



MUSINGS + MESSAGES

⚠ Msgr. John Kasza, Moderator 🆪 frjohn@stol.church

This week, we continue to hear from the fifth chapter of Matthew. The passage immediately follows the Beatitudes and challenges us to be salt and light. In other words, to be "spicy" and "sparkly." We are called to make a difference in the world. We use our gifts and talents to enliven and rejuvenate society. Salt gives flavor. So too should we add zest to life. Light

illuminates the darkness. So too should we brighten up people's lives. We are called to be a "light in the darkness," as Psalm 112 says. But how do we do this? The first reading from Isaiah gives us the roadmap: feed the hungry, shelter the oppressed and homeless, clothe the naked, and do not turn your back on vour own. We are also reminded to remove "oppression, false

accusation and malicious speech" from our midst.

In these few weeks prior to the beginning of Lent, ask yourself, "How have I enlivened and enriched others? What have I done to show others the way to Christ?"

Have a great week.

Connecting Point

2 Deacon Jeff Loeb - St. Isidore Parish // jeff@stisidore.church

How can I be the seasoning in the lives of others?

Jesus reminds us in this week's Gospel message that we are the salt of the Earth. As followers of Christ, we cannot be bystanders. We are the preservative that keeps his word fresh in our world today. The challenge in our world is that many see Christianity as not good seasoning for the world but that which takes the taste out of it! Jesus comes to us to add life he does not take it away. Many people have become so much a part of the world that it becomes difficult to separate the truth from the lure of the subjective. It is from this backdrop that Jesus calls us forth to be the seasoning in the lives of others. How we do that is by being intentional in word and deed. We don't just sit around praying and worshiping amongst ourselves. I read a story on a web page called, Pastor Life and I believe it will add some light for you!

A man walked into a little mom-and-pop grocery store and said, "Do you sell salt?" The man said, "Do we sell salt?! Just look!" The man showed the customer an entire wall of shelves stocked with nothing but salt-Morton salt, iodized salt, kosher salt, sea salt, rock salt, garlic salt, seasoning salt, Epsom salts-every kind of salt imaginable. The customer was amazed. "If you think that's something, come over here." He led the customer to a back room filled with shelves and bins and cartons and barrels and boxes of salt. The customer said, "This is unreal!" The man said, "You haven't seen anything yet." He led the customer down some steps into a huge basement, five times as large as the previous room. It was filled wall-to-wall and floorto-ceiling with every imaginable form, size, and shape of salt you could imagine. The man looked at him and said, "You really do sell salt!" The store owner said, "No, we don't, that's just the problem! We never sell salt. But that salt salesman that comes by every week, boy does he sell salt!"

If we do not get up and get out to be a witness of Christ, then we lose our saltiness. We cannot add flavor to the world. As a people created by a loving creator it seems many have taken a few steps in the wrong direction. Our Lord comes to us through scripture and emphatically



declares we are his salt and light of the Earth. We are baptized to carry on his mission even amid darkness. He beckons those who have fallen away to return to his flock, but this cannot be achieved behind closed doors. Pope Francis said, salt is something to be used, not to keep for oneself, but to give to others. Salt does not flavor itself; it is that which imparts flavor to something else. May the Lord continue to strengthen us to be disciples on the go for our schools, businesses, marketplaces, and leaders in government as we remind others through word and action of the radiance of Christian life.

Spotlight Ministry SVDP

The St. Therese of Lisieux Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), a Catholic organization, is inspired by Gospel values. We are a volunteer-based, direct-aid organization that is dedicated to serving individuals and families in our communities during tough times.

We provide short-term financial assistance, material, and emotional support, and work person-to-person through advocacy, education, and referral efforts to break cycles of poverty, empower people, and promote self-sufficiency. Members of the Society grow both personally and spiritually through fellowship and service to our neighbors.

We have two pantries on site. One is for non-perishable food items, and the other is for household items (i.e., paper/cleaning/personal care).

