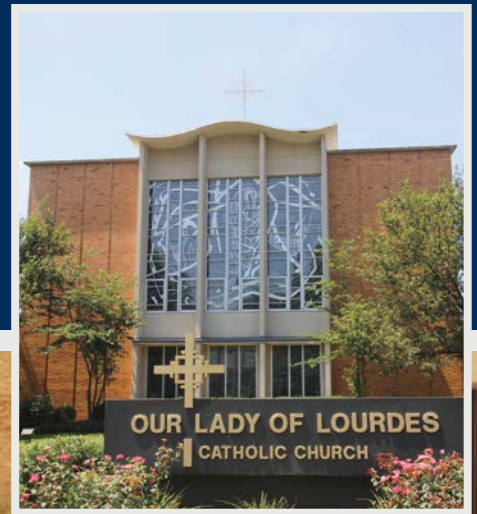


# Our Lady of Lourdes

KNOW • LOVE • SERVE • GROW



## TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

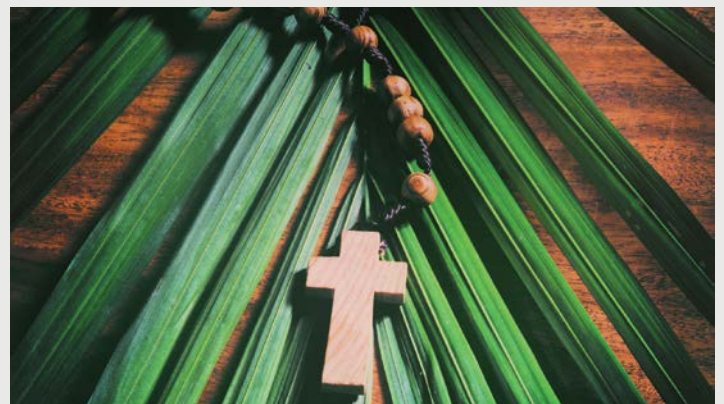
### *Through Our Lenten Giving Program*

During his Ash Wednesday homily last year, Pope Francis reminded us that Lent is a season that “urgently calls us to conversion.” It is a time when Christ waits for us to return to Him, a time of forgiveness and renewal. It is a time of conscientious acts of prayer, penitence and almsgiving, as we embrace Christ’s invitation to “return to God with [our] hearts, to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord.”

And yet, though we know that prayer, fasting and almsgiving are pivotal parts of the Lenten journey, Christians can sometimes struggle with what parishioner Katie Furlong describes as the “how, when, why and what” of Lent. This is why Our Lady of Lourdes’ annual Lenten Giving Program remains so important, helping us parishioners more fully embrace the Lenten spirit in a way that dramatically impacts members of our local community.

“The Lenten Giving Program really answers the how, when, where and what of Lent,” Katie says. “The church teaches us that we should care for the poor and vulnerable, and this project enables parishioners to do just that.”

Typically occurring the first three weeks of Lent,



this project benefits four local organizations performing outreach in the Louisville area – the House of Ruth, which helps families of people affected by HIV/AIDS; the Schuhmann Center, which assists the local poor and homeless; the St. John Center for Homeless Men; and the Family Scholar House, which helps single parents obtain a higher education. In the weeks leading up to Lent, each organization is contacted to ascertain their greatest needs. Then throughout Lent, Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners are invited to shop for and donate these items, which are later collected and delivered by Lenten Giving Program volunteers. In this way, parishioners

*continued on back cover*

# LIVING LENT

in 2018

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**D**uring the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert, Satan was constantly tempting Him. He preyed on Jesus' humanity, trying desperately to get Him to test God. Of course, we all know that it didn't work. As Jesus is 100 percent God at the same time that He is 100 percent man, the devil was unable to take hold of Him.

Yet, the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert communicates an all-important truth to us. Jesus, the God-man, experienced everything we have and everything we ever will as human beings. Satan even tried to tempt Him, just as he tempts us every day. But because Jesus is God at the same time that He is human, He had no tendency to give in to Satan's attempts.

Even so, Christ fought Satan tooth and nail, putting him in his place: "Get away, Satan! It is written, 'The Lord, your God shall you worship, and Him alone shall you serve'" (Matthew 4:10). At that, the devil left Him.

We all find ourselves in similar situations. We live in a world wrought with sin, and, in his ever-so-cunning way, Satan makes the sinful look appealing. We must stand firm in our faith and tell Satan to "Get away," just as Jesus did. Only then will we

truly experience the glory of the salvation Christ came to give. Lent offers us a particular time to fight Satan, taking courage in the resurrection that we are preparing to celebrate. It is a time that we spend focused on strengthening our relationships with the Lord. Armed with His power, which we receive in many different ways, we can resist the temptations of the devil and accept the salvation Christ offers each one of us.

