

### SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

March 7	\$2,388
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Please do not forget to mail or drop off your weekly offerings for our collection.

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat. Mar. 13	5:00 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Sun. Mar. 14	9:00 AM	For the Zink Family
Mon. Mar. 15		<i>No Public Mass</i>
Tue. Mar. 16	8:30 AM	For the Ed Reilly Family
Wed Mar. 17	6:30 PM	For All the Poor Souls
Thur. Mar. 18	8:30 AM	For Bob Parks
Fri.. Mar. 19		<i>No Public Mass</i>

#### THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sat. Mar. 20	5:00 PM	For Herb Elbert
Sun. Mar. 21	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, the family of Tony Kidwell, and everyone affected by the coronavirus.

**BIRTHDAYS** – Mar. 3—Andy Schroder, Mar. 6—Rira Funke, Mar. 11—Bill Kappesser, Mar. 18—Elissa Baker, Mar. 21—Howard Kleusener, Mar. 27—Tim Schlacter, Mar. 31— Eileen Ehlman.



### SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

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

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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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 2021

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MARCH COLLECTIONS FOR NEEDY**—The items needed by St. Vincent de Paul for March are pancake mix syrup, spaghetti sauce (have plenty of spaghetti), canned fruit, fruit juice, tuna, and pork & beans. Collection containers will be in the gathering space.

**FISH FRY**—Our first fish fry was a success! We netted around \$470 after the large supply bill that is always a part of the first week. This is better than usual. The best part was so many helpers turning up. It was a joy to have so many of you come out to help. Our parish is very blessed to have so many dedicated workers. Hope to see everyone next week too. Remember we only need cookies and brownies for desserts. Thanks again and God Bless!

**DPAA 2021 BEGINS** - The 2021 Diocesan Annual Appeal announcement weekend is here. There are pledge envelopes by the bulletins if you did not receive one from the Diocese. This year the designated goal for St. Matthew is \$10,900. Last year our goal was \$10,700 and the most recent recording of donations have totaled \$11,455 so we will receive a total rebate of \$1,645. Thanks to all who made this possible.

### LENTEN SCHEDULE

- Stations of the Cross—Fridays during Lent @ 7:00 PM
- Fish Fries—March 19 & 26 @ 4:30-7:30 PM ALL HANDS NEEDED!
- Lenten Penance Service—March 24 7:00-8:00 PM; two priests available for confession

### 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

Other circumstances may merit a dispensation from these rules (pregnancy, disease, etc); please talk with Fr. Straub if you have any issues or questions or would like a dispensation from these rules.

### FROM THE PASTOR – REJOICING IN LENT

This Sunday is known as Laetare Sunday from the entrance antiphon: “Rejoice [*Laetare* in Latin], Jerusalem...” This Sunday is one of the two rose Sundays of the year, along with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, because both of them mark the midway point of the two penitential seasons. The rose color of the priest’s vestments should recall for us the beginning light of sunrise, signifying that Easter is arriving so very soon.

This theme of rejoicing in today’s Mass is echoed by our readings. We ought to rejoice in the fact that God sent His only-begotten Son not to judge the world, but to save us and bring us to everlasting life. We ought to rejoice that God is rich in mercy and has offered us the gift of faith which leads to eternal life. We ought not to forget the eternal Jerusalem, which is Heaven, but rejoice that we are called to be there.

But how can we rejoice in the midst of a penitential season? Aren’t we supposed to be sorrowful and contrite for our sins? Ought we to be miserable, because we are fasting and mourning our iniquity? We are called to mourn our sins and their effects, namely the need for Christ to suffer and die, but we are called to rejoice in the good that God has done through His Son, who came to save us & present to us the mercy of the Father.

Many outside of the Church will try to paint Christians as being dour or sour. They will say that we can find no joy in this life, that we are always too miserable because we think ourselves such horrible people. While there should be some truth to that remark, this idea does not cover the whole gamut of Christian life, especially as laid out in the Church’s liturgical year.

While we are called to penance and sorrow during the 40 days of Lent, the Church calls us to rejoice for 50 days starting on Easter Sunday at the marvels the Lord has worked for us in the Resurrection. We ought to have in mind what the psalmist writes in Psalm 126:5-6 (NAB):

Those who sow in tears  
will reap with cries of joy.  
Those who go forth weeping,  
carrying sacks of seed,  
Will return with cries of joy,  
carrying their bundled sheaves.

The life of the Christian is indeed sown in tears over our sins and our weaknesses, but it reaps joy in the humble confession of our lowliness and seeking to turn to God through Jesus Christ and His Church. There is mourning over Good Friday – primarily the fact that we have caused it to happen – but there is rejoicing at Easter Sunday, because God has triumphed over sin and death by rising from the dead.

Let us endure the sorrow of Lent for a few more weeks. If you have fallen slack in your penances or haven’t even done any yet, take some up for these last three weeks. If you haven’t been to confession yet, don’t delay! Be willing to carry your cross now, that you may rejoice in the salvation won for you in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*Fr. Jacob Straub*