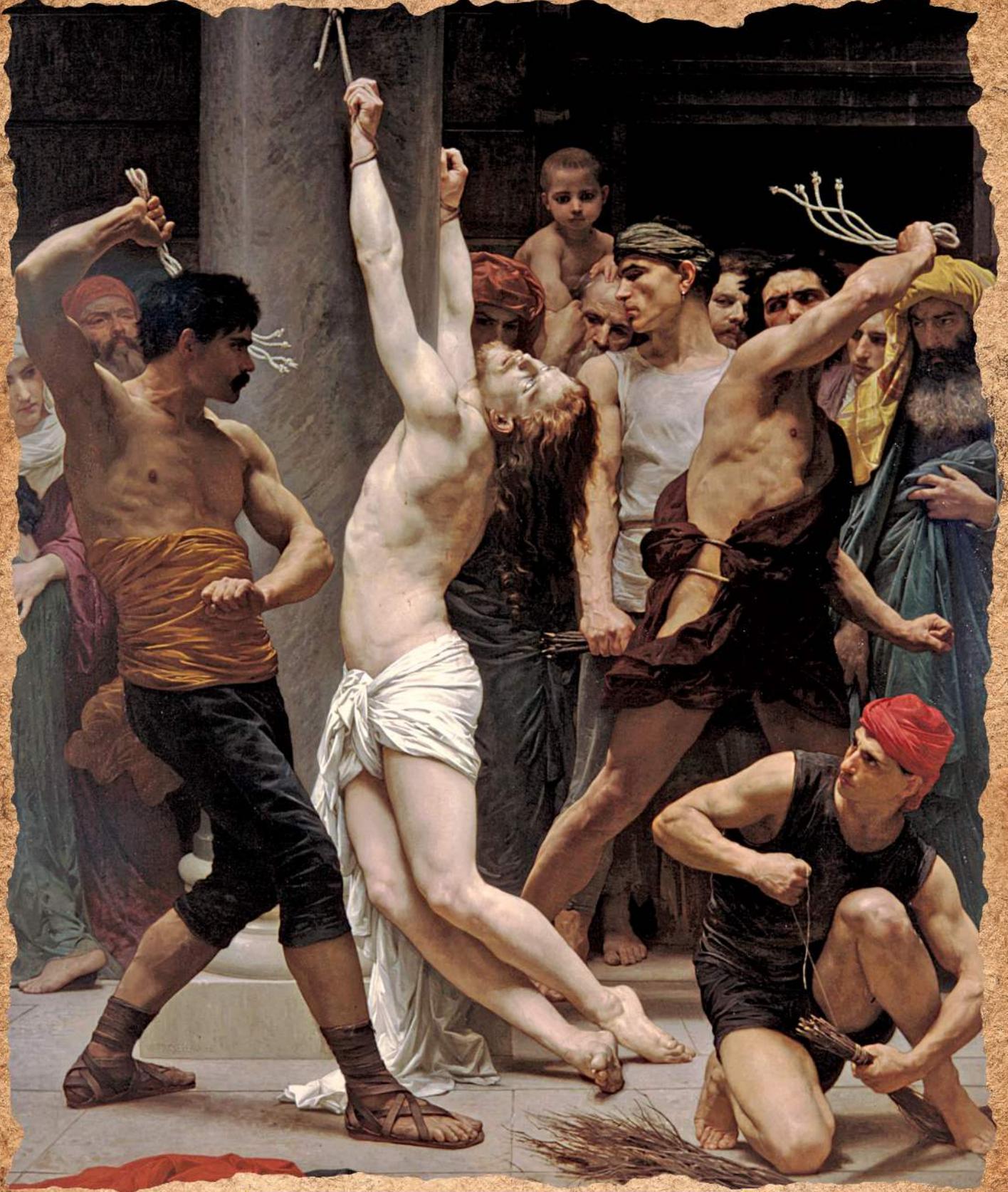


SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The Scourging at the Pillar

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2026



WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA (www.orderofmercy.org)



PARISH OFFICE, 588 W. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215

OpenMonday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Main No.....614-221-4323 Fax No: 614-221-9818

Web:.....www.holyfamilycolumbus.org

Email.....office@holyfamilycolumbus.org

Facebook.....Holy Family Catholic Church

Flocknote.....holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com

PERSONNEL STAFF

Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M...Pastor

Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M.....Vocation Director

Brother Kevin Cush, O. de M.....Seminarian

Brian Krull Business Manager

Secretary.....Mary Gamble

Maintenance.....Tim Kearns

Music Director / Organist.....Shawn Kenney

OCIA (RCIA) Coordinator.....Linda Hamilton

Religious Education.....Sr. Bozena Tyborowska LSIC

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers – *Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Director*

