From the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”
MATTHEW 17:5
Second Sunday of Lent

Reflecting on God’s Word

Lent is an invitation to journey more deeply into the heart of God. What God asks of Abram is a willingness to trust that God will lead him. Abram is called from the very beginning to place his trust in the Lord and in the Lord’s promises. We are told that Abram is seventy years old at the time he goes forth. I remember someone remarking, “Imagine coming in the house and saying to your wife, ‘Honey, we have to pack up and go I know not where.’” We are told simply: “Abram went as the Lord directed him” (Genesis 12:4a). Abram’s faith translates into trust that God is leading him.

Jesus brought the three apostles up a high mountain. Mountains often served as the meeting place of God and the prophets—Moses and Elijah come to mind. When Jesus and the three reach their destination, Jesus is transformed before them, face and clothes shining. Suddenly Moses and Elijah are talking with Him. You can understand Peter wanting to stay there. But this is not journey’s end. That will happen on a hill outside Jerusalem. For now they hear words meant also for us this day: “This is my beloved Son . . . listen to him” (Matthew 17:5).

We are asked to journey with Jesus for forty days—sometimes it may be into the desert of testing, sometimes up a mountain for a moment of blinding clarity. In both places we know Jesus as the beloved Son who trusts in the Father’s will. Lent invites us to make that same journey into trusting the Father.

—James A. Wallace, C.Ss.R.

2020 CMAA - Be Kind and Merciful

We are pleased that so many parishioners have already pledged a gift to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Your support will allow us to Be Kind and Merciful as, together, we do God’s work here on earth.

Every gift brings us closer to our parish’s 2020 CMAA goal of $66,200. If we raise more than our goal, 70 percent of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our needs. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Please prayerfully reflect on your pledge to this year’s CMAA and make your gift today. Pledge envelopes are available in the church. You can also return the pledge card you received in the mail from the diocese, make a gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org or text “Donate” to (815) 205-1949 from your mobile phone.
For Teens … Catholic Heart Workcamp

Our St. Irene youth had such an amazing experience the last 2 years that we are collaborating again with St. Mike’s for this awesome mission trip!

This **July 19th** - **25th** our 8th - 12th grade teens are invited to join 350 teens from parishes all over the U.S. at Catholic Heart Workcamp (CHWC) in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. This is a week of fun, prayer, laughter, Mass & Reconciliation, and restoring hope through service to those less fortunate.

There are still a few spots available. For more information or any questions, contact: Pamela Keating at 630-393-2400 x120 or pamela@st-irene.org.

Parish Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday March 29th

The hunt will take place after the 10:00am mass on Fr. Jim’s lawn (weather permitting). It will be in the ACU if the weather does not cooperate.

Coffee and donuts in ACL!

The Easter Bunny will be there!

Please consider donating a bag of small wrapped candy. Bins will be available at the back of church. Make sure candy can fit inside plastic eggs.

Clothing Drive for the St. Vincent de Paul Society

**March 14 & 15**
For the St. Vincent de Paul Society in West Chicago

We are accepting clothing, shoes, linens and books in good or bad condition. Also small household items and electronics! **NO TV’s or COMPUTERS!**

Start collecting now! Collection bags will be handed out after Masses on March 7th and 8th. Fill them (or any strong bag/box) and return to the truck in the church parking lot the following weekend (14th and 15th) before or after Masses.

JDCCW Bishop Blanchette Scholarship

Applications for the Joliet Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (JDCCW) Bishop Blanchette Scholarship are now available to those students planning on attending a Joliet Diocesan Catholic High School for the 2020-2021 school year. Applicants can obtain a BBSF application form from their Parish CCW President (Dana Wolze dana@wolze.com). The paper application deadline is **March 26, 2020**. A FACTS scholarship application must be submitted online at https://online.factsmg.com. Request to be added to the JDCCW-BBS FACTS ID#32463. If the family has already submitted a FACTS application for the upcoming year for another award, they are still eligible for the JDCCW-BBSF scholarship. Only one application need be submitted to FACTS at their online site. If you have any questions regarding FACTS call: 1-866-441-4637. DO NOT SEND the FACTS application to the JDCCW office. There is a $35.00 fee for the FACTS application that needs to be submitted to FACTS at the time of application, along with a copy of the family’s 2019 Income Tax report.

