

Welcome

Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes and Immaculate Conception! We are glad you are here with us today. If you would like to join our Faith Community, please contact our parish office or stop by any time.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Established – 1875

534 N. Wood Street
Gibson City, IL 60936

Mass Schedule

Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 7 am & 10:30 am
Monday 8 am
Tuesday 8 am
Thursday 5:30 pm
Friday 8 am
Holy Days: 7 am & 7 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 8:30-9:30 am
Thursday 6-7 pm

Confession

Saturday 4:30 pm (OLOL)
Any time by Appointment



Immaculate Conception

202 E. Green Street
Roberts, IL 60962

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:30 am

Confession

Sunday 8:15AM (IC)



Parish Office

Phone & Fax:
(217) 784-4671
General Information
pastor@ololgc.org
Address:
534 N. Wood St.
Gibson City, IL 60936

Website

www.ololgc.org

March 6, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Lent

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2016

**"I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13).
The works of mercy on the road of the Jubilee
Part 2 of 2**



3. The works of mercy

God's mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbor and to devote ourselves to what the Church's tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged. For this reason, I expressed my hope that "the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy" (*ibid.*, 15). For in the poor, the flesh of Christ "becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us" (*ibid.*). It is the unprecedented and scandalous mystery of the extension in time of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals (cf. *Ex 3:5*), especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith.

In the light of this love, which is strong as death (cf. *Song 8:6*), the real poor are revealed as those who refuse to see themselves as such. They consider themselves rich, but they are actually the poorest of the poor. This is because they are slaves to sin, which leads them to use wealth and power not for the service of God and others, but to stifle within their hearts the profound sense that they too are only poor beggars. The greater their power and wealth, the more this blindness and deception can grow. It can even reach the point of being blind to Lazarus begging at their doorstep (cf. *Lk 16:20-21*). Lazarus, the poor man, is a figure of Christ, who through the poor pleads for our conversion. As such, he represents the possibility of conversion which God offers us and which we may well fail to see. Such blindness is often accompanied by the proud illusion of our own omnipotence, which reflects in a sinister way the diabolical "you will be like God" (*Gen 3:5*) which is the root of all sin. This illusion can likewise take social and political forms, as shown by the totalitarian systems of the twentieth century, and, in our own day, by the ideologies of monopolizing thought and technoscience, which would make God irrelevant and reduce man to raw material to be exploited. This illusion can also be seen in the sinful structures linked to a model of false development based on the idolatry of money, which leads to lack of concern for the fate of the poor on the part of wealthier individuals and societies; they close their doors, refusing even to see the poor.

For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favourable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God's word and by practicing the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the "proud", the "powerful" and the "wealthy" spoken of in the *Magnificat* can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them. This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. Yet the danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is Hell. The pointed words of Abraham apply to them and to all of us: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (*Lk 16:29*). Such attentive listening will best prepare us to celebrate the final victory over sin and death of the Bridegroom, now risen, who desires to purify his Betrothed in expectation of his coming.

Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favorable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God's mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. *Lk 1:48*) and to call herself the Lord's humble servant (cf. *Lk 1:38*).

From the Vatican, 4 October 2015
Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

FRANCIS

Pastor

Rev. Thomas Theneth, CMI
(217)784-4671
ttheneth@ololgc.org

Parish Secretary

Patti Meunier
pastor@ololgc.org

Religious Education

Alyce Hafer

Youth Ministry

Bruce Killian

Music Director

Michele Fackler

**Parish Council
President**

Eric Rosenbaum (OLOL)

THIS WEEK'S INTENTIONS

If you wish to have a Mass intention for a loved one, anniversary or other occasion, please contact the parish office. Mass intentions are \$10.

MON March 7	8:00AM	Mike Stuckey & Family Sts. Perpetua & Felicity
TUE March 8	8:00AM	Benoit Family Beyers Family St. John of God
WED March 9	8:00AM	Priest Intentions St. Frances of Rome
THU March 10	5:30PM	Bitner Family Bittner Family St. Dominic Savio
FRI March 11	8:00AM	Robert Bode Family Loretta Bode Family St. John Ogilvie
SAT March 12	5:00PM	+Marge Carlson Blessed Angela Salawa
SUN March 13	7:00AM (OLOL) 8:30 AM (IC) 10:30 AM (OLOL)	Parish Family Dale Schwarz Jerry Brown Family Joseph Brown Family St. Leander of Seville

**Thank You
For Your Gifts
OLOL**

Sunday Env. \$2171.00
Loose \$707.00
Capital Imp. \$0
Food Pantry \$47.00
February Total \$434.26
Yr to Date FP \$862.26

Imm Conception

Sunday Env. \$145.00

Thank you to all that have fulfilled their Annual Appeal commitment and I encourage those outstanding to complete their commitment in the coming months. OLL received a check for \$712.00 for meeting our goal to date.