The continued generosity of the parishioners of St.

Therese of Lisieux Parish allows us to provide limited financial assistance and nonperishable food and household items to our neighbors. We appreciate the continued assistance and support your help provides.

Another way to get involved is to volunteer at a SVdP thrift store. Our conference earns vouchers that are given to the people we serve to purchase clothing, furniture, and other needed goods.

For additional information and/or questions, please contact Dolores Harting, Conference President, at 586.254.4433 x350.





Circle of Friends

Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month. This ministry consists of knitters, crocheters, cross-stitchers, quilters, sewers, and helpers. The group meets for friendly conversation and interpersonal support providing useful items for the larger community through their outreach projects. We donate all items for the Felician Sisters, Friends of Foster Care, local nursing homes, and more.

If you have any of these skills and would like to put them to good use, consider coming to the Circle of Friends, who meet Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Resource Room. For more information, contact Adrianne at 586-323-0543.

EVENTS



NOW UNTIL MON, FEB 20

BROWN BAG PROJECT

Brown bags are available in the Gathering Space. A list of food items, personal care items, gift cards, etc. is attached. Please fill the bags with the requested items and return them by Feb 20.

The project supports: our Parish St. Vincent de Paul and the Agape and St. Francis/St. Max Food pantries. SVDP gift cards may be dropped off at the parish office.



SUN | FEB 12 | AFTER ALL MASSES

SUNDAY, SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

St. Therese Teens will be collecting cash and/or canned goods donations to benefit St. Francis/St. Maximilian

Food Pantry before and after all Masses.



SUN | FEB 12 | AFTER 8 & 9:45 AM MASSES

BREAKFAST BUFFET / BAKE SALE

Join us for the last K of C Breakfast Buffet before Lent. This breakfast includes a variety of pancakes (blueberry pancakes are in big demand), scrambled eggs, sausage, French toast, and biscuits and gravy. A free-will donation (\$5 minimum) is requested. The Knights will also have a bake sale in the Gathering Space.

Donations of baked goods would be much appreciated. Breakfasts will resume after Easter to allow the Knights to concentrate on Fish.



FEBRUARY 13 - 20

BOTTLE & CAN DRIVE

Please donate returnable bottles and cans to benefit the Teen Mission Trip. During weekend Masses, Feb. 18/19, teens will greet you at the doors to accept your donation. Donations made outside of weekend Mass

times can be dropped off to the right of the dumpster on the north side of the building. Please be sure all returnables are empty, clean, and in a plastic bag.

Thank you for your support!



THURS | FEB 16 | 10:00 AM

BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Join us as we discuss *Teresa of Calcutta: Dark Night, Active Love*, by

Jon M. Sweeney. Book Club meets in

the Divine Mercy room and is happy to have new members! Drop in for one book or the whole line up!



SAT | FEB 18 | 5:30 PM DOORS OPEN

MOTHER TERESA - NO GREATER LOVE (MOVIE)

This film reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ via the poor continues to be realized through the Missionaries of Charity today.

Along with viewing this inspiring

box office success, you'll be served: coney dogs, popcorn, chips, and soft drinks. Cost: Free-will donation prior to the showing at 6:00 PM.

Sponsored by: St. Therese Knights of Columbus and Ushers



MON | FEB 20 | 7 PM

ARMOR OF GOD MEN'S GROUP

The St. Therese of Lisieux Knights of Columbus will host a new Men's Faith program beginning Feb. 20 at 7:00 PM in the Divine Mercy Room. Stay tuned for additional program details and session dates.



FRI - SUN | FEB 24 - 26 | ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER

REFLECT WEEKEND

Singles ages mid-30s to 50s: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging in the New Year? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north

of Lansing). Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it!

Cost: \$215 (includes meals and a single room).

Info: ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.

