

February
18
2024

St. Irene Catholic Parish



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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 28W441 Warrenville Rd., Warrenville, IL 60555

 630-393-2400

 parishoffice@st-irene.org

 **Regular Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:00pm
Friday 8:30am-3:00pm

 www.st-irene.org

 <https://st-irene.churchgiving.com>

 www.facebook.com/StIreneChurch

 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmMeIs6ydHjTJD98ZZb_VcA

Welcome!

Join us for Mass!

Weekday Mass

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | 7:00am
Wednesday | 12:00pm

Weekend Mass

Saturday | Vigil 5:00pm
Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am

Confessions

After any Mass, by Appointment, or on the Third Thursday of the Month at 6:30pm

Church Open for Visiting

Mon. & Wed. 8:30am-4:00pm, Tue. & Thu. 7:30am-4:00pm, Fri. 7:30am-3:00pm

STAFF DIRECTORY

PASTOR: Rev. Fr. Clive Otieno x113 - fr.clive@st-irene.org

DEACONS:

Brad Hentz x130 - brad_hentz@yahoo.com
Joe Urso x130 - joe@st-irene.org

PARISH LIFE AND LITURGY

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Fred Schlick x114 - businessmanager@st-irene.org

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Craig Mazur x122 - craig@st-irene.org

RE ADMIN. ASSISTANT AND PARISH REGISTRAR:

Julie Duquette x116 - julie@st-irene.org

MAINTENANCE: call Parish Office

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Prayer & Worship

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 17, 5PM

†Norah Torres / Young Family
Special Intention / Jarosz Family

Sunday, February 18, 8AM

St. Irene Parish Family
†George Simon / Jean Simon

Sunday, February 18, 10AM

†Ringenberg Family / Pauline Gladkowski
†Valeria Lescinskas / Loreta's Family

Tuesday, February 20, 7AM

†Ella Garrison / Jean DeLuco

Wednesday, February 21, 12PM

†George Simon / 1st Anniversary

Thursday, February 22, 7AM

†William Baker / Family

Friday, February 23, 7AM

†Fr. Paul Golden

Saturday, February 24, 5PM

†Karen Schrimpl / Bev Scott
†Kenneth Harriett / Dcn Joe & Diane Urso

Sunday, February 25, 8AM

St. Irene Parish Family

Sunday, February 25, 10AM

†Karen Schrimpl / Jim Finn
†Bob Johanek / Fran Crossley

Contact the Parish Office for submitting Mass intentions.

† = Deceased



WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/
Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/
Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/
Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/
Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/
Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/
Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a,
10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

HEAVENLY FATHER, WE PRAY FOR...

Patti (Conley) Kras
Mary Ann True
Augie Juricic, III
Ken Di Julio
Marco Inserro
Jennifer Wingelnik
Fr. Jim Antiporek
Bernie Niewoehner

Jean Roe
Gina LaRocco Goddard
Terri Juricic
Rachel Jarasius
Diane Kroll
Bob Mudge
Liam Kracky
Joyce Havemann

Dcn. Bob True
Augie Juricic, Jr.
Katie Kennedy
Chuck Detwiler
Rosemary Maher
Rebecca Aranda
Robert Parker
Sam Vitale

***Names will remain on the list for 3 months; please notify the parish office to add or remove names.*

OBSERVANCES for the Week of Feb 18

Monday: Presidents' Day

Wednesday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Thursday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

Friday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent





Happy Season of Lent to all!

The season of Lent began on 14 February 2024 with Ash Wednesday. Please find reminders to help us start our Lenten observance with renewed vigor.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year. Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat) is obligatory for all who have completed their 14th year of age (c. 1252). If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare to share more fully and celebrate more readily his Resurrection

(see Sacrosanctum Concilium, 109). Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence (from meat) for all who have completed their 14th year. As always, anyone for whom fasting or abstinence would pose a health risk is excused.

All of us Catholics are urged to ensure that we have the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of penance during Lent. We will have plenty of allotted times in addition to our normal times of reconciliation. So, why Fast or Pray?

“Through fasting and praying, we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depth of our being: the hunger and thirst for God.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

May we make and take time together to step back from our daily routines and renew ourselves spiritually as beloved sons and daughters of a God who is Love. As beloved sons and daughters, through alms-giving, may we give out this love freely to those who hunger and thirst for love. Happy Lent!

