FEBRUARY 26, 2023   THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT  #1116

Please join us for Adoration from 7AM to 8AM before the 8:30AM weekday morning Mass.

Confessions will be heard on Saturdays from 3 to 3:45PM.

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PEACE
God of peace and justice, today we hold the people of Ukraine in our prayers. Please bring peace to our world and the laying down of weapons. Jesus, we ask you to please end the invasion and war in Ukraine and soften the hearts of the Russian authorities. May all experience your spirit of comfort and compassion. With Your mercy and grace, please save Ukraine and our world. Amen.

PARISH MISSION
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT 4PM
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 6PM
SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pray the Rosary with us Monday through Thursday at 9 AM and on Thursday evenings At 7PM
WELCOME
February 26, 2023
The First Sunday of Lent

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 25
4PM Mass
Marge & Ronald Skalski

Sunday, February 26
8AM Mass
Margaret P. Gisburne
The Parishioners of Holy Ghost
Living and Deceased

10:30AM Mass
Health & Blessings for
Baby Jurewicz

Monday, February 27
Mary Ann Cerceo

Tuesday, February 28
Tom Ryan

Wednesday, March 1
Karen Fidler

Thursday, March 2
Richard Alcazar Jr.

Friday, March 3
Joe Caccamo

Mass Intention Information
$10 stipend per Mass Intention.
Mass Intention requests, in compliance with the
Decree on Mass Stipends, began on January 1,
2016: There will be one intention for a Mass.
Mass will be offered for all
Parishioners in the Parish on Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil,
Easter Sunday, and Holy Days of Obligation.
No other intentions will be taken
for the Masses on these days.

Please help: Our food drive is ongoing.
Non-perishable canned, boxed and bagged food
items may be placed on the shelving unit in
the gym. Your continued support is most appreciated.

Let us pray together for the
victims and all suffering
from the earthquakes that
devastated Turkey and Syria.

2023 CMAA Pledge Report
As of February 5, 2023
Thanks to your generosity, we have
reached our goal in paid pledges and
70% of the amount over our goal will
be returned to our parish for our needs.

2023 PARISH GOAL: $54,300
2023 AMOUNT PLEDGED: $15,475
2023 AMOUNT PAID: $8,395
2022 BALANCE DUE: $7,080

Our Sanctuary Lamp
Our sanctuary lamp is a 7-day candle that is
always lit above the tabernacle. If you would like
to contribute $20 to the cost of the weekly
candle, we will include an acknowledgement
in the bulletin. You are also welcome to make
the donation in memory of a loved one.
You may mail your request with your contribution
to: Holy Ghost Church
at 254 N Wood Dale Road,
Wood Dale IL 60191.

Food for the Banquet
A beautiful way to honor your loved ones,
living or deceased, is through providing
Food for the Banquet.
You may mail your request with your $50
contribution to Holy Ghost Church at
254 N Wood Dale Road,
Wood Dale IL 60191.

In Memory of
Maria & Stanislaw Truty
From Violet Zabawa

Names will be
printed in the
bulletin in the
order in which
they are received.

In Memory of
Leon Konopka
From Alicja Piechocinski

If you have already pledged your
support to the Catholic Ministries Annual
Appeal (CMAA), thank you! If we all
participate, we can meet our parish’s
CMAA goal of $54,300. Each and every
gift, large or small, makes a difference.

If you still need to make your gift,
please prayerfully reflect on how you
can best support the CMAA this year
and ensure all in our diocese know that
we belong to God. There are many
options for giving, from pledging to
monthly recurring gifts. Pledge
envelopes are still available in the
church, or you can return the pledge
card you received in the mail from the
diocese or make a gift online at
jolietdioceseappeal.org.

Remember, if we raise more than our
goal, the diocese will return to us 70
percent of the amount over goal.
This is an amazing opportunity
for our parish.

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In Memory of Leon Konopka
From Alicja Piechocinski

Please include your choice
date from the list below.

*The following dates are open
for donations:
April 8/9, 15/16, 22/23, 29/30
May 6/7, 13/14, 20/21, 27/28
June 10/11, 17/18, 24/25
July 1/2, 8/9, 15/16, 22/23, 29/30

(*Availability subject to possible change
once the bulletin has gone to the printer.)

