

**Third Sunday of Lent: Year A**

If you knew the gift of God! The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God's desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him. (CCC 2560)

**This Week at Our Parishes****Sunday, March 19: Third Sunday of Lent, First Scrutiny**

- Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42
- Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter III
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † Raymond and Catherine Betlejewski by Ron Betlejewski
- 10:00 a.m. Baptism at Our Lady of Grace
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship coffee and donuts at OLG
- 10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Bill and Edna Fohlbrook by Anne E. Olson
- 11:30 a.m. Altar Society meeting at St. Mary
- 12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)
- 12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the people
- 1:30 p.m. Hispanic Teen Retreat Registration at St. Mary
- 4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary

**Monday, March 20: Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Joseph has been honored on March 19th since the end of the 10th century. He was declared Patron of the Universal Church in 1870 by Pope Pius IX and Guardian of the Redeemer in 1989 by Pope John Paul II. He is patron of workers and carpenters. He is mentioned in the Roman Canon.

- Readings: 2 Sm 7: 4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89: 2-5, 27 and 29; Rom 4: 13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1: 16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2: 41-51a
- Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter III
- 9:00 a.m. Comfort and Grace Sewing Ministry at OLG
- 9:45 a.m. Holy Family Co-Op at Our Lady of Grace
- 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG
- 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for the special intentions of Jesse DeKuiiper by Cynthia DeKuiiper
- 6:00 p.m. Rosary at Our Lady of Grace (Spanish)
- 6:00 p.m. Finance Council meeting at St. Mary
- 6:30 p.m. R.C.I.A. class at Our Lady of Grace

**Tuesday, March 21:**

- Readings: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 18:21-35  
Optional for any day this week:  
Ex 17:1-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7ab, 7c-9; Jn 4:5-42,
- Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter III
- 8:00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG
- 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace
- 6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Confirmation class for adults at Our Lady of Grace

**Wednesday, March 22**

- Readings: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
- Prayers: Glorious mysteries, Angelus, Psalter III
- 6:15 p.m. Religious Education at OLG

**This Week at Our Parishes****Thursday, March 23: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop**

Toribio was from Salamanca. As a layman, he was the chief judge of the Inquisition at Granada. As archbishop of Lima, he presided over the Third Council of Lima (1583). He established the first seminary in the Americas and sought to alleviate poverty among the native population. He died in 1606 and is the patron of Latin American bishops.

- Readings: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
- Prayers: Luminous mysteries, Angelus, Psalter III
- 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Dorothy Barnum by Cynthia DeKuiiper
- 5:30 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary (Spanish)

**Friday, March 24**

- Readings: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11b, 14 and 17; Mk 12:28-34
- Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter III
- 9:30 a.m. Encuentro Small Group meeting at OLG
- 11:40 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 12:10 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Richard Cioe by Terri Mazurkiewicz
- 5:00 p.m. Encuentro at Our Lady of Grace
- 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Grace

**Saturday, March 25: The Annunciation of the Lord**

- Readings: Is 7: 10-14; 8: 10; Ps 40: 7- 11; Heb 10: 4-10; Lk 1: 26-38
- Prayers: Joyful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter III
- 3:00 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at OLG
- 4:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † Richard Cioe by Barb Kleaveland

**Sunday, March 26: Laetare Sunday, Second Scrutiny**

- Readings: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1); Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9: 1-41
- Prayers: Sorrowful mysteries, Angelus, Psalter IV
- 8:30 a.m. Rosary prayed at Our Lady of Grace
- 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Grace for † Irene Kaminski by Denny and Marilyn Chandonnet
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship coffee and donuts at OLG
- 10:00 a.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Delores Anderson by Mary Therese Kendra
- 11:30 a.m. Education Endowment raffle with coffee and donuts at St. Mary
- 11:30 a.m. Knights of Columbus Council #9802 burrito fundraiser at St. Mary
- 12:00 p.m. Rosary prayed at St. Mary (Spanish)
- 12:30 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for † Micaela Perez by Delores Olivarez
- 4:15 p.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Mary
- 5:00 p.m. Holy Mass at St. Mary for the people
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group at OLG
- 6:15 p.m. Adult Faith Formation at St. Mary
- 7:30 p.m. MCC Vouchers for 2017-18 at St. Mary's