Confraternity of Christian Mothers – *Rita Martinez, President*

Diocesan Center for the Guard of Honor

of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – *Rebecca Rector, Zelatrix*

Eucharistic Adoration – *Sarah Hill, Coordinator*

Holy Family Young Adults – *Bear Bates, Coordinator*

Hospitality – *Kathy McKinniss & Linda Hamilton, Coordinators*

Knights of Columbus – *Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Grand Knight*

Liturgical Ministry – *Linda Hamilton, Coordinator*

Mercedarian Lay Third Order – *Fr. Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.,
Spiritual Director*

Respect Life – *Aurelio & Rosalinda Morales, Coordinators*

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary – *Sr. Bozena Tyborowska, Dir.*

SOUP KITCHEN – (backyard of Parish Center building)

Donations...Monday – Friday

8:00am – 12noon, preferred (back of building)

12noon – 3:00pm, optional (please call in advance)

Main No.....614-221-4323

Web.....www.hfsk.org

Email.....Dennis Shope, Director

soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org

maintenance@holyfamilycolumbus.org

BAPTISM

Call the Parish office to schedule a Baptism. Children over the age of 6 will require some special instruction.

MARRIAGE

Please call the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding. Diocesan Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning classes are required and six meetings with the priest.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Call the Parish Office during general office hours. Otherwise, call Parish Office and select "Sacramental Emergency" option.

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Those who desire Holy Communion at home should call the Parish Office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays: 12:15pm

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Convent of St. Birgitta – 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 7:00 a.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs. Friday

4:00 p.m. Wednesday

(Each day is open to the public)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Weekdays: 11:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE

Holy Family Church

Weekly: 1:00 p.m. Thursday – 12 Noon Friday

First Friday Adoration in Reparation to the

Sacred Heart – 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 a.m. First Saturday

Please contact **Sarah Hill** at **740-418-0517** or

thehills1936@gmail.com if you have interest in being scheduled weekly or monthly in either location

Convent of St. Birgitta (CSB)

40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mass Wednesday

4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. following 4pm Mass

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday

MOST HOLY ROSARY

Weekdays: 11:30 am (Tuesday is Respect Life Rosary)

Chaplet of Divine Mercy follows Rosary

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. Marian Mass

8:15 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. (before Mass)

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to be scheduled to lead before 9am Saturday or 9am; 5pm Sunday Mass.

REGULAR DEVOTIONS



Each Tuesday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass there are Devotions to **St. Anthony of Padua**.



Each Saturday Novena Prayers to **Our Lady of Mercy** following 9:00 a.m. Mass.



On First Wednesday of each month a 7:00 p.m. Mass is offered in honor of **Good Saint Joseph**.



On First Friday of each month following the 12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Masses there is **Act of Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 1— 8, 2026

Sun Mar 1 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
 9:00 AM * People of the Parish
 11:00 AM Unborn Children and All Priests and Religious
 by Knights of Columbus #13428
 5:00 PM * The Kevin and Emily Sellers Family
 by Emily Sellers
 8:00 PM An Increase in Postulants for
 The Mercedarian Order, by Rebecca Rector

Mon Mar 2 Saint Katherine Drexel, Virgin
 7:00 AM CSB—NO MASS
 12:15 PM Our Guardian Angels

Tues Mar 3
 7:00 AM CSB—NO MASS
 12:15 PM Hannah Jasper, by Judith Jasper

Wed Mar 4 Saint Casimir
 12:15 PM Repose of the Souls
 of James P. and Livia A. Gallicchio
 by His Family
Good Saint Joseph Mass
 7:00 PM Susan Ankrom, by Jessica Ankrom

Thurs Mar 5
 7:00 AM CSB—NO MASS
 12:15 PM Pat and Gary Davis and Family

Fri Mar 6 FIRST FRIDAY SACRED HEART MASS
 7:00 AM CSB—NO MASS
 12:15 PM Mrs. Grace Scodari, by Sr. Monica Marie, SSCJ
 7:00 PM Repose of the Soul of George Miller, Jr.
 by Kristi Ziegler

Sat Mar 7 FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS MASS
Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
World Day of Prayer
 9:00 AM Intentions of The Little Servant Sisters of the
 of the Immaculate Conception