Explore Days at Rosary HS

Seventh grade girls are invited to an Explore Day at Rosary High School on **March 11** or **April 2**, from 8:15 to 10:30am. Sign up online at www.rosaryhs.com/explore

**Attention all kids of the Parish!**

Would you like to go on an African Adventure? Join us for ROAR VBS set to take off this Summer!

Save the date for June 22 - 25!

Celebrate God’s goodness and your ferocious faith that powers us through this Wild Life! This safari is sure to be fun for the whole herd! More details to follow!
Whole Parish Catechesis
Readings and Questions for Faith Sharing

Reading I: Genesis 12:1-4a
♦ I will make of you a great nation.

Background: In the first reading, Abraham is obedient to God’s call. Abraham is blessed by God. Ultimately, blessing is a sharing in the life of God, a sharing in God’s power to bring life and to sustain it. Because of Abraham’s obedience, the inexorable progress of sin and separation is reversed and God’s blessing begins to fill the world.

Reading II: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10
♦ God has called us to a holy life.

Background: In 2 Timothy, the point is made that through obedience, followers of Jesus will share in the sufferings of Jesus and then come to share forever in His glory. Through His death on the cross, Jesus has conquered death. The final goal of God’s blessing is new life.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9
♦ Get up! Do not be afraid!

Background: In the Gospel story Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, a favorite place in the Gospel of Matthew for revelation. There, the presence of God shines through Jesus and He is transformed. Moses and Elijah, representatives of the Law and the prophets, appear with Jesus.

Theme: Transfiguration - with the Spirit of Jesus living within us, we will be transformed.

Question for Adults:
Perhaps this reading calls us, not to cling to the familiar, but to leave the comforts of the parish and reach out to the world around us. In your neighborhood or community, who is waiting to hear the Good News?

Question for Youth:
Have you ever had a “mountain top” experience where you felt exceptionally close to God? How was your life changed by that experience?

Question for Children:
Share about a time when you felt especially close to God or Jesus.

Restore the Church
Build the Future

Thank you for your generous contributions last week to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe! As a parish, we collected to help restore the Church and build the future in more than 20 countries. If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information.

Family Faith Formation (Religious Education)

Classes meet on Tuesday, Mar. 10 (Gr. 1-6 in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, Mar. 11 (Gr. 7-8 in the ACL) 6:30-8PM. Parents meet their children on Tuesdays at 6:45PM in Church and Wednesdays at 7:45PM in the ACL.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:

Gospel of Matthew 17:1-9 - Jesus travels up a mountain with Peter, James, and John. Jesus transfigures and shines brightly. God speaks to the men and shares that Jesus is God’s beloved son, and God is very proud of Jesus. Jesus reassures His friends that they should not be afraid.

Question of the Week:
♦ How have you helped a new person feel welcome at church, in the neighborhood, or at school?

Gospel Questions:
♦ What practice are you doing this Lent that will transform you as a Christian?
♦ What transformations do Jesus’ friends see in him?
♦ What do the brightness of Jesus’ face and the whiteness of His clothes show about Jesus?

Life Questions:
♦ When has an awakening transformed your past and future?
♦ When have your friends seen changes in you?
♦ Who helps you change and grow? How?

Family Prayer:
♦ God, we know that Jesus is your beloved Son. Help us to listen to Him. Amen.
Jesús sube a un monte con Pedro, Santiago y Juan. Jesús se transfigure y brilla con una gran luz. Dios Padre habla desde una nube e identifica a Jesús como su Hijo amado, en quien se complace. Dios instruye a los hombres para que escuchen a Jesús. Jesús les dice a sus amigos que no deben tener miedo.

