

Bring a New Church into Being

Last Sunday, anticipating this week ahead with the March 1 celebration of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, I spoke about “when are we building a Church?” That’s right, the final exam question for us as parish/student community (of St. Luke) who have been building the Church since August 1, 2007, and have now created a new home for our Church.

There is so much planning and coordination that goes into building: Church, church or any structure or community. Then it should be no surprise that to create a “holy

temple in the Lord” – us the Church, is also the heart of the Season of Lent. And the heart of the heart of the Season of Lent is the bringing of new members into the body of Christ – through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, the Initiation Sacraments.

If there is a year in the liturgical cycle of the Church that is made for getting to the central initiation themes that bring us together (the fully initiated and those to be newly initiated) it is this year, the Year A cycle of readings. And the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is explicit when it says that when you have adults to be initiated you must use the A-cycle readings for weeks 3,4 & 5, even if it’s year B or C. One other piece of trivia – those same A-cycle readings are set out for use at any daily Mass during the week.

So – get ready for Lent: on Ash Wednesday commit yourself to seeing the Church in new ways. We’ll have a new building, so part of your work is done for you. But whether you are new at this, or an experienced Catholic “Lentener”, it does not hurt to anchor ourselves to the central themes. Here’s a sketch of those themes. Of course, you are going to want to layer on your own takes of “prayer, fasting and almsgiving,” but do so in a way that takes you to a new place by the end of the season.

Ash Wednesday – the prophet Joel tells us “rend your hearts, not your garments.” Matthew sets out prayer, fasting and almsgiving, but not for show. The central theme in following Christ on Ash Wednesday, choose something that has a real impact on you. You don’t have to do a lot; you do have to do it well, and rely ever more fully on Christ.

Lent Sunday 1 – *The Story of Jesus’ temptation by the devil*. It is consoling, I think, for us to know Jesus was tempted and tempted by things that would have put him in command over the world. But his choice was to choose God’s way (for him) first. What are our temptations? Do we put God first?

Lent Sunday 2 – *The Transfiguration of Jesus*. Glory is the theme. The bright light of Christ in his fullness that the devil could not induce the previous week is fully revealed for a brief instance by the Father this week. How do we respond to that? Knowing Christ is God helps us continue to stick with our Lenten resolutions, like runners at aid stations for a marathon.

Lent Sunday 3 – *The Woman at the Well*. The theme is living water. Do we want Jesus, who knows everything we’ve ever done, to give us the living water that will bring healing and refreshment? In the RCIA – this is the first scrutiny. And a scrutiny is simply asking – considering the gospel what is defective in our lives? Can we see those sins and defects? Will we choose to show them to Christ? Will we accept that Christ can heal us? Will we let him? As one catechumen said after baptism, “I left a lot of stuff behind in that living water.” We too are faced with living water.

Lent Sunday 4 – *The Man Born Blind*. The themes: darkness and light, blindness and sight. Having accepted the healing offered last week, will we take the next step of looking at our lives, relationships and intentions with new eyes?

Lent Sunday 5 – *The Raising of Lazarus*. The theme – resurrection and new life. Scrutinies build on each other. For the catechumens who are now “elect” (that is, ready to come into full initiation at the Easter Vigil) this is a crucial point if they are to survive Passion Sunday. Step 1 was accepting Christ (into our lives) to heal, step 2 having insight to see things differently, that prepared us for this 3rd step – the craziness that someone could rise from the dead.

Lent Sunday 6 – *Passion/Palm Sunday*. Triumph & Tragedy – the central theme, the kerygma, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. Know the story. Live the Promise. Lent will end on Thursday of this week, but after Palm Sunday, we sit with the stories and scriptures of Christ as the suffering servant – that’s what we must most hold on to.

And then – having been changed by Christ into his followers, we have brought a new Church into being. The Church is built person by person, each life changed, story shared and we go forward together. Brick by brick, stone by stone, board by board – person by person – but to be built into this new Church is to choose to do it, and understand our need to be sharers of the life of Christ.

Let us pray that this Lent will be successful for us all!

Fr. Brad

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time & Ash Wednesday 2017

Ash Wednesday

Masses at:

9a.m. 7p.m. 9p.m.

10144 42nd Avenue

12:10 Service at

Cook-DeWitt



Readings for February 26 - March 5

Sunday Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 49:14-15; Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34

Monday

Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday

Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17;
2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday Katharine Drexel, Virgin

Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday Casimir

Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday First Sunday of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17;
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11



Parish Center Office

10144 42nd Avenue
Georgetown Township, MI 49428
616-895-2247

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
lukespot.com

Campus Office

Cook-DeWitt Center Rm 120
GVSU
616-331-3131

Monday - Thursday 1:30-4 p.m.
GVSUcatholic.org

PARISH STAFF & CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Brad Schoeberle, CSP	Pastor	frbrad@lukespot.com 616-328-3382
Rev. Chuck Cunniff, CSP	Associate Pastor	frchuck@gvsucatholic.org 616-446-5742
Mr. John Graveline	Faith Formation	JohnG@lukespot.com 616-895-2248
Ms. Caitlin Cusack	Music Ministry	CaitlinC@lukespot.com 616-895-2248
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Saint Luke University Parish
[GVSUCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/GVSUCatholic)