Sun Mar 8 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
 9:00 AM * Dr. Joseph Maretto
 by The Gabriel and Johnson Families
 11:00 AM Deceased Members of Holy Family Alumni
 5:00 PM * People of the Parish
 8:00 PM Mary Gamble, by Kristi Ziegler

*** Incense will be used at this Mass**

Convent Mass Canceled for This Week

The Bridgettine Sisters will be in Darien, Connecticut for their annual retreat. Since I will be with them to direct the retreat, Masses at the Convent are canceled from **Monday, March 2 through Friday, March 6.**

Fr. Michael

HOMEBOUND AND/OR ILL IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Melody Christ	T H E P R A Y E R S	Debbie Newell
Sarah Conway		Theresa Piatt
JoAnn Cormack		Maura Renouf
Mary Jo Fetch		Michelle Stewart
Jack Gookin		Josh Stroud
John Keller		Celeste Trautman
Larry Lorms		Bill Warren
Charles McKinniss		Mary Ann Wirsching

PLEASE INFORM US OF NAMES TO REMOVE.

March 8th is time to Spring Forward!!! Reminder to set your clocks an hour ahead before going to bed Saturday. Less sleep, but more light!

Join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship the first Sunday of every month after the 9 AM and 11 AM Mass in the Undercroft. The hospitality committee also provides tea, hot chocolate, water, orange juice and lemonade. Take a few minutes to grab some refreshments and enjoy a conversation with other parishioners before the drive home.



Thank you to the Rudolph Family who provides gluten-free donuts each month.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

	March 1	9:00 am Austin Hill
		11:00 am Knights of Columbus
		5:00 pm Rebecca Rector
March 8	9:00 am Brandan Litman	
	11:00 am Brett Ballantyne	
	5:00 pm Tom Martello	

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

Giving for February 16—February 22, 2026

Offertory

Collection \$ 3,399

On-Line 2,079

Mail + 720

Total \$ 6,198

Less: Assessment (10%) - 620

Net \$ 5,578

Soup Kitchen \$17,439

Total Capital Campaign Donations \$398,433

The Appeal Pledges \$92,690

The Appeal Goal \$82,347

God Reward your Generosity

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2026

A Note from Fr. Michael

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Dear Parish Family,

On this Second Sunday of Lent, we hear proclaimed the familiar glorious Transfiguration. Just as on the First Sunday of Lent we always hear the Gospel of Our Lord's Temptation in the desert, so on the Second Sunday of Lent we always contemplate our Lord's glorious Transfiguration.

There is a purposefulness as to why holy Mother Church has assigned these Gospels to their respective Sundays.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: **"By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert."** (Catechism of the Catholic Church #540). The Temptation of the Lord, proclaimed on the First Sunday of Lent, reminds us that, like Jesus, we are going to do battle this Lent. Jesus battled Satan in the desert and was victorious; we will do battle with our sinfulness during Lent by way of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. By persevering in these practices, we will have a participation in the victory of Christ. The Lenten program of fasting, prayer and almsgiving is meant to fortify us in the on-going battle that each of us must take up daily, the battle against sin in all its forms. St. John the Baptist clearly states that there must be visible fruit giving witness to our repentance: **"Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance."** (Matthew 3:8) Jesus himself gives us this solemn warning: **"But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish..."** (Matthew 13:3).

Today, on the Second Sunday of Lent, we hear the joyful Gospel of Our Lord's glorious Transfiguration. On the mountain, Jesus gives a glimpse of His divine glory to Peter, James, and John. This glory of Jesus, seen in the mystery of the Transfiguration, is a prefigurement of His risen glory to come. It is also a prefigurement of the glory that will be ours someday, provided that we carry our cross and remain faithful to the Lord. We hear this Gospel of the Transfiguration early in Lent to help us remember what we are striving for during Lent: the worthy celebration of the Easter Mysteries and our own share in the glory of Christ in the heavenly kingdom.

I would like to suggest a few prayer petitions for us to present to the Lord during this Second Week of Lent. You could unite these petitions to your rosary and works of self-denial:

- 1) **Monday:** Pray for the catechumens and candidates who will be entering the Church at the Easter Vigil, that they will overcome all obstacles to their journey into the Catholic and Apostolic Faith.
- 2) **Tuesday:** Pray on behalf of all Christians who are suffering persecution because of their faith, that the Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of Mercy, may grant them the grace of perseverance.
- 3) **Wednesday:** Pray for all those who are enslaved to sins against the virtue of purity, that they may experience liberation in the Holy Name of Jesus.
- 4) **Thursday:** Pray that greater faith and reverence for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament will flourish among all members of the Church.
- 5) **Friday:** Pray for the conversion of the people of our nation, that they may come to recognize the unborn child's God-given gift to life.
- 6) **Saturday:** Pray that the Holy Spirit through the intercession of Our Lady, Help of All Christians, may break down all divisions within the Church and that greater unity will flourish among Christian people.