How can we do this? Get to know the Lord through prayer. Read the Scriptures often. St. Jerome tells us that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. So, we must be steeped in Scripture. Read it daily – chapter by chapter, or verse by verse. It is, after all, the Word of God! Draw close to the Blessed Mother – she is eager to bring us to her Son. Join her at the cross, where she witnessed her most precious Son die for each one of us. Pray the Rosary – individually and as a family. It is a powerful prayer through which, with Mary, we walk through Christ's life, His Death, and His resurrection. Unite with Christ Himself in His suffering.

Let us focus on the spirit of the season. We are to be preparing ourselves, just as Christ did, for the great event that won for us salvation!





## *A Letter From Our Pastor*

# PREPARING FOR OUR LENTEN JOURNEY *and Prioritizing the Gift of Time*

My Fellow Parishioners,

**L**ent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday. Most of us are aware that Lent is a time of prayer, penance and giving alms. So, it would seem that Lent is a perfect time for stewardship. As we examine our lives and try to find ways to deepen our relationship with God, it is good to remember that whenever we give our time, talent, or treasure, we are living as better stewards.

For each of us, our relationship with God should be the first priority. God has given us the precious gift of time, so we need to thank Him for this gift by using it wisely. Stewardship of time is about how we spend every minute of every day. Most of us probably feel that we do not have enough time for all the things we hope to accomplish or achieve. However, each of us is given the same amount of time – 24 hours in a day, seven days in a week. So, how do we choose to use our time? We need to prioritize this gift of time, which means putting the most important things first.

If deepening our relationship with God is our first priority, then time spent in prayer, at Mass, in our personal lives through reading Holy Scriptures, and meditating on God's Holy Word should be paramount. Our second priority might be our relationship to our family. We need to spend time building a strong family unit filled with respect and love for life. And perhaps our third priority should be our relationship with our parish and our community of faith. Finally, we must spend time supporting others in their faith journeys and ministering to those in need.

We must remember that first requirement for our Lenten journey – prayer. Our Catholic faith is full of prayer forms and traditions that are available to us all. Find a prayer form that works for you, and truly cultivate your prayer life in order to connect and build a real, personal relationship with the Lord. We all need to carve out time during Lent by dedicating time to prayer. Perhaps it is only 10 minutes each day for quiet reflection on Holy Scripture. Or it may be something more



substantial – perhaps a reflective weekend retreat.

We might consider Lent our own personal Stewardship Renewal season. Fasting, prayer and almsgiving should be what we try to do the entire year. But we must make an intentional effort to practice these during the 40 days of Lent. After all, 40 days comprises just over 10 percent of the year – and that is remarkably close to our stewardship tithe of 10 percent, isn't it?

God bless you in all you do, and especially during this holy time of Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Scott J. Wimsett  
Pastor

# Welcome to Our Family: The

*“If we create a situation within our worship experience that allows people to feel good – good preaching, good music, hospitality – all of that good feeling is going to be translated into the world that they live in. And when people feel good, they’re more apt to be Christ for other’s in their daily lives.” – Gregory DuPont, Director of Worship*

There is just something about being greeted with a warm smile and a handshake on a Sunday morning that can make all the difference in the world. Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we hope that people will feel welcome and at home in our church, from the first moment they step on the property.

“Hospitality is the core of everything that we do,” says Director of Worship Gregory DuPont. “Hospitality should be the core of Christianity, the core of Catholicism.”

“To me, hospitality is being a Christian,” adds parishioner Walter McKeever. “A Christian is an individual who goes out of their way to help other people and make their life better in one way or another.”

Kevin Nagel, who grew up in the parish, has been involved in the Hospitality Ministry for a number of years, and currently serves as the coordinator of the ministry. The role of hospitality minister is one that includes everything from serving as a greeter and helping people find seats, to taking up the collection, passing out bulletins, and tidying the church after Mass.

“We greet our parishioners



*From greeting people at the door and helping them find seats, to taking up the collection and passing out bulletins, hospitality ministers hope to extend God’s love to all they encounter.*

and guests and make them feel comfortable when they’re coming into church, and prepare them to hear God’s Word and make them feel at home,” Kevin says. “If you get a smile on people’s faces, they’re much more relaxed and ready to go into church and participate.

“I hope people feel like they’ve been welcomed into the church and

that they would like to participate in the Mass and get as much out of it as possible,” he adds. “I think we set the tone for that.”

