THE BULLETIN



February 25, 2024
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT





#CONNECTINGPOINT

MUSINGS + MESSAGES

Amsgr. John Kasza, Moderator frjohn@stol.church

The second Sunday of Lent is often known as Transfiguration Sunday because of the scene described in today's Gospel passage. Tradition holds that the apostles experienced the transfiguration of Jesus approximately 40 days before his death on the cross. Liturgically, the transfiguration is the pre-

figuring of the glorification of Jesus, which happens after the Calvary experience.

But today's readings also remind us of our future glorification. We are predestined for heaven, provided that we want to go there. God has prepared a place for us and intends to gather his chosen ones into his kıngdom.

In this second week of Lent, we are well into our journey. We are looking forward to the feast of Easter, yet we know that a long road is still ahead of us. The challenge is to keep the faith. Paul's letter to the Romans gives us hope that nothing can be against us when God is for

continued on page 7

2 FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Connecting Point

Amatt Kush, St. Isidore 🚀 matt@stisidore.church

What is God calling me to sacrifice?

The first words we hear this Sunday in the Liturgy of the Word are "God put Abraham to the test." This week's Connecting Point and Lent, in general, are God putting each one of us to the test, but, unlike Abraham, we get to choose the test.

God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. As a parent, it's impossible to fathom Abraham's courage and trust in God to be willing to do this. As a parent, I would do anything to save my child, including sacrificing myself, as I am sure most parents would agree.

While not quite on the same level, each Lent, most Catholics look for something to give up (i.e., sacrifice) for the duration of the season as a form of fasting. It is often a small pleasure or indulgence, but it is a sacrifice for us, nonetheless. Like me, you may choose the same sacrifice each year, but this Sunday's

Connecting Point asks us to rethink our fasts.

The question isn't what we want to sacrifice but what God calls us to sacrifice. Each reading this Sunday involves listening to God, which is how we can differentiate those two ideas. To learn what God was calling him to do, Abraham had to listen. Then, in the Gospel, when Jesus and his disciples went up the mountain, God told the disciples to listen to Jesus.

We know that we need to listen, but sometimes, we only hear what we want to hear and block out the rest. If you are fasting from a small pleasure or indulgence, it's not too late to stop, listen to God, and pray on what may be a more meaningful sacrifice on your Lenten journey. True sacrifice allows us to be imitators of Christ, thereby sharing in his suffering, fostering a deeper connection



with Jesus, and acknowledging his sacrifice for our sins.

Overall, the sacrifice of fasting during Lent is not just about abstaining from food or certain pleasures; it's a holistic spiritual practice designed to bring us closer to God and better prepare us to celebrate his Resurrection at Easter. So, what are you going to sacrifice from this point forward?

Communal Reconciliation Services with Individual Absolution:

St. Isidore Monday, March 18 7:00 PM **St. Lawrence**Wednesday, March 20
7:00 PM

St. Kieran Saturday, March 23 1:00 PM **St. John Vianney** Monday, March 25 7:00 PM

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 3

25

- 9 AM OFFICE HOURS
- 8 AM MASS
- 9:45 AM MASS/LITTLE LAMBS/CHILDREN'S CHURCH
- 11:45 AM MASS/LITTLE LAMBS/CHILDREN'S CHURCH
- 1 PM **BAPTISM**

26

- 9:30 AM STRETCH & STRENGTH
- 2 PM **ROSARY**
- 6 PM LENTEN FAMILY EVENT

27

- 7 AM **AA MEETING**
- 7 AM **ELECTION PRIMARY**
- 8:30 AM **MASS**
- 9:30 AM LECTIO: THE CASE FOR JESUS
- 11:30 AM **FOP LEADERSHIP MTG**

MTG
1 PM GRIEF SUPPORT

28

- 8:30 AM **MASS**
- 9:30 AM STRETCH & STRENGTH
- 4:30 PM TEENS STATIONS OF THE CROSS REHEARSAL
- 5:30 PM CHOIR REHEARSALS

