

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Father Bill Fisher, Pastor

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 31, 2021



Prayer for Winter

Lord: In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines - remind us that Easter is but a short time away. *Source: xavier.edu*

Our Parish Family

Our parish has been blessed with your continuing generosity.

Amazon boxes and grocery bags of contributions have filled our rectory. This provides a nutritious lunch for 750 hungry people each month in our Food Kitchen.

Your kind donations to our church have helped us weather the prolonged health crisis. St. John the Baptist Church has been able to continue its Catholic Croatian mission in person for some and online for many.

We are also fortunate to have many parishioners who are charitable with their time. They fulfill numerous duties to keep our church running each day.

Your gifts of time, money and supplies are greatly appreciated. Thank you

Weekly Collections

Jan. 24, 2021

Envelopes:	\$ 5,382
Maintenance:	\$ 320
Candles:	\$ 32
Latin America	\$ 70

Prepare the way for the Lord

Lent will begin soon – on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. The season, which prepares us for the jubilant celebration of Easter (April 4), has a focus on baptism and penance.

This year, the traditional distribution of ashes will be different. Rather than marking a Catholic's forehead with a cross, the priest will sprinkle ashes on the head. This change comes from the Vatican and addresses the health situation caused by COVID-19.

After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water, the priest will address the congregation with "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." The priest will clean his hands, put on a face mask and distribute ashes in silence.

Ash Wednesday originated in the Sixth Century, with the ashes signifying mourning and grief. Traditionally, the ashes are made from the palm fronds of the previous year's Palm Sunday.

Fasting and abstinence are part of our repentance during Lent.

- † Catholics who are 18 through 59 should observe fasting, unless there is a health or other serious reason not to do so.
- † Fasting means you may have one full meal and two smaller meals (not equal to a full meal) each day.
- † The 40 days of fasting include every day of Lent except Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing through Holy Saturday.
- † Catholics who are 14 and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and each Friday during Lent.

The Church also suggests Catholics follow fasting or some other form of self-denial throughout Lent.

It is also recommended that Catholics practice their faith daily through devotions, participation in Holy Mass, praying the rosary or giving service to others.

Sources: Vatican News, Archdiocese of Louisville, crosswalk.org, U.S Conference of Catholic Bishops



*This picture -
"Jesus drives out
a demon or
unclean spirit"
by Count von
Berry.*

*Source:
liturgytools.net*

First Reading

Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.'

And the LORD said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.'"

Responsorial Psalm

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the

LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, Where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties.

An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord. But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is

divided.

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!"

The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.