Peace and Blessings to you and yours!

Fr. Clive



Eucharistic Revival at St. Irene

- * **March 21 - Eucharistic Adoration with a Holy Hour of Lenten Meditations - Flames of Faith**
- * **Monday Afternoons and Thursday Evenings starting in April - Small Group Series on Jesus and the Eucharist (See our website for information and registration)**

Stay tuned for other events!



Soup Supper and Stations of the Cross



Join us in the ACL for soup supper with a discussion of the **“Beautiful Eucharist”** Christmas Gift book at **6PM**, then Stations of the Cross to follow in church at **7PM**:

- ◆ February 23 – Religious Education - Shadow Stations
- ◆ March 1 – St. Irene Women of Faith - Mary’s version
- ◆ March 8 – Duquette SCC - Liguori’s version
- ◆ March 15 – Steinhoff SCC and LaDeur SCC - John Paul II version
- ◆ March 22 – Knights of Columbus - classic version

For info, contact Pamela Keating - pamela@st.irene.org

Reflect on how the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey for a more enriching Lenten experience. Look through the bulletin for opportunities to practice these pillars.



Bishop Hicks' Column

February 2024

PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND



WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO?

Throughout the journey of our lives, we all experience moments of uncertainty, ambiguity, or indecision. We can feel small, inadequate, and almost paralyzed as we face looming problems ranging from our own personal issues to worldwide crises.

Grounded in faith, Saint Francis of Assisi wisely taught that when we do not know what to do, we should “pray, obey, and love.” Our Catholic tradition reflects his wise counsel.

PRAY In the good times and bad, we turn to God in prayer. Through prayer, we realize that we are not the center of the universe, as we raise our hearts and minds to God. As Jesus taught, “For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

OBEY While prayer is the proper first step, it should not end there. We also need to be obedient to God, always discerning: What is the best response according to God’s command, law, and divine will?

LOVE However we respond to problems, our actions should always reflect Christ’s love, specifically following the greatest commandment: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22: 37–39).

Since October 2023, the conflicts in the Holy Land have escalated into a horrible war. Most of us follow the news with broken hearts and feel helpless.

Recently, I attended a dinner in Chicagoland (*photo above*) at which His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, spoke about the realities in the Holy Land.

Born in Italy in 1965, Cardinal Pizzaballa entered the Franciscan Order. He serves as the Latin Patriarch and Archbishop of Jerusalem. On January 27, 2024, we gathered at a dinner hosted by the Arab American Catholic Community (AACC), which exists to unite and support Catholic Arabs within the United States. In attendance were also many Knights and Dames from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Its mission includes supporting and promoting the Holy Land and protecting the Christian presence there. I am humbled to

belong to this ancient and noble order and am proud to witness the local members’ dedication and commitment to this mission.

Known for his constant efforts to promote solidarity, cultural and historical preservation, interreligious dialogue, and embrace and advocate for peace, justice, and reconciliation, Cardinal Pizzaballa’s 45-minute presentation literally quieted the entire banquet room, as even the waitstaff stopped to listen to his every word. He called for a ceasefire and spoke of the Catholic Church’s boundless efforts to provide food, shelter, housing, healthcare, and spiritual care for those affected by the war.

He also prophetically commented that instead of striving for peace in the current war, both sides unfortunately are fighting only for victory — a victory that clearly delineates a winner and a loser. “Peace is not victory,” said Cardinal Pizzaballa. “It is the willingness on both sides to give something up for the greater good.”

He spent a lot of time laying the foundation for the need for true peace, a peace which is reflected only in Jesus. He reminded us that peace is not the absence of conflict. Instead, it includes the presence of justice, reconciliation, discernment of God’s will, and the desire for the common good.

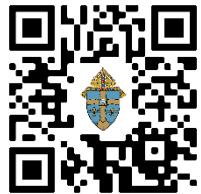
This Lent, as we prepare ourselves to enter this season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, you might consider donating to a reputable organization or charity that aids and services to those in need in the Holy Land; some suggestions are included at the bottom of this article. Also, on Good Friday, throughout the Diocese of Joliet, a collection will be taken up to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land.