▶ A Successful Season of Giving

♣ John Karski, Christian Service Director
♠ johnc@stol.church

Once again, our parishioners have continued the great tradition of sharing during this past Christmas season. Our parish has always shown a wonderful outpouring of support to those in need, both at Christmas and throughout the year. Adopt-a-Family Program (which



included families and foster kids) received 50 requests for assistance. Of those requests, the parish responded to the needs of 115 children and their parents. Gift cards, purchases, and monetary donations totaled over \$49,000.00, not including the Giving Tree items that were donated. The Giving Tree Program had an estimated 1000 tags taken from the five trees.

Thank you for answering the call to assist those in need. St. Therese of Lisieux Parish Family is a most loving, caring, and giving people of God!

Be the Sign

One of the greatest challenges of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that that almost everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ - at least they think they have. Our 21st-century eyes tell us that the angel who shared the news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had a pretty easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same: to announce the coming of Christ over and over again... everywhere. The big difference is that our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness at the mention of His name. So what do we do and how do we do it? If we walked into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk to them about Jesus, most likely their reaction would be something like, "I already know about Jesus, thanks," or "I've heard of Him and based on the behavior of those who choose to follow Him, I'm not interested in hearing



anymore."

How we announce His salvation becomes very important. We announce it in our actions toward strangers. We announce it in our treatment of others who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us. We announce it in everything we do.

The Israelites had been foretold of the coming of the Messiah for so long, that many of them despaired in His coming. So God gave them a sign: "You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Now, we are the sign. The world has heard of Christ by now, but have they all seen Him? It is our job show them, to be the sign. How will you show them?

Many of the thoughts are from an article written by Tracy Earl Welliver

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 5 - 12

8 AM MASS

9:45 AM **MASS/**

11:40 AM LITTLE LAMBS

11:45 AM **MASS/** CHILDREN'S CHURCH

1 PM THE SEARCH

9:30 AM **STRETCH &** STRENGTH

2 PM **ROSARY**

5 PM **GROW GRADES 1-6**

5 PM MISSION GRADES 7-8

6:30 PM GROW GRADES 1-6

6:30 PM MISSION GRADES

8:30 AM **MASS**

9:30 AM **STRETCH & STRENGTH**

10 AM FOP DISCIPLESHIP **FORMATION MTG**

5:30 PM **CHOIR REHEARSALS**

6:30 PM CHATECHISM IN A YEAR

9:40 AM LITTLE LAMBS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

8:30 AM **MASS** 9:30 AM **WHAT WE**

BELIEVE

11:30 AM **HEALTH MINISTRY MTG**

1 PM CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

1 PM **GRIEF SUPPORT**

5 PM GROW GRADES 1-6

5 PM MISSION GRADES 7-8

6:30 PM **GROW GRADES**

6:30 PM MISSION GRADES

8:30 AM **MASS**

9 AM **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

9:30 AM CHATECHISM IN A YEAR

3 PM CONFESSIONS 6:30 PM MS SUPPORT

GROUP 7 PM THE SEARCH

8.30 AM MASS 9:30 AM **STRETCH &** STRENGTH

10 AM FUNERAL -PITTMAN

SAT

4:30 PM **MASS**

8 AM MASS

9:45 AM **MASS/ CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

11:45 AM **MASS/ CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

1 PM **BAPTISM**

1 PM THE SEARCH

Discipleship Formation

Peggy Casing, Discipleship Formation Director 🖪 peggyc@stol.church

Walking the Path

I wrote about the real presence in the Eucharist last week. In that article, I talked about research done by Pew Research Center in 2019. In their study, they found that only one-third of U.S. Catholics believe that the Eucharist is, truly, the body and blood of Christ. They also asked whether study participants even knew the Church's teaching on transubstantiation (the word used for the transformation of the bread and wine into the Sacred Species). Most of the weekly Mass attendees reported that they knew the Church's teaching on the issue, but almost half of those affirming their understanding say that the



bread and wine are mere symbols. For those that attend Mass monthly, vearly, or seldom, the numbers are quite abysmal.