Have a blessed and fruitful Lent. In the Hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Fr. Michael



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2026



The Land of St. Patrick July 28 – August 7, 2026 A Pilgrimage



Spiritual Director:
Fr. Michael Donovan

Informational Meetings: At Holy Family Parish Center after the 9:00 and 11:00 Mass this Sunday (3/1/26) and at 6:00 p.m. next Tuesday (3/3/26)

Contact Information:
cteam@206tours.com

@206tours.ca

For Additional Details or to Book Now Visit:
www.206tours.com/cvdlca



HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13428

We continue to collect aluminum cans for the Seminarians. All proceeds will go to these young men of Christ. Please drop the cans off at the entrance of the Church and/or Parish Center.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 1, 2026—Knights of Columbus Corporate Mass at the 11am Mass.

Sunday, March 1, 2026—Knights of Columbus monthly Council meeting in the undercroft of the Church after the 11am Mass.

** The Knights of Columbus at Holy Family will not have the weekly fish fry during Lent this year. We are planning a fish fry on **March 20, 2026**. More details will follow at a later date.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, please contact **Jack Gookin** at (614) 309-2519.

LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during the holy season of Lent you are invited to come to Church at 7:00pm for praying Stations of the Cross.



HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Our upcoming meeting is **March 9 at 7pm** in the Parish Center.

Our Rosary for Life meets every Tuesday at 8:45am to 10:45am in front of Planned Parenthood Surgical Clinic. There is an opportunity to carpool by meeting in the Holy Family parking lot by 8:15.

If you are not able to go to the clinic, you can join us to pray the Rosary For Life every Tuesday, before Mass at 11:25am.

Salt and Light 5K

The Salt & Light Campus Ministry at Ohio Dominican University is hosting its 3rd **Annual Salt & Light 5K on April 18th at 10:00 AM**. This event supports Salt & Light's mission to foster faith, service, and community among students through service projects, worship nights, and retreats, while also benefiting Asia's Hope, a nonprofit dedicated to providing care and education for at-risk children in Southeast Asia. We invite the ODU and greater Catholic community to join us in supporting students and a meaningful global cause.

Ireland Pilgrimage—Holy Family 2026 Major Stops

- Belfast
- Down Patrick (Down Cathedral, St. Patrick's Grave and Cathedral)
- Galway (St. Ciaran)
- Knock (Our Lady of Knock Shrine)
- Kylemore Abbey (Benedictine nuns)
- Croagh Patrick (Holy Mountain)
- Limerick (Cliff's of Moher & Blarney Castle)
- Cork (Little Nellie Organ & St. Finbar's Chapel/Shrine)
- Dublin (St. Brigid)
- Glenalough (St. Kevin)

Bishop Ready High School Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following parishioner who is a student at Bishop Ready High School and who has attained Honor Roll status for the second quarter of the current academic year.

Named to the Distinction List:

Sophomore Renamae McCoy-Hayes

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2026

40 DAYS OF ADORATION SCHEDULE

	<u>Time</u>
March 1 Sacred Hearts 4680 US—42, Cardington 43315	9:00 am Mass — 9:00 pm
March 2 St. Brigid of Kildare 7179 Avery Road, Dublin 43017	9:00 am Mass — 9:00 pm
March 3 St. Matthew the Apostle 807 Havens Corner Rd, Gahanna 43230	6:00 am — 8:00 pm Door next to St. Matthew Statue. No elevator access.
March 4 St. Pius X 1051 S. Waggoner Rd, Reynoldsburg 43068	9:00 am — 8:45 PM Night Prayers Benediction
March 5 St. Mary Magdalene 473 S. Roys Ave, Columbus 43204	8:30 AM — 6:45 PM 7:00 pm Mass Holy Hour
St. Patrick—London 61 S. Union St, London 43140	6:00 pm — 12:00 Midnight
March 6 St. Patrick—London 61 S. Union St, London 43140	12:00 Midnight — 5:15 PM Benediction 5:30pm Mass
St. Dominic 455 N. 20th St, Columbus 43203	10:00 am — 6:00 pm Confession Stations
Our Lady of Lourdes 1033 W. 5th St, Marysville 43040	8:00 am Mass — 6:00 pm Stations
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish 600 Hill Rd N, Pickerington 43147	9:00 am — 9:00 am Saturday
Church of the Ascension 55 S. Main St, Johnstown 43031	8:30 am — 6:00 pm Confessions 5 — 5:40 pm Vespers 5:45 pm
Ss. Simon & Jude 9350 High Free Pike, W Jefferson 43162	8:30 am Mass — 6:00 pm Stations Benediction
March 7 St. John Neumann 9633 E, 9633 OH—37, Sunbury 43074	7:00 am — 7:00 pm 9:00 am Mass & 4:00 pm Vigil
March 8 Nothing scheduled	-----
March 9 Buckeye Catholic 74 W. Lane Ave, Columbus 43201	7:45 am Mass — 5:30 pm Use QR code for parking. Validation code inside the building.
March 10 St. Andrew Parish 1899 McCoy Rd, Columbus 43220	9:30 am — 9:30 pm



CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS
& LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family Since 1887

Holy Father, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude for our Church community and their support. Thank You for the bonds of love and support that unite us. May we continue to grow in faith together, uplift one another and shine Your Light in our world.

Thanks to all of you who contributed again to a successful gathering this past Sunday as we gathered together for the Chicken Noodle Luncheon. Special thanks to Mike and Jean Kenny for the silent auction baskets, and our volunteers! Congratulations Charmaine Stewart!

Just a reminder that there are **Blessed Sorrowful Mother candles** in the undercroft for those interested. Free-will offerings accepted.

Our next Mass is **March 15th at 11:00 AM**. St. Gerard blessing to follow. Please join us.

Our March meeting will be held at **St. Paul's Catholic Church, 313 N. State Street, Westerville, OH 43081 Saturday, March 21st starting with 8:15 AM Mass.**

Father Tuscan will be in town. Great opportunity to meet fellow Christian Mothers at St. Paul's and hear from Father Tuscan.

Spring Flower Sale will start March 21st as well. Watch for the order form.

Anyone interested in joining our Confraternity, please send us information to holyfamilyccm@yahoo.com.

Wishing all a wonderful Lent.

Holy Family Confraternity of Christian Mothers Officers

Rita Martinez, President / Louise Popich, Vice-President
Anita Van Order, Treasurer / Kendy Troiano, Secretary
Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M. Director

HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS EXERCISE PROGRAM

Our upcoming class is scheduled **1:30—2:30pm Tuesday, March 3** in the Parish Center. The next class is same time and location on **Wednesday, March 4. Start early and *Spring* into fitness!**