2016 CMAA Goals
OLOL: \$
Goal: (\$12,712)
IC: \$
(Goal: \$905)

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Date	Altar Servers	Lectors	Euch. Minister	Ushers	Homebound Ministry
Sat, March 12 5:00PM	Alex Killian Braden Roesch		Frank Titus	Jerry Brown Stan Alt	Michelle Rosenbaum & Family
Sun, March 13 7:00AM	Ben Freehill	Kathleen Reum			
Sun, March 13 10:30AM	Hannah & Haven Hathaway	Ray Hanks	Sarah Sarantakos	Michael Smith Dan Day	

Volunteers are always needed for our parish ministries. For more information on how to join, contact the parish office.

Baptism

Call the Rectory at least four weeks before the baptism. Baptismal instruction for the parents and God-parents is required.

Sick??

If you or a family member is sick or admitted to the hospital or makes a trip to the Emergency Room, please contact Fr. Thomas at (630) 639-0502 .

Marriage

Call the Rectory at least six months before. A six month preparation time is required.

Pray for the Sick & Homebound

Tony Coons Loretta Bode
Mary Cothorn Mardella Duffy
Jesse Cervelli Donovan Gaines
Dick Walter Mary Masco

If you wish to add the name of a loved one who is sick, please contact the parish office at 217-784-4671 or



ORGANIST/VOCALIST NEEDED

We are in need of more organists/vocalists to lead worship at our weekend Masses. If you feel the call to this ministry, please contact Father Thomas at 217-784-4671 or email at pastor@ololgc.org.

**Our Lady of Lourdes
Knights of Columbus**



2016 Lenten Fish Fries

March 18

4:30PM-6:30PM

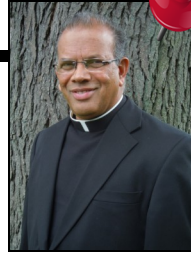
Dinners are \$8
Children under 12 free
Carryout Available

Any questions can be directed to chairpersons Matt Doran or Mark Doran
(217)784-8826 (217)784-8720

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS)

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Through your generosity, families will be reunited, valuable life skills will be taught to those seeking a better life, and many will have vital humanitarian needs met. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-relief to learn how your donations make a difference and **help Jesus in disguise.**

The Word From Father Thomas



Sin destroys the peace and joy of a good conscience, takes away the soul's fervor, and leaves her an object abominable in the eyes of God and his saints.

The grace of justification delivers us from all these miseries. For God, in his infinite mercy, is not content with effacing our sins and restoring us to his favor; he delivers us from the evils sin has brought upon us, and renews the interior man in his former strength and beauty. Thus he heals our wounds, breaks our bonds, moderates the violence of our passions, restores with true liberty the supernatural beauty of the soul, reestablishes us in the peace and joy of a good conscience, reanimates our interior senses, inspires us with ardor for good and a salutary hatred of sin, makes us strong and constant in resisting evil, and thus enriches us with an abundance of good works...

This renewal of the inner man is so powerful, so true, that in baptism it is called regeneration, in penance resurrection; not only because it restores the soul from the death of sin to the life of grace, but because it is an anticipation of the last glorious resurrection...Only the Holy Spirit...an tell the sweetness, loveliness, and strength with which he has enriched the soul. The beauty...of earth fades into insignificance before the unspeakable beauty of a soul in a state of grace.

Venerable Louis of Granada

DAVE JOHNSON BENEFIT

April 9, 2016

Gibson City American Legion, 203 N Sangamon Avenue

4PM-6:30PM

Pulled Pork, Potato Salad or Cold Slaw & Chips

Cost \$5

LIVE AUCTION 7PM-?

Steve Anderson will DJ after the auction.

Dave Johnson, son of Gene & Regina Johnson had a tree fall on him on October 3, 2015. Dave Suffered multiple injuries including a severed spine. He had surgery to insert a metal rod to stabilize his spine. ADDITIONAL SURGERIES WILL BE REQUIRED.



The Shrine of Christ Passion Pilgrimage St. John, Indiana

Please come and join us for a Pilgrimage to "The Shrine of Christ's Passion" in St. John Indiana on Saturday, March 19, 2016. All ages are welcome. We The agenda is as follows:

8:00AM Communion Service

830AM Light breakfast in the hall

9:00AM-10:30AM Travel to St. John, IN

11:00AM Walk and Pray the Stations of the Cross

12:30PM Lunch on the patio at the Shrine (people to bring a dish to share)

2:00PM Leave to come home

RSVP by March 12 to S

sarantakos.sarah@gcmask12.org subject line: Stations of the Cross

While there we will experience Jesus Passion through the half a mile, outdoor, life sized station of the cross. Since this is an outside venue, please come dressed appropriately. There is no cost to enter the shrine but there is a gift shop if you wish to purchase any religious items. We anticipate returning by 4:00PM. If you have been feeling a little disconnect in your faith journey this might be the perfect opportunity to rediscover how much Jesus Christ loves you!

