

*God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.*

(John 3:16)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate "Laetare Sunday," or the Sunday to rejoice. Lent is now nearly halfway over. In today's Gospel for Year B Jesus has an encounter with Nicodemus. Although the encounter takes place at night, Jesus, the Light, brings light to Nicodemus, telling him that whoever lives in the truth comes to the light. Jesus, the Light of the world, illumines our path to eternal life. Let us follow him always, knowing that he will lead us to our heavenly inheritance.

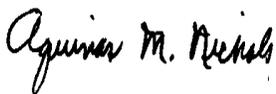
Please keep in mind our Building Fund and the on-going payments for our elevator debt. The realistic total goal for the elevator project is **\$1,030,000.00**. That will pay up the entire amount owed to the Knights of Columbus. It was underestimated up until now. So far we have raised **\$736,646.03**. Roughly half of what we still owe will come from the diocese, provided that everyone pays up their pledges to the Capital Campaign. Also, we presently have a debt to our Foundation of **\$9,910.00** that needs to be paid back. Our weekly collection has not been meeting our expenses and so we had to borrow from our Foundation to keep current with our obligations. During the holy Lenten Season let us sacrifice for the sake of the Lord and His Church and for the good of the parish.

**Remember 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.**

This week there will be a second collection for the Catholic Relief Services. Please do what you can to help with this good work.

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,



Pastor

**ELEVATOR FUND**

Current Donations.....\$ 738,476.93  
Goal.....\$ 1,030,000.00

**DEBT OWED TO THE BASILICA OF ST. JOHN FOUNDATION: \$9,910.00**  
Please help us pay this off!



**ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY DINNERS: ONLY TWO LEFT!!** They are from 4:45pm – 6:45pm, Friday, March 16 and Friday, March 23.

**FLU SEASON:** Hopefully the flu season is starting to wind down. Some good reminders to help keep you & your family, along with others in the congregation healthy are: staying home if ill; good cough & sneeze hygiene and thorough handwashing; refrain from shaking hands or sharing in the chalice if ill. If you have received of the Body or Blood of Christ, you have received fully.

**To view the bulletin online go to: [basilicaofstjohn.org](http://basilicaofstjohn.org), click on home, click on the current week's bulletin.**

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE**

**MARCH 10 TO MARCH 18**

**TIMES FOR EUCHARIST AND INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT</b> <b>10</b>	4:00PM	+Gary Kiernan
	6:00PM	Spanish Mass
<b>SUN</b> <b>11</b>	8:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
	10:30AM	Friends/Benefactors of Franciscan Sisters, FEHJ
<b>MON</b> <b>12</b>	12:00PM	+Rachel Hanian
<b>TUE</b> <b>13</b>	12:00PM	+Martha Binkerd Gass
<b>WED</b> <b>14</b>	12:00PM	+Cody Henritz
<b>THU</b> <b>15</b>	12:00PM	+Mary Jean Gouger
<b>FRI</b> <b>16</b>	12:00PM	+Lucille Molloy
	7:00PM	Stations of the Cross
<b>SAT</b> <b>17</b>	9:00AM	+Leland Harris
		(Vigil Mass)
	4:00PM	+Carl & Florence Reelitz
<b>SUN</b> <b>18</b>	8:30AM	Parish & Benefactors
	10:30AM	+Kathryn Mauro

**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:**

Last week's question:

**\*\*In what way is the church holy? \*\***

**ANSWER:** The Church is holy insofar as the Most Holy God is her author. Christ has given himself for her to sanctify her and make her a source of sanctification. The Holy Spirit gives her life with charity. In the Church one finds the fullness of the means of salvation. Holiness is the vocation of each of her members and the purpose of all her activities. The Church counts among her members the Virgin Mary and numerous Saints who are her models and intercessors. The holiness of the Church is the fountain of sanctification for her children who here on earth recognize themselves as sinners ever in need of conversion and purification.