The Holy Land holds a powerful place in our hearts and in salvation history. It is where Jesus was born, grew up, taught, prayed, performed miracles, suffered, died, and was resurrected. In solidarity, let us join Cardinal Pizzaballa’s call for an end to the violence and for a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land as we turn to God with prayer, obedience, and love.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, pray for us.

Holy Land Humanitarian Agencies

- Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher Humanitarian Fund
- Catholic Relief Services (U.S. arm of Caritas International)
- Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land Humanitarian Programs
- Catholic Near East Welfare Association Emergency Holy Land Fund



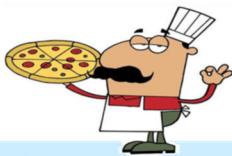
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for links or visit
diojoliet.org

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



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Parish Community



St. Irene's Lunch Bunch Ministry
Pizza/Salad/Luncheon/Beverages/Desserts
Thursday March 7th, 2024
11:30AM-2PM in the ACL

SPEAKER: ILLINOIS STORM CHASERS

*****RSVP A MUST BY SUNDAY MARCH 3*****

Anna Saake: email AnnaSaake1960@gmail.com
 Text or Phone to 630.456.0644

Come join us for Fun, Fellowship and Food !!!

FREE WILL DONATION



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SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

Synod Sessions

The Diocese of Joliet will host two Synod Sessions to gather feedback from diocesan parishioners in preparation for the Second Session of the Synodal Assembly in October 2024. The guiding questions for the sessions are:

- Where have I seen or experienced successes—and distresses—with the Church's structure(s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission?
- How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ?

All diocesan parishioners are invited to attend one of two Synod Sessions offered:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27
6 TO 8:30 PM

ST. RAPHAEL
 1215 Modaff Road
 Naperville, IL 60540
 Room: Sts. Joachim and Anne

THURSDAY, MARCH 14
6 TO 8:30 PM

ST. JOHN PAUL II
 907 South 9th Avenue
 Kankakee, IL 60901
 Room: Parish Hall

Those who are unable to attend can email responses to the above questions to dsalvato@dioceseofjoliet.org.



Synod Session Outline

6 p.m.	Sign-in/refreshments
6:30 p.m.	Opening prayer/reflection
7 p.m.	Small group discussion of two questions (<i>see left</i>)
7:45 p.m.	Break
8 p.m.	Share themes from small group discussions
8:30 p.m.	End



► Pre-registration for either date is required. Please scan the QR code or visit qrco.de/Synod



NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Call the Parish Office or register on-line on our website.

BAPTISMS: Call Craig Mazur on x122.

MARRIAGES: Call the Parish Office to arrange preparation at least 6 months in advance.

RECONCILIATION: After any Mass, on the Third Thursday of the Month at 6:30pm, or by Appointment.

FUNERALS: The Pastoral Staff works with families to plan the Funeral Mass, call the Parish Office.

CRISIS PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Deacon Joe Urso at 630-853-2070.

Catholic Kids Column

REPENT AND BELIEVE!

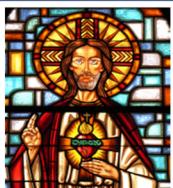
In today's Gospel, Jesus is newly baptized and led by the same Holy Spirit into the desert. While in the desert, Jesus is surrounded by many dangers including wild beasts and even Satan himself. Jesus confronts Satan who wants to frustrate and disturb the work of God. In the desert, Jesus faces both the good and the evil, and His obedience to God brings forth life and the new Kingdom of God in contrast to the rebellious Israelites who did not obey the covenant and caused death and destruction. Finally, Jesus is ready to go out and begin His ministry of the good news as we see the end of John's mission with his arrest.



Good and Evil, Light and Dark; opposite forces are always present in our lives, and it is up to us to head in a direction pleasing to God. When was a time in your life that you felt God guiding you one way, but sin was pulling you another? The Spirit leads us daily in our lives to new beginnings. Let the Spirit lead you, trust in the Lord to guide you even through the darkest of times. Repent and believe!

What can you do during this Lent to help you deepen your trust in God as your only One and True God, the only source of your strength, peace and consolation?

Veym.net



2024 Parish Lent Mission



"As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

John 13:34

March 11-13 at 7 PM each evening in Church

Join international Catholic speaker Maggie Craig as she invites us into a Eucharistic encounter with Jesus. She will examine how to ground our relationships with others in Christ; and how true friendship leads to deeper intimacy with God.