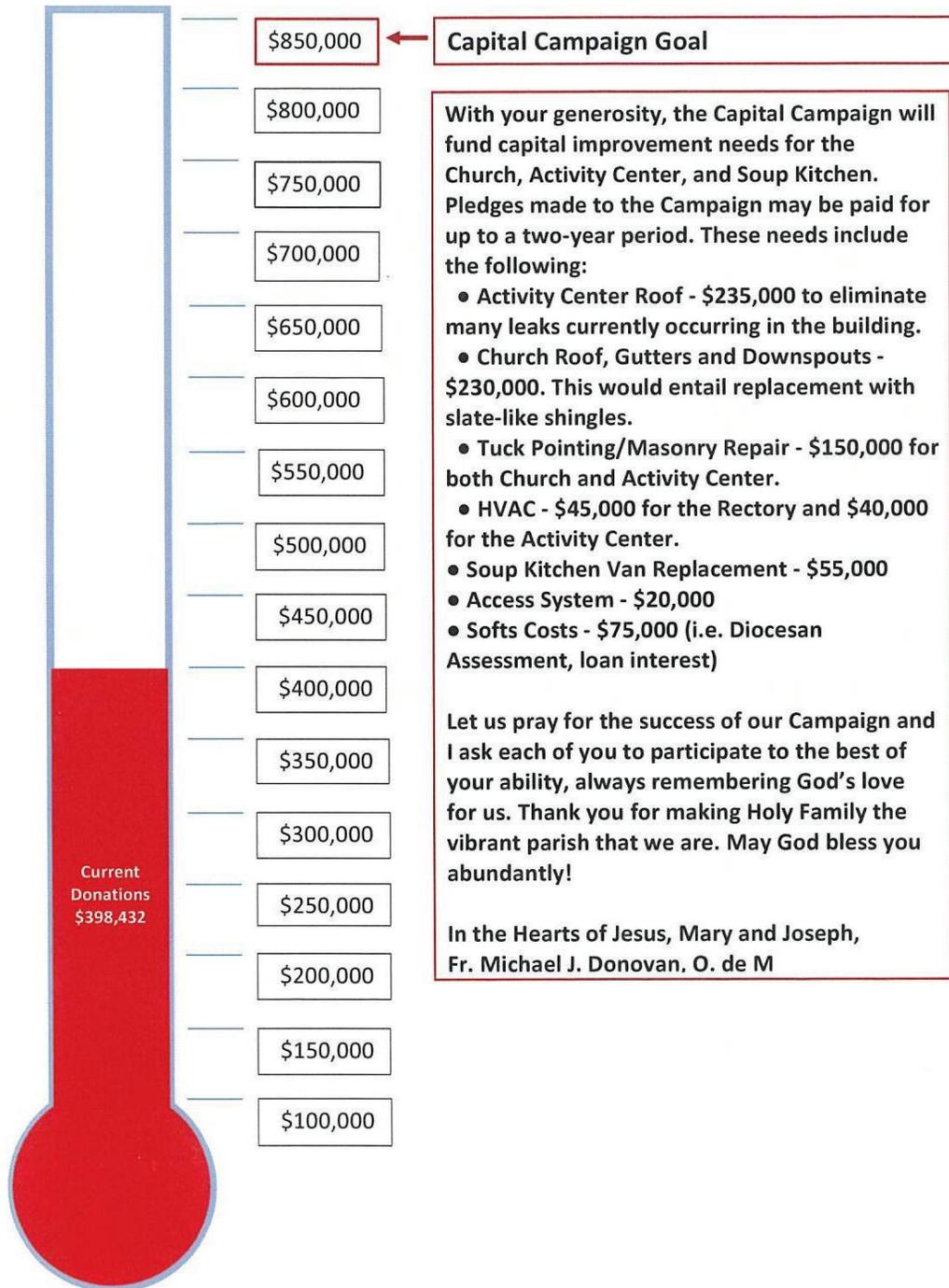
Senior Trip to Indiana—A trip to Terre Haute, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri is planned for April 14—16. Contact Sheila Lutz for details sheilalutz13@gmail.com.

Holy Family Station Day is 9:00am–9:00pm Wed March 25th THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD!

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 1, 2026

Holy Family Capital Campaign



2/22/2026

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” +Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph

“Let us love the truth. Let us love Jesus, who is the truth itself. Let us change ourselves so that we may be like Him. Let us not put ourselves in a condition that will oblige us to hate the truth. The one who is condemned by the truth hates and flees it. Let there be nothing false in one who is the disciple of the truth. Let us live by the truth and feed ourselves with it. It is for this that the Eucharist is given to us. It is the body of Jesus, His holy humanity, the pure grain that nourishes the elect, the pure substance of truth, the bread of life, and it is at the same time the way, the truth, and the life.”

~EXCERPTED FROM *MEDITATIONS FOR LENT* BY BISHOP JACQUES-BENIGNE BOSSUET

Monday, March 2 ~ Second Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:36-38 Jesus said to his disciples: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

Meditation: As difficult as it may seem at times, our love for others – even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us – must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us. When we pray for those who do us harm, it both breaks the power of revenge and releases the power of love to do good in the face of evil. How can we possibly love those who cause us harm, ill-will, and grief? Remember, with God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who know his love and who ask for the gift and help of the Holy Spirit. What is grace, and how can one obtain it? There are two kinds of grace – actual and sanctifying. Actual Grace is that help from God which enlightens our reason and moves our will to do good and to avoid evil. The conversion of St. Paul on his journey to Damascus, to persecute the Christians there, is an inspiring example of actual grace. Actual grace comes to us through various channels, such as the sacraments, prayer, homilies, doing good works, and the good example of others. Sanctifying Grace is an unmerited gift of the Holy Spirit, whereby we become children of God and heirs of Heaven. Sanctifying Grace is the supernatural life, beauty, and brightness conferred on our soul by the presence of the Holy Spirit. It makes our soul the object of the special love and friendship of God. Without Sanctifying Grace, we cannot merit anything for Heaven.

