, Jane and Dena Bell, Juliana Goode, Marie Basta, Savannah Ponder, David Boren, Wanda Boren, Richard Brown, Richard Wagner, Cathy Filippo, Jena Lanszell, Charlotte Johnson, Kia Batchelder, Will Stachura, Michael Pesqueira, Beth Hofferth, Jim Kollar, Emma Lang, Heidi Brown, Patricia Hendersen, Diane Goguen.

### Note

*If you wish to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Renate at the parish office. When that person recovers, please call again to remove their name so that others can be put on the list.*

*Thank you, Fr. Joe*

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I came across this interesting article that I thought I would pass it on to you. It comes from the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota. This is what Bishop Robert D. Gruss wrote in 2018. The message of Lent never gets old. I hope it will invite us to grow in our personal relationship with Jesus.

FROM THE



PASTOR

## **Lent: A Time to Fast from Certain Things and Feast on Others**

We have entered the season of Lent, a season of grace. The Lord invites us to enter into a powerful period in the liturgical year in the church. On Ash Wednesday, the Prophet Joel gave us these words of encouragement: "Even now, return to me (the Lord) with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning: Rend your hearts, not your garments ... for gracious and merciful is he" (**Joel 2:12-13**).

The invitation has been extended — return to me and rend your hearts. In other words, tear open our hearts and seek the merciful love of the Father. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, encouraged, "In this season of grace, we once again turn our eyes to his mercy. Lent is a path: it leads to the triumph of mercy over all that would crush us or reduce us to something unworthy of our dignity as God's children."

Jesus presented to us the activity of the Lenten season, something far beyond the externals of the scribes and pharisees. Our Lenten activity must be rooted in an attitude of the heart, the interior place of our souls, that inner sanctuary of our relationship with Christ. "Rend your heart." This is where true conversion takes place, where Christ's heart and our hearts come together in a quite intentional way for us.

Like those coming into the Church at Easter, all of us are called to be converts, to be looking at our lives and our sinfulness in the light of grace, the light of God's grace. In response to this season, many people will take on different Lenten practices. Whatever disciplines of Lent we embrace, we do it joyfully to thank God for his mercy and to open ourselves more to God's overflowing life that surrounds us each moment. Our efforts to change and to grow in holiness are not made to earn God's saving love for us. Rather, they are a consequence of it. I can't imagine what life would be like without the love and mercy of the Father, whose mercy never tires of forgiving us and always gives us the chance to begin anew.

In this season we are called to fast and abstain. In this culture of excess, it seems easy to give some things up for a few weeks. In doing so, how is this or that practice helping me to become more prayerful, more generous, more holy? Our Lenten practices will only lead to conversion and life in abundance if they are connected to our relationship with Christ — Jesus leading us through conversion. If not, then our fasting from food and drink will be a mere diet and our almsgiving will be merely giving money away.

But Lent can also be more than a just a time for fasting. It should also be a joyous season of feasting — a time to fast from certain things and to feast on others. Perhaps you will find these suggestions I came across many years ago helpful. It was written by William Arthur Ward.

### **Lenten Litany of Fasting and Feasting**

***Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.***  
***Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of life.***  
***Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.***  
***Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.***  
***Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.***  
***Fast from anger; feast on patience.***  
***Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.***  
***Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.***  
***Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.***  
***Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.***  
***Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.***  
***Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.***

*continued on the next page*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

|           |                                                                           |                           |                                                                                        |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 1 Peter 5:1-4<br>Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6<br>Matthew 16:13-19                      | Friday                    | Ezekiel 18:21-28<br>Ps 130:1-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8<br>Matthew 5:20-26                         |
| Tuesday   | Isaiah 55:10-11<br>Ps 34:4-7, 16-19<br>Matthew 6:7-15                     | Saturday                  | Deuteronomy 26:16-19<br>Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8<br>Matthew 5:43-48                        |
| Wednesday | Jonah 3:1-10<br>Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19<br>Luke 11:29-32                  | Sunday                    | Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18<br>Ps 116:10, 15-19<br>Romans 8:31b-34<br>Mark 9:2-10 |
| Thursday  | Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25<br>Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8<br>Matthew 7:7-12 | <b>2nd Sunday of Lent</b> |                                                                                        |

*Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.  
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.  
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.  
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.  
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.  
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.  
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of sincerity.  
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.  
Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.  
Fast from instant gratifications; feast on self-denial.  
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.  
Trust in God.  
And finally, fast from sin; feast on the abundance of God's mercy.*

The joy in doing this type of fasting and feasting is that these practices truly lead to rending our hearts and to conversion. And this conversion is a turning from those things that do not give life and a turning to God, who gives life to us in abundance.

