



**February 18, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

**Collection February 11, 2024**

<i>Regular Collection</i>	\$577.00
<i>Attendance</i>	50

**February 25, 2024**

**Lector:** *Patty Williams*  
**Commentator:** *Dan Grubb*  
**Ushers:** *Hathaway/McNair*  
**Eucharist Ministers:** *Williams/McCann*

**Readings for February 25, 2024**

Reading 1    Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
 Reading 2    Romans 8:31b-34  
 Gospel        Mark 9:2-10

**Prayer List** -*Tim Kimbleton, Carol Luttrell, John Balconi, Brenda Lessard, Jody Riffey, Megan Talbert, Rosanna Vallo, Stephen Petrowski, Jerry Stanley, Bill Vest, Raegan Ray, Rommy LoMascolo, Marianne McGriffin, Georgia Snell English, Margaret McLawhorn, Father Bernie, Shannon Yates, Lynn Canty, Chuck Yates, Ron Morgan, Sue Dasse, Tod Young, Shelia Zellars, Donna Gilmore, Adam Conner, Aaron Quain, Linda McCann, Jim Hopkins, Mary Ann Phillips, Bill McGuire, and Larry Riffey.*  
**Let the Stanleys know if you have additions or deletions,**

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

**Soup Suppers/Stations of the Cross/Adult Ed-(Peter's Pause)**  
*Starting this Wednesday, February 21 and all Wednesdays throughout Lent, we will have soup supper beginning at 6:15, Stations at 7:00 and Peter's Pause at 7:30, ending at 8:00. Everyone is invited to attend all or some of the activities.*

**Pastoral Council Meeting-***The Pastoral Council will meet on March 3, directly after Mass. All members are asked to please plan to stay for the meeting.*

**Reconciliation-***Father Boat will be hearing confessions any Sunday during Lent before Mass or after Mass. Please make him aware when you want to.*

**Cora's arrangements-***There will be visitation for Cora here at St. Edwards from 10:00-10:45 on Thursday, Feb. 22, with a funeral Mass following at 11:00. We will be providing a meal for family and friends also. The church will provide the meats, but we need parishioners to bring sides and desserts. Planning on about 50-60 people attending. If you cannot attend the service and still want to provide food, please get in touch with us and we will make arrangements to get it.*

**Scrutinies-** *The scrutinies are a series of rites for adults who wish to be baptized. They are celebrated on certain Sundays of the Lenten season. This is considered a period of purification and enlightenment for the elect. Father will say these prayers for our catechumen, Victoria Slayman, on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday's of Lent. Please keep Victoria in your thoughts and prayers as she makes this journey of faith.*

**February Birthdays**

<i>Bill Thompson</i>	<i>Feb. 6</i>
<i>Stephanie Tedesco</i>	<i>Feb. 9</i>
<i>Melody Riffey</i>	<i>Feb. 11</i>
<i>Karen Audas</i>	<i>Feb. 14</i>
<i>Rebecca Harriman</i>	<i>Feb. 15</i>

**February Anniversaries**

<i>John &amp; Mickey Balconi</i>	<i>Feb. 4</i>
<i>Tim &amp; Mariah Taylor</i>	<i>Feb. 29</i>

## **Daily Prayer This Week**

This first week of Lent is the time we are given to begin our Lenten patterns, to re-align our priorities, and to make use of more reflective time each day. It is a time to fast and abstain from those things that hinder our relationship with the Lord, and to consider being more generous to the poor.

As we make this beginning, we are offered some beautiful instruction about what is expected of us. These readings describe a very Jesus-like love. We can examine our care for the hungry, thirsty, naked, sick or imprisoned. We can reflect upon who in our lives needs us and whether we love them as we want to be loved. And we can look at the deeper things, like our anger or how we treat others, and our response to those who are our "enemies." What is most important this first week, beyond a sharper examination of our consciences, is to see this as a time for God's grace to work in us. So, it is a time to ask for the graces we are starting to see we need.

Each morning this week we can ask our Lord to help us focus this day on the neediest people around us. We can ask to begin new patterns this week by practicing special charity and love, where I haven't been so generous or kind before. The key is to ask and to be very specific. Then, throughout the day, we can keep talking with our Lord, in the background about these graces we ask for and the concrete circumstances we find ourselves in. It is in the particular events of our day that we will become attentive to our need for our Lord's presence and grace, as well as our need to choose a new pattern. Each evening, we can briefly review the day and recognize some missed opportunities to connect with the Lord or take advantage of a situation here or there, but most of all, we can thank the Lord for the moments of connection that have begun our Lenten journey.

## **The First Week of Lent**

It is wonderful to see the early weeks of Lent as a catechism for those who are on a journey toward Baptism at the Easter Vigil. Each liturgy offers a new "lesson in the faith" for these new believers. Viewed this way, Lent can be a journey of renewal in faith for us all. We listen, with the hearts of children, learning old lessons, as though for the first time.

And each day, we pray these special prayers that simply help us keep turning to God for the graces we need for the day. Throughout the day, we find moments, perhaps "in the background" while we are doing other things, that help us remember what we are asking for. Our desire grows as we make changes to our daily patterns. As we make sacrifices, in order to experience freedom *from* self-directed needs, we also experience a freedom *for* other-directed love and generosity.