

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Once, a great teacher was about to die and his disciples gathered around his death bed looking very sad. By seeing their sadness, the teacher said to them: *“don’t you see and know that death brings beauty to life?”* They said, *“No’ we don’t want you to die.”* The teacher said *“the real life, and the things that have real life must die. Look at the flowers in the nature, they die, but look at the plastic flowers, they never die. The same way, if you have Christ, the true life within you, you should be ready to die, but if you do not have Christ, the true life within you, you will be worried and reluctant to die.”* Through the Gospel of today, Jesus says that *“Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”*

It is commonly believed that suffering is a sign of failure or defeat. But as Christians, is it right to have that kind of false belief? As Christians, it should be believed that suffering in our life is not a failure, but it is our right. Because, our birth and faith in Jesus Christ is the fruit of His Suffering, Death and Resurrection. Jesus was ready to fall to the ground and die like wheat of grain and so Christianity remains the biggest religion in this world. At the same time, years go by, we know the number of Christians in this world are decreasing, because today’s Christians remain just a grain of wheat, does not want to fall to the ground and die for Christ. Today we have Christians in number, not in quality. The quality of Christian is not determined by what he/she has in the pocket or wallet, but by the presence of Christ in oneself. Yes, we should be able to say ‘NO’ to one’s own self and ‘YES’ to thyself. St. John the Baptist is reminding us the same that *“I must decrease and He must increase.”* It is for the same grace we pray daily, *“Thy kingdom come, they will be done.”* Thus Jesus reminds us that without suffering there is no glory possible. So, to live for Christ is the same as suffer for Christ. So, Jesus says *“if anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me.”* Yes, without suffering there is no true and effective evangelization.

In today’s Gospel we see some Greeks are asking Philip to show them Jesus, and we see Philip and Andrew are informing Jesus about it, and Jesus reminds them about the suffering involved in knowing and following Him and the glory in the future. Yes, dear friends as Christians the primary mission is to preach about Jesus to every creature in this world. As we engage in preaching about Jesus to every creature, please make sure to preach about the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus rather than the miracles and healings Jesus has done, otherwise when problems come people will abandon

their faith in Jesus. We have so many examples of people abandoning their faith in Jesus when they confront problems and difficulties, complaining God is not answering their prayers in their difficult moments. So, today if you or anyone following Jesus, attracted to the healings and miracles Jesus performed, be sure, your faith is in danger, because without suffering there is no fulfillment of Christian life. So, if our faith in Jesus cannot accept suffering of any type be sure, we are not qualitative Christians, but we are one among the Christians, who are like wheat grains do not want to fall on the ground and die and produce fruit. Let us reflect about the quality of our faith, which we are going to profess shortly. **God Bless.**

A Day of Serenity and Solitude

Join others online for “A Day of Serenity and Solitude” on Friday, April 16. Experience the gift of connection to the sacred with others who are intentionally spending a day of quiet reflection. We will begin the day together on Zoom for shared prayer, inspiration and suggestions for reflection. At the end of the day we will gather again to share our experience and a closing blessing. The event takes place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The fee is \$25 for an online Zoom in your home. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored->

Holy Week Schedule

- Palm Sunday (Vigil) - St. Sebastian - 5:00pm
- Palm Sunday - St. Sebastian - 8:30am
- St. Charles - 10:30am
- Holy Thursday - St. Sebastian - 6:00pm
- Good Friday - St. Sebastian - 6:00pm
- Easter Vigil - St. Sebastian - 8:00pm
- Easter Sunday - St. Sebastian - 8:30am
- St. Charles - 10:30am

Those of you who have signed up for ministries are encouraged to be present early please. Thank you.



Financial Report - March 14, 2021

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 2,345.00 - 593.09
Emergency Fund	\$ 80.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 55.00
Sick & Infirm Priests	\$ 85.00

Financial Report - March 14, 2021

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 605.00 - 542.46
Easter Flowers	\$ 20.00

Mass Schedule

March 21 - 28

Sunday - Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Betty Caraway
- 10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Dwight Beyke

Monday - Lenten Weekday

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Wanda Green

Tuesday - Lenten Weekday

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lydia Payne

Wednesday - Lenten Weekday

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Delila Mae Payne
- 5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Herman J. Payne

Thursday - The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Meghan Bingham

Friday - Lenten Weekday

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Wendy LaMar

Saturday - Lenten Weekday

- 4:00pm Confession
- 5:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lisa Young

Sunday - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Bill Caraway
- 10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Judith Ann Howard Phelps

St. Charles - Happy Birthday

Philip Logsdon - March 23

Prayer List for members of our community:

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Mary Jewell, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, and Ben Dunn

Please pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zarembo, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey & Corpsman Aly Franklin

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings Outside the Liturgy

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 25.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event or meeting held on parish property. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home.
- Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information.
- Follow State of Kentucky Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars for any form of food service. A summary follows:
 - o No indoor food or beverage consumption.
 - o Carryout and delivery encouraged.
 - o Outside tables or booths should be placed six (6) feet apart.
 - o Only those living within the same household should sit together.
 - o Use disposable napkins, tablecloths, utensils and condiments. Condiments must be single-use, disposable packages.
 - o If non-disposable linens (such as cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths) are used, they must be laundered between uses.
- Ensure that gloves are worn by employees/volunteers who clean or handle high-touch areas of the gathering space.
- Encourage volunteers and attendees to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, provided by the event organizer.
- Use appropriate disinfectants to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use signage to alert attendees of required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance and the facial covering requirements.
- Parishes should add a rider to rental contracts specifying that the renter is bound to abide by all government and diocesan restrictions that are in place at the time of the event.

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday

Jacob Lebold - March 21
Sarah Schutte - March 25
Leah Searcy - March 26
Brianne McCarty - March 27

*"While the world changes the **Cross** stands firm."*

- St. Bruno

Safe Environment Announcement

The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (270) 338-2240; local law enforcement (270) 273-3276; or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro’s sexual abuse policy is available on the bookshelf in back of the church, in the parish office, and the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).