29

- 7 AM **AA MEETING**
- 8:30 AM **MASS**
- 9 AM EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- **3 PM CONFESSIONS**
- 7 PM CBS OF MICHIGAN

- 8:30 AM **MASS**
- 9:30 AM STRETCH AND STRENGTH
- 4 PM K OF C FISH FRY
- 7 PM TEENS STATIONS OF THE CROSS
- 7:45 PM EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SAT

- 10 AM FIRST EUCHARIST WORKSHOP
- 4:30 PM **MASS**

NOS

3

9 AM OFFICE HOURS

- 8 AM MASS
- 9:45 AM MASS/LITTLE LAMBS/CHILDREN'S CHURCH
- 10:45 AM **OCIA**
- 11:45 AM MASS/LITTLE LAMBS/CHILDREN'S CHURCH

EVENTS



FRI | THROUGH MAR 22 | 4 - 7 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY

Fish Fries are back with a new option of pierogi dinners to compliment our existing dinners of fried and baked fish and shrimp. Fish, pierogi, and shrimp dinners are \$13, and a mac & cheese dinner is \$7. All include:

- choice of baked potato, French fries or a scoop of mac & cheese
- choice of vegetable, salad or coleslaw
- · roll with butter

Dessert and extra fish, shrimp, or pierogi available at an add'l cost. A 50/50 raffle will be held. Credit cards accepted. Dine-in, drive-thru, and carry-out service available.



SUN | FEB 25 | AFTER ALL MASSES

K OF C COFFEE & DONUTS

The Knights of Columbus are hosting Coffee and Donuts after all Masses on Sunday, Feb. 25. Fill up your cup spiritually at Mass and then see the Knights in the Gathering Space for your fill of coffee, donuts, and fruit. You are invited to linger awhile as you visit with your fellow parishioners.



MON | FEB 26 | 6 - 8 PM

LENT QUEST

The Lent Quest is a unique opportunity for families to come together in prayer, reflection, and action during the days leading up to Easter. It's a chance for us to grow

closer to God and each other as we journey through this sacred season. Visit disciplesunleashed.org/lent-quest for more information.



TWO SESSIONS AVAILABLE | ST. FRANCIS-ST. MAXIMILIAN

DISCOVER THE REST OF THE STORY! WHERE IS YOUR DESERT?

Our spiritual journey can often feel like a desert. There is more than sand and sagebrush. Join us at St. Francis-St. Maximilian, 62811 New Haven Road, Ray, MI 48096, **twice:** **Evening Session**: Monday, Feb. 26 starts with a potluck at 6:30 PM. Please bring enough for you and some to share.

Morning Session: Thursday, Feb. 29 begins at 10 AM, but please join us for Mass at 9 AM!



SAT, MAR 2 AT ST. ISIDORE OR SAT, MAR 16 AT ST. THERESE

LITURGICAL MINISTERS RETREAT: LISTENING, LOVING, BECOMING

Enjoy a few hours in community with your fellow ministers learning, reflecting, and praying together. Two sessions available:

Sat, Mar 2 at St. Isidore

9 AM - Noon

Continental breakfast provided.

Register at 586-286-1700

Sat, Mar 16 at St. Therese

1 - 4 PM

Light lunch provided.

Register at 586-254-4433

Admission is free.



SUN | MAR 3 | ST. FRANCIS-ST. MAX / ST. ISIDORE

I AM HERE

Join us for an evening of witnessing the power of Jesus' real presence in the Holy Eucharist. Be inspired by the testimonies of real people and be renewed in your devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Brought to you by the Disciples Unleashed Family of Parishes.

St. Francis- St. Maximilian Kolbe following the 12:30 PM Mass (SPANISH)

OR

St. Isidore

following the 5:30 PM Mass (ENGLISH)



WED | MAR 6 | 9:30 AM

WIDOWERS' SOCIAL SUPPORT MEN'S GROUP

The St. Therese Health Ministry invites parish men who have lost a spouse to join us on Wednesday, Mar. 6 at 9:30 AM. We also hope to schedule future gatherings or social events to foster friendships.

