



# Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Most Holy Trinity  
March 22, 2015**

**Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard  
Parish Office Hours 8am-12pm & 1pm-3pm**

**To Contact Us:**

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**Most Holy Trinity School: 593-2616**

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

**Pope Francis: "When it comes to faith, there's no room for compromise"**

As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, I offer you this reflection by our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

It is the saints, not the hypocrites who carry the Church forward, Pope Francis said recently in one of his public addresses. He reminded the faithful *that there is no middle ground on the path to heaven*. The Holy Father said "Jesus tells us that whoever is not with me is against me. There is no compromising. You are either on the path of love or on the path of hypocrisy."

Pope Francis said that the only options for a Christian are to either let oneself be loved by God's mercy or to "do as you please according to your own heart that hardens day by day along this path." There is no third choice to be made. Either you are a saint or you take the other route," the Pope reiterated, saying that the person who chooses his own will not only "loses out," but, does something worse: "he wastes and wrecks. He is corrupt and he corrupts."

Pope Francis centered his reflections on the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah as he spoke of a disobedient people who embraced evil even after God gave them everything, and then how Jesus in the Gospel of Luke was accused of casting out demons with demons when he freed a possessed man. When we look at the history of God, it is as if "God was weeping," Francis said, and pointed out that Jesus himself wept when he looked at Jerusalem before his passion and death. Jesus wept, he said, because in his heart he held this history "where faithfulness had disappeared." If we follow our own will, "our heart hardens and becomes of stone. And the Word of the Lord cannot penetrate. Thus the people get more and more distant," the Pope said, noting that each person runs this risk in their own personal histories.

Francis then turned to the Gospel reading, saying that the accusation of Jesus as someone who drives out demons with the power of other demons is a prime example of this hardened heart that is closed to the voice of God. He said the scene is one typical of the "lawmakers," who think that

life is reduced to the following of laws they themselves create. "This has also happened in the history of the Church!" Francis observed, and drew attention to the example of "poor Joan of Arc," who, although she was eventually canonized a saint, was accused of being a heretic and was burned at the stake. Throughout history, God always sent prophets to tell his people that he loved them, while in the Church today the Lord sends us the saints, he said, explaining that they are the ones who sustain the Church, rather than the powerful or the hypocrites.

Saints, he said, "are those who are not afraid to let themselves be caressed by the mercy of God. That's why the saints are men and women who understand pain, suffering and human misery, and they accompany the people of God. They do not despise the people." Pope Francis encourages all the faithful during Lent, to ask themselves an essential question: "**do I listen to the voice of the Lord or do I do what I please?**"

God bless,  
**Fr. Dennis**

**Parish Penance Service**

**Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm.**

**Lenten Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Examination of Conscience Lent 2015**

Have I tried to make this Lent special, by prayer, fasting, giving to the poor, making sacrifices, not complaining, helping others, and other good works for the Lord?

Have I missed Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation? Do I fit God into my agenda, or is He first among my priorities?

Have I used the name of the Lord in vain? Have I used vulgar or inappropriate language? Do I recognize that my behavior and words are giving bad witness or even scandalizing others?

Am I arrogant, disdainful of legitimate authority? Do I take correction with humility?

Do I use my gifts for building up the Kingdom? Do I serve my parish? Do I share my financial resources to help the parish? Am I selfish with my mon-

ey, my possessions, my time?

Am I lazy? Do I allow apathy and selfishness to influence my decisions?

Have I stolen? Have I taken things that belong to others?

Do I pray every day? Do I just say a bunch of words when I pray, or do I really spend time talking with the Lord? Do I desire to have a close relationship with God?

Have I destroyed the property of others?

Have I treated others with respect? Do I make fun or mistreat certain people? Do I gossip and talk about others, destroying their reputation?

Do I desire to be pure? In my relationships? In my language? Is my clothing appropriate and modest? Do I watch TV programs that are inappropriate? Am I vigilant about my children's TV habits?

Am I encouraging others to sin? Do I stand up for the truth? Do I give witness to my faith by word and example?

Do I look at pornography? Do I have chaste and pure relationships with my boy/girl friend, my spouse, my friends?

Do I drink too much? Do I have a drinking problem and refuse to acknowledge it and get help? Is my family suffering because of this?

Am I envious or jealous of others – their things – what others have?

Do I respect and honor my parents? Do I obey those in authority over me (parents, teachers, pastor, the elderly)?

Is God calling me to do more for others?

Am I a good example to others? Do I forget that I am a Christian, and that Jesus is counting on me to be a good witness for Him?

**Act of Contrition**

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong, and failing to do good, I have sinned against You whom I should love above all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Amen.

**Announcements**

**Easter Flowers**



If you would like to remember a loved one or pray for the intentions of the living, please place your donation in an envelope and write on it the intention you'd like remembered.

We'll put together our book of intentions for them and place it on our Lady's altar during the Easter season.

**Vocations**

**Message from Sr. Holy Family**

Dear Parishioners of Most Holy Trinity, During this season of Lent, I remember the words Peter spoke to our Lord at the Transfiguration, "It is well that we are here". By God's grace I have been here in this religious family for over three years now. In our Constitutions, it states "We want to form the members of our Institute in great human and Christian maturity so that they reach the extent of the full stature of Christ (Const., 195)." This formation can be grouped in four different sections: Human formation, Spiritual formation, Intellectual formation and Apostolic and Pastoral formation. The three years after the first Profession of Vows for a sister in our Religious Community are specifically dedicated to the development of these four areas for Religious Life. I have almost finished my second year at our Juniorate House of Formation here in Washington, DC. As part of our Intellectual formation, we take classes that center on Philosophy, Theology, History, and Languages. We also have extra aca-

ademic seminars on the topics of Greek and Roman Culture, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Biblical Studies. The intellectual formation of religious is presented as an urgent issue facing the New Evangelization and modern challenges. I have also helped to make our 'Come and See Weekend' video. Please visit our website at [www.ssvmusa.org](http://www.ssvmusa.org) and click on the 'Come and See' icon to see it. Please remember to keep me in your prayers, you are always in mine.

God Bless!

**Sr. Holy Family**

**A Message from Lee Koenigsknecht**

Dear Father Dennis and parishioners of Most Holy Trinity Parish,

This semester has been going great. We were able to start it off with an eight day silent retreat. It was amazing, but it was difficult to get used to being silent for so long. This semester I am taking four classes: Epistemology (study of truth, knowledge and belief), Latin IV, Medieval Philosophy, and Public Speaking. I will be back in Michigan on March 27th for our university's spring break, and I look forward to seeing you all again. Thank you for your generous support and prayers.

**Lee Koenigsknecht**

**Our Parish Stewardship  
God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity**

Amount needed each week.....	\$13,200.00
March 14 & 15 Collection.....	9,840.63
Shortage.....	- 3,359.37
<b>Envelopes used: 183</b>	

**Diocesan Service Appeal**

*"For everything is from you and what we give is what we have from you"*

The DSA provides the Diocese with much needed support for vocations and assisting refugees and families in crisis. It also supports the Diocesan ministries. We ask you to be generous. Our Parish goal is \$61,275 and so far our donations are \$13,435. Your contribution matters. There is a link on our parish website if you want to know more about the DSA.

**FOCUS Mission Trip**

Thank you for the warm welcome and support as I spoke at the Masses last weekend about the mission trip I will be going on to the Philippines this summer. I want to thank you all for your prayers and consideration for support, especially those who talked with me after each Mass and offered to help the mission with a donation. If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, I can be reached at: Thomas Horak; phone:(989) 640-9033; address: 2565 N Wacousta, St. Johns, MI 48879

email: [horak1tj@cmich.edu](mailto:horak1tj@cmich.edu)

website: [www.focusonline.org/goto/thomashorakphils](http://www.focusonline.org/goto/thomashorakphils)

Thank you,

**Thomas Horak**

**Opportunities to Celebrate a Holy Lenten Season 2015**

**Friday's of Lent**

*Day of obligatory fasting and abstinence from meat*

**Stations of the Cross**

Wednesdays at 6:40 pm.

**Lenten Dramatization**

By our MHT Students in the Msgr. Koenigsknecht Hall  
Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00 pm

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Every Saturday from 3:00 - 4:00 pm.

Communal Penance Service for Most Holy Trinity  
Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Confessions for school students Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
From 9 a.m. till noon

**Holy Week Services**

**Palm Sunday, March 28/29<sup>th</sup>**

Blessing of palms will take place under tent in front of  
Fr. Ray Center

**Holy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Mass of Chrism at St. Mary's Cathedral 10:30 am.

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00 pm.

Adoration until Midnight

**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

12 noon Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm. Solemn Service

7:00 pm. Evening Service

**Holy Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Holy Vigil 7:45 pm.

**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am. Mass

10:30 am. Mass

**Principal of Most Holy Trinity School  
Anne Hufnagel—[AnneH@mhtparish.com](mailto:AnneH@mhtparish.com)**

*MHT School – Connecting Faith to Life*

**Important Dates:**

Tuesday, March 24

Confessions

Wednesday, March 25

Mass @ 8:15 a.m.

(Annunciation of the Lord)

Friday, March 27

11:30 Dismissal/End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Tuesday, March 31

Mass @ 8:15 a.m.

Friday, April 3

No School/Good Friday

Spring Break Begins

**Invitation:** Registration for the 2015/16 school year is underway. Please check your email for information regarding how to register. If you are interested in visiting our school or spending a part of the day observing classes, etc. please call the office (593-2616). We would love to have you visit!

**The Last Days:** Please join us for an evening performance highlighting the last days of Jesus Christ. A number of skits performed by MHT School students will be performed in the Msgr. Koenigsknecht Hall on Tuesday, March 31, starting at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome and there is no admittance fee.

"Every human activity can be put at the service of the divine and of love. We should all exercise our gift to build community." — Jean Vanier, *Community And Growth*

**Director of Parish Operations, Coordinator of Youth Ministry & Director of RCIA  
Adam Halfman—[mhtyouth@gmail.com](mailto:mhtyouth@gmail.com)—593-2162**

**Steubenville:** Sign up for Steubenville is now underway! This year's conference is on June 26-28. Email Adam for permission slips!

**Steubenville LEAD:** We're currently in the process of having kids apply for Steubenville's LEAD program that is a week-long leadership training for upper classmen. We had nine kids from our parish attend last year, which is huge considering that only 60 kids are accepted into the program. This year, I have heard from over 20 kids that are interested in applying. Please pray for all of our kids as they discern and hopefully that as many as possible get accepted (it sounds like they will only accept 80 kids total so we don't know how many from our parish will be able to go). The cost of a Steubenville weekend is \$275 and the LEAD week is \$350 so doing both is very expensive. We've had generous donations in the past to help everyone afford to go. If you are interested in helping cover the cost for someone to attend LEAD, please contact Adam.

**8th Grade Retreat:** Our parish 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat is going to be on March 27-29 at Camp Greenwood near Greenville. Cost is \$50 per student. Contact Adam for a permission slip.

**Youth Group:** The high school Youth Group meets every Sunday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 pm to discuss various aspects of the faith. The Youth Center is open every Wednesday evening from after Mass until 10:00 pm for the high school aged youth to stop in and hang out.

### News & Events From Our Parish & Other Areas



#### Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt

The annual K of C Holy Saturday Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 11 am on Saturday, April 4, at Waldron Elementary. Children 10 and younger are welcome. Also, children of all ages are invited to come & watch!

#### Annual MHT Sub Sale



Orders are now being taken through March 30th for sub sandwiches. Subs will be assembled and available for delivery and/or pick-up on Tuesday, April 21st between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Ham/salami, ham, turkey, and roast beef subs are available. Subs are \$2.25 each or twelve for \$25.00. Please contact any MHT student or call the school office (593-2616) to place your order.

#### "Returns" for Vocations Reminder

Most Holy Trinity Parish is blessed to have so many of our young men and women pursuing religious vocations and we are always looking for ways to continue to show our support for them. If anyone wishes to donate returnables, including holiday and Easter party returns, at any time they can be dropped off at the Koenigsknecht Farm or we will arrange to pick them up. Please call Kurt Koenigsknecht 224-4058 or Agnes Koenigsknecht 593-2614 to arrange for pickup

**Note:** this year Returns for Vocations drive is : Saturday July 11, 2015

**T**hank you! We would like to thank everyone that supported the fish dinners by working a shift and/or purchasing a meal. For each dinner, it takes over 120 people working various shifts to make it successful. A special thanks to Alan Kramer and crew for setting up the tables and chairs each time. For the first fish dinner we served 525 meals and 532 for the second- totaling 1,057. The proceeds from the dinners are split between the Christian Mothers and Knights of Columbus. For the second fish fry, we were able to donate all the left-over food to The Basic Needs Center in St. Johns. This organization provides support for 1,500 families in Clinton and Gratiot Counties. We are so blessed to have a community of volunteers and supporters! Thank you so much! – from the Christian Mothers and Knights of Columbus

#### Scrip

**Kroger Community Rewards:** It is time to re-enroll your Kroger Plus Card to continue supporting MHT School. Even if you have previously signed up for this reward program, you must re-enroll after **April 1st** to continue earning rewards during the coming cycle, May 2015 to April 2016. Simply visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), click on "Michigan" and click on "Enroll". Please use code **82831** to have your rewards credited towards MHT School. Please remind and encourage family and friends to enroll or re-enroll. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

### Cemetery News

As the time for our spring cemetery clean-up draws near, we ask that any decorations that are to be saved please be removed as soon as possible.

We are in desperate need of volunteers to help on lawn mowing crews, We had several volunteers who are in their mid 80's. They helped last summer when needed. Please call any of the below numbers to volunteer. Parish Office- 593-2162, Jerry Spitzley - 593-2612, Gary Weber - 593-3161, Jim Braman - 593-2960 or Mike Koenigsknecht - 593-2290

### Catholic Order of Foresters Bowling News

The 2015 COF **Youth Bowling Tournament** will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at E-Lanes in Fowler. Shifts are at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm.

Participants ages 0-8 will bowl one game, with bumpers. Participants ages 9-21 will bowl two games. All participants will receive a snack and drink.

The **Central Michigan area bowling tournament** for Men & Women members & guests 16 and over will be held on Sunday, March 29th at E-Lanes in Fowler. Bowling times are 11:30 am and 2:00 pm. To sign up call John C. Rade-macher at 989-593-3373 or email at [johncr1@live.com](mailto:johncr1@live.com).

### Easter Decorating

Preparing the church for the Easter season will take place on Holy Saturday morning, April 4, beginning at 8:30 am. A sign-up sheet with various tasks will be posted in the vestibule of the church beginning the weekend of March 21/22. If you have any questions, please contact Susie at 593-2490.

### Fowler Fire & Rescue Dept. All You Can Eat Breakfast

Sunday March 22, from 8:00am to 12:00pm at Most Holy Trinity Activity Center. Proceeds will be used for Rescue & Firefighting Equipment.

### Quilts & Afghans for Parish Festival

It's that time of year again - time to start working on the quilts and afghans for the parish festival.

Do you quilt, sew, knit or crochet? Please consider contributing your time, talent, and effort. We are very grateful for the work and generosity of beautiful donated quilts and afghans that help make our parish festival a success.

Please contact the parish office or Diane Smith at 593-9947.

### Thank you!



*Thank you for providing the gift of warmth and love to children and families in need!*

On behalf of all those served by St. Vincent Catholic Charities (STVCC), I extend our gratitude to the teachers, parents and children for collecting much needed linens during Catholic Schools Week. Collectively, we received 204 sheet sets, blankets and towels from our regional schools. Thank you for your generosity!

~ **Andrea E. Seyka STVCC CEO**

**Part-Time Caregiver Needed**

Part time caregiver needed to assist elderly married couple in their Fowler home. Duties may include light housekeeping, meal preparation and assistance with medications. To inquire, please call (989) 682-4798 (Leon), (989) 224-4058 (Patty), or (517) 593-3156 (Joanne).