- **March 11: Strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ through the Eucharist.**
- **March 12: Enrich your relationships with others flowing out of faith in Jesus.**
- **March 13: Heal, restore, and strengthen your relationship with Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation** (several priests will be available for individual confessions).

Maggie will also lead an introductory talk on Theology of the Body on March 12 at 5:45 PM. This will be directed towards our Jr. High and high school students, but it is open to all parents and parishioners.

More information about Maggie and the Parish Mission talks are on st-irene.org

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DAILY BREAD

DISCOVER THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE

Faith Formation



Eucharistic Adoration Flames of Faith Intentions

Flames of Faith burned next to the Blessed Sacrament this month for:



Conrad Majeski
Maxwell Malesh
Eugene Wydajewski
Personal Intention

Personal Intention
First Eucharist Class
Confirmandi

A family member battling cancer
Trust in God's healing power

You may have a votive candle placed on the altar with the Blessed Sacrament during our Encounter Night of Adoration, and request a specific intention which will be labeled on the candle. To request an intention, return one of the envelopes found on the information table in the Narthex to the parish office or in the Sunday collection with your donation (suggested \$5).

The next Encounter Night is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 6-8 PM.
Candle intentions will be published in the bulletin on March 24.



At this Friday's soup supper, we will discuss pages 23 -40 in Beautiful Eucharist

From Dynamic Catholic

3. Do you know where you're going?
 4. What I learned from a Muslim about the Eucharist
- February 23rd at 6 PM in the ACL

Followed by Stations of the Cross in Church at 7 PM

Extra books are available in the Narthex
or at the Soup Supper

This week is sponsored by:

Religious Education and the Confirmation Class



Little Flowers Girls' Club®
GROWING HOLY ONE VIRTUE AT A TIME

Attention all girls ages five and up (and their moms)!

The Little Flowers Girls' Club® is a program whose goal is to provide young Catholic girls, ages five and up, with an opportunity to gather and learn about their Catholic heritage, faith, and traditions. Together, the girls form a special community that builds friendships while learning what it means to be a Catholic girl.

We anticipate meeting one evening a month beginning in February and ending in May. See this week's Flocknote or the parish website for more information and to complete an interest survey.

Daily Bread:

Discover the Eucharist in Scripture

Daily Bread: Discover the Eucharist in Scripture explores the biblical roots of the Eucharist and how the earliest Christians understood it as the fulfillment of many Old Testament promises. Based on Dr. Brant Pitre's book Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist, these daily Lenten reflection videos will radically transform your love for the Blessed Sacrament.

Sign up to receive these daily during Lent at <https://daily.formed.org/lent>

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



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Stewardship & Liturgical Life

Stewardship of Treasure Week of February 5 - February 11 (Includes on-line contributions)

Sunday Offertory	Building/Maintenance Fund
\$ 14,883.08	\$ 170.00



Star of Bethlehem Group Hand-Carved Olive Wood Gifts from the Holy Land March 9-10



Did you know that 600 Christian families living in Bethlehem are completely dependent on carving olive wood figurines for their livelihood? Issam from "Star of Bethlehem Group" came to the United States with a mission to help those families by selling their beautiful religious handicrafts. The cost of goods goes to benefit the Christian carvers to keep them working in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the profit from sales goes directly to the needy Catholic schools and clinics in the Holy Land.

St. Irene Women of Faith



Partnering with



Companions Journeying Together

Mother's Day Project 2024



Communication with loved ones and other people who can be supportive is very important for people who are imprisoned. It helps keep them grounded and better prepares them for their release. It is also important for families, especially children, to hear from their loved ones. Please help us facilitate that process by providing cards and stationery to prisoners so they are equipped to write especially at Mother's Day.

Materials needed:

- postage stamps, stationery, Mother's Day cards, thinking of you cards, blank cards, paper lunch bags, golf pencils without an eraser
- donations to help delivery costs (Please make checks to "Companions, Journeying Together, Inc.")

Materials that CANNOT be used:

- white paper, notebook paper, yellowed or old cards or stationery, pencils with erasers, ballpoint pens
- **very important:** cards, envelopes or stationery that have glitter or anything glued, pasted or taped; no stickers, also nothing with crayon or marker

Please deposit donations in the box in the church vestibule the weekends of February 17-18 and 24-25. Thank you!



