

*One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4b)*

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This First Sunday of Lent focuses our attention on repentance and belief in what is proclaimed in the Holy Gospel. We must remember that the Lord is always with us to support us and to forgive us when we turn back to him. The theme of safe passage through destructive waters to a place of life and hope should pervade our understanding of the Season of Lent.

Please keep in mind our Building Fund and the on-going payments for our elevator debt. Both need attention to keep us financially secure. There are many constant repairs and projects which we need to attend to keep our buildings in good condition. Also, we have a debt to our Foundation that needs to be paid back. During the holy Lenten Season let us sacrifice for the sake of the Lord and His Church and for the good of the parish.

**As we begin the holy season of Lent this week, decide on your Lenten penances. Such things help us focus on the Lord and the more important things in life. Remember also our Fish Fry suppers on Friday, followed by the Stations of the Cross and Benediction. These are wonderful opportunities to both support the parish and to grow closer to the Lord.**

May God's grace always grow in your hearts! May the Lord grant you a Lent full of His grace and peace so that we may celebrate Easter with great joy!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Agustin M. Nichols*

Pastor

**ELEVATOR FUND**

Current Donations.....\$ 668,403.90  
Goal.....\$ 800,000.00



**ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY DINNERS:** Our Lenten fish fry dinners are from 4:45pm – 6:45pm, every Friday through March 23.

**DIVINE MERCY:** As we begin Lent, we also begin with our journey leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8, 2018. We have a few Parish activities planned for this year. The first one will be a collection of coats, set for February 24th. Please bring winter coats for men, women, children and even dogs if you have them. These will be donated to St. Vincent De Paul. This would be a great time to clean out your coat closets or even find one on sale to donate. Thank you and keep looking for more opportunities to participate in some Corporal Works of Mercy thru this Lenten season.

**ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY: SAVE-THE-DATE:** Altar and Rosary's Annual Bingo Party is Saturday, March 10, following the 9:00am Mass in the church hall. Everyone is welcome but must be 18 to play. Everyone goes home a winner!!! Questions? Call Chris Killough 279-6774.

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 17 TO FEBRUARY 25**

**TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT 17</b>	4:00PM	+Carl & Florence Reelitz
	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
<b>SUN 18</b>	8:30AM	+Roman Barten & Caleb Woodfin
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
<b>MON 19</b>	12:00PM	Intentions of Tony Caligiuri
<b>TUE 20</b>	12:00PM	+W.E. Lowery
<b>WED 21</b>	12:00PM	+All Souls of the Nguyen Family
<b>THU 22</b>	12:00PM	Friends/Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters, FEHJ
<b>FRI 23</b>	12:00PM	+Michael T. Munoz
	7:00PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>SAT 24</b>	9:00AM	+Gerald Castonguay
	<b>(Vigil Mass)</b>	
	4:00PM	+Whipple & Gabriel Families
<b>SUN 25</b>	8:30AM	+Kathryn Mauro
	10:30AM	Parish & Benefactors

**THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN STREAMING ONLINE:**

[www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn](http://www.YouTube.com/BasilicaStJohn)

<http://basilica.churchcastonline.com> (live from your computer)

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Do you know someone who is in need of prayer? The Basilica Prayer Chain can help. To request prayers email Deacon Luke Tieskoetter at [tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com](mailto:tieskoetterluke3@gmail.com) or Terri at 321-2743 or [sinc2@aol.com](mailto:sinc2@aol.com).

**CATECHISM CORNER:**

*Question: How does one commit oneself to work for the unity of Christians?*

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church.  
(Look for the answer in next weeks bulletin.)





*The Basilica of St. John*  
*First Sunday of Lent*  
*February 18, 2018*

Respect  
Life



**YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK**  
**FEBRUARY 19 THRU FEBRUARY 25**

MON 19	9:00AM 7:00PM 7:00PM	Adoration@ RCIA** School room in use**
TUE 20	10:00AM 1:00PM 4:30PM 6:00PM	Boy's Youth Choir+++ Youth Choir Practice+++ Columbus Academy Class** Hispanic Room in use**
WED 21	9:00AM 9:30AM 6:15PM	Adoration Begins@ Bible Study+ Religious Ed. **
THU 22	8:00AM 5:45PM 7:00PM	Organ Practice+++ Choir Room in use+++ Choir Practice+
FRI 23	9:00AM 9:00AM 4:45PM 6:30PM	Adoration Begins@ Columbus Academy Class** <b>Lenten Fish Fry until 6:45pm</b> Hispanic Baptism Class**
SAT 24	8:30AM	Chaplet of Divine Mercy##
SUN 25	8:00AM 12:00PM	Vietnamese Prayer Group+ Divine Mercy Meeting+