As you keep your gaze on the Father's love and mercy, may this season of Lent be filled with every grace and blessing.

I pray that you are blessed especially during this time in the Church. You are in my thoughts and prayers each day. Take care and be safe.

*Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe*

**HERE'S HOW YOU LOG ON TO FORMED**

- Go to <https://formed.org/signup>
- Enter the parish zip code, choose your parish, click *next*
- Type in your name and e-mail address, click *next*.
- Go to your e-mail and click the link to begin browsing an excellent selection of Catholic faith books, movies and programs on demand.



**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

If you would like to make a donation to seasonal flower arrangements, please call the parish office at 256-534-8459.

**CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING**

Regular Collection \$ 11,616.98  
Other Designated Funds \$ 1,981.00

*\*2nd collection for Black & Indian Mission Feb. 20/21*

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 27, 2021-FEBRUARY 28, 2021**

**LECTORS**

5:00pm: Mary Graham, Diane Hollingshead  
8:15am: Robert Styles, Ellen Styles  
11:15am: Jesse Pascua, Sr. Veronica Ryan

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

5:00pm: Mack Yates  
8:15am: Renee Northcutt  
11:15am: Carrie Turner

# Religious Education

## Formation and Catechesis

### LENTEN OUTREACH

The Catholic Center for Concern in Huntsville is in need of packages of baby wipes. This will be our Lenten giving opportunity, not only for our RE families, but for anyone who would like to contribute. Please bring your contribution to the church office during regular weekday hours or to the Breezeway on the weekend. Thank you in advance for your love and generosity!



|          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Feb. 21  | RE/RCIA 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. |
| Feb. 28  | RE/RCIA 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. |
| March 7  | RE/RCIA 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. |
| March 14 | RE/RCIA 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. |
| March 21 | RE/RCIA 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. |
| March 28 | <b>NO RE/RCIA</b>            |

*Face Masks required for all classes*

## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

From February 17 through March 28, you're invited to join other Christians for **40 Days for Life** – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion.

You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Alabama Women's Center, 4831 Sparkman Drive NW, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach.

If you'd like more information, and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help, please contact Tom White at 513-913-7475, email [twhite9263@aol.com](mailto:twhite9263@aol.com), or visit [40daysforlife.com/Huntsville](http://40daysforlife.com/Huntsville).

**MARRIED COUPLES:** Does gardening and spring planting give you or your spouse a sense of wonder and fulfillment? On your wedding day, you lovingly planted the seeds of a lifelong relationship. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you the "gardening tools" you need to help your marriage grow and blossom. **The next weekend in this diocese is VIRTUAL and is scheduled for March 19-21, 2021.**

For more information or to register online, visit [www.ALFL-wwwme.org](http://www.ALFL-wwwme.org) or call Sean and Angie Murray at 205-530-3607.

## Here Is What's Happening This Week

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

6:00pm: HFS School Board Meeting (SFH)

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:00am: Quilters (LMR)  
10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)  
6:00pm: Boy Scouts (LMR)

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:00am: Rosary Knotters (LMR)  
6:00pm: St. Vincent de Paul (LIB)

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

10:30am: Bereavement Group (LMR)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

11:00am: Eucharistic Adoration (SJC)  
12:00pm: Stations of the Cross (SJC)

### Facilities Key

FMC = Messmer Center/Gym  
SJC = St. Joseph Church  
LMR/LIB = RE Center  
BEA = Beasley Hall  
STA = St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel  
BRZWY = Breezeway