**Mass Attendance: March 12, 2017**

OLG 4:00pm: 222      OLG 9:00am: 82  
 SM 10:30am: 233    SM 12:30pm: 209    SM 5:00pm 198

**Sacrificial Offerings & Other Contributions**  
**March 12, 2017**

**Our Lady of Grace**

|                          |    |         |         |
|--------------------------|----|---------|---------|
| Budgeted Weekly Amount:  | \$ | 5096.15 |         |
| General Fund:            | \$ | 3610.00 |         |
| On-line Giving           | \$ | 516.48  | -969.67 |
| Donuts                   | \$ | 188.55  |         |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$ | 10.00   |         |
| Easter Flower Memorials  | \$ | 140.00  |         |

**St. Mary's Church**

|                         |    |         |       |
|-------------------------|----|---------|-------|
| Budgeted Weekly Amount: | \$ | 6538.46 |       |
| General Fund:           | \$ | 5724.84 |       |
| On-line Giving          | \$ | 805.71  | +7.91 |
| Restoration             | \$ | 106.00  |       |
| Easter Flower Memorials | \$ | 155.00  |       |
| Altar Society           | \$ | 10.00   |       |

**Contribution Counters: Week of March 19**  
 OLG Team 5 - St. Mary Team 4

**† Prayer and Sympathy †**

Please keep the families of Nancy Panozzo, Tom Carlson and Maria Alvarado in your prayers as they mourn the passing of their loved ones.

Nancy was remembered in a Funeral Mass on Thursday at Our Lady of Grace, Maria was remembered in a Funeral Mass on Friday at St. Mary's and Tom was remembered in a Funeral Mass on Saturday at St. Mary's.

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

**Education Endowment and 50/50 Raffle**

Sunday, March 26, 2017  
 Following the 10:30am Mass  
 St. Mary's, Lourdes Hall  
 Coffee and donuts will be served.



**Knights of Columbus Council #9802**  
**Burrito Fundraiser**  
**Sunday, March 26, 2017**  
**11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m.**  
**St. Mary's, Lourdes Hall**

**Prayer Line**

St. Mary's: Benita Mikesell, 231-803-4425 or  
 Jean Gawel, 231-798-8493

Our Lady of Grace: Anna Mogdics, 231- 670-5073

**Prayer Requests**

**Please keep these individuals in your prayers**

Arlene LeBeau, Ben Offrink, Gail Gee, Betty Gee,  
 John McCormick, Sotero Leyton, Billie Leonard, Helen Walters,  
 Gloria Cline, Pat Hogan, Jeff Kenny, Shirley Green, Ron Faino,  
 Jose Alcahuter, Christine and Dennis Siedlecki,  
 Rosemary Kellogg, Ralph Alvesteffer, Marty Neff,  
 Bill Forton, Julia Gonzales, William & Benita Mikesell

**Please pray for our homebound parishioners**

Ruth Stevens, Jim Dalum, Fran Wright, Rose Ann Bird,  
 Bernice Brown, Rosemary Keefe, Vivian Smith,  
 Betty Reilly & Johanna Ripka

**Please pray for our parishioners who are in care**

Carolene McIntosh, Pat Simonson, Jackie Blake, Shirley Sterritt,  
 Marie Peterson, Ruth Ruby, Rosemary Sleak, Gene Gianetti Jr.,  
 Leone Misze, Rosalie Venne,  
 Alyce Donaldson, Alice Grevious, Josephine Hiersman,  
 Lucille Radke, Kathy Hale & Tillie Standage

**Please pray for our parishioners in the military**

Seaman Recruit Ryan McIntire, US Coast Guard;  
 Erin McDermott, US Army; Nic Frank, Air Force;  
 SSG. Richarda (Rikki) Amaya; Elias Vihtelic, US Navy;  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Timothy Merkle; Staff Sgt. Casey Sowa;  
 Master Sgt. April Sowa; IS3 Cody Hacker;  
 Private Jakob Bergquist; Major Adam Shaw;  
 PFC Abraham Angel Luis Aguilar; Spec. Alex Block;  
 Andrew Shadowski, U. S. Army; & Noah Sweet, U. S. Army



Pray for the holy souls in purgatory.



