

Divine Service
for the
**Third Sunday
in
Lent**

10:00 a.m.
March 8, 2026 A.D.



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
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Website: www.stjohnswestfield.org YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stjohnswestfield

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Radio Broadcast at 7:30 AM on WHYN 560 AM

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**WELCOME IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD and SAVIOR,
JESUS CHRIST!**

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

AS WE GATHER: Though the Lord had brought them out of Egypt, all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Him because there was no water for the people to drink. Despite their quarreling, the Lord graciously provided for them. He did not strike the people for their sins, but by the hand of Moses He struck the rock instead and brought forth water for the people. In the same way, living water flows from the pierced side of Christ at about the sixth hour, when He is lifted up on the cross for the sins of the world. He is the gift of God, the well from which the Holy Spirit is poured out and becomes in His people a spring of water welling up to eternal life. By this grace in which we stand, being at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, we worship the Father in spirit and truth. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

✠ HYMN of INVOCATION NO. **606**: *"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"*



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
 He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
 His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

✠ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

† INTROIT

P: Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.
How lovely is your | dwelling place,
O | LORD of hosts!

**C: My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts | of the LORD;
my heart and flesh sing for joy to the | living God.**

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may | lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

**C: Blessèd are those who dwell | in your house,
ever sing- | ing your praise!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P: Blessèd are those whose strength is | in you,
in whose heart are the highways to | Zion.

† KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

† SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And with thy spir - it.

P: Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☐ A - men.

(Be Seated)

† OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 17:1-7

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." And the Lord said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

† GRADUAL: **O come, let us fix our eyes on | Jesus,
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despis- | ing the
shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.**

† EPISTLE READING: Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character,

and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: John 4: 5-26

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.



☒ Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☒ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

† STATEMENT of FAITH: Nicene Creed

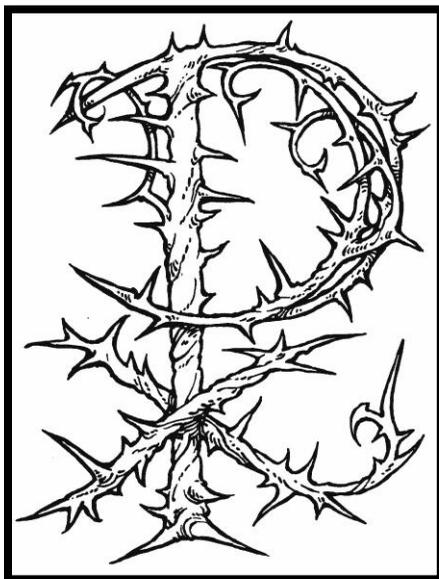
I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

(Be Seated)

† CHILDREN'S SERMON



† SERMON HYMN NO. **648**: “*Glorious Things of You Are Spoken*”



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
 ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
 fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing
 mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
 fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
 that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner
 glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
 Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
 Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -
 All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
 Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
 on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.
 last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

† SERMON: “*Stricken for You*”

Exodus 17:1-7

† CHOIR ANTHEM: “*Lord of Mercy, Lord of Grace*”

Stan Pethel

(Please Stand)

† OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

† PRAYER of the CHURCH

P: Lord of hosts, Your ancient people worshiped You in Jerusalem, and in Christ You are now worshiped among all nations. Grant us faithful hearts to worship in spirit and truth, that many

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, You led Your ancient people by the hand of Moses and Aaron. Lead us through the wilderness of this world by the hand of faithful pastors, that we would be refreshed by the living water flowing from the stricken side of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of all, You bestow Your riches on all who call upon You. Bless parents with all wisdom as they teach their children Your ways, that all in the household may confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, preserve our nation, and prosper the cause of justice in this land. Guide and grant Your wisdom to our president; the Congress of the United States; our governor; and all elected and appointed civil servants. Grant us peace among the nations, and watch over those who protect us in the armed forces of our land. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O great Physician of body and soul, by Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Hold them all in Your almighty hands and bring them consolation. Heal them according to Your gracious will, and give us all grace to accept and bear our crosses with faith in You, that we would always be prepared to depart this life in faith and come to Your heavenly home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, grant us safe haven at Your altar, that we who bear the weight of this world and its sorrows would always long for Your courts and the blessings You have prepared for those who sing Your praise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty Lord, to You all hearts are open and all sins are known. Strengthen our hearts by Your grace, that we who daily sin much would make confession boldly and then joyfully receive Your precious word of absolution. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: These and whatever other things You would have us ask of You, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P: Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✠ WORDS of INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

✠ PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



☐ A - men.

† AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

(Be Seated)

Regarding the Reception of the Lord's Supper

At Saint John's we believe, teach, and confess according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions that in the Lord's Supper we receive not merely bread and wine, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. This Holy Supper is not only a gift of Christ, but also a confession of the faith and doctrine confessed at this altar. Because Holy Scripture warns that those who eat and drink unworthily do so to their harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), and because communing together is also an expression of unity in doctrine and confession, we joyfully invite to the Lord's Table all confirmed members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) who are in good standing with their home congregation, who have been instructed and who publicly confess this faith. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation, we are thankful for your presence today and warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor approaches. Following the service and in the coming week, our pastors would be glad to speak with you about the Lord's Supper and to share more about what we believe, teach, and confess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

† DISTRIBUTION HYMN No. **637**: *“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”*



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

(Please Stand)