**Pregunta de la semana** - ¿Cómo he ayudado a alguna persona nueva sentirse acogida o bienvenida?

**Oración en familia** – Señor, sabemos que Jesús es tu Hijo amado. Ayúdanos a escucharlo. Amen.

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**Be a “Shavee” for St. Baldricks!**

Four years ago, the Edmonds Family suffered a devastating loss when their son, Vinnie, passed away from a rare form of brain cancer. Since then, they have always sought to help other families with the same diagnosis in any way they can. From the day of his diagnosis, to the day he passed and beyond, the St. Irene community has provided more support than the Edmonds’ ever could have expected and the family is grateful for it—and they are dedicated to paying it forward. This year, they are hosting a St. Baldrick's head shaving event in the AC. Here are a few ways you can support them:

- **Sign-up as a “shavee” at** [https://www.stbaldricks.org/register/participant/13848/2020 - “Brave the Shave!”](https://www.stbaldricks.org/register/participant/13848/2020)
- **Come to the event** March 14th at 2:00pm in the St. Irene Activity Center. See the website for event activities [https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/StIrene2020](https://www.stbaldricks.org/events/StIrene2020) (e.g. live DJ, silent auction, guest speakers, and of course shaving!)
- **Donate at** [https://www.stbaldricks.org/donate/participant/1047663/2020](https://www.stbaldricks.org/donate/participant/1047663/2020) - The goal is $20,000 in 2020. Every 2 minutes a new child is diagnosed with cancer. All day, every day, families are getting this diagnosis. The good news is that St. Baldrick's is supporting ground breaking, outside-the-box research that could really make an impact on that. If your heart calls for you to do this, please consider supporting this event. If you have any questions about the event please contact Joe Edmonds at 847-571-5916.

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**For Widowed Men and Women**

Feeling stuck? Need something? There will be a retreat/workshop for widowed men and women on March 14 and 15 at: Our Lady of The Angels, (Mt. Assisi Center Bldg.), 13820 Main St., Lemont, IL. Overnight accommodations available.

To register call: 708-354-7211 or email: joyfulagain7211@gmail.com

**Stations of the Cross and Lenten Soup Supper**

Join us for Stations of the Cross followed by a Lenten Soup Supper in the ACL, every Friday during Lent except for Good Friday.

Stations of the Cross begins at 7:00pm in the Church.

All are welcome.

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**Lenten Regulations**

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.
2. All age 18 years up to the beginning of their 60th year are bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.
4. To disregard completely the law of fast and abstinence is sinful.
5. Lent is the principal season of penance in the Church year. Therefore, all of the faithful are strongly urged to develop and follow a program of voluntary self-denial. All Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church, pray and perform works of charity and mercy.
6. Those who are sick, pregnant, or nursing, or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting or abstinence, should not consider themselves bound by these norms.
### This Week’s Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, March 8</strong></td>
<td>7:30a-12:30Pp</td>
<td>Hospitality (ACL)</td>
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<td>10-10:45a</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)</td>
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<td>11-12:30p</td>
<td>Baptism Prep 1st Session (S)</td>
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<td><strong>Monday, March 9</strong></td>
<td>1-2:30p</td>
<td>Adult Education (ACL)</td>
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<td>6-8p</td>
<td>Ladies of Columbus Easter Project (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7-8:30p</td>
<td>Adult Education (Chapel)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, March 10</strong></td>
<td>5:30-7p</td>
<td>Elementary RE (Church, S, ACL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30-7p</td>
<td>1st Communion Parent Meeting (ACL)</td>
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<td>7-8p</td>
<td>Bridge Committee (Staff)</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, March 11</strong></td>
<td>8:30-10:30a</td>
<td>PACE (ACL)</td>
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<td>12:15-3:30p</td>
<td>Band (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30-8p</td>
<td>Jr. High RE (S, ACL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7-8:30p</td>
<td>Choir (Church)</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday, March 12</strong></td>
<td>6-10p</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus (ACL)</td>
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<td>7-9p</td>
<td>Lenten Penance Service (Church)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, March 13</strong></td>
<td>12:15-3:30p</td>
<td>Band (ACL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7-10p</td>
<td>Lenten Soup Supper (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, March 14</strong></td>
<td>9a-9p</td>
<td>St. Baldrick’s (AC)</td>
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<td>4p-12p</td>
<td>St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive (PkLot)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, March 15</strong></td>
<td>10-10:45a</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11-12:30p</td>
<td>Baptism Prep 2nd Session (ACL)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12p-12a</td>
<td>St. Vincent DePaul Clothing Drive (PkLot)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Easter Gifts for the Children of the Parish

