

Parish Mission

We are one Church: loving Jesus, serving Jesus, and sharing Jesus.

Parish Vision

We are a vibrant Catholic church serving a diverse community in a safe and welcoming environment where we care for all people along their faith journey.

Core Values

Discipleship • Hospitality
Serving • Worship

Weekend Masses

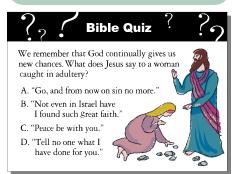
Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m., 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 a.m. Tuesday 6:30 a.m. Wednesday 6:30 a.m., 5:15 p.m. Thursday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. Friday 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. Saturday 6:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. or by appointment



Answer: A (See John 8:11.)

Fifth Sunday of Lent April 3, 2022



Easter is rapidly approaching and the RCIA Elect are making final preparations to enter the Catholic Church. The names and pictures of the Elect are on a poster in the gathering area. Prior to the Easter Vigil Mass, please consider writing a note of congratulations to each and dropping them in the box by the poster. Also, as you see them at church, personally introduce yourself and welcome them into our parish community.

Deacon Mark Kiblinger RCIA Coordinator



RCIA Elect: Cameron Buckthorpe Sponsor: Paul Seyer



RCIA Elect: Taylor Werdehausen Sponsor: Carson Bruenderman

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 4 St. Isidore

6:30 am Sue Austin &

Tuesday, April 5 St. Vincent Ferrer

6:30 am T.G. Tygett, Jr. む

Wednesday, April 6

6:30 am Mary Lou Hayes ♣ 5:15 pm Amy Oliver ♣

Thursday, April 7 St. John Baptist de la Salle

6:30 am Fred and Connie Biondini (living)

8:00 am David Johnson &

Friday, April 8

6:30 am Cindy Dorrell ⊕

8:00 am Deceased Members of the

Elmer and Genevieve DeBrock Family ₺

Saturday, April 9

6:30 am Dolores Schlichting ₽

5:00 pm Gene and Eleanor Nenniger ₺

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:30 am St. Vincent de Paul Parish Family

9:00 am Debbie Kav Schrock &

10:45 am Living and Deceased Members of the

St. Vincent de Paul Women's Council

3:00 pm Harold Siebert ₽

Prayer Requests

Please remember the sick, the hospitalized, and those who care for them. Pray also for homebound St. Vincent parishioners.

Congratulations to Butch and Connie Eichhorn as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 8! Please continue to pray for all married couples and those preparing for marriage.

Confessions During Lent

"Turn Away From Sin and Be Faithful to the Gospel!" During these days leading up to Easter, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at various times. Take advantage of these blessed encounters with the Forgiving Father!

- Every Wednesday of Lent from 6:30 7:30 p.m. in Church (This also includes Wednesdays at the **Cathedral** and **Catholic Campus Ministry** Chapel.)
- Every Friday of Lent from 12:00 noon 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 7:30 p.m.
- Every Saturday from 3:30 4:30 p.m.
- Also, by appointment if these times are not good.

In today's second reading, St. Paul says, "For His sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth." Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

• Movie Night •

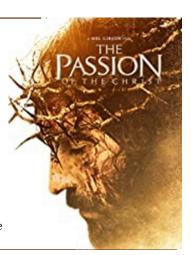
The Passion of the Christ

Rated R • Parent discretion advised

Monday, April 4, 2022 6:15 p.m.

Upper Meeting Room (behind church)
Come with an open heart; leave with a
greater understanding of Jesus' love
for you.

Brought to you by the SVDP Discipleship Committee



Young Adult Lenten Event

Join the Regional Catholic Young Adult group (ages 18-40) on Tuesday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m. for their next Lenten event! The night will include the normal Bible study plus a short, live presentation. Come enjoy Catholic fellowship! Doors open at 6:50 p.m. at the old convent. For more info, contact Carlee at idCapeinfo@gmail.com.