† NUNC DIMITTIS



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



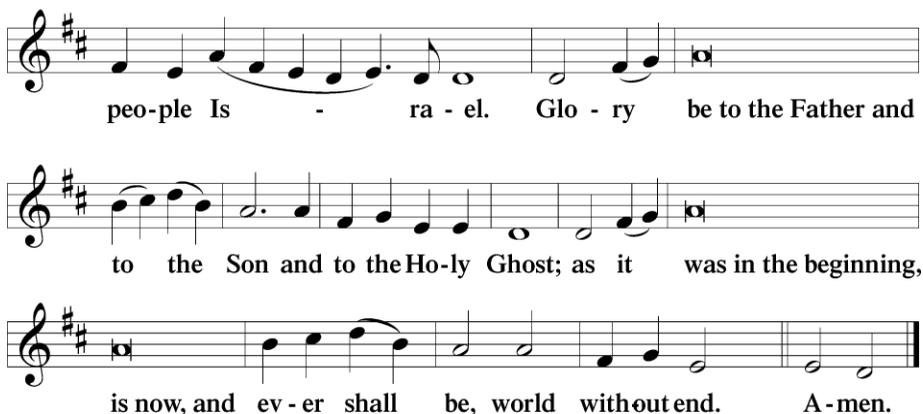
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

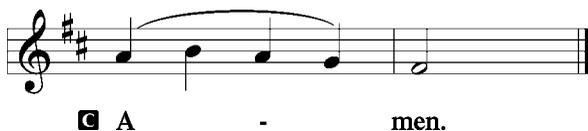
✠ THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

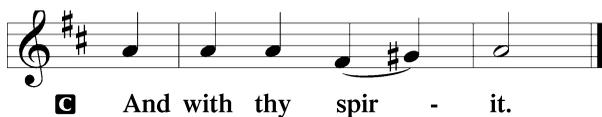
P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

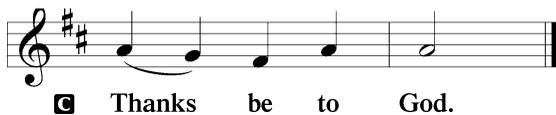
✠ SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P: The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.

P: Bless we the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

† BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

† CLOSING HYMN NO. 435: "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

† POSTLUDE

THIS WEEK:	WEDNESDAY	Choir Practice	4:45 p.m.
		Mid-Week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY		Pastor Riley's Bible Study	10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
		Hand Chimes	4:45 p.m.
NEXT SUNDAY		8:30 AM Bible Study - Led by Herb Greenspan	
		9:00 AM Bible Study - Led by Pastor Windoloski	
		Divine Service	10:00 a.m.
		Voters' Meeting	After the Service in the Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU to Brenda Bacon from New England District for joining us for service this morning and sharing information about Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Brenda will be available during the coffee hour to discuss any questions you may have.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The congregational meeting will be held on March 15 after the church service in the fellowship hall. Reports are available in the church foyer. There will be an election of officers that will take place. The Church Council Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month. If you would like to run for an office position or have any questions, please speak to Jane McClure.

The positions available are:

President - To serve as the chief executive of the congregation and exercise general administrative responsibility for the entire organization of the congregation and be responsible for ensuring that all elected or appointed officers, boards and committees' function and carry out their duties and responsibilities.

Vice President – To serve as the second-level executive of the congregation and work with all elected and appointed officers, boards and committees to assist them in carrying out their assigned duties and responsibilities

Treasurer – To oversee the financial affairs of the congregation.

Secretary - To keep accurate minutes of the congregation meetings and voters' assemblies, or other meetings as needed.

Financial Secretary – To receive, record, and deposits all congregational monies. The financial secretary provides weekly reports to the treasurer and monthly reports to the council.

Trustees (3) – To be responsible for all real and personal property of the congregation.

Auditors (2) - Audit the books of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer at least once a year and make a report to the congregation. (Not required to attend church council meetings).

40 Days for Life (Spring Campaign): The Beginning of the End of Abortion

'The 40 Days for Life' spring campaign is currently underway through Palm Sunday, March 29th. This effort seeks to help save lives in New England through peaceful prayer vigils in our local communities. When pro-life individuals are on site, productivity at abortion centers plummet and as many as 75 percent of clients do not show up for their appointments. Furthermore, volunteers almost unanimously report personal spiritual growth. While praying in public can cause anxiety, we recall the words of 1 Peter 3:14: "But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. 'Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened'". To find a location near you, please visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-search.aspx>

2026 Lenten Series: "Truly, This Is the Son of God!"

When we look at the Passion of our Lord, we find numerous characters who are hostile to the Word in human flesh and others who are friendly. All of these reactions to Jesus of Nazareth leave historical impressions that this man was not just a man or even a superman, but none other than the divine Son of God. On this year's Lenten journey, we will hear and see the witnesses of their lives. They will lead us back to the cross and the Man crucified there. The cross and the empty tomb spoke to them at that time and continued to speak to us today. Here is the evidence of the lives touched by the Word. We hear and see the evidence. May the Holy Spirit Who works faith in our hearts each day through the inspired Word strengthen us in the sure and certain knowledge of faith to believe and confess, with the Centurion at the cross, that Jesus of Nazareth truly is the Son of God.

Wednesday, March 11: "Simon of Cyrene" Mark 15:16-26

Wednesday, March 18: "The Thief" Luke 23:32-43

Wednesday, March 25: "The Centurion" Matthew 27:45-54

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Passion Sunday	Divine Service with the Procession of Palms	10:00 a.m.
Holy Thursday	Divine Service with the Stripping of the Altar	6:00 p.m.
Good Friday	Tenebrae Vespers	6:00 p.m.
The Vigil of Easter		6:00 p.m.
The Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Sunday		
	Sunrise Service (Park Square Green)	6:00 a.m.
	Divine Service (Sanctuary)	10:00 a.m.