Thank You
LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Sal Abbate
Cathy Alcozer
Gloria Anderson
Joel Calderone
Anna Canale
Ron Catalano
Martin Chiodo
James Cumo
John Davis
Rose Marie Davis
Philip Giancola
Gerry Grupe
Evelyn Hickman
Anthony Jasinski IV
Karen Junke
Meaghan K.
Mike Kaiser
Virginia Kapelanski
Kathie Kelley
Joyce Kordas
Carrie Krush
Patricia Krush
Angela Liga
Noel Lopez
Wendell Meyer
Bill Morse
Gloria Paz
Lisa Perez
Laverne Peterson
Rose Powers
William Powers
Joseph Prince
Robert Rosch Sr
Andrew Rosinski
John Rossi
Reiner Siedentop
Wanda Slupik
Jackie Vanjoske
Larry Venere
Carol Williams
Jim Wright
Maria Yanez

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION
My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Pray for Our Military
Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.

AIR FORCE:
LT COL Anthony Calabrese
LT COL Patty Calabrese
MAJ Mary Dones
CAPT Joseph Piscopo
CAPT Jeremy Shimanek
1st LT Joshua Jalowiec
SSGT Robert W. Dones
SSGT Timothy Latvis
SRA Randall Petrbok

ARMY:
LTC Robert Bowen
LTC Grace Gallagher
SSGT Zack Cieslak
SPC Marco Garcia
SPC David Patcher
CWO4 Anderson Mann
PVT Steven Badgley
PVT Ian Schauhuk

MARINE CORPS:
CAPT Edward W. Miller
SGT Nicholas Reid
CPL Charles Golowacz
CPL Jack Rowley
LCPL David Lozeau
PVT Cameron Andresen
PVT Vincent Anthony Eltman
PVT Billy Termine
PVT Michele Giuseppe Bottalico

NAVY:
LCDR Nicholas Lucania
LT Matthew Starsiak
HM3 Danielle Schlarb, CST
Ryan James Ruizol

Please help: Is our Military Prayer List current? Please email: joni@holyghostparish.org or call the parish office at 630-860-2975 to help us update this information. Thank you!

RECOGNIZE GOD IN OUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Formed and Fallen

There is a version of myself that walks into church on Ash Wednesday and a version of myself that walks into church on Good Friday. Aside from having the same face, these women bear very little resemblance to one another.

Ash Wednesday Me is fired up. She’s ready to go. She’s got a stomach full of pączki, a forehead full of ashes, an oven full of fasting bread and a whole list of Lenten resolutions. She’s got a plan for the next 40 days and she’s ready to be transformed.

Good Friday Me is tired. She is lumbering into church dragging six weeks of failure and unfulfilled expectations behind her. Nothing went the way it was supposed to (again). She didn’t accomplish what she wanted (again) and she doesn’t want to dwell on it (again).

If Satan offered both versions of myself the same deal he offered Christ — submit to me, and you will have the whole world — I have to wonder: which one of these creatures, formed and fallen, would be strong enough to defy him? Would either?

I can’t say that the chipper, optimistic woman on Ash Wednesday has more strength than the tired woman on Good Friday. To each of these women Satan offers an easy way out. But to each, too, Christ offers an abundance of grace and the gift of justification.

This Lent, I know that I will be tested. I know that I will fail in many ways. I know that my intentions and my best efforts will not be enough.

But I bring them to the altar anyway, and I leave them there as an offering. And I know that Easter morning will dawn, and the tomb will be empty.

“The gift is not like the transgression.” — Romans 5:15

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi
QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK -
AN INVITATION TO REFLECT AND Respond to Scripture

First Reading: Genesis teaches us that humanity’s first sin against God was that of disobedience — they listened to the voice of the snake (the devil) rather than God’s voice. What are some ways we can avoid the sin of disobedience in this first week of Lent?

Second Reading: Paul teaches us that through Jesus’ obedience to his Father (as opposed to Adam’s “transgression”), believers receive the gift of God’s grace and “acquittal” from condemnation. How can we all be more mindful of this divine reversal of fortunes during Lent?

Gospel: Each year the Gospel reading for the season of Lent begins with the story of Jesus’ temptation in the desert by the devil. What temptations are you willing to confront during the forty days of Lent?

GOSPEL MEDITATION
1st Sunday of Lent

The only perfect thing about me is my imperfection. Those were the words that washed over me as I listened to the Jesuit retreat director who was speaking to us. We were on retreat, a group of lay ministers working in parishes—Directors of Religious Education, Liturgists and Pastoral Ministers. I paused and stopped listening for a time as I carefully repeated the phrase to myself over and over again. The only perfect thing about me is my imperfection. The director’s message was a way out for me. If I was perfectly imperfect, then I could NEVER achieve perfection. I began to feel a sense of new-found freedom. God’s grace was rushing in, and God was gently whispering, I don’t expect perfection. I do expect that your relationship with me and my relationship with you will shape your life with all its beauty, love and yes... all of its imperfections. That’s how I created you.