St. Vincent's Women's Council

All women of the parish are invited to attend the next Women's Council meeting on April 4, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower meeting room of the church. The slate of officers and budget for 2022 will be voted on.

Deacon Mark will be the guest speaker and will facilitate a Synod Listening Session. Gathering input from parishioners by way of existing parish groups is part of Pope Francis' desire to obtain input from the faithful on how the Catholic Church can better spread the gospel and serve the faithful. Bishop Rice has asked all parishes to seek input from their faithful. Please bring donations to the meeting for the Spring Assembly baby basket (taking place April 22-23). You may also bring donations of regular size personal hygiene items for Maxine's. Hope to see you there!

Young Adult Disciples Night



On Thursday, April 7, i.d.Cape (young adults) will host their monthly Disciples' Night at the old convent. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. with a meal and the live-streamed talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. All young adults in their 20's and 30's are invited. See the event on Facebook or email

<u>idCapeinfo@gmail.com</u> for more information. Please email to RSVP. Come and bring a friend!

Each weekend, the Mass celebrated here at St. Vincent is livestreamed and available to view on the St. Vincent de Paul Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/svcape/). The video is also available to view after Masses on the parish website (www.svcape.com). Most of the live feeds will be at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening Mass to allow for the longest viewing time.

May He Rest in Peace

Sympathy is extended to the family of

Larry Jansen, a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Parish family.

May he and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



You Are Invited!

Pope Francis and Bishop Edward Rice invite you to join the conversation in your parish! In May of 2021, Pope Francis introduced the Synod on Synodality which is a journey of dialogue and discernment, in which ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD



are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through listening and sharing together, we will seek to understand the Holy Spirit's will. Your experiences, insights, and concerns are valued! Will you please come and share them?

- Monday, April 4, 6:30 p.m. with the Women's Council in the lower meeting room
- Wednesday, April 6, 6:15 p.m. with PSR/SVS parents in the upper meeting room
- Saturday, April 9, 9:00 a.m. with all parishioners in the upper meeting room

For more information on the Synod, please scan the QR code or check the website at https://dioscg.org/synodon-synodality-2021-2023/





Lenten Fish Fry

The St. Vincent's Men's Association is sponsoring a Catfish Dinner each Friday during Lent from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The family friendly meal includes fresh American pond raised catfish, "Todt secret recipe cole slaw," "Koehler famous hush puppies," side dishes, dessert and drink. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children, and ages 7 and under eat free.

Fish Dinner Desserts

Each week during Lent, the Circle Leaders of the Women's Council will contact parishioners to donate desserts for the Friday Fish Dinner. If you have never been called and would like to bring a dessert on Friday, April 8, please contact one of the following: Dotty Wencewicz (573-334-4046), Chrisie Rust (573-579-3727), Pat Wells (573-335-2299), Rita Koeppel (573-837-5106), Theresa Elrink (573-651-3113) or Kathy Berkbigler (573-587-5970).

The Week Ahead

Monday, April 4

8:00 am SVS Confirmation Prep 6:15 pm The Passion of Christ Movie

6:30 pm Women's Council

6:30 pm Parish Mission (Hispanic)

Tuesday, April 5

8:00 am SVS Confirmation Prep 6:00 pm Tuesday Evening Bible Study 6:30 pm Parish Mission (Hispanic)

7:00 pm Tuesday Night Thrive (Young Adult)

Wednesday, April 6

8:00 am Ugly Quilt Ministry (8:00 - 11:00 am)

9:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10:00 am Mass at Chateau Girardeau 2:00 pm SVS Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

6:00 pm Parish School of Religion

6:15 pm Parish Faith Enrichment/Synod

6:30 pm Reconciliation

Thursday, April 7

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 11:00 am)

9:00 am Thursday Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm Thursday Afternoon Bible Study

5:30 pm Centering Prayer

6:00 pm Financial Peace University

6:15 pm idCape Disciples' Night

Friday, April 8

12:00 pm Reconciliation

2:00 pm Stations of the Cross (SVS)

