

### SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Feb. 7	\$1,196
Feb. 14	\$1,529

Please do not forget to mail or drop off your weekly offerings for our collection.

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat. Feb. 20	5:00 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Sun. Feb. 21	9:00 AM	For Drew Kordenbrock
Mon. Feb. 22		<i>No Public Mass</i>
Tue. Feb. 23	8:30 AM	For All the Poor Souls
Wed Feb. 24	6:30 PM	For George Bach
Thur. Feb. 25	8:30 AM	For Herb Elbert
Fri.. Feb. 26		<i>No Public Mass</i>

#### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat. Feb. 27	5:00 PM	For Hugh and Helen Kloentrup
Sun. Feb. 28	9:00 AM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish

**Prayer List**—Jerry Ehlman, Eileen Ehlman, Sherri Moffett, the family of Kenny Neuspickel, Kathy Barth, Charles Taylor, Ed Gripshover, Joy Sowder, Kathy Proctor, Steve Elmlinger, Sarah Hoffman, Mary Louise Cross, Cotton Teegarden, Mike Newcomb, Ed Grant, Don Bornhorst, John Hofstetter, Vernon Dixon, Bill Schneider, Chris Rauf, Katie Davis, Barry Bergman, Andrew Lauck, Bradley Franzen, Pam Babbington, Dave & Barb Kordenbrock, Tony Kidwell, the family of Bill Woodall, and everyone affected by the coronavirus.

**BIRTHDAYS** – Feb. 1-Dan Cooper, Jeanne Cooper, Feb. 2-Marie Cooper, Feb. 5 –Maxine Kordenbrock, Feb. 6-Russell Neuspickel, Feb. 13-Cathy Oldiges, Feb. 20-Kathy Bach.



### SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub – Cell (859) 445-2436

Address: 13782 Decoursey Pike Morning View, KY 41063

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Parish Email: [stmatthew13782@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthew13782@gmail.com) – Bulletin submissions by Fri. afternoon

Parish Website: [stmatthewskenton.org](http://stmatthewskenton.org)

#### Worship Schedule:

Saturdays – 5:00 PM

Sundays – 9:00 AM

Weekdays – please check each week's schedule

#### Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM

Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Wed. 5:30-6:20 PM

#### Parish Staff and Volunteers

Religious Education – Roseanne Rawe (859) 635-1572

Bulletin/Prayer List – Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377

Parish History/Cemetery Info – Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MONTHLY COLLECTIONS FOR NEEDY**—Our February collection for St. Vincent de Paul will be canned goods. Containers will be in the gathering space for your donations. Thanks so much.

**SYMPATHY**—We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Patty Neuspickel and sons as well as Kenny's extended family on his passing. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

**LOCAL FISH FRY**—Please patronize one of our local Catholic fish fries to help our neighboring churches. St. Cecilia 5-8PM, St. Mary, Alexandria 4-7 PM, St. Patrick, Taylor Mill 4:30-7 PM. Go early and stop by here for Stations of the Cross at 7 PM.

### LENTEN SCHEDULE

- Stations of the Cross—Fridays during Lent @ 7:00 PM
- Lenten Penance Service TBA

#### CHURCH RULES FOR LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE

##### FASTING – ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

Must be done by all aged 18-59; one main meal; two other lesser meals may be consumed which should not equal as much as one main meal; liquids permitted

##### ABSTINENCE – ASH WEDNESDAY & FRIDAYS OF LENT

Must be done by all who are at least 14 years old; no consumption of flesh meat (beef, pork, chicken, etc); seafood (fish, shrimp, shellfish, etc) permitted

### FROM THE PASTOR – CONFESSION: RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

This First Sunday of Lent was the more ancient beginning of this penitential season. It was only in the sixth century or so that the four days before (Ash Wednesday through Saturday) were added in order to allow Sundays to be a break from the fasting and penances done by people. This is why we hear about Jesus entering the desert and enduring temptation on this Sunday. This episode in the life of the Lord happens, however, immediately after His baptism by John—the last major liturgical celebration we had in the calendar.

It is significant to remember this chronology because it is the same with all of us. Baptism marks the beginning of our life with God in Christ, but it does not prevent us from receiving temptations. In fact, it can be argued that our temptations are greater after baptism because we have been freed from sin and washed clean in the blood of Christ, thus becoming a son of God in the image of Jesus the true Son. Satan strives to overthrow and undo the divine plan and carries this out by doing what he has done since the beginning of humanity: trick us into disobeying God. Saint Hilary of Poitiers remarks: “The Devil’s snares are chiefly spread for the sanctified, because a victory over the saints is more desired than over others.”

Although Jesus comes out of the desert unscathed by the devil’s wits and trickery, we too often fail in our walk with Jesus. We succumb to the temptations and commit sins, and thus lose the grace of baptism. The devil strikes us in our sanctity so that we may fall from the heights and be dragged down into the pits of hell with him. But is this the end of the Christian after baptism? Is he doomed to remain separated from God if he has one fall after receiving the saving waters of baptism? Is there only one chance for such a soul?

The Church tells us this is not the case at all! Indeed, the good God is so merciful and compassionate towards His creatures that He even gives us a means of renewing ourselves after baptism so that we can begin again to follow Christ. The beauty of the sacrament of confession is that Jesus does not abandon us whenever we fall in our carrying of the cross, but He reaches out and helps put us back on our feet. And we do not have to wonder or imagine that this has happened, because we hear Jesus Himself speak through the priest when He says: “I absolve you of your sins.”

Why would we wait? Why would we remain separated from God if we know that it takes so little to be restored to full union with Him? Why would we ever stay away? This life is so hard and fraught with difficulties, and yet Jesus offers us His help and His example in doing all of this. Why would we reject anything the good God offers us?

Let us be resolved to journey with Jesus through the desert during this Lent, but let us also resolve to be renewed by Him in confession. Let us not delay but show ourselves to the priest and be forgiven, so that we may renew our baptismal promises to belong to the Holy Trinity forever.

*Fr. Jacob Straub*