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. The word Lent has Old English and Germanic roots which mean springtime and lengthening of days. Light is coming into our part of the hemisphere following the darkness of winter. The light of Jesus Christ is at the heart of Lent and Jesus gives us an opportunity to shine a light on any darkness in our lives. Are we lost in something that pulls us away from God?

The church in her wisdom has been preparing us for Lent the past few weeks with readings from Genesis describing our creation and gospel passages which encourage us to be salt and light for the world. God’s great love has created us, and God has expectations about how to live life well. But it will not be perfect.

Just as Jesus was tempted in today’s gospel but chose to turn away from the darkness, we too are influenced by the darkness of our temptations which may turn us away from God. My temptation had been perfectionism which created great anxiety and influenced me at times to hold back from being salt and light for others. In striving to be perfect, I would come face to face with my imperfection which would then lead to an exhaustive effort to achieve perfection. I couldn’t find a way out until I heard those words that day and knew that God was reaching out to me. God called an audible and I changed course. To this day, I whisper that phrase when the perfectionist shows herself.

Is God calling an audible in our life and are we ready to listen? Lent is a powerful time for us to lengthen our relationship with God, self, and others. Lent is an invitation to focus on prayer, fasting, being salt and light for others and taking time to examine any places where we may have fallen away from God. It’s an opportunity for new life and in the words of today’s psalm we pray, A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Let’s not miss the audibles.

Susan Naatz  Used with permission from Creighton’s Online Ministries
Please join Pope Francis in praying his February 2023 intention:

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

**DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES**

**HALLOW PARISH LENTEN PROJECT**
Hallow, the #1 Catholic prayer app in the world, is partnering with Holy Ghost Parish this Lent as one of only a handful of parishes to pilot a new Lenten program. As part of this partnership, we will be journeying through Hollow’s Lenten Challenge together as a parish, centered around the spiritual classic: *The Imitation of Christ*. Please join us for a Challenge kick-off event on Sunday, February 26 at 9am in the gym. A light brunch will be provided. This will be a Religious Education Family Event but the parish is also invited to attend. Parishioners just need to register below with Hallow or call Fran: 630-766-4508 to register for brunch. Please bring your electronic device (phone, ipad, etc) to our meeting so you are able to download the app. We will meet all the Sundays of Lent with the exception of March 26th. There is no cost to be part of this pilot program. To learn more about the Challenge, please sign up at hallow.com/lentenchallenge.

We look forward to praying with you this Lent.

If you have questions, please call Susan: 630-860-3691 or stutaj@holyghostparish.org

Lenten Blessings!
Susan Tutaj  Coordinator of Discipleship

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**Lenten Morning of Reflection**

Join us as we examine brokenness. Everyone one of us will experience some kind of brokenness in our lives. We may not be able to fix the past, but we can be healed from what has wounded us. Healing is not a one-time event, but a process. With trust in God, we can heal from the inside out.

To attend our Lenten Morning of Reflection, please register by using the SignUpGenius link on our parish website: holyghostparish.org or call Frannie at 630-766-4508.

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**The Broken Pot**

Saturday, March 11, 2023
9:30AM to Noon
In the Koinonia Room
(Enter Door 20)

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**Parish Mission 2023:**

**RESTORED**

**Sunday, February 26th @ 4pm**
**Monday, February 27th @ 7pm**

Join us for one or both nights!

Enhance your Lenten journey this year by attending our Parish Mission.
Back by popular demand, Deacon Keith Strohm, will be our presenter.

Through Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and ascension, we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness onto the Kingdom of Light. Jesus restored us from the power of sin and death so that we might live as free, forgiven children of our Heavenly Father.

Join us for this two-night parish mission as Deacon Keith breaks open what it truly means to be set free by Christ.

What are the characteristics of life in God’s Kingdom, how does Satan, our enemy, try to work against us, and how can we cooperate with the grace of God to break free from the enemy’s lies to live as we were created to live.

This will be an experience of God’s love and freedom that you won’t want to miss.

Deacon Keith Strohm is a popular author and speaker. He is the former director of the Office for the New Evangelization and a deacon for the Archdiocese of Chicago. A well-known international and conference keynote speaker, he has helped tens of thousands of men and women hear the gospel message and encounter the mercy, love, and power of Jesus Christ. Deacon Keith has extensive experience in creating and sustaining processes and programs of evangelization and formation at the group, parish, and diocesan level that focus on the making, maturation, and missioning of disciples of Jesus Christ.