Happening this Week in Our Parish

Sunday (2/26) 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m.	Mass	For Peace-Worldwide	Cook-DeWitt
9:15	Faith Formation (K-2)		Cook-DeWitt
10:30	Mass +	For Those Who have Died	Cook-DeWitt
	Baptism of Rowan Saiorse Pawlik		
5:30 p.m.	Mass	For Our Parish	Cook-DeWitt

Monday (2/27)

7:00 p.m.	Exposition and Adoration	Cook-DeWitt Greenroom
7:00	Reconciliation	Cook-DeWitt Rm 120

Tuesday (2/28)

7:30 p.m.	K of C Officer's Meeting
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Wednesday (3/1) Ash Wednesday

9:00 a.m.	Mass	Thanksgiving for New Church	New Church
12:10 p.m.	Prayer Service		Cook-DeWitt
6:00	Youth Group (6-12)		New Church
7:00	Mass	For RCIA Catechumens & Candidates	New Church
9:00	Mass	For Lenten Conversion	New Church

Thursday (3/2)

8:00 p.m.	Catholic Student Ministry	Kirkhof Rm 2215
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Friday (3/3)

5:00 p.m.	Mass	Safety of GVSU Students	Parish Trailer
5:30	Reconciliation		Parish Trailer

Saturday (3/4)

12:00 p.m.	Rosary	New Church
12:00	Women's Fellowship Flower Arrangement Class	Parish Trailer

Sunday (3/5) 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m.	Mass	New Church
9:30	Eucharistic Minister Update	New Church
10:30	Mass	New Church
5:30 p.m.	Mass	New Church

Ministries for March 5

Lectors

8:00 a.m.	Jaymie Perry (1st), Yvonne Boon (2nd)
10:30	Kali Steck (1st), Deb Morello (2nd)

Altar Servers

8:00 a.m.	Ethan Thomas, Kalib Perry
10:30	Sammi Steck, Garret Zimmerman

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8:00 a.m.	Kim Oostindie, Kim Thomas, Sheryl Horton
10:30	Fr. Brad Schoeberle, Jeanne Staub, Barb & Bruce Grzegorzcyk, Cathy Talbert

Ushers

8:00 a.m.	Dwayne Thomas (lead), Jason Horton, Sue Sandberg, Jerry Casha
10:30	Jason Staub (lead), Jeff Staub, Paul Steck, Joe Morello

Financial Update

January	Envelope	Online	Combined	Budgeted	Over/Behind
Total for Month	\$ 14,241	\$ 7,745	\$ 21,986	\$ 29,300	\$ (7,314)
Weekly Average for Jan.	\$ 2,848	\$ 1,549	\$ 4,397	\$ 5,860	\$ (1,463)
Feb. Month to date	\$ 8,527	\$ 4,440	\$ 12,967	\$ 17,580	\$ (4,613)

Saint Luke University Parish

February 26, 2017
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Volume 11, Number 14
Ministry of the Paulist Fathers

Women's Fellowship Group

A "make and take" event on Saturday, March 4. Scheduled for Noon to 2 p.m. at the office trailer. Elaine Brian has offered to teach us how to do a floral arrangement. Cost is \$20, to cover the cost of flowers, vases, and other supplies that will be used. Bring your own scissors and a sharp knife, and a snack dish to share.

Please contact Elaine with your RSVP, by Ash Wednesday, March 1, so she can have enough supplies for everyone. Not been to a Women's Fellowship event yet? Then come join in the fun, and meet other parishioners.

Soup's on Along the Lakeshore!

Tickets are available for Catholic Charities West Michigan's food pantry fundraiser in Muskegon. The event is *Soup's On Along The Lakeshore!* and will begin at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, at the Trillium Event Center, 17246 Van Wagoner Road in Spring Lake. Enjoy soups donated by local restaurants along with live entertainment throughout the evening. Tickets are \$40 and are available at CCWM's Muskegon office, 1095 Third Street (231-726-4735) or at soupsonforall.org. Event sponsorships available by calling 616-551-5663.

Aquinas College Fine Arts Visit Day

Aquinas College is hosting their 13th annual Fine Arts AQDay for high school students interested in Theatre, Music, Art and Creative Writing. Discover what studying fine arts is like at AQ as you attend interactive and exciting breakout sessions. Please visit aquinas.edu/fad for more details or to register for the event on Friday, March 17 (8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.).

Pray for our Paulist & Diocesan Seminarians

Loving God,
Raise up dedicated leaders who will shepherd your people and guide them to your Son. Give generous and willing hearts to the seminarians who have heard your call to live a life of service to the Church. Help us to encourage and support them as they strive to become priests who are models of discipleship, possessors of wisdom and on fire with love for your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Michael Cruickshank
Seminarian
Home Town:
Chelmsford, MA



Robert Mulderink
Second Year Theology
Home Town:
Grand Rapids, MI

SCRIP

Spring is just around the corner and graduations, weddings, and many other events will soon be filling your calendar. When you're considering gifts, please purchase your prepaid cards from our Scrip program. We have Target; Bed, Bath, & Beyond; Pottery Barn/Williams Sonoma; and Amazon in stock (to name a few) or we can order from over 700 vendors. Many of these vendors also have e-certificates available.

Specials this week are Payless Shoes (18% rebate) & Under Armour (13% rebate). Stock up now for Easter or your Fall back-to-school shopping.



Day of Vocation Discernment

Seven congregations of religious women in the Diocese of Grand Rapids invite young women who are interested in learning more about religious life to a Discernment Retreat at Aquinas College on Saturday, March 25, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending with Mass at 5 p.m.

The congregations include the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus (CDCJ), the Consolata Sisters (MC), the Discalced Carmelite Nuns of Ada, the Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids (OP), the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist (FSE), the Sisters of Saint Paul De Chartres (SPC), and the Trinitarians of Mary (TM).

The cost of the day is \$15, which includes lunch. Pre-registration is required. To register, interested participants are asked to call the Dominican Center at 616-514-3325. The registration deadline is March 11.

Social Justice Gathering

Please join us for Catholic Charities West Michigan's Social Justice Gathering, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 2 at Cathedral Square. The head of the CRS India office, Kirtymaya Mishra, will be our speaker. Come and learn more about the transformative work of CRS. Lunch is provided. A free will offering to cover lunch would be appreciated. R.S.V.P. by Feb. 27 to jbirney@ccwestmi.org or call 616-340-1824. This talk will also be hosted at the Dominican Center at Marywood on the evening of March 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Lent

is March 1, the beginning of the Season of Lent. While Lent is described as being of a duration of 40 days, there are actually 45 days between March 1 and Easter Sunday, which is April 16. You can find different formulas for counting the days of Lent to end up with an even "40." What's essential to us, as people of faith, is the symbolic value of the number. From the flood of Noah, to the Israelites wandering in the desert, to Jesus' own days in the wilderness – "40" conveys a significant duration; a patient trust in God's own time. In our own lives these next 45 days might not seem of a duration long enough for our conversion; but it is a start. Some ways to enhance a change during Lent might be:



PRAYER



FASTING



ALMSGIVING

- **Prayer**
 - Attend daily Mass, at least once a week
 - Spend some extra time, each day, in prayer or spiritual reading
- **Fasting**
 - Give something up (coffee, chocolate, TV show) and give the money/time to charity
- **Acts of charity** (almsgiving)
 - Daily donation of your extra change to the Rice Bowl
 - Help at a soup kitchen or food pantry
 - Help at a Habitat for Humanity build

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

The point of fasting and abstinence is to remind us of our radical need for God's support as we undergo conversion in his love.

- **Ash Wednesday is a day of fast** (for those 18-59 years of age: one full meal and two smaller/lighter meals, with no food between meals) **and abstinence** (14 years and older – cannot eat meat).
- The **Fridays of Lent** are also **days of abstinence**.

Ash Wednesday Liturgies, March 1**NEW Parish Church**

- 9 a.m. – Mass, with distribution of ashes
- 7 p.m. – Mass, with distribution of ashes
- 9 p.m. – Mass, with distribution of ashes

ON CAMPUS Cook-DeWitt auditorium

- 12:10 p.m. – Prayer Service with distribution of ashes



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop



February 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each Lent through our participation in **Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl**, we hear stories from around the world of our brothers and sisters in need. We are challenged to direct our Lenten prayers, fasting, and almsgiving to change the lives of the poor.

Annually, CRS Rice Bowl raises close to \$6 million for Catholic Relief Services; an estimated \$2 million of that total is retained by dioceses in the United States to alleviate hunger and poverty locally.

Last year, our diocese used local funds to support efforts such as the Missions Around Ravenna in Service Food Pantry, an outreach of St. Catherine Parish in Ravenna, and housing repairs for seniors and low income families in Baldwin, a ministry of St. Ann-St. Ignatius Parish in Lake County.

We are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus; going out to the peripheries of society, so that every member of our human family might experience the love of God. In his first Pentecost homily following his election, Pope Francis emphasized the importance of encounter in the Christian faith: "Why? Because faith is an encounter with Jesus, and we must do what Jesus does: encounter others."

I encourage you to support this essential work of the Church. What you give truly makes a difference in the lives of those in need.

On behalf of the poor, both overseas and here in the United States, who benefit from CRS Rice Bowl, I thank you for your prayers and support, which continue to make this program a success. You can read more about the work of CRS by visiting crsricebowl.org

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ David J. Walkowiak

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids



Rice Bowls are available before and after Masses.