



## Lenten Newsletter 2024

**Lent begins**, and therefore ends, earlier this year! I invite you to participate in this season with **acts of penance**, attending extra weekday Masses, and taking advantage of the **Parish Mission** that runs from Sunday through Tuesday night, February 25-27. **The Lenten regional Penance Services** are Monday-Thursday March 4-7. There will be a **Mass each Tuesday in Lent at 7:00 PM** to give an opportunity to attend for those working during the day.

**The Lenten Fish Dinners** begin on Friday, February 16 – March 22. **Volunteers** are needed and welcomed! Please call the Office to volunteer and welcome our guests.

**Second collections during Lent** are dedicated towards providing, in our charity, alms for the Christians in the Holy Land. You, no doubt, are aware of their special need as the

war rages on in Gaza. My visit to the Holy Land is dependent upon the situation with the war, but regardless of that situation, I will be sending funds directly from bank to bank to be distributed to those in need if I am unable to go this year.

**In your prayers, please remember** those from our parish who are preparing to enter the Church this Easter Vigil. They count upon our example and our prayerful support.

During Lent, we extend our **Eucharistic exposition** from after Mass on Thursday through 7:00 PM Friday **Benediction** and the **Stations of the Cross** that follow. This gives extra opportunity for those passing the church to come in and pray before the exposed Eucharist.

There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** in various places in the Hall on Saturday, March 23 at 11:00 AM. Crafts and games will be available, and there will be a visit from the Easter Bunny!

**Please refer to the back page** of this newsletter for the Holy Week schedules and other events on the horizon!

**The Catholic Men's Conference** will take place on Saturday, March 16 at Gervin Center at EMU. Go to: <https://www.acceptthechallenge.org/> for more information and registration.

I will be organizing another **Bus Pilgrimage to the Canadian Shrines** this Fall. There has been some interest expressed by those who so enjoyed it last time. This will include some visits in **Ontario** but especially to Quebec, and the shrines in Montreal, **St Joseph Oratory, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Montreal Cathedral, Cap de Madeleine and Ste. Anne De Beaupre**. We will leave on a Sunday before noon and return the following Saturday. Please call the Office to express your interest. This will include 6 nights in hotels, some meals and all stipends for churches, and daily Masses.

**Come to Mass.** Jesus is waiting for us there. In a culture that values autonomy and self-reliance, we sometimes imagine that we can call only on our own personal strength to shoulder the burdens of those we care for and to face our own difficulties. The Gospel reminds us again and again that God's love is our true source of strength. On him the strongest person can lean without apology. "Thanksgiving" is the meaning of the Greek word "Eucharist." The attitude of thankfulness is central to Christian spirituality. The debt of gratitude we owe for God's faithful love can be repaid only in a two-sided coin: turning to God in thanksgiving and doing for others what has been done for us. (Magnificat Jan. 2017)

## PARISH STAFF

### Parish Priest

**V. Rev. William J. Canon**  
**Turner PhD, KCHS, Pastor**

**Deacon Thomas Franklin**  
**Deacon D. Michael Martin**  
**Deacon Wayne Slomiany**

**Elizabeth Ewald**  
Business Manager

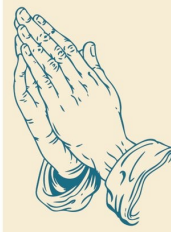
**Beth Wenzel**  
Secretary

**Marita Martin L.E.M.;**  
D.R.E.

Director of Religious Education  
734-475-8164

**Jenny Haroney**  
Religious Education Secretary

**Austin Endter**  
Director of Music Ministry and  
Youth Ministry



**PRAYER,  
FASTING,  
AND  
ALMSGIVING**

**What time is it?** We have finished Christmas and now enter into Lent and preparing for Easter. "Bethlehem is the prelude to Calvary. We may not merely stand adoring at the crib; we must also follow to the cross." (Magnificat Dec. 26, 2012) Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and ends before the celebration of the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, March 28. The 40 days of Lent evoke all other uses of