Another role of hospitality in the parish is that of our Super Greeters, coordinated by Walter McKeever. Super Greeters are often the first point of contact for parishioners and visitors attending Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes.



# The Importance of Hospitality

"I get the joy out of putting a smile on someone's face," says Walter, who has been part of the parish for 25 years. "It's a very enjoyable ministry."

For those involved in hospitality at the parish, their ministry is one of helping to extend the feeling of community and family at Our Lady of Lourdes.

"I hope people feel we're part of a family," Walter says.

"Oftentimes, I think we need to be reminded that it's not only a personal worship experience, but it's a communal worship experience, as well," Gregory adds. "We are here as an extended family, we're not here alone. We're here to celebrate together. It's important that you see a smiling face and outreached hand. People need to feel that they are welcome and a part of the church family."

For many who serve in hospitality, in one way or another, it's also an opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners.

"I think it's a great way to meet new parishioners and a great way to create a relationship with people in the parish," Kevin says.

"You get to meet other people and usually you talk," Walter adds. "I've met a lot of people over the years and I used to be an introvert — but now, I must be an extrovert because I don't know a stranger!"

Gregory also hopes that this ministry of hospitality will extend beyond those serving in the Hospitality Ministry,

or as Super Greeters, and will become something that all of our parishioners seek to embody.

"Hospitality has a particular role with ministers greeting at the front door, taking up the collection and passing out bulletins, but hospitality is in everything," Gregory says. "It's the way the lector acknowledges the assembly before they read. It's the way the choir and musicians welcome people to sing. It's the way an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion would look at the person they're giving the Body of Christ to. Hospitality is just a part of everything — the role of hospitality minister is for each one of us. It's a behavior that we have to model in all our various roles."

In the end, we hope that our hospitality will give people a sense of God's love for them, a sense that will inspire them to bring that love into their daily lives and the world

around them.

"That's what the worship experience should be — not only a place to come and worship, but also a source of inspiration for people to walk the walk the other six days," Gregory says. "If we create a situation within our worship experience that allows people to feel good — good preaching, good music, hospitality — all of that good feeling is going to be translated into the world that they live in. And when people feel good, they're more apt to be Christ for other's in their daily lives."

*If you would like more information on becoming involved in our Hospitality Ministry, please contact Kevin Nagel at 502-494-2976 or [jknagel@bellsouth.net](mailto:jknagel@bellsouth.net). If you are interested in serving as a Super Greeter, please contact Walter McKeever at 502-458-1919.*



*Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, our Hospitality Ministers serve to welcome parishioners and visitors alike.*

# LENTEN PRACTICES:

## *Penance and Abstinence*

For many Catholics, the practice of fasting and abstinence during Lent is as much a part of our faith as is our sacred liturgy. Catholics know that when Lent arrives, it's time to say "goodbye" to meat on Fridays and "hello" to fish sticks and bean burritos. It's almost as if our Lenten obligations were hard-wired into our biological clock at the moment we were baptized.

If there is one thing that Catholics definitely understand, it's adhering to the laws of tradition. Indeed, the tradition of fasting and abstaining from meat during Lent draws its lineage from the early days of the faith.

But why, exactly, do we fast and abstain from meat during Lent? And what are the Church's guidelines for this tradition?

In November 1966, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral statement on penance and abstinence. The statement outlines the Scriptural significance behind fasting and abstinence, and directs the faithful on when it is encouraged and appropriate to do so.

According to the statement, there are four main points the Church wants to make about the tradition of penance and abstinence.

First, all humans are sinners. Second, penance and abstinence are ways to turn away from sin and back to God. Third, the Church is constantly in a stage of ongoing renewal and penance. And finally, Advent, Lent and the vigils of certain feasts are the primary penitential seasons of the Church.

The statement makes clear that the practices of penance and abstinence are tools created to help lead us to Christ - they are not stringent laws designed to cause discomfort and pain. Fasting, abstinence and penance help us to reflect on, and in some way understand, the suffering and selflessness our Lord experienced during His passion and death.

Traditionally, Catholics must abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 14 this year, and Good Friday, falling this year on March 30. And, because Christ died on a Friday, the Church asks us to also abstain from meat on all Fridays during the season of Lent.

Lent is also a time of penance. In preparation for Jesus' death and resurrection, the Church encourages all Catholics to seek forgiveness from sins and to renew their spirits in accordance with the Father's spirit. The overarching goal of all Christians is to become "one with the Father," and penance and abstinence help us attempt to do that.