**Evangelization Clip**

by Deacon Jim Schiltz  
 March 19, 2017

This Sunday's Gospel should be called the "Parable of the Extravagantly Forgiving Father" but instead it's known as the "Parable of the Prodigal Son." (*Prodigal* means "profuse and wasteful.") One reason that Jesus told this story is to teach us about the events of Good Friday. The scribes and Pharisees were the "Prodigal Sons" of Jesus' times. They plotted to kill Jesus. And they did. What were one of Jesus' *Seven Last "Words"* from the Cross? "Father, forgive them." Amazing! Yet, we are not off the hook! Our sins just as surely as those of the scribes and Pharisees nailed Jesus to the Cross. And Jesus says, "Father, forgive them", meaning you and me. God has generously given us the beauty of creation, His Church, and grace upon grace. And we sin. May our penance this Lent, whether "give-ups" or creating new and better habits, make us more faithful followers and disciples of Jesus.

**Adult Faith Formation**

Sunday, March 26, 2017  
6:15p.m.  
St. Mary's, Lourdes Hall

**The Last Words of Christ**

It is often said that a person's last words are their most important words. During this talk, we are going to look at the last words of the most important person in history before He died. Jesus' last words have been an area of much study and debate. Come join us to take a look at these words and the person who said them and how important they are to us today.

Presented by Matt Kozcur  
Campus Minister at MCC

**All adult parishioners are welcome!**  
MCC Voucher parents are required to attend.

**MCC Vouchers for 2017-2018 School Year**

There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Sunday, March 26th following the Adult Faith Formation class for those families interested in receiving vouchers for next school year. Vouchers will be signed at this meeting. This will be the only opportunity to have your voucher signed. **Registration is required.** Please RSVP to the parish office by Tuesday, March 21st. Renewal of vouchers of returning families will be subject to fulfillment of contract requirements for the 2016-17 school year.

**Religious Education News**

Miniature wrapped candy is needed for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt. Donations may be placed on the bench by the parish office at OLG or placed on the desk in the narthex at St. Mary's or dropped off at the parish office during business hours:  
Monday - Thursday, 9-Noon, 1-5pm.

**Power of Attorney Letters**

Sunday, March 26, 2017  
1:30 - 2:30p.m.

St. Mary's, Lourdes Hall

Delores Olivarez will be available to notarize Power of Attorney letters for the children of immigrants.

Quick and easy form.

Questions? Contact Delores at 231-457-8197

**Cartas de poder de abogado**

Domingo 26 de marzo de 2017  
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

St. Mary's, Lourdes Hall

Delores Olivarez estará disponible para notarizar cartas de Poder de Abogado para los hijos de inmigrantes.

Forma rápida y fácil.

¿Preguntas? Contacto Delores en 231-457-8197

**Sacrament of Confirmation for Adults**

If you are 18 years and older and have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation, preparation classes will begin this coming Tuesday, March 21st. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm at Our Lady of Grace on March 21, March 28, April 4 and April 11.

Confirmation will be at 7pm on Wednesday, May 31st at the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Grand Rapids.

To register, please contact the parish office:

Amy: 722-2803, ext. 12.

Monica: 722-2803, ext. 11

**Shine Youth Rally**

Saturday, March 25  
2-8:30p.m.

Open to all middle school students.

We will be taking a bus to the event in Grand Rapids. The bus will leave Muskegon Catholic Central at 1pm sharp and return at 9:30pm.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 21 at Noon. Contact Kacey Kersman at 231-722-2803, ext. 16 or email at [dre@olgmuskegon.org](mailto:dre@olgmuskegon.org) or [dre@stmarysmuskegon.org](mailto:dre@stmarysmuskegon.org)

Come encounter Jesus!