"40" in the Scriptures. For 40 days Jesus fasted and prepared to proclaim the Good News. Long before Jesus, Moses and Elijah had their 40-day fasts. It rained on the earth and on Noah's ark for 40 days, and the earth had a new beginning. And for 40 years the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness toward the Promised Land. In the Bible, the number 40 means that something important is taking place. We enter Lent with ashes on our heads. Ashes symbolize mourning, mortality, and penance. To repent means to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the improvement of one's spiritual life. We begin with prayer and increasing the time and depth of our conversations with God. Reading Scripture, reflecting on God's word to me, receiving the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, reading the lives of the saints, and other spiritual reading. We fast in various ways, perhaps by eating less food and foregoing treats. As we think about those who do not have enough to eat we give alms, which means that we find ways to share what we have, our time and our goods. In these ways we remember our Baptism and so try to grow more deeply in the Christian life. May we all have a blessed Lent and Easter time.

### Baptisms

Second Sunday of the month, by appointment.

### Marriage

Arrangements to be made nine months in advance, please call the office before setting the date.

### Franciscan Sisters

Sr. Patty 734-475-9005



**Join us every Friday!**

**DINE IN & CARRY OUT**

**St. Mary CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE**

**14200 East Old U.S. Hwy. 12 • Chelsea, MI • 734-475-7561**



### Dine in and Take Out

\$15 for the all you can eat Dine In option

\$14 for Take Out

**BEGINNING FEBRUARY 16TH!**

### Please join us in these life affirming events:

The Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign starts on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and goes through Palm Sunday, March 24. A Kickoff Rally will take place on Sunday, February 11 at 2 p.m. If you are interested in signing up to pray peacefully outside Planned Parenthood, the vigil hours during the campaign are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Sign up at [40daysforlife.com/annarbor](http://40daysforlife.com/annarbor).

Please look for the annual upcoming Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser for Family Life Services. You will find baby bottles in the back of church during the Lenten season

Our St. Mary Parish cemetery is Mt. Olivet Cemetery, located on the west side of Freer Road next to the railroad tracks in Chelsea. Lots are available to purchase rights of burial. Each grave site cost is \$800. A grave site can be utilized for 1 full burial and/or 3 cremation burials. New to Mt. Olivet is the St. Peter Columbarium. The cost of a niche is \$2000, and can be used for 1 or 2 cremations and includes up to 2 open/close charges and engraving. To inquire about burial lots or columbarium niches, please contact Larry Doll at 734-260-1540 or email to: [lddoll@gmail.com](mailto:lddoll@gmail.com).







***“Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.”***

***Proverbs 3:27***

The St. Mary meal Ministry brings a month's worth of meals to families with new babies. Join dozens of other parishioners by signing up for the meal ministry email list. You will receive a notification each time we have a new family to support, and at that point, you can discern if you are able to sign up for a slot. If you cannot at that time, then simply wait for the next notification. Being open to the possibility of service is such a blessing to our parish's growing families. Please email [hines.jenna@gamil.com](mailto:hines.jenna@gamil.com) to be added to the list.



During Lent the Charity and Justice Commission will be collecting yarn. All colors are acceptable except gray or black. There will be a box in the Gathering Space for your donations. After Lent the yarn will be taken to Lakeland Correctional Facility where men there will crochet it into children's hats. Later in the year we will pick up the finished hats and take them to Faith In Action. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

Kathie Gourlay

Charity and Justice Commission



Recently moved, changed your number, or email address? Call the office, with any change to your contact information so we can update our records and stay in touch. 475-7561

**The Rosary: the Spiritual Sword of Our Lady**  
Catholics are urged to use this spiritual weapon to defeat the enemies of Christ and be a warrior for truth.

Rosary Opportunities for **Everyone**: Weekdays after the 9am Mass. Thursdays at 6:30pm during Adoration in the Adoration Chapel. 3:45pm on Saturdays before the 4:30 Mass. 7:30am on Sundays before the 8am Mass, 9:30 before the 10am Mass, Marian Prayer Group every 2nd and last Tuesday of each month at 9:45am.