**St. Vincent's Spring into Giving!**

Please join us in this opportunity which is launching April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> to provide basic household items that will help to make a house a home for so many of the clients that we serve! Most commonly needed items include pots and pans, alarm clocks, cooking utensils, bowls, plates, silverware, twin and double sheet sets and blankets. Items can be dropped off at participating MSU Federal Credit Union branches; Mon -Thur 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or at STVCC Service Center Donation Drop off. For additional information contact Thomas Woods at 517.323.47.34 x1203 or [woodst@stvcc.org](mailto:woodst@stvcc.org).

**Music Position Opening**

St. Joseph Church in St. Johns is accepting applications for the Music Director-Organist position at their parish. Applicant must be proficient on piano and organ, familiar with liturgical norms, and able to direct the adult choir, cantors, and instrumentalists. 25 hrs/wk; includes benefits. Apply to [business.stjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:business.stjoseph@gmail.com) by April 13, 2015. Direct questions to Susan at 989-224-8994.

**The Rosary** is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is to pray for those attracted by the glamour of material things, may God's love for them bring them to understand the value of the things of heaven.

**Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering especially:** Frieda Gallagher, Sally Foster, Becky Hicks, Scott Foster, Dennis Smith, Carl Stump, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Dewey Torok, Evan Pung, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Irene Weber, Adam Schaefer, Sarah Fox-Klein, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Chuck McCausey, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulye, Therese Trierweiler, Marla Thelen, Kenny Briganti, Jenny Scott, Jeff Pline, Gary McNamara, Sharon (Thelen) Droste, Pete Kumz, Theresa Fox, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Eugene L. Thelen, Linda Rogala, Dawson Thelen, Sarah Weber and a special intention.

**Please contact the parish office to inform us when we can add or remove a persons name from the list. Thank you.**

*Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.*

**Sponsor of the Week**

*Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.*

**John E. Wieber, P.C.**



Masses For The Week

**Monday - March 23**

8:15 a.m. + Lois Martin & Living & Deceased Members of the Family

7:00 p.m. Communal Penance Service

**Tuesday - March 24**

8:15 a.m. + Marion Craig (2nd Anniversary)

**Wednesday - March 25 - Annunciation of the Lord**

8:15 a.m. + A Special Intention

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations & Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. + Joseph Schueller, Including Riley and Living & Deceased Members of the Family

**Thursday - March 26**

8:15 a.m. + John Schafer

**Friday - March 27**

8:15 a.m. + Joan Feldpausch-Pohl, Including Louis Feldpausch & Gerald Pohl

**Saturday - March 28**

8:15 a.m. + Jerome M. Schafer (10th Anniversary), Including Mary

4:30 p.m. + Emily Goerge

**Sunday - March 29**

8:30 a.m. + Karen (Bertram) Brockwell

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

**Ushers for Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29**

4:30 p.m. - Gary Weber, Dale Feldpausch, Keith Weber, Jerome Klein

8:30 a.m. - Bill Armbrustmacher, Tom O'Rourke, Bruce Schafer, Volunteer

10:30 a.m. - David Klein, Brent McCarty, Roy Witgen, Neil Feldpausch

**Mass Servers for Saturday & Sunday March 28 & 29**

4:30 p.m. - Drew & Holly Bierstetel, Kendra Koenigsknecht, Jaxsen Klein

8:30 a.m. - Emily & Olivia Esch, Clayton & Owen Simon

10:30 a.m. - Logan & Tyler Klein, MacKenzie & Delanie Braun

**Mass Servers During This Week**

Mon., 8:15 a.m. - Volunteer

Tues., 8:15 a.m. - Volunteer

Wed., 8:15 a.m. - MHT School

Wed., 7:00 p.m. - Nolan Wirth, Adam Pohl

Thur., 8:15 a.m. - Jacob, Hannah & Andrew Irrer

Fri., 8:15 a.m. - Volunteer

Sat., 8:15 a.m. - Taylor Weber, Cyrus Carbone

**Readings for the Week of March 22, 2015**

**Monday** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalms 23; John 8:1-11

**Tuesday** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalms 102; John 8:21-30

**Wednesday** Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10; Psalms 40; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

**Thursday** Genesis 17:3-9; Psalms 105; John 8:51-59

**Friday** Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalms 18; John 10:31 - 42

**Saturday:** Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31; John 11:45 - 56