**Lenten Pro-Life Prayer**

Father of all mercy, we thank you for this season of grace and light. We know that sin has blinded us. Draw us ever closer to you, in prayer and penance. Give all your people a clearer understanding of the profound dignity of every human life, including the children in the womb.

As we prepare to celebrate the death and Resurrection of Christ, strengthen our joy in the fact that life has already conquered death.

As we prepare to renew the promises of our own baptism this Easter, grant that we may live more faithfully as the children of God and the People of Life.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Seven Last Words: A Lenten Series

### The Fourth Word

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lamma sabachthani;” that is, “My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?”

From such a word it would seem as if it made little matter whether one tried to do right or not. All appear to be under the same sentence. God seems to treat all alike. There is that God-forsaken multitude, once guided by the Pillar of Light through the wilderness, illuminated by the gift of a special revelation; instructed by the teachings of prophecy; yet now turning their backs upon the light, forsaking and forsaken by God, putting to death “Him of whom Moses in the Law and the Prophets did write.” There, hard by, lay the doomed city that knew not the day of its visitation. The Shekinah was withdrawn; the voice of the Prophecy had been silent for four hundred years. But here upon the Cross is One whose whole life has been an act of obedience, “whose meat and drink was to do the will of Him who sent Him,” “who came into the world to give testimony to the truth,” and He cries out: “My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken me?”

Are all then, good and evil, treated indiscriminately by God under the one sentence of judgment? Jesus, the all-holy, nay, the co-equal Son of the Father, did indeed in that moment experience, so far as it was possible, the loss of the sense of God’s loving protection. He shut out from Himself the light that ever shone upon His human soul. He could not be separated from God, for He was God. He had no personality but the personality of the Eternal Word, but He would feel as nearly as it was possible the separation which sin effects between God and man.

True then, the multitude below the Cross, and Jesus on the Cross, are all enduring the penalty of the sentence, “Sin separates from God.” But what a difference! No cry of despair or agony rises from the multitude. They are under the penalty in all its fullness, and they seem unconscious of it. In their blindness they are doing what they could not do if their eyes were open. Forsaken by God, “they walk on still in darkness, and all their ways are out of course.” But, worst of all, they do not seem conscious of their loss or their need. Ah, no! The silence of the multitude, God-forsaken as they are, is the greatest witness of their woeful state. We turn to Jesus. He could not sin Himself. “He was the holy, innocent, undefiled One,” yet being the great representative Man, the second Adam, the Atoner, He must bear the pain of sin. He must experience, so far as possible for Him, that sense of separation. And what then? It is unendurable. He cannot bear it, with a loud voice He cries out.

What a contrast! What the multitudes are suffering in an infinitely greater degree, an absolute separation from God, they bear with the utmost equanimity, and are, in fact, unconscious that they are suffering at all. When Jesus experiences the first approach of that dark shadow across His human soul, it is more than He can endure. He cannot remain silent in His pain.

Truly that cry was rather the cry of victory than of defeat. To be unable to endure the sense of separation from God is the lot of those to whom God is all in all, who can cry in truth, “What have I in heaven, and besides Thee what do I desire upon earth?” In proportion as we feel the need of God’s presence, and the pain of its loss, are we true to God. In proportion as we find ourselves able to live without God, to secure our happiness in other things, have we failed.

Beneath the Cross, then, we see sin triumphant, man separated from God, and unconscious of his loss. There is no cry of complaint, no sense of His need. On the Cross, we see man triumphant over sin, unable to endure the sense of separation.

If God is nothing to us, if we sin on and do not care, if we are not distressed at the thought of being separated from God, we are with the multitude, to whom “He was without beauty or comeliness, despised and the most abject of men.” In proportion as we do feel the fear of separation and the dread lest we do not love Him, so far are we with Christ the Conqueror, crying out, “My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken me?”