**Lenten Eucharistic Adoration**---A Precious Time to “BE” with the Lord

The Lord wants to approach you in a spiritual audience. We have this precious opportunity to BE with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Come join us at St. Mary to BE with the Lord.

**Lenten Adoration:** Thursdays and Fridays every week for 33 hours will begin after the 9 a.m. Mass until Friday evening for closing at 7 p.m. just prior to the Stations of the Cross.

**33 Hours of Adoration:** February 15/16, February 22/23 March 7/8, March 14/15, March 21/22,

**48 Hours of Adoration:** February 29, March 1 & 2 will begin after the 9 a.m. Mass on Thursday until Saturday for closing before the 9 a.m. Mass.

Consider making this commitment for an hour during this Lent. There are 168 hours in a week. Can you find 1 hour to sit and “BE” with the Lord.

“Could you not watch one hour?” Mark 14:37

Contact Anne Green 734-562-2667 or [greenstudents@hotmail.com](mailto:greenstudents@hotmail.com).



Starting in March and continuing through the end of May, the Women's Bible Study will be studying the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah. This is an eleven week study; meetings are on Wednesday afternoons from 12:15-2:15 PM. For further information you are welcome to contact Mary Ann Zettelmaier at [johnmaryzett@yahoo.com](mailto:johnmaryzett@yahoo.com) or 475-7421.

Did you know that you can donate online? St. Mary has an online giving option! Go to: <https://stmarychelsea.weshareonline.org/> to set up a one time or reoccurring donation. Your donation goes farther, when you give online AND cancel your envelope delivery.



## SAINT PAUL STREET EVANGELIZATION

It's a safe bet that you would have a great answer if someone were to ask, "what do *you* like most about being Catholic?" We could probably come up with several good answers, couldn't we? However, should answering this question depend on who asks it or where you are at the time? For that matter, what is stopping us from

asking that question of others? We may wisely conclude that it's not the time or the place. Maybe you believe it's way too personal. Maybe, *maybe*, it's the wrong open-ended question altogether!

Picture yourself standing in a long line at the grocery store and you happen to notice a magazine with the image of a beautiful Angel on the cover. Some people would start reading it (I might!) just to pass the time. However, you and I are called to spread the Gospel and *this* magazine cover gives us a perfect conversation starter! Noticing the person standing behind you holding a bag of onions and a six pack of soda, you point to the magazine and ask, "Do you believe in Guardian Angels?"

What a perfectly good, innocent, and open-ended question! Whether or not they believe in God or in his angels you are provided a wonderful opportunity to share your faith with someone who may really need to hear that they are loved. Who knows, by sharing your story, by planting a seed, you may see that person six months (or six years) from now entering the RCIA program at church!

Learn more about how members of our parish faith community are sharing the Gospel. Attend the information and formation meetings the first Sunday of each month between masses (we meet in the Brides room). Also, be sure to visit St. Paul Street Evangelization at: <https://streetevangelization.com>

The Book of Remembrance for infant loss through miscarriage, still birth or abortion will remain in the Gathering Space at the statue of the Holy Family. Please honor the babies lost by adding your family name in the book. We will continue to honor and remember these precious little ones lost in our prayers throughout the year.

We are continuing our fundraising campaign for the Holy Innocents Memorial which will be in the Mt. Olivet Cemetery (in Chelsea) along Freer Rd. near the Freer Rd. entrance into Mt. Olivet. We still need the funds to purchase 5 more plots for the Memorial space necessary as well as the funds for the columbarium, pavers and landscaping. Please keep this project covered in prayer. We want to honor and memorialize all babies lost in utero or at birth. Come Holy Spirit Come! Please lead and guide us in doing the Lord's work.



We ask that you please join us in prayer for the success of these events and for the conversion of hearts so that all human beings are cherished from conception until natural death.

May God bless you and your families.

If you missed the restorative justice classes, "Harm, Healing and Human Dignity", that took place at St. Mary Church during Lent of 2022, you have another chance. Kathie Gourlay will be leading them again at the St. Joseph Parish Center, 3430 Dover St. during Lent.