If you have questions, contact
Donna Ludwig at 586-212-0049, Sue
Verellen at 586-822-6063, or Marilyn
Cito at 586-254-4433 Ext 320 or via
email at Marilync@stol.church.

EVENTS (CONT'D)



THU | MAR 7 | 12:30 - 1:30 PM

HAND ARTHRITIS LECTURE

Following Rambling Roses, St.
Therese will host a lecture on arthritis of the hand, pain, and treatment options. Fabiha Nishat, OTR, from Plymouth Physical Therapy Specialists will present.

Since a light lunch will be provided, please RSVP with the parish office at 586-254-4433 or Marilyn Cito, parish nurse, at 586-254-4433 Ext. 320 or via email at Marilync@stol.church.



SAT | MAR 16 | 5:45 PM | ST. FRANCIS-ST. MAXIMILIAN

K OF C EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

Join the St. Francis-St. Maximilian K of C for a fun-filled night of euchre on Saturday, Mar. 16! A \$20 ticket at the door gets you a spot in the tournament, pizza, and snacks.

Doors will open at 5:45 PM, and the cards will start flying at 6:30 PM! If you have any questions, call John and Grace Van Hamme at 810-343-8011 or 810-343-8005.

Lent Quest

Lent Quest is a unique opportunity for families to come together in prayer, reflection, and action during the days leading up to Easter. It's a chance for us to grow closer to God and each other as we journey through this sacred season. Families will journey through the Stations of the Cross and explore the three ideas of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Each interactive station will flex the creativity of every participant involved, promising a fun and engaging Lenten opportunity. We are offering three sessions: Feb. 26, Mar. 11, and Mar. 12, each taking place from 6 to 8 PM.

Visit disciplesunleashed.org/lentquest to sign up.

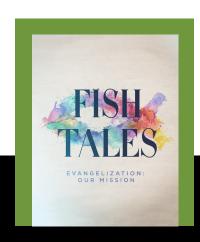


Musings + Messages (cont'd)

us. God was for Abraham and Isaac, God was for the people of Israel, God was for Jesus, and God is for us. God wants what is best for us and desires that we follow the path of righteousness.

So we can say along with Peter, "It is good that we are here!" It is always

good to be in the presence of the Lord. This Lent, avail yourself of the opportunity to place yourself in God's presence whenever possible.



The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross represent events from Jesus' passion and death. At each station, we use our senses and imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection.

- Jesus is condemned to death: Pontius Pilate condemns Jesus to death.
- 2. Jesus takes up his cross: Jesus willingly accepts and patiently bears his cross.
- **3. Jesus falls the first time:** Weakened by torments and loss of blood. Jesus falls beneath his cross.
- **4. Jesus meets his sorrowful mother:** Jesus meets his mother, Mary, who is filled with grief.
- Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross:Soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross.
- **6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus:** Veronica steps through the crowd to wipe the face of Jesus.
- **7. Jesus falls a second time:** Jesus falls beneath the weight of the cross a second time.
- **8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem:** Jesus tells the women to weep not for him but for themselves and

their children.

- **9. Jesus falls the third time:** Weakened almost to the point of death, Jesus falls a third time.
- **10. Jesus is stripped of his garments:** The soldiers strip Jesus of his garments, treating him as a common criminal
- **11. Jesus is nailed to the cross:** Jesus' hands and feet are nailed to the cross.
- **12. Jesus dies on the cross:** After suffering greatly on the cross, Jesus bows his head and dies.
- **13. Jesus is taken down from the cross:** The lifeless body of Jesus is tenderly placed in the arms of Mary, his mother.
- **14. Jesus is laid in the tomb:** Jesus' disciples place his body in the tomb. The closing prayer reflects on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Make a commitment to attend the Stations of the Cross one time this Lenten Season. 8 FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Walking the Path

Discipleship Formation | ♣ Peggy Casing, D.F. Director **4** peggyc@stol.church

Over the past few weeks, I've been discussing different documents providing information and inspiration for Catholics. But what if you aren't much of a reader or you want to be but struggle to find the time? Online and electronic resources can be the answer. Here, I'll list a few of my "go-to" places for making it easier or more user-friendly when studying the faith or seeking meaningful content. For each item I list. I have also included some of my "tricks of the trade" for saving time and finding more comprehensive opportunities for their use.