Prayer: O God, who have taught us to chasten our bodies for the healing of our souls, enable us, we pray, to abstain from all sins, and strengthen our hearts to carry out your loving commands. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you pray for mercy and forgive those who wrong you? When we are confronted with our sinful condition and failings we experience guilt and shame. This can often either lead us to cast off pride and make-belief or it can lead us to lose our inhibitions and fall into more shameless deeds! If we are utterly honest and humble before God, we will admit our sins and ask for his mercy and forgiveness. Do you know the joy and freedom of repentance, forgiveness, and a clean heart?

Tuesday, March 3 ~ Second Week in the Season of Lent **Optional Memorial: Saint Katharine Drexel**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12 Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens hard to carry and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to



move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Meditation: Jesus appears to be warning both his disciples and the religious leaders about the temptation to seek titles and honors to increase one's reputation and admiration by others. Sacred scripture gives ample warning about the danger of self-seeking pride: "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18). "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6; Proverbs 3:24). Respect for God and his ways inclines us to Godly humility and simplicity of heart. What is true humility and why should we embrace it? True humility is not feeling bad about yourself, or having a low opinion of yourself, or thinking of yourself as inferior to others. True humility frees us from preoccupation with ourselves, whereas a low self-opinion tends to focus our attention on ourselves. Humility is truth in self-understanding and truth in action. Viewing ourselves truthfully, with sober judgment, means seeing ourselves the way God sees us (Psalm 139:1-4). A humble person makes a realistic assessment of oneself without illusion or pretense to be something one is not. A truly humble person regards oneself neither smaller nor larger than one truly is. True humility frees us to be ourselves as God sees us and to avoid despair and pride. A humble person does not want to wear a mask or put on a facade in order to look good to others. Such a person is not swayed by accidentals, such as fame, reputation, success, or failure. Do you know the joy of Christ-like humility and simplicity of heart?

Prayer: Look upon your family, Lord, that, through the chastening effects of bodily discipline, our minds may be radiant in your presence with the strength of our yearning for you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Notice how humility serves as the foundation of all the other virtues because humility enables us to see the way that God sees. Humility opens our minds and hearts so that each of us can acquire true knowledge, wisdom, and an honest view of reality. Humility directs our energy, zeal, and ambition to give ourselves to something greater than ourselves. Humility frees us to love and serve others selflessly, for their sake, rather than our own. Humility understands our need for help from God, as often as necessary, as part of our having a relationship with God. As Saint John Climacus wrote: "When one understands the need of God's help, he is driven to prayer and the force of that prayer makes for humility of heart. Anyone, in fact, who does not feel this need and does not ask for help, is not humble."

Wednesday, March 4 ~ Second Week in the Season of Lent **Optional Memorial: Saint Casimir of Poland**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28 As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the Twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached Jesus with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something. He said to her, "What do you wish?" She answered him, "Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom." Jesus said in reply, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the chalice that I am going to drink?" They said to him, "We can." He replied, "My chalice you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left, this is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Meditation: Have you ever given any thought as to who or what takes first place in your life? Lent gives us time to think about this, and for good reason. Selfish ambition can drive us to get ahead of others. When two of Jesus' disciples tried to get ahead, Jesus did the unthinkable by telling them that the path to glory would be through suffering and the cross. And he wedded authority with selfless-service and with sacrifice – the willing offering of one's life for the sake of another. Jesus used stark language to explain what kind of sacrifice he had in mind. His disciples must drink his cup if they expect to reign with him in

his kingdom. The cup he had in mind was a bitter one involving crucifixion. What kind of cup does the Lord have in mind for us? For some disciples such a cup entails physical suffering and the painful struggle of "martyrdom" in one form or another. This entails the long routines of living the Christian life, with all its daily sacrifices, disappointments, setbacks, struggles, and temptations. A disciple must be ready to lay down his or her life in martyrdom and be ready to lay it down each and every day in the little and big sacrifices required. An early church father summed up Jesus' teaching with the expression: to serve is to reign with Christ. We share in God's reign by laying down our lives in humble service of one another as Jesus did for our sake. Are you ready to lay down your life and to serve others as Jesus did?