*The Basilica of St. John*  
*Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
*March 11, 2018*

Respect  
Life



**YOUR PARISH THIS WEEK**  
**MARCH 12 THRU MARCH 18**

MON 12	9:00AM 7:00PM	Adoration@ RCIA**
TUE 13	10:00AM 1:00PM 4:30PM 6:00PM	Boy's Youth Choir+++ Youth Choir Practice+++ NO Columbus Academy Class** Hispanic Room in use**
WED 14	9:00AM 9:30AM 6:15PM	Adoration Begins@ Bible Study+ NO Religious Ed. ** - Spring Break
THU 15	8:00AM 5:45PM 7:00PM	Organ Practice+++ Choir Room in use+++ Choir Practice+
FRI 16	9:00AM 9:00AM 4:45PM	Adoration Begins@ NO Columbus Academy Class** <i>Lenten Fish Fry until 6:45pm</i>
SAT 17	8:30AM 9:00AM 10:00AM	Chaplet of Divine Mercy## First Communion Retreat** Franciscan Meeting**
SUN 18	8:00AM 10:00AM	Vietnamese Prayer Group+ Pastoral Council Meeting+

**Daily Scripture Readings for the week of March 12, 2018:**

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54  
**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16  
**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30  
**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47  
**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53  
**Sunday:** Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33 or Year A-Third Scrutiny at 10:30 Mass: Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

**LIFELINES: "Defend the unborn against abortion even if they persecute you, calumniate you, set traps for you, take you to court or kill you. No child should be deprived of the right to be born, the right to be fed, the right to go to school."  
 -His Holiness, Pope Francis**

**FOUNDATION NOTES:** As we near the midway point in Lent, we are reminded of our obligation of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Basilica of St. John Foundation would be a grateful recipient of your almsgiving gesture by means of the yellow/gold envelope in your tithing packet.

**Do you want to fast this Lent? \*Fast from hurting words and say kind words; \*Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude; \*Fast from anger and be filled with patience. \*Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy. (Pope Francis)**

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To the winners of the Catholic Daughters Art Contest sponsored by Ave Maria Court in Des Moines. The winners are: 4th grade art-Ricardo Baquero of Holy Family School; 4th grade poetry-Abraham Manley-home school student, and Rosie Tatz, home school student, winner of 8th grade essay-art and computer art. Their entries have been entered in the state Catholic Daughters Contest where winners will be announced at a later date. Thanks to Sue Jansen who served as one of the judges.



**DIVINE MERCY:** As we reach the midway point of Lent this week, we continue our journey leading up to Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8, 2018. Thank you to all who donated coats, scarves, hats and gloves to our Coat Drive the last couple weeks. St. Vincent de Paul was most happy to receive these donations. Our next project will be a **Snack Drive on the weekend of March 24-25**, to benefit the Catholic Charities Family Shelter (previously known as St. Joseph's Family Shelter). They need healthy, individually packed evening snacks for the residents. More information will be in the bulletin next week regarding their specifications and options for the snacks. Thank you for continuing to look for more opportunities to participate in Corporal Works of Mercy through this Lenten season.

**SAVE THE DATE: Date change-For the 10th Annual Basilica Bus Trip. This year it will be on Thursday, September 13, 2018.**



**PLANNING AHEAD:** If you would like to donate a flower to decorate the church this Easter, we are asking for Lilies, Azaleas, Begonias—all colors. If possible please have them wrapped in gold foil. You can start having them delivered during Holy Week (March 26). Please have them here no later than Saturday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. You can attach a card to the flower, with the name of a loved one and after Easter there will be a special insert in the bulletin honoring their memory. *Volunteers are needed to help prepare the church for decorating on Saturday, March 31, at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome.*

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Novos Young Adults:** Everyone in their 20s and 30s is invited to join Novos Young Adults for social, spiritual and service activities. Events typically happen every second and fourth Thursday of the month, with occasional weekend gatherings. For more information on events coming up in March, visit the Facebook page or contact Justin White. Catch up with everything going on in Youth & Young Adult Ministry also on Twitter and Instagram: @YCDesMoines.

**Save the Date:** Are you are responsible for the care of another person? If so, you are invited to the St. Joseph Educational Center's spring event on Saturday, April 14th from 8:00am-12:00pm at St. Boniface Church in Waukee. *Keeping Your Own Cup Full: Self-care for Caregivers* will be a workshop focused on the importance of self-care and how it helps you provide better care for others. This FREE workshop will include two keynote speakers, choice of one breakout session, light refreshments and a comedian. To register, visit [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org) and click on EVENTS.

**Faith Resources:** Are you looking for faith resources as a source of motivation? Inspiration? Check out the St. Joseph Educational Center at [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org). There are blogs, books, articles, videos and more at [sjeciowa.org](http://sjeciowa.org).