



March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Collection March 19, 2023

Regular Collection	\$899.00
Catholic Relief	40.00
Easter Flowers	217.00

April 2, 2023:

Lector: *Guenter Schlottmann*
Rebecca Harriman
 Commentator: *Caleb Harriman*
 Ushers: *Hathaway/Stanley*

Readings for April 2, 2023

Reading 1	<i>Isaiah 50:4-7</i>
Reading 2	<i>Phillipians 2:6-11</i>
Gospel	<i>Matthew 26:14-27:66</i>

Information about St. Edwards- Daily readings, the bulletin, homilies, and other information can be found on our webpage at:
<https://stedwardpulaski.org>

Prayer List - *Tim Kimbleton, Carol Luttrell, John Balconi, Brenda Lessard, Jody Riffey, Bill Jennings, Megan Talbert, Rosanna Vallo, Linda McCann, Stephen Petrowski, Christine Scarpinato, Michael Linkous, Jim Trowbridge, Orlando LoMascolo, Rommy LoMascolo, Anna LoMascolo, Jerry Stanley, Bill Vest, Caroline Jewell, Jim Hopkins, Raegan Ray, Alexandria Hayes, Marianne McGriffin, Georgia Snell English, Joy McComb, Margaret McLawhorn, and Danny Coalson*
Let the Stanleys know if you have additions or deletions

Soup Supper/Stations of the Cross/Peter's Pause-On Tuesday March 26, we will have our last soup supper, followed by Stations of the Cross, and finishing with Peter's Pause discussion group which includes a Lenten Retreat. Everyone is welcome to attend either one or the entire program. We will begin with soup at 6:00 pm, Stations at 6:45 pm, and Peter's Pause at approximately at 7:15 pm. A sign-up sheet is in the hall if anyone is willing to make soup for this week.

Parish Council Meeting-There will be a Parish Council meeting on Sunday, April 2, directly after Mass. Hope all members will plan to attend. If you have any business that needs to be addressed, please let Sally know so she can add it to the agenda. Thanks

Easter is fast approaching! The schedule for the next 2 weeks here at St. Edward's is as follows:

Reconciliation Thursday, March 30 from 4:00-5:30

Palm Sunday at our regular time of 11:00 am

Holy Thursday, April 6 at 5:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7 at 3:00 pm

Easter Sunday at our regular time of 11:00 am

At St. Mary's Easter Vigil, April 8, will begin at 8:00 pm

March Birthdays

Stephanie Mullins	Mar. 6
Ian Grube	Mar. 8
Lucas Taylor	Mar. 10
Mary Ann Phillips	Mar. 13
John McNair	Mar. 20
Emilia Mendez	Mar. 22
Guenter Schlottmann	Mar. 23
Madelyn Owen	Mar. 26



March Anniversaries

John & Mary Beth McNair Mar. 14



"Taken from the Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer of Creighton University's Online Ministries website: www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with Permission."

This is the last full week of Lent. We can feel the conflict and struggle developing in the readings. As we read about the drama that surrounded Jesus' last days on earth and reflect upon its meaning, we experience how the drama that is going on in our own hearts is more intense the closer we get to the end of Lent.

The Spirit of the Lord is really trying to help us be more open and more free, to receive the graces our Lord wants to offer us. There is another spirit that is fighting just as hard to distract us, discourage us, and prevent us from being open and attentive to God's gifts. The closer we get to the mystery of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection for us, the more we can experience struggle. If I experience myself somewhat "at war" with myself, then these are very important days to keep deliberately asking our Lord to help me.

It is also a great time to begin to prepare to renew the baptismal promises at Easter. We can reject the unloving choices we've made, all that is unjust, dishonest, disrespectful and violent. We want to refuse to be mastered by empty promises. Declaring our desire for freedom is a great preparation to receive this great gift. If we are celebrating the Scrutinies with the RCIA candidates and catechumens, this is a wonderful time to pray for them as well, for their protection from the evil one in the last days of their journey.

If we have developed the habit of naming a desire the first thing each morning, and carrying on a conversation with our Lord in the brief background moments of the day, we are already comfortable with letting the Word or the Season interact with the concrete events of the week. This way of finding intimacy with our Lord, through our daily interaction - even in a very busy life - is so appropriate for the Fifth Week of Lent. We can discover areas that are still resistant to God's grace. We can ask for help to practice new ways of being free, or new ways of loving. We can find ways to make financial sacrifices to give to the poor this week.

Each night this week, we can give thanks. The closer we get to celebrating Holy Week and the events that brought us our salvation, each of us can express our gratitude, realizing this was all for me.

The Fifth Week of Lent

This week is filled with drama. We continue to prepare ourselves to be open to God's graces. We continue to try to choose Lent, to act Lent, in very concrete ways. We are examining our patterns and realigning our priorities. Our hearts are being renewed, as we experience God's reconciling love and beg for the gift of healing.

All this is wonderfully supported by the drama of the daily liturgies. We begin with the raising of Lazarus (and we may celebrate the Scrutinies). During the week, we have powerful stories about the accusation against Susanna, a healing image lifted up in the desert, the three faithful witnesses who survive the fiery furnace, the account of God's covenant with Abram, Jeremiah's fearful trust in the midst of the plot against him, and Ezekiel's incredible vision of restoration of the nation - that God will make a new and everlasting covenant.

Each of these readings is matched with a gospel from John. We hear about witnesses and testimony and judgment, about his being lifted up (on the cross and in glory), about the freedom/liberation he has come to bring, about himself as the fulfillment of God's covenant, the new and everlasting covenant. And, we can feel the opposition rising against him. And we grow in devotion, and grace, as we realize that it is all "for me."