PARISH EVENTS



Wednesday, March 9

- K of C Meeting 7PM

Thursday, March 10

- St. Peregrine Mass 5:30PM

Saturday, March 12

- Food Pantry 9AM-Noon

Tuesday, March 15

- CALM between 6:30PM-7PM

Sunday, March 20

- YOUTH MASS

Saturday, March 26

- Food Pantry 9AM-12Noon

Tuesday, March 29

- CALM between 6:30PM-7PM

Wednesday, March 30

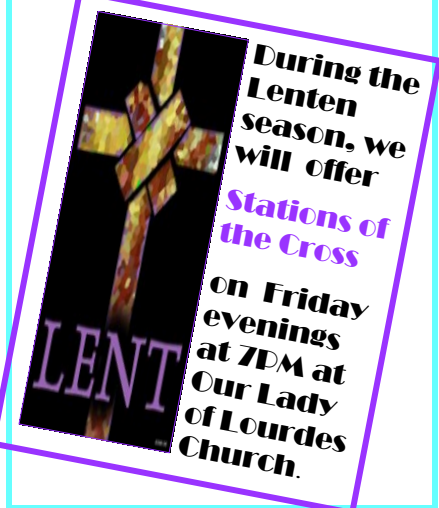
- Staff Meeting 6PM
- Parish Council Meeting 7PM



James Fetzner (3/8)
Seth Kollross (3/8)
Michael Smith (3/11)
Stan Alt (3/11)
Joe McGuire (3/11)
Caine Jost (3/13)



Mark & Jill Andreae (3/8)



dear Padre

March 6, 2016

Clarifying Pope Francis' announcement on abortion

I heard Pope Francis allows priests to forgive the sin of abortion. Aren't priests able to forgive any sin?

In September 2015, the media announced that for the Year of Mercy Pope Francis is giving priests the ability to forgive the sin of abortion. However, this is not accurate. Priests are able to forgive *any* sin; what the Holy Father is granting to priests is the faculty to remit the penalty attached to the *ecclesiastical crime* of abortion. Let me explain.

Procuring, performing, or facilitating an abortion is always a grave sin. In the Catholic Church, these acts may also constitute a *crime* in canon law (1398). The sin is distinct from the crime, and those who commit the *crime* might also incur excommunication.

To incur the penalty, the person who commits the sin must: be Catholic and at least eighteen years old; be aware of the Church's penalty for abortion; and intend in full freedom to end a human life.

If any one of these elements is not present, the person did not incur excommunication. Yet if the priest discovers that the penalty is incurred, he is obliged to contact the local ordinary (usually the diocesan bishop) for permission to remit the penalty—unless the bishop has already given permission, which is the case in many dioceses in the United States. **For the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is giving all priests the faculty to remove the penalty without contacting the bishop.** In other words, the Holy Father has extended mercy in the realm of Church law.

No one need believe that confessed sins are unforgiven. Pope Francis' announcement is an encouragement for all, especially people who have committed grave sin, to confess their sins and receive the unfailing mercy of God.

REV. PHILIP J. BENÉ
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

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Good News!

March 6, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

Jos 5:9a, 10–12 / 2 Cor 5:17–21 / Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

One of the deep meanings of this Gospel reading is signaled in verse 2: "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Last Sunday, Jesus challenged the people to realize they were no better than those they condemned. The Pharisees and scribes had trouble with that lesson. They felt morally superior and more entitled to God's favor than those whose lives they questioned. Jesus turned that attitude on its head, showing time and again that God seeks out the sinner and the lost, particularly those who recognize that they are sinners and lost. As long as the Pharisees and scribes did not see themselves that way, Jesus could not help them.

Dictionary.com Unabridged says prodigal means "wastefully or recklessly extravagant," so someone who is prodigal is lavish, a spendthrift. According to the Pharisees, Jesus was prodigal, for they considered his welcome of sinners as wildly wasteful, frittering away time and resources on people they thought were unworthy. But Jesus simply was showing them, and all of us, what God's love is like. God is extravagant in his love for saints and sinners alike. To some it might seem pointless or unjust to love and care for sinners and enemies, but God finds no one unworthy or unlovable—even those who reject him and oppress others.

Lent is a time to accept our sinfulness, our lost condition, and return home to the Father. Like the father of the prodigal son, God waits for that warm embrace, willing to give us everything. Hurry now.

Mary Katharine Deeley
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

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Monday
MARCH 7
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17–21
Jn 4:43–54

Tuesday
MARCH 8
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1–9, 12
Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday
MARCH 9
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30

Thursday
MARCH 10
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7–14
Jn 5:31–47

Friday
MARCH 11
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12–22
Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

Saturday
MARCH 12
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18–20
Jn 7:40–53

Sunday
MARCH 13
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Is 43:16–21
Phil 3:8–14
Jn 8:1–11