Please Return Baby Bottles for the Caring Network by February 24-25



With your support, Caring Network has saved thousands of lives by providing free pregnancy consultations and services, to help families overcome challenges - and choose life!



Anointing for Healing

Receive the healing touch of Jesus
Fr. Clive will be anointing for healing at all weekend Masses February 24-25

Blessed comfort items will be available for those in need



Bread Tag and Key Collection Mar 9-10 & 16-17



The St. Irene Knights of Columbus are partnering with SCARCE, a local environmental education group, to collect bread tags for the "Danielle Cares for Chairs" charity which recycles bread tags to acquire wheelchairs and mobility assistance devices for those in need.

Additionally, we will be collecting old, unused keys of all types for recycling. Tags and keys can be dropped off at the church entrance collection box. If you need further information, contact Joe at jdrk4715@aol.com. Thank you for your support!



FEED THE NEED!™



Come join fellow Knights and parishioners at the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) annual MobilePack event, FEED THE NEED ILLINOIS, at Benedictine University's Dan and Ada Rice Center located on campus at 5700 College Drive in Lisle on **Sunday, March 3, from 10:00am until 12:00pm**. We will be packing food for needy children overseas. Bag labelers and assorted volunteers are also needed. No experience is necessary. Individuals over the age of 5 are welcome to participate. Get the entire family involved in this worthy cause. Students can earn service hours. There is a suggested donation of \$50 per person to help pay for the cost of the food, but no one will be turned away.

Volunteer registration is easy and highly recommended. Registration opens **February 12** on the FMSC website: fmsc.org. If you are not able to volunteer at the Sunday session, just select one of the five other sessions. If you are unable to attend and still wish to donate, checks can be made out to the Knights of Columbus with Feed the Need MP-2403-055SC in the memo line. These can be placed in the collections during masses and will be properly forwarded to FMSC. Please contact Joe at jdrk4715@aol.com if you have additional questions.

Upcoming Events

7



February 18 | 10:00am

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Join us for Liturgy of the Word for Children at 10:00am Mass.



Join us for
Liturgy of the Word
for Children
February 18,
10:00AM Mass



We can't have this opportunity without
VOLUNTEERS!! Contact Pamela Keating at
630-393-2400 x120 or
pamel@st-irene.org.

February 21 | 7:00pm Wednesdays

Be Formed Season 8: Join us to help you gain a deeper understanding of Catholicism. Wednesdays through May 13

February 23 | 6:00pm

Soup Supper and Stations: Join us for a soup supper, book discussion, and followed by **Shadow Stations of the Cross** in Church.

February 24-25 | All Masses

Anointing of the Sick: Join us for healing blessings at all Masses.

March 1 | 6:00pm

Soup Supper and Stations: Join us for a soup supper, book discussion, and followed by **Stations of the Cross Mary's version** in Church.

March 2 | 7:00am - 11:30am

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive: Versiti Blood Center will be in the ACL. Donors are at the heart of our community.

March 3 | 11:30am

Church Cleaning Day!: Bring a bucket and rags. Bring your family! Contact Parish Office for info.

March 7 | 11:30am

Lunch Bunch Luncheon: Join us for fellowship, fun and food! Also presentation from a storm chaser!

March 8 | 6:00pm

Soup Supper and Stations: Join us for a soup supper, book discussion, and followed by **Stations of the Cross Liguori's version** in Church.



Parish Offices
will be closed for
Presidents Day
on Monday,
February 19.



The Baroque Cycle
A new award-winning musical by former St. Irene music director, Jonathon Lynch

March 3, 6:00PM
Madden Theatre, North Central College
171 Chicago Ave. Naperville
Tickets at northcentralcollege.edu/show

March 9-10 | All Masses

Star of Bethlehem Group: Hand-carved items will be available in the ACL

March 9-10 | All Masses

Birthday/Anniversary Masses & Hospitality: Do you have a birthday or anniversary in March? Contact the Parish Office and indicate which Mass you will be attending.

March 11-13 | 7:00pm

Lent Parish Mission and Reconciliation: Join us for the Parish Lenten Mission featuring Catholic Speaker Maggie Craig.

March 15 | 6:00pm

Soup Supper and Stations: Join us for a soup supper, book discussion, and followed by **Stations of the Cross John Paul II** version in Church.

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- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

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