

# St. James NewsNotes Lent 2022

## Message from Fr. Tom

Every Ash Wednesday, I remember a parishioner where I was first assigned, at St. Pat's in Onalaska. Ray Paul worked for the railroad and was long retired by the time I showed up. He came to my scripture prayer group; he was on our RCIA team; he went to the nursing home every Wednesday and set up everything for our mass there; and, long after I left St. Pat's, he always sent me a birthday card with a \$5 bill.

Ray had a loud voice that could really fill the room, just like his brother John, who was the Bishop of La Crosse at the time. On one Ash Wednesday in the early 90's, I arrived at the nursing home for mass. Ray had everything ready, and in the course of our initial chat, with about twenty residents in various stages of disability gathered around, he thunderously announced, "A lot of people die during Lent!"

I looked at the residents, and they looked at each other and me, in awkward silence. "I guess that's true, Ray," I said, "the way of all flesh. Good thing we have our faith in a God who can raise us from ashes." Good thing, indeed.



"God is a Father  
who forgives. His  
mercy is greater  
than our sin."

—Mother Teresa

I hope your faith is strengthened, maybe "deepened" is a better word, by our observance of Ash Wednesday and the 40 days ahead, when, with special intensity, we move forward together along the way of God's Kingdom. I encourage you to join us in some way this Lent, in person for mass and our very special parish mission, and/or through our online offerings—check out youtube.com and search for St. James Eau Claire. Mostly, I invite you to be as vulnerable as you can be, acknowledging your need for God, for courage, for consolation, for hope. Most often it is by acknowledging our fears, our guilt, and our unfulfilled desires that we are drawn closer to the redeeming love of God's embrace. Lent, with its guiding image of Christ crucified, is here to remind us that our brokenness does not separate us from God. It is what connects us to God. Peace.

## St. James Parish Mission March 13-15

Sunday through Tuesday

**5:30 PM: Soup Suppers in the Gathering Space**

**6:30 PM: Talks in the Church**

*Talks will not last more than an hour.*

Also: **Noon talk with soup on Monday March 13**, for those who cannot come in the evening.

### **Topic: Discipleship**

"In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the people of God have become missionary disciples." Found in his Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis challenges us all to pattern our lives after Jesus and go out into the world as witnesses of what such a life can accomplish for the good of all. This parish mission will examine what Pope Francis means by 'missionary disciple.'

**We will have copies of *Joy of the Gospel* available.**

**Presenter: Sister Dianne Bergant**



## Caring for our Common Home

Let us begin this new committee by entering into a new relationship with the Earth, our common home. If we are able to realize that everything outside us and everything inside us comes from the Earth then we can walk differently and care for it differently. We can fall completely in love with the Earth and all of its creatures.

With this renewed sense that we are a part of the Earth, our common home, we plan on providing some exciting opportunities for our St James community so that we can begin to heal the earth. It will be a great opportunity for you to become a part of this adventure. Please consider joining this committee.

Contact Sharon Bussard [sbuzz2304@gmail.com](mailto:sbuzz2304@gmail.com) or Christi Puetz [christiepuetz@charter.net](mailto:christiepuetz@charter.net)

## Book Discussion Group

Our Lent Book Discussion will be on March 10 at 6:30 via Zoom (contact Fr. Tom if you need a Zoom link to participate online). The book is *Writings of Charles de Foucauld*, published by Orbis Books. If you didn't hear about this earlier and would like to participate, I encourage you to read what you can about and by him, and that should prepare you.



## Deanery-Wide Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance April 1-2

Priests will be available at Immaculate Conception Church to hear confessions and grant God's forgiveness on Friday April 1, from 2-8 PM and on Saturday, April 2, 8 AM-2 PM.

## "Feast Before the Fast"

At the Pizza Ranch at 5:00 PM on Holy Thursday. We know we should fast on Good Friday, but an older tradition asked Christians to fast from the conclusion of the Mass of the Lord's Supper until the conclusion of the Easter Vigil, eating only what is necessary to maintain one's strength. Bring \$5 and the rest is on us.

## Stations of the Cross

Last year we had a variety of types of Stations of the Cross released on our YouTube channel for Lent. **Those videos and the playlist will be available on our website and on Facebook** and include:

- Children's Stations, with children from Religious Education and St James Elementary reading
- Music Reflection Stations, with singers from St James coordinated by Mary Kolstad
- Shadow Stations, with Stations written by Fr. Tom
- Walk with Jesus stations, with Stations read by Jacky Miller

Enjoy the videos at your convenience this Lent.

## "Live" Stations of the Cross

You are also invited to Stations of the Cross with our school community **every Friday of Lent at 2:50 PM**, EXCEPT not on March 11 or 25, with an additional service on Wednesday, March 9 at 3:00.

## Ash Wednesday services

- 7 AM Mass
- 9 AM School Ash Service
- 5 PM Ash Service
- 6:15 PM Religious Education Ash Service

*Parishioners and public welcome at all services.*

*Limited seating at the school service.*



## Communal Examination of Conscience

To prepare as a community for the Deanery-wide Confession, St. James is offering an hour of prayer and reflection on **Thursday, Mar. 31, 7:00 PM in church.**

If you come, you will hear readings from Scripture and spiritual writers, questions for your reflection during periods of silence, as well as music to touch your hearts. Fear not; awareness of our sins is half the journey to salvation.

## HOLY WEEK



Please consider taking part in our entire Triduum Liturgy, consisting of The Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil.

### Triduum at St James

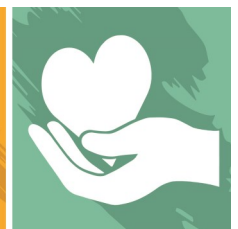
Holy Thursday	Apr. 14	7:00 PM
Good Friday	Apr. 15	1:00 PM
Easter Vigil	Apr. 16	8:00 PM
Easter Sunday	8:00 AM, 10:00 AM	



PRAY



FAST



GIVE