First Sunday of Lent

The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.
Matthew 4:10

Season of Lent
Welcome! Whether you are a long time parishioner or first time visitor we welcome you. If you are looking for a church ‘home’ we’d love for you to consider our parish.

- Coming Soon -
In mid March our bulletin will have a new look.

- Save the Dates -
St Paul Lenten Soup Supper Series
Wednesday’ Mar 18 thru Apr 8th
Time - 5pm Soup Dinner
Format: 5:30pm first video
5:45 - 6pm discussion
6pm Second Video
6:15 - 6:30pm discussion

Lenten Presentation: Saturday, March 7, 10 am at St Philip Neri, Reed City. Fr Phil Shangraw will present “Now is the Winter of Our Discontent.” Fr Shangraw will address how to protect ourselves from the cold winds of divisiveness and polarization. A reflection on Paul’s letter to the Colossians to help us let go of rudeness, fear, grudges and tribalism this Lent.

Children’s Evening Faith Formation
St Mary
Tuesday 6 - 7:15pm
Dates: Mar 10, 17, 24; Apr 7, 14 21, 28.

Cooks needed to prepare simple meals (to feed about 40 people). Ingredients will be paid for by the church. If willing to volunteer, contact the church office.

Student Suppers: Mar 29; May 3

Mecosta/Osceola County Right to Life’s annual oratory contest is scheduled for April 14th at Liberty Baptist Church north of Paris. Any high school student can participate. For information and applications please contact gary.montross@yahoo.com.

PCCW will be meeting for their monthly potluck Mar 2nd at noon in the Parish Room. All women are cordially invited.

Matthew 4:4 Not by bread alone are you to live but by every utterance that comes from the mouth of God.
From Father Jegar

Lent comes from the Old English word lencent which means ‘spring time.’ The stone ice begins to crack and slowly run again. The frigid cold lifts its heavy weight. The sun increasingly shines forth its brilliance. And new life breaks through the long winter’s death. Lent is a time of rebirth.

Then what is the meaning of all the desert imagery which we tend to associate with the season? Broken clay pots, dry dead branches, hard lifeless stones? If Lent is meant to be a spring time, the Church’s decor definitely seems a bit out of place.

Through the prophet Hannah, God made this promise to the Israelites:

Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

The desert is a place of rebirth. Without food, water, shelter, and the noise of the world, we find ourselves in radical need. The illusion that I am “self-sufficient” is dispelled, and I come face to face with my radical dependency. I recognize my emptiness. This realization becomes the space that God can now flood with his living waters.

Unless we first come face to face with the seemingly scary reality that without God I am nothing, I will never allow God to renew me. It is only in the death of my ego, that God can give me new life! Lent is a time to remember once again that “I am dust, and to dust I will return.” It is a time to remember that all that I have, all that I am, is from God. It is a time to admit and accept our radical dependency.

In God’s Love,
Fr Jegar

- Cursillo -
April 2 - 5, 2020
St Joseph Church
Pewamo

Application forms due by Mar 26th. Application forms available @ www.grcursillo.org. For more information call Mary Reno 616/498-1052 or Email: mreno03@yahoo.com. See fliers for more detail.

Mass Schedule

MONDAY, March 2
9am Mass at St Mary
Daniel Grezeszak † from All St Mary - St Paul Parishioners

TUESDAY, March 3
St Katharine Drexel, Virgin
8:30am Mass at St Mary
Adoration at St Paul beginning at 3pm until Benediction at 8pm

WEDNESDAY, March 4
St Casimir
7pm Mass at St Mary
8:30-9pm reconciliation at St Paul
9:15pm Mass at St Paul

THURSDAY, March 5
7am Mass at St Mary
Daniel Grezeszak † from Parish Council of Catholic Women
Adoration at St Mary to follow the 7am Mass until Benediction at 5pm.

FRIDAY, March 6
11-11:45 Reconciliation at St Paul
Noon Mass at St Paul

SATURDAY, March 7
St Perpetua, Felicity, Martyrs
3:30-4:30pm Reconciliation at St Mary
5pm Mass at St Mary
Margot Dodge † from Dick & Carol

SUNDAY, March 8
9am Mass at St Mary
11am Mass at St Paul
All St Mary - St Paul Parishioners
4 - 4:30pm reconciliation at St Paul
5pm Mass at St Paul

Readings for the Week of March 1, 2020

Sunday
Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 or Rom 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11

Monday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday
Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday
Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday
Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

Friday
Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday
Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday
Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com
Please remember to sign-in in the back of church 15 mins before Mass.