5:00 pm Lenten Fish Fry

5:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

6:15 pm Stations of the Cross (English)

7:00 pm Reconciliation

Saturday, April 9

9:00 am Maxine's Shareable Wearables (9:00 - 12:00 noon)

9:00 am Synod on Synodality

3:30 pm Reconciliation

Readings - April 10, 2022

Luke 19:28-40 • Isaiah 50:4-7 Philippians 2:6-11 • Luke 22:14-23:56

Collection - March 27, 2022

Collection	\$11,784.88
E-Tithing	\$23,705.00
Total	\$35,489.88
Weekly Budget	\$31,450.00
Difference (7-1-21 to 3-27-22)	\$91,996.57

Thank you for being good stewards of God's gifts!

Contact Information

Parish Office

contactus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Father Rick Jones, Pastor

Stvcapepadre@gmail.com / 573-335-7667

Father Alex Sutachan

Associate Pastor/ Chaplain of NDRHS fatheralex@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Robbie Huff

Superintendent of Schools / Diocesan Chancellor Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau rhuff@dioscq.org / 573-335-7667

Deacon Mark Kiblinger

Coordinator of Stewardship and RCIA mkiblinger@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Deacon Thomas Schumer

Director of CCM, SEMO University deacontom@ccmin.org / 573-335-7667

Kay Glastetter

Principal of St. Vincent DePaul Grade School kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net 573-334-9594

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Beverly McMeel

Accounting Clerk/Administrative Assistant bmcmeel@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Cheryl Oberhaus, Director of Parish Finance coberhaus@svparish.com / 573-335-7667

Debbie Wells, Receptionist dwells@svparish.com / 573-335-7667



Stations of the Cross — A Beautiful Tradition

The Stations of the Cross are images of stories about the passion and death of Jesus Christ. Most of the stories which make up the Stations were drawn from Scripture, and others, such as Saint Veronica wiping the face of Jesus, were taken from tradition. The route traditionally held to have been taken



by Jesus to his death at Calvary (Golgotha) in Jerusalem is called the Via Dolorosa or the Sorrowful Way. The Stations were erected in local churches as a way of bringing this prayerful experience to those who could not travel to Jerusalem.

Stations of the Cross are celebrated every Friday during Lent at 5:00 in Spanish and at 6:15 p.m. in English. Please join in this devotional prayer and make it a part of your Lenten journey.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will follow the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent.

Bishop's Prayer

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri invites you to share in this year's **Bishop's Prayer** on Saturday, April 9, at 9:00 a.m. Together with Bishop Rice, lift up your prayers for struggling families, homeless veterans, and pregnant mothers with nowhere else to turn. Your support allows Catholic Charities to continue its vital work across the diocese. You may join Bishop Rice in person at St. Mary's Cathedral, Cape Girardeau, or via Livestream on Facebook @CCSOMO and @DIOCESEOFSPRINGFIELDCAPE GIRARDEAU.

Beatitude Boxes / Bags

During the season of Lent, the parishioners of St. Vincent are invited to collect food and paper items for distribution to the needy. **Beatitude Boxes** will be filled with specific food items and **Beatitude Bags** will be filled with specific paper products.

Tags are posted on the bulletin board in the gathering area. Some tags will list all items in the box (approximate cost \$30-\$35) and all items in the bag (approximate cost \$12-\$15). Other tags list some of the items in the box or bag. You are invited to take one or more tags and purchase the requested items. Return the items to the designated boxes in the gathering area no later than April 15. Boxes and bags will then be filled and given to the needy in the local community.

Welcome to St. Vincent de Paul

If you would like to register for the parish, change your address, or simply have questions, please fill out the form and place it in the collection basket. You may also mail it to the parish office at 1913 Ritter Drive, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. Please free to contact parish office staff anytime during regular office hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You may email the parish office at contactus@svparish or call 335-7667. A parish registration form is available at http://www.svcape.com/Parish/.