I'm not a huge fan of focusing on the negative of any topic. When we do, we can get mired in the negativity and lose focus on any possible solutions or ways of moving forward. Instead, I choose to focus on any bright spots. The one that stood out, for me, surrounded the fact that belief in the real presence increased with the individual's level of

education. Contrary to so many of my assumptions about college leading people away from the Church and belief in its teachings, the Pew study affirmed the opposite. What does that tell me? It tells me that, often, it is the fact that people just don't know what they don't know. How do we fix that? By spreading the word.

So many aspects of the faith are difficult to explain because of the words used or their underlying principles. The Eucharist is not. Why do we believe that the bread and wine turn into the Body and Blood of Jesus? We believe because he said so. What's another reason that we believe? We believe in this great leap of faith because it is the same leap of faith that the first disciples were expected to take, as recorded in the scriptures. As with so many things in life, spreading the message of the Eucharist will be simple, but not easy. How, then, can we spread the word? -Through our own witness! Here is an example:

Joe Paprocki is a well-known leader in religious formation circles. In an article entitled, "Teaching the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist," He shares the story of his mother's first "lesson" that helped to prepare her to "see with her heart," making her predisposed to receive the sacrament. He begins, "One of the best examples I ever heard of someone doing this effectively was the woman who introduced my mom to the Eucharist when my mom was 13 years old. Mom grew up under very difficult circumstances, and her parents never had her baptized or brought to the sacraments. Her best friend at the time, however, was a very devout Catholic, and Mom tagged along with her (Ramona) wherever she went-including church. My mom grew curious about the Communion Rite and asked Ramona's mom, 'What do you go up there to get?' Ramona's mom broke into a big smile and said, 'Oh, Babe (my mom's nickname), the greatest gift you can ever dream of receiving!""

May we all pray for the grace to have the ability to spread that message!



Little Lambs Sunday School is for all children ages 3 to 5. Drop in and join the fun at any 9:45 or 11:45 Mass in the Resource Room. This is a great way for young ones to hear bible stories and music, pray, and do some arts & crafts. Registration is not required.



Children's Church is for children in grades 1-5. They will hear the Gospel, break it down, and return for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. All are welcome!



Group Mission Trip

Limited spots are still available for your teen. A non-refundable \$50/person deposit is needed immediately. Please make checks out to St. Therese of Lisieux with note "2023 Teen Mission Trip" and bring to the office. For questions, call Paul Candela at (810) 523-6818 or email candelas@wowway.com.

Commotio Cordis

Health Ministry | ♣ Marilyn Cito, Parish Nurse **4** marilync@stol.church

If you are like a lot of people, you saw or heard about a young, professional football player who suffered a cardiac arrest a few weeks ago on the playing field-to the horror of everyone watching the game. Damar Hamlin, 24 years of age of the Buffalo Bills, was tackling a member of the opposing team (in a seemingly routine play that did not look unusually violent), when he was hit in the chest by the opposing team member's shoulder. Hamlin then wrapped his arms around the opposing team member's shoulder to drag him down and then stood up, adjusted his face mask, and about three seconds later, fell backwards and lay motionless. Hamlin suffered a cardiac arrest and was down for 19 minutes while receiving medical attention. During this time, an automatic defibrillator (AED) was placed on Hamlin and CPR was administered. In the end, both of these things saved this young man's life.

Although it is not confirmed at this time, some cardiologists speculate Hamlin suffered a rare type of trauma called commotio cordis, which occurs when a severe blow to the chest happens at a critical time during a heartbeat. This only happens during a rare set of circumstances when a sharp hit lands directly over the person's heart at the exact wrong location

and exactly at the wrong time of the heartbeat. The impact causes the heart to convert to an abnormal heart rhythm (ventricular fibrillation) and cardiac arrest happens.