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**SATURDAY, Mar 7**
5pm Colin Flanery, Cameron Miller

**SUNDAY, Mar 8**
9am All School Mass
11am Hallaway Baumgardner, Isabella Ponte

**HOSPITALITY**

**SATURDAY, Mar 7**
5pm Kent Brooks, volunteers needed

**SUNDAY, Mar 8**
9am Kathy Mally, Arthur & Brandi Olsson, Greg & Tina Ward
11am Ralph & Kay Crew

**CHILDREN’S LITURGY**

**SUNDAY, Mar 8**
9am N/A

**COMMENTATOR**

**SATURDAY, Mar 7**
5pm Lector - Tami Lewis
Commentator - Jim Nostrant

**SUNDAY, Mar 8**
9am Lector - All School Mass
Commentator - All School Mass
11am Lector - Linda Shields

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

**SATURDAY, Mar 7**
5pm Body of Christ - Mark Brejcha, Linda Bolton
Blood of Christ - MaryAnn Mendenhall, Jim Nostrant, RoseAnne Shansky, Jan Westfield

**SUNDAY, Mar 8**
9am Body of Christ - All School Mass
Blood of Christ - All School Mass
11am Body of Christ - Linda Shields, Mary Neill
Blood of Christ - Patti Fraser, Cathy Johnson, Beverly Mills, Pam Muccio

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**Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s):** Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing) on April 17-19, 2020. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is $185 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.

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**Senior Social Luncheon - Free**
Mar 11th @ noon @ Immanuel Lutheran
726 Fuller Ave.
RSVP required - Shirley 796-8273 or shirleyh@403@gmail.com

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**Preventing the spread of illness during cold and flu season**
During cold and flu season, and in general throughout the year, please follow these basic guidelines to help prevent the spread of illness in our parish:
- If you suspect you have the flu or are suffering from a serious cold, please stay home. Your Sunday obligation is waived.
- Cover your mouth/nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands frequently and for the appropriate length of time using soap and water, or using hand sanitizing products.
- Please do not hold hands during the “Our Father.”
- Instead of shaking hands during the sign of peace, clasp your hands together, make eye contact with those around you, and say “Peace be with you,” or “Peace of Christ.”
- If you are feeling sick, please receive Holy Communion in the hand, rather than on the tongue, and refrain from receiving Communion from the cup.

For additional information, visit: grdiocese.org/flu-and-mass-guidelines/

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**Find healing after abortion.**
The next Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for healing after abortion will be held in W Michigan Mar 27-29th. The Retreat is designed to help with forgiveness and grieving and allow you to experience the Mercy of God. Retreats are open to women, men and couples. For more information or to register contact Maggie Walsh - 616/340-1824 or mwalsh@ccwestmi.org. Financial aid is available.
Mass Times:
Mon. 9am  St Mary
Tues. 8:30am  St Mary
Wed. 7pm  St Mary
Thurs.  9:15pm  St Paul
Fri. 7am  St Mary
Sat.  Noon  St Paul
Sun.  5pm  St Mary
Sun.  11am  St Paul

Reconciliation
St Mary- Sat 3:30 - 4:30pm
St Paul - Wed 8:30-9pm; Fri 11-11:45; Sun 4-4:30pm
Parish Office: 231/796-5202 Hrs: 8 - 4pm
St Paul:  231/598-9445

Staff
Pastor - Rev. Michael E. Burt
fathermichael@stmarystpaulbr.org
Parochial Vicar - Rev. Jegar Fickel
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Administrative Assistant - Linda Shields
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Director of Music, Website Administrator - Elyse Leach
eleach@stmarystpaulbr.org
Church Maintenance - Tony Matthews
tmatthews@stmarystpaulbr.org

St Mary School
927 Marion Ave.
(231) 796-6731
Principal - JB Watters
jbwatters@stmarybr.org

School Board
Laura Rhoades - Chair
Elise Sivertsen, Erin Bollman,
Ron McKean, Tyler Schuberg,
Catie Batke.

Flowing from the mission of St Mary-St Paul Parish, students will learn to
know, love and serve God. Students will live their Catholic faith through academic
pursuits, spiritual development and service to the community.

To reserve the Parish Center for an event contact JB Watters or Kim
Brejcha at St Mary School (796-6731).

Pastoral Council Members:
Carman Bean (Chair - crbean@yahoo.com), Joanne Brown,
Brandi Cave, MaryAnn Mendenhall

Finance Council Members:
Jan Westfield - Chairperson
(janetjanedoe@aol.com), Dee Clark,
Patti Fraser, Geri Hanna,
Karin McKea

Prayer Request List:
To place or remove a name simply call the office or
put note in offertory.

To place names on prayer chain call:
Carol Scheid-Kailing: 231/796-6063,
Theresa Miller 796-7753.

Sacrament of Marriage arrangements to be made six months in advance. Call
the parish office regarding preparation for other sacraments.

View the bulletin online at: http://discovermass.com/church/st-mary-big-rapids-mi/. Parish website: www.stmarystpaulbr.org

For Parish related dates/functions/activities you would like posted on the
website please contact Elyse Leach via email eleach@stmarystpaulbr.org.

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