Name	
Address	
EmailPhone	
☐ I am new to Cape Girardeau. ☐ I am new to St. Vincent de Paul Parish ☐ I have been attending St. Vincent Parish and would like to register as a member ☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. ☐ I would like to register my child/children for Parish School of Religion.	

Divine Mercy Sunday April 24, 2022

Tell aching mankind to snuggle close to My merciful heart, and I will fill it with peace.

(St. Faustina's Diary, 1074)

I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. By means of this image I shall be granting many graces to souls.

(St. Faustina's Diary, 341)



Jesus, I trust in You!

Old St. Vincent's Church

Corner of William and Main Streets

2:00 p.m. - Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration 3:00-4:00 p.m. - Divine Mercy Holy Hour



Saturday, April 30, 2022 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Drury Plaza Hotel - Cape Girardeau Conference Center

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

A day of intellectual and spiritual formation for Catholic men Featuring:

- Mass celebrated by Bishop Edward Rice
- Four world-class theologians speaking on subjects ranging from man in the contemporary world to scripture, grace, and salvation
- Refreshments and lunch provided
- Open to all men 16+

Registration and Attendance are FREE To register go to: https://forms.gle/gxggdoNV5nccDmJL9

Baptismal Prep

Parents and godparents are required to attend a baptismal preparation class before a child is baptized in the Catholic faith. The next class is scheduled for Sunday, April 24, at 4:30 p.m. and will be held in the upper meeting room. Contact the parish office to register and to fill out a baptismal registration form.



Vincent's Vittles

Thank you to the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group and to the SEMO Catholic Students for preparing and serving a delicious meal of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll, and dessert for Vincent's Vittles last weekend. More than 100 meals were served for members of the Cape area and St. Vincent parishioners. Much appreciation also goes to those who provided desserts. Thank you to all who helped in any way! Your generous donations of food, clothing, batteries, hygiene products, and other items continue to be a BIG hit. Items will continue to be collected in the bin in the gathering area during the last week of the month and will be made available to community members who attend the monthly meal.

Help is always needed for Vincent's Vittles. Contact Deacon Mark if you would like to assist in any way or just show up the last Saturday of each month.

SERVE ONE ANOTHER THROUGH LOVE

The next meal will be held on April 30. Plan to attend and invite a friend!

New student registration is open for grades 1 - 8 at St. Vincent de Paul School. For more information, please call 573-334-9594 or stop by the school office.

Girl/Boy Scout, Little Flowers Girl Club and American Heritage Girl Club Ceremony

Voice for Life Awards

The Catholic Youth Adventure Program Awards Ceremony will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, at Old St. Vincent Church. The deadline for applications is April 4. For all scouting applications and inquiry, contact Mary Ann Hennecke at 573-837-7472 or mahennecke@hotmail.com.

The Voice for Life Awards Ceremony will be held at the same time as the Catholic Youth Adventure Program. For more information, please contact Donna Anderson at 573-450-1451.

Miraculous Medal Perpetual Memberships

There are many occasions that call for a meaningful gift. Perpetual Memberships from the Association of the Miraculous Medal are now available. Perpetual members share in the eternal spiritual benefits of prayers and Masses at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville. Membership folders are available in the rack in the gathering area. More information can be found at www.amm.org.

Guidelines for Fasting/ Abstinence during Lent

Abstinence is a penitential practice consisting of refraining from the consumption of meat and is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence. Fasting is to be observed on Good Friday for ages 18 - 59 (inclusive). The Church defines fasting as one meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal, as well as no eating between meals.

Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial suitable to their condition.



Do you have someone special preparing for First Communion?

This little booklet, *My First Communion Journal*, is a wonderful gift for children to use during the weeks anticipating the special day of their First Eucharist and afterward as well.

In the booklet are thought provoking suggestions, activities, stories of saints' and popes' First Communion, and pages for the children to journal, color and document their special days of baptism, first reconciliation and first communion.

Find this booklet at https://osvcatholicbookstore.com.



Extend mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping.

Inviting All Youth 1st-12th Grade!