Usually, cardiac arrests that occur on the playing field are associated with previously diagnosed or undiagnosed structural or primary electrical cardiac abnormalities (e.g., cardiomyopathy or congenital conditions). In general, underlying heart disease is the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest, even if the players are young.

One of the most important things to mention here is that this young man's life was saved because of people who were trained in CPR and the use of an automatic defibrillator. More than 365,000 people in the U.S. have sudden cardiac arrests in non-hospital settings each year, according to the American Heart Association, and survival depends on quick CPR and shocking the heart back into a normal rhythm, as reportedly happened with Hamlin. If there is one teachable moment to talk about, it is that everyone should learn how to do CPR. The one you save could be your loved one!

St. Therese of Lisieux will be holding a Family and Friends CPR class on Sunday, April 23, 2023 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM and again on Sunday, October 15, 2023 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. Although both of these dates are far off, you might want to mark the dates on your calendar and make it a point to come and learn CPR. If these dates don't work for you, or you would like to find an earlier class, numerous CPR classes offered in the community, such as the at the Red Cross or community courses.

Take care and God Bless.

References

 https://www.clickondetroit.com/sports/2023/01/03/ explainer-what-happened-to-damar-amlin/?utm_ content=30148281&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_ medium=email&utm_campaign=Endplay&utm_ term=wdiv morningreport

We pray for the sick...

Asterisk denotes newly added name

Adhikary, Erica Adhikary, Holden **Baby Scarlett** Bacheldor, Mary Beninati, Patricia Binkowski, Madeleine Boddy, Dorothy Cassidy, Barb* Denton, Eden Fisher, Ann Fisher, Dick* Fox, Diana France, Jim Geiger, Betty Gorny, Theresa Greathouse, Diana Greathouse, Paul Haarz, Claudia Haigh, Jim Helchowski, Greg* Horlocker, Kathy* Horn, Fr. Joe Jachcik, James Jachcik, Nancy Jachcik, Shirley* Kmiec, Eileen Kneebone, Raymond Kurti, Antonio Kurti, Violeta Lavers, Karen Lawroski, Karen Leo, Norman Mackowiak, Elaine Maliskey, Barbara Maliskey, Larry Martin, Daniel Montpas, Marylou Mooney-Hill, Marilyn Moreno, Nancy Morrison, Landon

Novak, Carol

Oleszkowicz, Bonnie Oliver, Clare O'Parka, Charisse Papp, Kimberly Parisi, Vita Patterson, David Pelc, Jeff Polidori, Santino Poma, Theresa Quni, Vittore Reed, Steel Reynolds, Mildred Roberts, Arnold Rutz, Ken Ryan, Mary S. Catherine Samulski, Donna Sandstrom, Patricia Sayen-Bazinet, Shari Schrock, Karen Shepherd, Chase Shock, Payton Hope Shumaker, Natalie Snodgrass, Doris Sorel, Jason Spencer, Jeanne Sterling, Carol Sterling, George Tamulevich, David Taylor, Anthony* Tiedt, Tom Tranchida, Melody Trotto, Patricia Tuchowski, Gloria VanDerhagen, Barbara VanDerhagen, Rich VanDerhagen, Rick Veilleux, Becky Victor, Fr. Ron

Wigginton, Jim

Ministry Schedule

SAT | FEB 11 4:30 PM

Lector 1: Rick Fisher Lector 2: Paul Bieber

Altar Servs: Audrey M., Danielle M., Ann Marie O.

Usher Team 7: Art Wilson

SUN | FEB 12 8:00 AM

Lector 1: Marilyn Kylmala Lector 2: Janet Webster Altar Servs: Sarah H. Usher Team 8: Deam Corsi

SUN | FEB 12

9:45 AM

Lector 1: Carol Nehra

Lector 2: Volunteer Needed

Altar Servs: Leah B., Chloe R., Makaela R.

Usher Team 5: Dennis Westerlund

SUN | FEB 12 11:45 AM

Lector 1: Fiorino DiGregorio Lector 2: Norma DiGregorio Altar Servs: Matthew D., Joe W. Usher Team 6: Jack Simonetta

Mass Intentions

SAT. FEB 4 4:30 PM

- † Helen Frankowski (12th Anniv)
- **†** Anthony DeBord
- **†** Alfred Saam Christina Franzese
- † Margaret Mary Adams
- **†** Joe Basirico
- † Michael Dolsen
- **†** Gerald Dolsen
- † Tom Schankin

SUN. FEB 5 8:00 AM

- † Dominica (Mickie) Kroetsch
- **†** Karen (KT) McCormack (B-day)
- † Florence Palka
- **†** Robert Dennis Roberts
- † Jerry Moceri

SUN. FEB 5 9:45 AM

- † Giovanni Iulianelli
- Mary & Angie Gugliemetti
 John & Chris Chryczyk (35th Wed Anniv)
- **†** Bozena Kotwisa (Healing)
- **†** Michle Benacquista
- † Angela LaMarra Luigi LaMarra Angelina Yaro (Birthday)

SUN. FEB 5 11:45 AM

- † Martin Gjolaj
- † Stefana Moceri

- † Carlo Manzella
- † Caterina Francoforte
- **†** Salvatore DiMartino
- † Vincenzo Candela
- + Angelo Genovese
- **†** Salvatore Genovese

TUES. FEB 7 8:30 AM

Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life

† Dominica (Mickie) Kroetsch (1st Anniv) Stefano Hajgato, Magdalene Yaro

WED. FEB 8 8:30 AM

† Judy Brusate

THURS, FEB 9 8:30 AM

† Rose Mary Williamson (Bday)

FRI. FEB 10 8:30 AM

- † Mary Nitz (18th Anniv)
- † Jess Weaver
- † John Couwlier

SAT. FEB 11 4:30 PM

- **†** Alfred Saam
- † Joe Basirico

† Michael Dolsen

- **†** Gerald Dolsen
- † Rose Gambino DiNoto
- † Mario Baldinelli
- † Delita Baldinelli
- † David Baldinelli

SUN. FEB 12 8:00 AM

† Karen Lawroski Helena Dudojc (Bday) Intentions for the Franzese Family

SUN. FEB 12 9:45 AM

- † Mary Kopicki
- **†** George & Peggy Ciolli
- † Dolores Garavaglia
- † Frank Bara (15th Anniv)
- † Oma Lilo Nardi
- + Frank Sabo (15th Anniv)
- **†** Frank Chryczyk
- **†** Gerald Moceri

SUN. FEB 12 11:45 AM

- † Rocco Ruggirello
- **†** Jess Weaver

Magdelene Yaro (Healing)

† Adrian Ossowski

Fr. Joseph Galic, OFM (Bday)

† Joseph & Mary Gulding

Readings

SUNDAY

Is 58:7-10;

Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9;

1 Cor 2:1-5;

Mt 5:13-16

MONDAY

Gn 1:1-19;

Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 & 12, 24

& 35c; Mk 6:53-56

WEDNESDAY

TUESDAY

Mk 7:1-13

Gn 1:20 -2:4a;

Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9;

Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30;

Mk 7:14-23

THURSDAY

Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5;

Mk 7:24-30

FRIDAY

Gn 3:1-8;

Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7;

Mk 7:31-37

SATURDAY

Gn 3:9-24;

Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13;

Mk 8:1-10

SUNDAY

Sir 15:15-20;

Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34;

1 Cor 2:6-10;

Mt 5:17-37

Get In Touch

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday Closed

Saturday 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch 12 - 1 PM (Mon-Thurs)

Bulletin Question?

Please direct all inquiries to Matt: bulletin@stol.church

Content is due ten days in advance and must be submitted online at **stol.church/bulletin**