A free-will offering will be accepted each evening.
People are sometimes surprised to hear that I do my own grocery shopping and cook my own meals. I am not a gourmet chef, but I can hold my own in the kitchen. Frankly, it is not that big of a task since I live alone and frequently eat out at meetings, receptions and events. Therefore, most of my trips to the grocery store are a very quick “in and out.”

However, for Christmas day, I invited my family for dinner. Hosting 10 people resulted in a much longer grocery list and time in the store than usual. So as I navigated the aisles filled with a multitude of carts and frantic shoppers on the morning of December 24, it struck me just how much the price of food has gone up. There was a woman standing next to me in the egg section. Suddenly, she blurted out, “Is this really the cost of eggs?” I turned to her and said, “I think so. It’s unbelievable, right?” With an affirming and exaggerated nodding of her head, she added, “Unbelievable, yes! And outrageous. I have sticker shock!”

With the soaring grocery prices across our nation, hunger is also on the rise. As a Church, we are mandated to not turn a blind eye to those in need. One of the many ways that we put our faith into action is by feeding the hungry. Scripture is clear about the obligation to help those who are less fortunate. We have adored and worshiped God, being nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, we are mandated to go out and serve the poor, and not just in abstract ways, but tangibly: “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works?” (James 2:14)

I am proud that we in the Diocese of Joliet take this mandate to heart. Our Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA) supports so many ministries, including outreach to the poor and hungry. It helps support Catholic Charities, whose mobile food pantries at parishes and schools throughout the diocese helped more than 26,000 people last year. Catholic Charities also uses these visits to offer resources to other services participants may need.

Additionally, the ministries of mercy advisor from our Department of Catechesis and Evangelization organized “Christmas Blessing” grants to local parish-based food pantries. The applications submitted by parishes painted a stark yet accurate picture of the struggle to stock pantries in the face of dramatically increasing prices. Yet it was heartening to read of the commitment of parish staff and volunteers to help their faith community and neighbors. Our Catholic schools and religious education programs also contributed to this ministry with donations and service hours. We all work as a family to help our brothers and sisters with a basic need of life.

My aunt and uncle volunteer at their church’s food pantry. They, too, have reported that the number of people requesting food has continued to rise exponentially, and sometimes they are surprised by who is asking for food. Recently, they handed a basket of food to a man who has been a longtime parishioner and pillar of their church. Confused, they assumed he was there to volunteer for the distribution of food, but why was he waiting in the line? Sheepishly, he said to them, “I feel so bad. Over the years, I was the one giving out food, and now I need it myself. With prices skyrocketing, I have come to the point of having to choose between my medication or food. I am embarrassed to admit that I now need this assistance myself.”

Sometimes, we can be tempted to wonder if everyone in the food pantry lines really needs the food they are receiving from us. There might be some people who take advantage of our generosity. Yet, I would rather err on the side of generosity and love than turn away those who are in need. St. Paul boldly challenges us to be generous to all people, even those we might deem undeserving, such as our enemies: “If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink.” (Romans 12:20)

There are so many ways to feed the hungry and help those in need. Whatever way you choose – the CMAA, donations to your parish or local pantry, volunteerism or prayers – to you I say, “thank you!” For whenever we put our faith into action, we are following what Jesus teaches in the Gospel: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)
Please remember to order your Fannie May for EASTER!
Orders need to be submitted by Sunday, February 26, 2023.
Drop your orders at the Welcome Center or in the collection basket at Mass.
Orders will be available for pick up on March 19 between 8AM & 2PM.
Questions? Call Fran at 630-766-4508.

Lent ~ Easter 2023

PREPARING FOR Easter

Rosary:
Weekdays at 9:00 AM
Thursdays at 7:00 PM
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Spirit Saturday: Lenten Morning of Reflection
March 11 from 9:30 AM - Noon
The Broken Pot

Stations of the Cross:
Fridays at 7:00 PM
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday Mass:
April 2: 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Holy Thursday:
April 6:
7:00 PM - Mass
8:00 PM - Midnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Emmaus Room)

Good Friday Services:
April 7:
3:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday:
April 8:
10:00 AM - Basket Blessing
7:00 PM - Vigil Mass

Holy Hour:
Tuesday,
March 14
7:00 PM

Reconciliation:
Held at:
Immaculate Conception Church
132 Arthur St.
Elmhurst
630-530-8991

Saturday, March 25,
from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
(Instead of individual parishes having penance services, this Deanery Reconciliation event is offered for you to attend.)

Easter Sunday:
April 9 Masses
8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM