



March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Collection March 10, 2024

Regular Collection	\$ 912.00
Flowers	249.00
Catholic Relief	160.00
Attendance	46

March 24, 2024

Lector: *Guenter Schlottmann*
Commentator: *Debbie Grubb*
Ushers: *Hathaway/McNair*
Eucharist Ministers: *Patty Williams*

Readings for March 24, 2024

Reading 1 Isaiah 50:4-7
 Reading 2 Philippians 2:6-11
 Gospel Mark 14:1—15:47

Prayer List -*Tim Kimbleton, Carol Luttrell, John Balconi, Brenda Lessard, Jody Riffey, Megan Talbert, Rosanna Vallo, Larry Riffey, Mary Ann Phillips, 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, Jim Hopkins, Bill McGuire, Monte Howard, Jim Slusher, and Suzanne Martin.*

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/Peter's Pause

Wednesday night, Mar. 20, we will have our final soup supper beginning at 6:15, Stations at 7:00 and Peter's Pause at 7:30, ending at 8:00. If you can provide soup, please sign up on the sheet in the hall.

Reconciliation- *Father Boat will be hearing confessions any Sunday during Lent before or after Mass.*

Congratulations-*to Thomas Tedesco and Cole Trail who both placed at the recent FBLA competition! Very proud of both of you. Well done!*

Schedule of Services for Holy Week

Mar. 28, Holy Thursday---5:00 Here at St. Edwards
Mar. 29, Good Friday-----5:00 Here at St. Edwards
Mar. 30 Easter Vigil-----8:30 In Wytheville at St. Marys
Mar. 31 Easter Sunday-- 11:00 Here at St. Edwards

March Birthdays

<i>Victoria Slayman</i>	<i>Mar. 2</i>
<i>Barbara Mullins</i>	<i>Mar. 6</i>
<i>Ian Grube</i>	<i>Mar. 8</i>
<i>Lucas Taylor</i>	<i>Mar. 10</i>
<i>Mary Ann Phillips</i>	<i>Mar. 14</i>
<i>John McNair</i>	<i>Mar. 20</i>
<i>Kathy Thompson</i>	<i>Mar. 21</i>
<i>Emilia Mendez</i>	<i>Mar. 22</i>
<i>Guenter Schlottmann</i>	<i>Mar. 23</i>
<i>Madelyn Owen</i>	<i>Mar. 26</i>

March Anniversaries

<i>John & Mary Beth McNair</i>	<i>Mar.14</i>
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Daily Prayer This Week

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 in our own hearts in 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."