The Ladies of Columbus Auxiliary #6710 will be constructing our Easter gifts to the children of the parish on **Monday, March 9, from 6:00-8:00pm in the ACL**. We will provide the necessary items to make the gifts as well as snacks and beverages. All are invited to attend. For further information, contact Cathy Kott at 630-393-9543.

### K of C Eyeglass and DME Drive

Please donate your old or unwanted eyeglasses by dropping them off in the collection box in the back of church. Eyeglasses will be forwarded to the Lions Club International local chapter for renovation and reuse by those in need. The collection box will be available from **February 29th through May 31st**.

Also, we will be collecting used durable medical equipment (DME) such as wheelchairs, walkers, canes, bath chairs, crutches, and hearing aids. These items will be donated to appropriate healthcare facilities and/or senior organizations.

Please leave your donations in the church narthex or contact Joe Kubal at 630-983-6159 or jdrk4715@aol.com to schedule a pick-up.

### LIVING GOD’S WORD:

God has called us to a holy life (1 Timothy 1:9). This week, as we journey with Jesus into the presence of the Father, listen for how the Father may be speaking to you now. Ask God to open your ears and eyes to recognize the beloved Son’s presence.

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St. Irene Vocation Prayer

In every age Lord, You raise up women
and men who are strong in their faith
and bold in their actions to give
witness to the Gospel.
Fill St. Irene Parish Community with
Your Spirit and give us a burning desire
to make a difference in our world.
Because of our love for You, Bless our Church
with holy and courageous priests, deacons,
religious sisters and brothers,
devoted married couples, dedicated single men
and women, and enthusiastic youth.
We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sue Lambert
Colette Malovany
Sam Vitale
Pat Wehner
Mary George
Desiree Sheppard
Erich Pavel
Marc Alleruzzo

Jim Pippenger
Tim Rasplicka
Fr. Jim
Rachel Jaraisus
Mary Vander Meulen
Valder Morales
Max Malesh

Readings for the Week

Monday:          Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:         Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23;
                 Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:       Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16;
                 Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:        Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday:          Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;
                 Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:        Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12;
                 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday:          Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8;
                 Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

Eucharistic Adoration

- Join us on
Thursdays anytime between 7:30AM-8PM. Please
sign up for a 1/2 hour or an 1 hour segment by
calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543.

Communion Assistance

We want to insure that every parishioner who wishes to
partake in the Communion Sacrament be able to do so. In
order to assist us with this process, please notify an usher
prior to the start of Mass if you or someone in your party
needs communion brought to you. Extraordinary Ministers
will bring the Precious Body & Blood to you in your pew.

We Hold In Prayer Those Who Serve Our Country

Lance CPL Jeff Sommer - stationed in Japan
Chief Petty Officer Michael Spans
Capt. Weston J. Umano USAF - Deployed
E3 Jacob VanderMeulen, USNavy, San Diego
1st Class Patrick Reid - Lackland AFB, TX
Master Sgt. Dan Peterson - Anchorage, AK
TSgt. Daniel Geinosky - serving in England
Sgt. Christian Wilkins - stationed in Iraq
Sgt. Levi Dieter - Embassy in Ecuador
Cmdr. Eric G. Peterson - Serving in San Diego
Sgt. Peter Folz - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Major Patrick Looby - Shaw AFB, SC
Sgt. Thomas Rasplicka - Fort Bliss, Texas