But Lent isn't just about what we aren't "allowed" to do. The Church encourages us all to seek ways to alleviate the pain and suffering of others - just as Christ lifted the burden of sin from the spirit of humankind - "by special solicitude for the sick, the poor, the underprivileged, the imprisoned, the bedridden, the discouraged, the stranger, the lonely, and persons of other color, nationalities, or backgrounds than our own" (*Pastoral Statement on Penance and Abstinence*, 15).

This Lent, as the world prepares for the anniversary of Christ's death and resurrection, take on a few Lenten practices of your own. In addition to abstaining from meat on Fridays and Ash Wednesday, find a way to share the love of Christ with others through gifts of time, talent and treasure. The life of a disciple, as outlined in the Gospels, requires a renewed heart and a penitent soul. Seek to understand this Lent, in some small way, the magnitude of our Lord's suffering and love.



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PLEDGE TO HELP AND HONOR VALUES

## *Our Ave Maria Council #15931*

**O**ur Knights of Columbus Council #15931 serves Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish. The Ave Maria Council was chartered on April 1, 2014, through the sustained efforts of Founding Grand Knight Bart Hulsmeyer, Founding Deputy Grand Knight Gene Roberts, District Deputy Mike Kuckenbrod, and New Council Development Chairman Paul Martin. The current Grand Knight is Dirk Gowin.

All the good works done by the Knights of Columbus are based upon their four core principles – Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. To be sure, charity and service are hallmarks of the Knights. In the past decade worldwide, the Knights have donated \$1.475 billion to charity and given almost 700 million hours in support of the Church and charitable works. At a recent audience Pope Francis commended and thanked the Knights. “On this occasion I wish to express my gratitude for the unfailing support the Knights of Columbus have always provided to the Church, to the Holy See, and to me personally. This support is both financial and spiritual. It can be seen in the daily prayers, sacrifices, and the apostolic works of so many Knights in their local councils, in their parishes, and in their communities.”



Thanks to the efforts of Fr. (Venerable) Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, Conn., the first Knights of Columbus Council was chartered by the Connecticut State Legislature in 1882. From that one Council the Knights have grown from a few members to more than 15,000 Councils and almost two million members in the United States and sixteen other countries.

“Being a Knight is very rewarding in a wide variety of ways,” says Grand Knight Dirk Gowin. “We model what we do after the Four Principles of the Knights. That means we do things to serve which emphasize our beliefs in Charity, Unity, and Patriotism, as well as enjoying the strong fellowship of Fraternity.”

In any given year, our Knights do many things that follow those principles.

“For example, we provide roses to our parish mothers on Mothers’ Day,” Dirk says. “Once a year, we sponsor the coffee and

donuts provided to parishioners on Sunday morning. We lead Rosaries, work on recyclables, and support a number of local charities. Two particular efforts of which we are especially proud is our support and involvement with the local Maternity Home, and an annual trip we take to Appalachia to serve, work on homes, and provide other services as needed.”

The Council business meetings are scheduled at the parish center on the second Monday of each month in the evening. There is also a social meeting on a monthly basis.

“Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to men 18 years of age or older,” Dirk says. “Membership in the Knights offers Catholic men an opportunity for fellowship with others of the same beliefs; who recognize the same duty to God, family and neighbor; and who stand side by side in defense of those beliefs.”

*If you are interested in learning more about our Knights of Columbus Ave Maria Council #15931, please contact any member or call Dirk Gowin at 502-619-1499.*



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

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## LENTEN GIVING PROGRAM *continued from front cover*

may donate their time and treasure in concrete ways, benefitting those in need and entering more fully into the Lenten spirit.

Having chaired this program for over 10 years, Katie is amazed by the blessings it has brought over the years. Particularly when volunteering to deliver items, she shares that it is such a blessing to see the relief and joy in people's faces when these much-needed supplies arrive – to know that we as a faith community truly are making a difference in the lives of others.

"When we volunteers get to actually deliver the items, it truly is such a rewarding act," Katie says. "And for families who take time to get donations together, it is a perfect opportunity for parents to talk to their kids about our care and love for the less fortunate. For singles and

elderly, it helps you feel like you can contribute to those in need. I can assure you it truly is God's work and it's something we can all do together as a parish family, no matter what level of involvement you have."

*We invite all parishioners to get involved in this year's Lenten Giving Program, purchasing items, making donations or volunteering as part of the delivery team. No matter the level at which you are able to be involved, it is sure to be a rewarding experience, as we all journey together toward the joy of the Easter Season. Please see the parish bulletin for upcoming details on the project, or contact Katie Furlong directly at 502-895-4755.*

### LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Weekends: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12:00 p.m.; 8:15 a.m. most Thursdays during the school year

Holy Days: Please verify in the bulletin.