The first and best source for everything "bible" is the U.S. bishop's website. If you go to bible.usccb.org, you'll find the entire New American Bible -Revised Edition, including the introduction to each book, footnotes, and more, I know many Catholics who lament the fact that they don't understand the bible, yet they haven't ever read any of the explanatory features in the text. This Lent. I challenge you to read at least the introduction to the book of Mark. Why Mark? Mark is an excellent place to start because this year's gospel readings will be taken predominantly from his gospel. Here is something else

- to consider: This online source of the text can be easily copied and pasted into any of your documents. Why waste time? If I want to include scripture in a card or letter, I copy and paste it. It means that the result is far more likely to be accurate, and it only took me seconds to include it.
- I know this isn't news, but the next place a reluctant or busy reader can go to to make bible study easier is Fr. Mike Schmitz's "Bible in a Year." Fr. Mike reads the bible to you and provides explanation and prayer. Whether you go to YouTube or download the app on your phone, it is a great way to learn more about the bible and make it meaningful for your life. Pick a device and search. One thing you might not know, however, is that if you visit the Ascension Press website to find the audio recordings, you will find that all of the previous and future days are available to listen to. That way, you can listen at your own pace, never waiting for a new download!
- Finally, if you seek Catholic videos, your first stop is accessing them via Formed.

 org. St. Therese Parish pays for a membership to this treasure trove of resources. If you find

that you are looking for more. however, take a look at those from Bishop Barron. Keying in "Bishop Barron on... (then whatever Catholic/Christian topic you are looking for)" usually provides a good result. I also like "Breaking in the Habit" with Fr. Casey Cole and his fellow Franciscans. Check out their website with links to their videos, a newsletter, a blog, and more. Fr. Casey explains things in an approachable way. Some of the best videos I've shown in adult formation have come from him.

These are just a few of the places that I visit online. Gone are the days when we didn't have access to videos or other forms of engaging media. It is a good time to be a Catholic!

Women and Heart Disease

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

In the United States, one in 4 women die of cardiovascular disease. compared to 1 in 38 women who die of breast cancer. While the actual numbers of deaths from heart disease have declined among both men and women, more women die of cardiovascular disease each year than men. In fact, rates of heart disease among younger women (aged 35 to 54) are actually increasing, a trend thought to be attributable to obesity. Rates of heart disease are higher among black women and Hispanic women compared to non-Hispanic Caucasian and Asian women.

The most common cause of heart disease in both men and women is narrowing or blockage of the coronary arteries, the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart itself. This is called coronary artery disease, and it happens slowly over time. It's the major reason people have heart attacks. Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among women. On average, women develop cardiovascular disease about 10 years later than men. It is thought that this difference is at least partially due to protective hormonal effects because women's risk increases after menopause.

Many of the risk factors for

cardiovascular disease are lifestyle behaviors. Diet, exercise, tobacco use, alcohol consumption, overweight, psychosocial stress, and depression are all significant risk factors. The good news is that these factors are largely modifiable.

Medical conditions such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol also increase women's risk of heart disease. Women are more likely than men to have multiple risk factors. Women also have higher risks of mortality (death) when they have multiple conditions; for example, women with diabetes have an increased risk of dying of cardiovascular disease compared to men with diabetes.