TOTUS TUUS

Summer Youth Program

June 12-17, 2022

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

1913 Ritter Drive • Cape Girardeau

What is Totus Tuus?

Totus Tuus ("Totally Yours") is a week long summer Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. Totus Tuus is concerned not only with teaching the faith, but also igniting the hearts of young people!

Brochures are available in the gathering area. For more information, you may contact Kathy Raines, Totus Tuus Parish Coordinator, at 573-335-7667 or kraines@svcape.eduk12.net.



Scan the QR Code to register online.

Sponsored by:

The Office of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Youth Formation Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau



Spiritual Direction Available

Do you desire to grow closer to God? Spiritual Direction may be what you are seeking. Spiritual direction will help you become more God-centered, to listen and notice where God is working in your life, and to better understand your identity as a child of God. Please contact Meg Garner at 573-579-2188 or meggarnerndhs@gmail.com with questions or to begin spiritual direction.

Food for the Fathers

Each Tuesday Food for the Fathers, a parish ministry, will supply a warm meal for three priests. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please sign up at http://signup.com/login/entry/67699625678106404. You will need to enter your email address but will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com. If you don't like the choices listed, change your selection to include an entrée and two side dishes (no desserts, please!). Choose the date you would like to provide the meal. SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Then, on the date chosen, deliver the meal between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. to the new rectory. If you prefer not to sign up online or have questions, contact Beverly in the parish office at 335-7667.

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, April 11

Chrism Mass • 7:00 p.m. Blessing of Oils and Priests' Renewal of Commitment St. Mary Cathedral

"Spy" Wednesday, April 13

Confessions "on the hour" 12:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Please note there will be no scheduled confession times during the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Holy Thursday, April 14

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Good Friday, April 15

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m.

Passion of the Lord • 12:00 p.m.

Passion of the Lord (Bilingual)

3:00 p.m.

Passion of the Lord • 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 16

Morning Prayer • 9:00 a.m. Easter Vigil Mass • 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 17

Easter Masses 7:00 a.m. • 9:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)



Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried ... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!" "With war everything is lost." Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance opt for dialogue may reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division," "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother," and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!



Positions Available

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School is currently accepting applications for a **Sixth Grade Teacher** for the 2022-2023 school year. Applicants should be able to teach World History, Religion, and English. For an application, go to <u>dioscg.org</u>, call the school office at 573-334-9594 or please email <u>kglastetter@svcape.eduk12.net</u> or call 573-334-9594.

Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Springfield, Missouri, is seeking an Elementary School Principal beginning the 2022-23 school year. The successful applicant would be individual with demonstrated skill in spiritual, academic, and advancement leadership. Immaculate Conception has 507 students in K-8th grades and 56 preschoolers, all taught by 38 teachers. Applicants for this position must be practicing Catholics in good standing and understand the mission and ministry of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. To download and submit an application, go to www.ic-parish.org, go to the "About" tab, and click "IC School." Deadline for applications is March 30, 2022.

St. Augustine School is seeking a full-time **Fourth Grade Teacher** for the 2022-23 school year. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, possess an appropriate certification and hold a Bachelor's degree. Previous teaching experience at the elementary level is preferred. Applications are available on the school website, www.stakelso.eduk12.net. Applications may be submitted in person, through mail, or online to Mrs. Katie Hendricks, St. Augustine School, 231 S. Messmer St., Kelso, MO. Mail to PO Box 97, Kelso, MO 63758. Email to khendricks@stakelso.eduk12.net.

St. Mary Cathedral School is seeking a **Sixth Grade Teacher** with a concentration in Math for the 2022-2023 school year. Candidate should be Catholic and certified in elementary or middle school education. Interested individuals should email christineostendorf@stmarycape.org by April 8.

Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau is seeking applicants for an open Multimedia/Communications position for the upcoming 2022-23 school year. Interested candidates should send their resume, cover letter and list of references to Paul Unterreiner at paulunterreiner@notredamecape.org. Applicants should be committed individuals that can teach Journalism, Yearbook and Video Broadcasting. Other responsibilities include coordinating and supervising livestreams and working with Notre Dame's webpage and social media platforms. Notre Dame is a Roman Catholic school in the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, so preference would be given to practicing Catholics.

Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson, is currently accepting applications for a **Youth and Family Director**. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic. Please contact Fr. Randy Tochtrop at 573-243-3182 or pastor@icjacksonmo.com.

NDRHS Cheer and Dance Team Tryouts

Interested in being a Notre Dame Cheerleader or a member of the Notre Dame Dance Team for 2022-2023? Cheer and Dance clinics will be held April 18-21 at ND from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., with tryouts on April 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Please complete the Cheer and Dance Tryout online form by the first day of the clinic. Download the Cheer or Dance tryout packet from www.notredamehighschool.org/tryouts. Don't wait until the last minute because there are important deadlines concerning teacher/coach evaluations. Every athlete is required to complete the FamilyID registration and upload a MSHSAA Physical Examination Form dated within the past year.

Journeying Through Lent

1 Know, Do You?

Monday, April 4

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: "I know where I came from and where I am going." In the first reading, from Daniel, Susanna clearly knows who she is, and stands firm though she knows she will face serious consequences for her righteous decision. As you make your way through the week, notice how you claim your identity as a Christian in your words and actions. *Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalm 23:1-3a; 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:12-20.*

He Spoke

Tuesday, April 5

Many came to believe because of the way Jesus spoke. He taught with a new authority and he spoke with words rooted in the Father. His direct and assured manner of relating to others attracted followers looking for the truth and repelled those who wanted to remain in power. Does the way you speak attract people to Christianity? *Today's readings: Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21; John 8:21-30.*

Be Set Free

Wednesday, April 6

All of us sin, and at some points in our lives, may become slaves to sin. Jesus shares his life with us, sets us free from sin, and invites us to live in the truth. The sacrament of reconciliation allows people to begin anew in freedom each time sins are confessed. Set a time for you and your family to receive this sacrament of healing. *Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42*.

Life in the Covenant

Thursday, April 7

Over and over again, Jesus is challenged by the authorities, and, repeatedly, he shares that he is who he says he is. He is the new covenant, and in him we receive eternal life. The Lord keeps his covenant forever. Journal today about how you keep your side of the covenant with the Lord. Do you attend Mass, pray regularly, offer service, work for justice? *Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59*.

The Lord is with Us

Friday, April 8

Long before Jesus gets to Jerusalem and endures his passion, leaders try to trap him and find reasons to arrest him. Jeremiah deals with similar persecution. Even in the darkness of terror and wickedness, God is present with us. Pray the stations of the cross with your parish family, or in your home today. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42*.

Where am 1?

Saturday, April 9

Holy Week begins tomorrow. The time has come for Jesus to move toward Jerusalem. Take stock of your Lent so far. Have you made any changes in your life? How is your prayer life as compared to the beginning of this season? Write down several spiritual goals as we step into the most holy of weeks in our tradition. Make plans to set aside time to participate in the services of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.*

Sunday, April 3

No Judgement, Know Jesus

Today's readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11. Jesus' lesson to the crowd early in the morning changed when a woman was brought before him. Placing the woman in the middle of the crowd, the Pharisees tested Jesus by stating the charge of adultery and the punishment: "Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

The few words Jesus used, along with his actions, taught the crowd about withholding judgment and showing compassion. Challenging the Pharisees to look within themselves, Jesus responded: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." To the woman, he showed compassion and support, telling her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore." Those who tried to entrap the Lord left one by one. The woman was able to walk away with her dignity restored.

God may work in unexpected ways but always acts with justice and compassion. Even in the desert, in a difficult relationship, in the middle of struggle and distress, God can make a way for us that leads to joy and fulfillment. Jesus invites us to look within and make needed changes so that we grow in holiness and steadfast faith. As followers of Christ, we are to mirror his actions by withholding judgment and acting compassionately.

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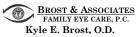
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