In our families, our relationships, the Church, and society we suffer from hurtful words, violence, and deep divisions. How can we show love and bring people together as the children of God? "Healing in Our Families and Our Communities" is a series of three sessions that will show us a way to repair after harms that have been done to us by another person, institution or society, or that we have done to others. These presentations and discussions will be based on the book "Harm, Healing and Human Dignity, a Catholic Encounter with Restorative Justice". Topics to be covered include: mercy, forgiveness, responsibility, human dignity and Catholic social teaching. Lent is the perfect time for us to look at painful issues in our lives and begin the healing for ourselves and others. These talks will be held on Sunday afternoons from 3:00—5:00 pm on February 18, March 3 and March 10 at the St. Joe Parish Center.

The cost to attend these three sessions is \$20.00 which includes the book. We welcome people, high-school age or older. You can register by calling the St. Joseph Parish Office 734-426-8483. If you signed up before and already have the book, you can take it for free, just come. If you have questions, please ask for Marinell High, Director of Adult Faith Formation.





**St. Mary Parish Council** meets the last Monday evening of the month from 7-8p.m. We are the eyes and ears of our parish. If you have ideas and would like to contribute to enhancing our faith community here at St. Mary, come and see. Call the office for more information.

**The Servants of Prayer In the Holy Spirit** invite you to join us during this Lenten season as we gather to praise, sing and bring glory to God. We are here to serve our parish with prayers of intercession for the sick, the dying, and the lost. We pray always for peace in a world torn by confusion, and stand firm on the words of scripture. Come join us and share your witness to what God is doing in your life. We pray with our community every Thursday evening at Adoration from 6:30 – 7:00p.m. Join us for intercession the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings from 7-8:30pm in the choir loft. Prayer teams are available to the parish the first weekend of every month following weekend Masses. All are welcome.

**Why Go Back to Confession?** Call it sin. Call it wrongdoing. Call it failings, or transgressions, or brokenness, or “the human condition.” It goes by many names. It’s the desolate knowledge that things are not right because we have acted wrongly. Sin divides and shatters. It separates us from God, from those we love, and from ourselves. This knowledge burdens us. We can’t undo what we’ve done, but we long for relief – a new start, an end to guilt, freedom to act rightly, a path out of the wilderness. We want forgiveness. We want to be restored. That’s what God offers us in confession. The salvation that Jesus accomplished for the human race is something we can experience personally. Forgiveness is ours through confession. It’s the road back to God. It’s a channel of grace to live with new joy and freedom. A few decades ago, the Catholic Church began referring to Confession as the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. It did this to emphasize reconciliation. That’s the short answer to the question, “Why go back to confession?” We do it to be reconciled. Reconciliation literally means “to meet again.” We’ve lost our way. Confession is the way back home. (from Our Sunday Visitor pamphlet “Why Go Back to Confession?”) Sin wounds our relationship with God and others as well as our human dignity. Faith reveals to us the destructive force of sin in our lives and the world. (from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)

March 24-31, 2024

## *Holy Week Schedule*

### **Palm Sunday**

Masses as Usual

### **Monday of Holy Week**

Confessions 7-9 PM

### **Holy Thursday**

7 PM Mass

(No 9 AM Daily Mass)

Adoration until Midnight

### **Good Friday**

12:30 PM Stations of the Cross

(Outside, weather permitting)

1 PM Service

### **Holy Saturday**

12 PM Blessing of the Baskets

8 PM Easter Vigil Mass

### **Easter Sunday**

8 & 10 AM Masses

**ST. Mary**

# **Pickleball**

## **League**



St. Mary Pickleball open-play league!

Contact the office if you are interested in participating. Dates and times TBD.

734-475-7561 or [bwenzel@stmarychelsea.org](mailto:bwenzel@stmarychelsea.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 10  
Chelsea, MI 48118

St. Mary Church  
14200 E. Old US Hwy. 12  
Chelsea, MI 48118