Prayer: Keep your family, O Lord, schooled always in good works, and so comfort them with your protection here as to lead them graciously to gifts on high. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus paid the price for our redemption with his blood. Slavery to sin is to want the wrong things and to be in bondage to destructive desires. The ransom Jesus paid sets us free from the worst tyranny possible – the tyranny of sin and the fear of death. Jesus' victory did not end with death but triumphed over the tomb. Jesus defeated the powers of death through his resurrection. Do we want the greatest freedom possible – that is, the freedom to live as God truly meant us to live as his children? Of course we do. How do we attain such freedom? Author and theologian Fr. Henri Nouwen does a good job at answering this in his book *Can You Drink the Cup?* when he writes: "Drinking the cup that Jesus drank is living a life in and with the spirit of Jesus, which is the spirit of unconditional love. The intimacy between Jesus and Abba, his Father, is an intimacy of complete trust, in which there are no power games, no mutually agreed upon promises, no advance guarantees. It is only true love – pure, unrestrained, and unlimited love. Completely open, completely free. That intimacy gave Jesus the strength to drink his cup. That same intimacy Jesus wants to give us so that we can drink ours. That intimacy has a Name, a Divine Name. Holy Spirit. Living a spiritual life is living a life in which the Holy Spirit will guide us and give us the strength and courage to keep saying yes to the great question (of can you drink this cup?)."

Thursday, March 5 ~ Second Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31 Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Meditation: The name "Lazarus" means "God is my help." Despite a life of misfortune and suffering, Lazarus did not lose hope in God. His eyes were set on a treasure stored up for him in heaven. The rich man, however, could not see beyond his material wealth and possessions. He not only had everything he needed, but he also selfishly spent all he had on himself. He was too absorbed in what he possessed to notice the needs of those around him. He lost sight of God and the treasure of heaven because he was preoccupied with seeking happiness in material things. He served wealth rather than God. In the end the rich man became a beggar! Do you know the joy and freedom of possessing God as your true and lasting treasure? Those who put their hope and security in heaven will not be disappointed (see Hebrews 6:19).

Prayer: O God, who delight in innocence and restore it, direct the hearts of your servants to yourself, that, caught up in the fire of your Spirit, we may be found steadfast in faith and effective in works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus' parable about the afflictions of the poor man Lazarus brings home a very important lesson for us to think about during Lent, and to change the way we choose to help or not help



those in need. In this story Jesus paints a dramatic scene of contrasts – riches and poverty, heaven and hell, compassion and indifference, inclusion and exclusion. We also see an abrupt and dramatic reversal of fortune. Lazarus was not only poor, but sick and unable to lift himself. He was “laid” at the gates of the rich man’s house. The dogs which licked his sores probably also stole the little bread he got for himself. Dogs in the ancient world symbolized contempt. Enduring the torment of these savage dogs only added to the poor man’s miseries and sufferings. The rich man treated the beggar with contempt and indifference, until he found his fortunes reversed at the end of his life! In God's economy, those who hold on possessively to what they have, lose it all in the end, while those who share generously receive back many times more than they gave away.

Friday, March 6 ~ Second Week of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: “Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.’ They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?” They answered him, “He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times.” Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone; / by the Lord has this been done, / and it is wonderful in our eyes?’

Therefore, I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they knew that he was speaking about them. And although they were attempting to arrest him, they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.

Meditation: Jesus’ story about an absentee landlord and his not-so-good tenants would have made sense to his audience. The hills of Galilee were lined with numerous vineyards, and it was quite common for the owners to let out their estates to tenants. Many did it for the sole purpose of collecting rent. So why did Jesus’ story about wicked tenants cause offense to the scribes and Pharisees? It contained both a prophetic message and a warning. Isaiah had spoken of the house of Israel as “the vineyard of the Lord” (Isaiah 5:7). Jesus’ listeners would likely understand this parable as referring to God's dealing with a stubborn and rebellious people. This parable speaks to us today as well. It richly conveys some important truths about God and the way he deals with his people, especially God's generosity and trust. The vineyard is equipped with everything the tenants need. The owner went away and left the vineyard in the hands of the tenants. God, likewise trusts us enough to give us freedom to run life as we choose, but as we know our choices have consequences. This parable also tells us of God's patience and justice. Not once, but many times he forgives the tenants their debts. But while the tenants take advantage of the owner's patience, his judgment and justice prevail in the end.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, purifying us by the sacred practice of penance, you may lead us in sincerity of heart to attain the holy things to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus foretold both his death and his ultimate triumph. He knew he would be rejected and be killed, but he also knew that would not be the end. After rejection would come glory – the glory of resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father. The Lord blesses his people today with the gift of his kingdom. And he promises that we will bear much fruit if we abide in him (ref. John 15:1-11). He entrusts his gifts and grace to each of us and he gives us work to do in his vineyard – the body of Christ. He promises that our labor will not be in vain if we persevere with faith to the end (ref. 1 Corinthians 15:58). We can expect trials and even persecution. But in the end we will see triumph. And so today you might ask yourself: Do you labor for the Lord with joyful hope and with confidence in his victory?

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