It is important to note that women sometimes experience lesser-known symptoms of heart disease. For example, women may feel more shortness of breath, fatigue, abdominal pain, nausea, left-arm or neck pain, in addition to chest pain or pressure than men. Women need to pay special attention to their body and if they don't feel well, or feel something is not right, they should immediately consult with their doctor or healthcare provider.

Tests and procedures for diagnosing coronary heart disease are

very similar for women, but yet women may experience delays in diagnosis or treatment. That is why it is important for women to be knowledgeable about the different diagnostic tests and treatments available for heart disease. Know your risk factors for heart disease and make sure your doctor knows them too, if you have not discussed them with him before. It is for all of these reasons that women be well educated about what they can do to prevent heart disease, and the types of treatment that should be recommended if they

Adapted from:www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics/ coronary-heart-disease & www.medicinenet.com/ heart_disease_in_women

do have heart disease. With this

their own best health care.

knowledge, women can advocate for

Help Us, Help Others

Every Friday during Lent, at the Knights of Columbus fish fry, representatives from the Circle of Friends will sell raffle tickets for the chance to win a beautiful quilt. The cost is \$2 for one ticket and \$10 for 6. The proceeds will go to help various community outreach programs. The drawing for this quilt will take place on Mar. 22. Please stop by their table and support their cause.



Fish Fry Delivery for the Homebound

We are offering deliveries of our K of C's fish fry dinners to homebound parishioners. If you are interested in having these dinners delivered or volunteering to deliver them, please contact Marilyn Cito, Parish Nurse, at marilync@stol. church or (586) 254-4433 Ext. 320.

Ministry Schedule

SAT | MARCH 2 4:30 PM

Lector 1: Erin Lenzini Lector 2: Carrie Dekoski

Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed Usher Team 3: Matt Stephan

SUN | MARCH 3

Lector 1: Paul Wilhelm
Lector 2: Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed
Usher Team 4: Tomaz Dopico

SUN | MARCH 3 9:45 AM

Usher Team 1: Ann King

Lector 1: Carol Nehra Lector 2: Volunteer Needed Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed

SUN | MARCH 3

Lector 1: Iolanda Agazzi Lector 2: Volunteer Needed Altar Servers: Volunteer Needed Usher Team 2: Sam Guzzardo

Rice Bowl Collection

John Karski, Director of Evangelical Charity / johnk@stol.church



Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl has been CRS' Lenten faith-inaction program for families and faith communities. What better way to share what God gave us than with those who have lost everything or never had anything to begin with? Rice bowls are available in the Gathering Space for anyone wishing to participate in this program. The program will continue through Easter Sunday.

Fish Fry Volunteers Needed!

Our K of C Fish Fries are back! St. Therese has one of the best fish fries in the area, but volunteers are needed to make it happen.



We need volunteers on the following dates: March 1, 8, 15, and 22 to do the following jobs:

- Dishwashing: two shifts,
 4 6 PM and 6 8 PM
- Social Hall cleanup: 6:30 8 PM

Various other tasks need to be done during the evening. You can volunteer for one of two shifts:

Early: 3:45 - 5:45 PMLate: 5:45 - 7:45 PM

If you are willing to donate some time to make this a great fish fry or would like more volunteer information, please contact Diane Kuptz at 586-747-3591 or dkuptz04@comcast.net.

Volunteers are also needed after each Friday morning Mass to help package condiments for the evening dinners. Simply go to the Social Hall after Mass. We will be happy to see you there.

Spotlight on the Usher/Greeter Ministry

At St. Therese, the ushers/greeters are the parish's welcoming ministry. The role of the usher/greeter is to greet and assist in seating guests and parishioners. During Mass, an usher will help take up the collection and offertory gifts, direct parishioners during communion, assist those with special needs, and distribute weekly bulletins at the end of Mass. We have eight teams scheduled to serve every other week on a rotating Mass-time schedule.

