

Dear friends in Jesus Christ,

How many of you would like to see God face-to-face? If you are ready, would you please schedule a 40 day journey for it? The season of Lent is offering a special offer to see the face of God on Easter. Knowingly or unknowingly, we all have signed up for the 40 days journey. Beginning on Ash Wednesday by receiving ashes, we all expressed our unworthiness, at the same time expressed our willingness through fasting, prayer and almsgiving, proclaiming the mission statement of Jesus and John the Baptist; *“Repent and believe in the Gospel, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.”* Repentance and believing in the Gospel are mandatory for an effective fasting, prayer and almsgiving during this lent, like Jesus. Yes, it is an invitation to fast from sin, like Jesus with the help of Word of God. We can pray like Jesus and be an arm for the poor, needy and the abandoned like Jesus. This season of lent is also an invitation to enter into a retreat, which means to treat ourselves and others in accordance with the will of God. Are you ready to be treated by repentance and the word of God to see the face of God?

In the Gospel we see, Jesus is spending forty days and nights of solitude, prayer and fasting in the wilderness. What is the significance of 40 days? In the Old Testament, forty days was often considered as a significant period of testing and preparation for entering into a covenant relationship with God. In the days of Noah, God destroyed the earth and all the creatures in it, because they completely rejected God, during which we see that Noah and his family were spared because they obeyed God and took refuge in the ark for 40 days and nights, after which God made His covenant with Noah. Again, when God freed the people of Israel from Egypt, He brought them into the wilderness of Sinai, under the leadership of Moses. While they were in Sinai, Moses went to the mountain of the Lord at Sinai and remained there in prayer and fasting for forty days. After forty days God made a covenant with Moses and the people. Prophet Elijah fled into the wilderness and traveled forty days to the mountain of God at Sinai.

Today, the Gospel of Mark emphatically says *“The spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.”* One might ask-why Jesus was compelled to seek solitude for such a lengthy period? The word *‘tempt’* in English usually means to entice to sin, but biblically the word *‘tempt’* means to prove and purify someone to see if he or she is fit for the task at hand. We test pilots to see if they are fit to fly. Likewise God tests His servants to see if they are fit to be used by Him. God tested Abraham to test his faith. God allowed Satan to test the faithfulness of

Job. Jesus was no exception. Be sure, you and I are no exception. But let us not be scared, Jesus has shown us the way to defend temptations in our lives. Remember how Jesus defeated the temptations of Satan-by the power of the word of God. Yes, by repentance let us open up our hearts to receive the word of God and this is the only way to enter into the Kingdom of God-*“Repent and believe in the God, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.”*

Dear friends, let us all march forward focusing on the face of God through repentance and believing in the Word of God. During our journey, let us not forget to fast, pray and help the other. **God Bless.**

Parish Volunteers

Volunteers play an integral role at the parish level. They are relied on and appreciated much by pastors and parish staff! Our hope and prayer is that as more vaccines are administered, both catechetical and social activities for youth and families will return as we eventually are able to meet in person. In order to prepare for life to return to “normal”, our volunteers are encouraged to complete their Safe Environment training and background checks and sign their policy acknowledgements. For any questions please contact Janice Hendricks at 270-683-1545. Thank you!

Online Lenten Program Begins Feb. 23

Would you like to enrich your spiritual life this Lenten season? “A Prayerful Journey Through Lent” is a four-part adult faith formation opportunity that will be offered online by the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount. Through presentation, prayer “practice” and group discussion/sharing, participants will explore and experience praying through nature, silence, our imagination and the ordinary events of our day. The program will take place from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, **Feb. 23, March 2, March 9, and March 16.** You will be provided with a Zoom link to allow you to watch in your home. The fee is \$40. To register, contact Maryann Joyce at 270-229-0206 or maryann.joyce@maplemount.org.

Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.

Financial Report - February 14, 2021

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 2,231.00 - 707.09
Emergency Fund	\$ 210.00
Dio of Mandeville	\$ 25.00
Diocesan Administration	\$ 25.00

Financial Report - February 14, 2021

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly	
Regular Collection	\$ 1,899.00 + 751.54
Emergency Fund	\$ 35.00

Mass Schedule

February 21 - 28

Sunday - First Sunday of Lent

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Evelyn Drury

-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles

Conversion of Souls

Monday - The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle (Feast)

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Morgan Farley

Tuesday - Lenten Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Meghan Bingham

Wednesday - Lenten Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Joe Bickett

-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles

Stella Fogle

Thursday - Lenten Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Lisa Young

Friday - Lenten Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Wanda Green

Saturday - Lenten Weekday

-3:00pm Confession

-4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian

Lydia Payne

Sunday - Second Sunday of Lent

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Isaac Caraway

-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles

Souls in Purgatory

St. Charles - Happy Anniversary

Hagan & Stephanie Fee - February 26

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, and Bill Abney

Please pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, 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

Andy Cobb - February 21
Houston Hudson - February 21
Mike Hayden - February 22
Kimberly Cooper - February 27
Stacy Green - February 27

St. Charles - Happy Birthday

Connor Logsdon - February 21



Parents: *Would you like to jump-start communication with your son or daughter? Do you need help talking to your child about chastity, sexuality, marriage, dating and other important topics?* The Office of Marriage & Family Life invites you to a webinar for parents presented by Family Honor. Parents of 7th or 8th grade students, we encourage you to register for the Real Love & Real Life parent-teen chastity webinar on Monday evenings, January 25th – March 1, 2021. Cost is \$50 for all five sessions. Register at: owensborodiocese.org/parenting-resources or call 270-852-8336.