

March 19 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Uncontrollable Joy!

Mark Twain is thought to have once quipped: “A German joke is no laughing matter,” which speaks to the untrue notion that Germans aren’t funny.

While our faith is meant to be a serious endeavor, it’s not defined as “no laughing matter.” On the contrary: joyfulness is not a hindrance to holiness, it is an expression of it! Laetare means “to rejoice.” A spirituality that radiates the joy of Easter is every bit as authentic as one that reflects the severity of Lent, and all the more inviting, too! A Redemptorist classmate of mine liked to say, “None of us are baptized in pickle juice.”

According to Karl Rahner, the German Jesuit theologian, “Only the person who has a gift for affection can have a true sense of humor. A good laugh is a sign of love; it may be said to give us a glimpse of, or a first lesson in, the love that God bears for every one of us.” Another theologian, Karl Barth, stated simply: “Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.”

Imagine what it is like to see for the first time after being blind from birth. How could the blind man in John’s Gospel refrain from laughing at the awesome blessing he received when Christ restored his sight? How could his eyes not weep tears of unspeakable joy at his good fortune?

An ancient Greek Orthodox tradition sets aside Easter Monday for jokes and laughter to celebrate Christ’s triumph over death. It may be rooted in St. John Chrysostom’s vivid image of the risen Christ laughing at the devil, who is at his wit’s end. They rejoice! (By Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR)

Abundant Laughter

In *Between Heaven and Mirth* (HarperOne, 2012), Jesuit Fr. James Martin recounts a story by Margaret Silf of two friends who mourned the death of a mutual friend. At her gravesite, they planted what they thought were daffodil bulbs. Imagine their surprise when they returned in the spring to pay their respects and found a crop of onions! They laughed until they cried—and they felt certain their friend was right in there laughing with them.

At the beginning of Lent—the name is derived from the word spring—we solemnly soil our foreheads in remembrance of the Garden of Eden. With ashen faces and grave Lenten disciplines, we till our hardened hearts through purposeful penance, fasting, and almsgiving, and bury the guilt that we won’t let die. Then, when we’re born anew, our tears of sorrow are transplanted into tears of joy and laughter!

According to Dante’s *Divine Comedy*, “In hell there is no hope and no laughter. In purgatory there is no laughter, but there is hope. In heaven, hope is no longer necessary because laughter reigns.” Our faith assures us of a God who takes pleasure in his people and delights in being with us. (Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR)

SANCTUARY LIGHT

March 19 – Lucille Simon
March 26 – Harry and Loretta Simon
April 2 – Leonard and Lorene Brancamp

MASS INTENTIONS

March 18 – Glenna Schuler
March 19 – Caleb Kramer
March 25 – Timothy Walke
March 26 – Sheila Tunny

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – March 25 at 4:00 PM

Servers: Morgan Busch, Sam Simon
Lector: Terry Harmeyer
Gifts: Brian and Karen Horan
EM: Roseann Wirth (*Hall*), Judy Steuri, Rita Kress

Sunday – March 26 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Amanda Schutte, Donna Harlemert
Gifts: Paul and Arlene Gehl
EM: Susan Schutte (*Hall*), Kevin Tunny, Katie Spreckelson

Saturday – April 1 at 4:00 PM

Lector: Terry Harmeyer, Judy Steuri
Narrator: Jack Ferkinhoff, *Speaker:* Tara Johannigman
Gifts: Dennis and Flo Wagner
EM: Roseann Wirth (*Hall*), Beth Simon, Janet Wagner

Palm Sunday – April 2 at 10:00 AM

Lectors: Amanda Schutte, Amy Kinker
Narrator: David Hardesty, *Speaker:* Cindy Weisenbach
Gifts: Steve and Ann Wagner
EM: Kevin Tunny (*Hall*), Scott Simon, Leslie Hicks

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$3012.00
Children’s Envelopes	\$ 20.30
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 493.00</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$3525.30
Church in Africa	\$65.00
Capital Improvement	\$345.00
Black & Indian	\$20.00
Catholic Relief	\$45.00

MONTHLY REPORT - FEBRUARY

Electronic Giving for February	\$1,905.00
Total Sunday & Holy Day Collections (7/1/22 - 2/28/23)	\$137,302.60
Amount Required to Meet Budget (7/1/22 - 2/28/23)	\$127,368.00

SECOND COLLECTION – The second collection today is for Catholic Relief Services. Through CRS, the Church responds to emergencies with compassion and recovery actions. Place your envelope in the regular collection.

EASTER PRACTICE – The children singing on Easter morning will have practice after Mass this morning, 11:00–11:30.

GRASS MOWING – Tommy Tunny has been hired to mow the parish grounds and the cemetery. If at any time you have concerns or questions about the cemetery, please contact the staff at the parish office.

Reminder: During mowing season, April 1 through October 31:

- Flags may be placed on graves Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Flag Day, and Veterans Day. Flags are subject to removal by the Cemetery Board within ten days after the holiday.
- There is a limit to two (2) memorial items allowed per plot and within the confines of the stone. Items are not to be placed anywhere in the grassy area of the plot. Examples include anything that inhibits mowing or trimming.

The last week of March every year is designated as “Clean Up Week.” Family members are asked to clean up around the family site. Anything left unattended or unsightly will be disposed of by the Cemetery Board.

We thank you for working with us in making these sacred grounds of your loved ones a place of beauty. We also thank **Dennis Wagner** for all his work as caretaker of the cemetery.