"As far as when I became an usher, it was something I didn't really consider. In fact, when I was approached by a very enthusiastic person about joining the ministry, I tried everything I could think of to

dissuade this person that I was not interested in joining. Fortunately, her persistence was enough for me to at least give it a try. The rest is history. It turned out that it was one of the most impactful moments in my life. Joining this ministry has led me to meet and be a part of people's lives that have impacted me in many positive ways. It's one of the ways that the ministry gives back tenfold. Today, I try to be like that enthusiastic person who brought me in years ago. If you are interested in joining the ministry at St. Therese to become an usher/greeter, please contact the St. Therese parish office at (586) 254-4433."

-Fran Fata









Mass Intentions

SAT. FEB 24 4:30 PM

- † Joe Basirico Luke Czach
- † Raymond White
- † Delita Baldinelli
- † David Baldinelli
- † Sophie Pasternak
- † Gary Fix
- † Natalie Shumaker Stefano Hajgato

SUN. FEB 25 8:00 AM

† Maureen Karges (3rd anniv.) Nasser Kosa (Healing) Ophelia Nisnisan (Bday)

SUN. FEB 25 9:45 AM

- † Carmine Russo
- † Eleanor DeBano
- † Tara Gluski
- † Joe DeBenedetti

SUN. FEB 25 11:45 AM

For the People of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish

- † Rachel Lemmon
- † James Blaisdell, Jr
- † George Calabrese
- † Drana Bojaj
- † Jennifer Yatuoma
- † Frank Bologna
- † Joe DiSanto (10th anniv.)
- † Gjergj Selmani
- † Pjeter Selmani

TUES. FEB 27 8:30 AM

For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

[†] Tom Westerlund

WED. FEB 28 8:30 AM

† Jerry Kennedy

THU. FEB 29 8:30 AM

- † Ken Dekoski (4th anniv.)
- † Dave Kuptz
- † Pelagia Montemayor (Bday)
- † Gloria Sauceda

FRI. MAR 1 8:30 AM

- † Mary Servitto
- † Hub Kraemer
- † Leonard Grammatico (1st anniv.)
- † Vernon Konczal
- † Ray White

SAT. MAR 2 4:30 PM

For the Intentions in Our Prayer Box For the People of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish

- † Joe Basirico
- † Hana Dedvukaj
- † Alfred Saam
- † Dennis Stroh
- † Robert Piazza (11th anniv.)
- † Eleanor DeBano
- † Age Selmani
- † Kol Selmani

SUN. MAR 3 8:00 AM

For the Intentions in our Prayer Box

- † Michael Perry
- Nasser Kosa (Healing)
- † Robert Francis Ulrich
- † Ernest Breitschuh
- † Frank Addotta

SUN. MAR 3 9:45 AM

For the Intentions in Our Prayer Box

- † George Finn
- † George & Peggy Ciolli
- † Giuseppi Russo (Bday)
- † Antonino Finazzo (Bday) Richard & Delphine Pazin (65th anniv.)
- † Jennifer Yatooma
- † Dorothy Kondrat Anton Sinistaj (Bday)

SUN. MAR 3 11:45 AM

For the Intentions in Our Prayer Box

- † Mary Costanzo, Frank Gatto, Mario Gatto
- † Jennifer Yatuoma
- † Virginia Bumol
- † Steve & Maria Campo
- † Prek Pllumaj File Pllumaj
- † Linda Agazzi Badamo (8th anniv.)
- † Patricia Stander
- † Grace Mazzara

Readings

SUNDAY

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34;

Mk 9:2-10

MONDAY

Dn 9:4b-10;

Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13;

Lk 6:36-38

TUESDAY

Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 & 23; Mt 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY

Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28

THURSDAY

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 16:19-31

FRIDAY

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

SATURDAY

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

SUNDAY

Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Get In Touch

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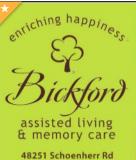
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Office Hours Bulletin Question?

day - Thursday9:00 AM - 4:00 PMPlease direct all inquiries to Matt:av Closedbulletin@stol.church

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

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)



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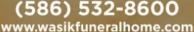
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