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of February 19, 2018:**

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46  
**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15  
**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32  
**Thursday:** 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19  
**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26  
**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48  
**Sunday:** Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mt 9:2-10

**LIFELINES:** If you look up the word "person" in your dictionary, you will find this: "Person n. A human being." When Roe v Wade was decided in 1973, the science of fetology was not able to prove, as it can now, that a living, unique individual exists at the moment of fertilization and continues to grow through various stages of development until death. In Roe v Wade a startling admission was made: "If this suggestion of personhood is established, the appellant's case, of course, collapses, for the fetus' right to life would then be guaranteed specifically by the Amendment." Justice Harry Blackmun, Roe v. Wade. With modern science, it is now proved that the unborn child is a human being: "After fertilization has taken place a new human being has come into being. Each individual has a very neat beginning at conception." Dr. Jerome Lejeune, "Father of Modern Genetics". In the pro-life movement, there is now an important initiative to include the pre-born as "persons." This terrifies the pro-abortionists because "persons" are protected by a series of God-given rights and constitutional guarantees such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They know that if we clearly define the preborn baby as a "person," they will have the same right to life as all Americans do!  

(pro-lifearticles.org)

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE:** The Spring "40 Days for Life" Campaign covers Lent. Where is the best place to pray during this campaign? Well, anywhere, of course, but most especially in front of the abortion facility. Abby Johnson said that when people are praying as much as 75% of the appointments don't show up for their scheduled abortions. That is huge, and it is thanks to people who are willing to take time out of their busy schedules and go and be present on the sidewalk. That sacrifice, however big or small, saves lives. The Basilica will be taking Friday, March 23rd at the Drake location. We will have sign-ups in the back after Mass. Also, if you picked up a baby bottle, please return it after Mass at the sign up tables, this week or next, or the office can take them during the week.



**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL:** Holy Family staff and students celebrate Lent with weekly prayer services each Monday morning at 8:15am, in the school gym. Parents are welcome to join us on our Lenten journey. School will dismiss at 1:00 pm on Friday, February 23. Please be at the school to pick up your child at 1:00 pm, or make arrangements with the ACES program so that your children will attend after school childcare. The next \$1 jeans day fundraiser for the missions will be Friday, February 23. If a student chooses to dress out of uniform that day, they must bring \$1 to donate.

The **Required Confirmation Retreat** for second year Confirmation Students will be NEXT weekend, February 23-25, 2018. Students will be responsible for raising the funds. All second year students must participate. If you have questions call Maria Walters at 515-953-9188.

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Job Opportunity- At St. Mary of Nazareth:** We are seeking an individual to work approximately 20 hours per week. Must be able to take initiative, communicate effectively, and work independently. Job responsibilities: Routine cleaning of the church building, offices, and parish hall. Deep cleaning, as needed, in all buildings. General set-up for meetings, Faith Formation classes, and weekend/daily Masses. To apply, resumes may be sent to the parish office. For information please call the parish office at 515-276-4042, stmarydsm.org

**"Building Missionary Disciples" Iowa Catholic Men's Conference:** Is thrilled to invite all men to our 6th annual event on March 10 at St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines. National speakers and authors Dr. Allen Hunt from Dynamic Catholic and Trent Horn of Catholic Answers will witness to the universal call to be "missionary disciples." You don't want to miss this event. For details and registration, call 515-223-1150, or go to [www.iowacatholicmensconference.com](http://www.iowacatholicmensconference.com) or [IowaCatholicRadio.com](http://IowaCatholicRadio.com).

**Seminary Visit Planned:** If you've been thinking about if you are being called to be a priest, take the time to visit a seminary and talk with our seminarians. Father Ross Parker is taking men ages 16-24 to visit Conception Seminary in Missouri, April 14-16. Contact Father Ross at [vocations@dmdioocese.org](mailto:vocations@dmdioocese.org) or 515-237-5050 and tell him you'd like to attend.

**Diaconate Call:** Any Catholic man who feels called to the vocation of deacon should contact the diocesan vocations office. Bishop Pates is inviting you to learn more and consider applying for a four-year formation program that will lead to ordination. Email [vocations@dmdioocese.org](mailto:vocations@dmdioocese.org) or call 515-237-5014. The deadline to apply is March 31.