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS ED – Children in Preschool through Grade 5 will NOT meet on Wednesday, March 22, continuing Spring Break.

JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED – Grades 6 through 11 will meet next Sunday, March 26, at 8:30 AM.

SPRING SMORGASBORD – Our smorgasbord will be Saturday, April 15. We will need donations of homegrown frozen corn and 20 pounds of ground beef. If you can help with this, please see Judy or Susan by March 29. Committee lists will be coming out soon.

LENTEN SEASON

- + **Adoration:** Friday, March 24, 8:00 AM – Noon.
- + **Way of the Cross and Holy Communion:** Friday, March 24, 6:00 PM.
- + **Confessions:** Before and After Mass.
- + **Deanery Eucharistic Adoration at St. Nicholas, Sunman, on March 23 all day. Closing at 6:30 PM.**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Palm Sunday - April 2 - Regular Mass Schedule**
- Holy Thursday - April 6 - 6:00 PM**
- Good Friday - April 7 - 4:00 PM**
- Easter Vigil - April 8 - 4:00 PM**
- Easter Sunday - April 9 - 10:00 AM**

EASTER CARDS – Our shut-ins so enjoyed and were grateful for your Christmas cards. What about sending them an Easter card? Here are their names and addresses:

Rosemary Mistler 6569 N. Old Michigan Rd. Osgood, IN 47037	Frances Borgman 3518 W. Napoleon Wilson St. Batesville, IN 47006
Frances Werner 6568 S. Co. Rd. 700 E Greensburg, IN 47240	Eileen Wagner 3896 W. Co. Rd. 525 N Osgood, IN 47037
Lou Wolter Morning Breeze Healthcare Center 950 N. Lakeview Dr. Greensburg, IN 47240	Dot Stier Morning Breeze Healthcare Center 950 N. Lakeview Dr. Greensburg, IN 47240
Mary Scholle 5684 W. Co. Rd. 800 N Osgood, IN 47037	


MASS GREETERS

- March 25 – Dennis Wagner, Gary Wagner
- March 26 – Paul and Arlene Gehl

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER – Driving through Alabama, a man was listening to a country preacher on the car radio. The preacher, with a country "twang," admitted that he had trouble with drugs when he was young.

"My Momma drug me to church every Sunday," he said. (Columnist Smiley Anders, The Joyful Noiseletter)

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
<p>THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH</p>  <p>For Victims of Abuse: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.</p>			<p>RE Classes 6:45 - 8:00 PM</p>	<p>Parish Council Meeting 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Adoration 8:00 AM - Noon</p> <p>Way of the Cross and Communion 6:00 PM</p> <p><i>DAY OF ABSTINENCE</i></p>	<p>Mass - 4:00 PM</p> <p>Pick Pockets</p> <p>Blood Pressure Checks</p> <p>Confessions Before & After Mass</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>175th Meeting 8:30 AM</p> <p>RE Classes 8:30 - 9:45 AM</p> <p>Mass - 10:00 AM</p> <p>Pick Pockets</p> <p>BP Checks</p> <p>Donuts and Coffee</p>		<p>"Church's Ministry of Exorcism" by Fr. Vincent Lampert in Parish Hall 6:00 PM</p>	<p>RE Classes 6:45 - 8:00 PM</p> <p>Penance Service for Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5</p> <p>Adoration at Millhouse begins at 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Adoration at Millhouse continues until 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Adoration 8:00 AM - Noon</p> <p>Way of the Cross and Communion 6:00 PM</p> <p><i>DAY OF ABSTINENCE</i></p>	<p>Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM</p> <p>Confessions Before & After Mass</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>NO RE Classes - Spring Break</p> <p>Mass - 10:00 AM</p> <p>Confessions Before & After Mass</p> <p>Donuts and Coffee</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begins</p>			<p>NO RE Classes Spring Break</p>	<p>Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 PM</p>	<p>Adoration 8:00 AM - Noon</p> <p>Way of the Cross and Communion 6:00 PM</p> <p><i>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</i></p>	<p>Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM</p> <p>Confessions Before & After Mass</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>RE Classes 8:30 - 9:45 AM</p> <p>Mass - 10:00 AM</p> <p>Confessions Before & After Mass</p> <p>Donuts and Coffee</p> <p>FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH</p>	<p>FIRST DAY OF SPRING</p>		<p>NO RE Classes Spring Break</p> <p>Eucharistic Adoration at St. Louis, Batesville (See Bulletin)</p>	<p>Eucharistic Adoration at St. Louis, Batesville (See Bulletin)</p>	<p>Adoration 8:00 AM - Noon</p> <p>Way of the Cross and Communion 6:00 PM</p> <p><i>DAY OF ABSTINENCE</i></p>	<p>Celebration of Mass 4:00 PM</p> <p>Confessions Before & After Mass</p>
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<p>RE Classes 8:30 - 9:45 AM</p> <p>Mass - 10:00 AM</p> <p>Confessions Before & After Mass</p> <p>Donuts and Coffee</p>			<p>RE Classes 6:45 - 8:00 PM</p> <p>Faith Formation Meeting 4:30 PM</p> <p>Eucharistic Adoration at St. Nicholas, Sunman (See Bulletin)</p>	<p>Eucharistic Adoration at St. Nicholas, Sunman (See Bulletin)</p>	<p>Adoration 8:00 AM - Noon</p> <p>Way of the Cross and Communion 6:00 PM</p> <p><i>DAY OF ABSTINENCE</i></p>	