



ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

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LENTEN PROJECT UNITES PARISH YOUTH THROUGH

the Corporal Works of Mercy

So, what exactly are the Corporal Works of Mercy, and how do they apply to our daily lives as Catholics? As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us, the Corporal Works of Mercy provide for us “a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise.”

There are seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Welcome the stranger
- Heal the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

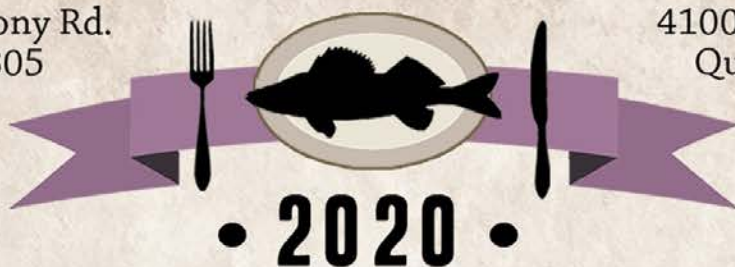
During Lent, our St. Anthony of Padua parish youth will have a wonderful opportunity to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy together. Our fourth, fifth and sixth-grade students — from both the PSR and St. Dominic — will host a large garage sale on Saturday, April 4, in the St. Dominic Gym.

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ST. ANTHONY PARISH • ST. DOMINIC SCHOOL

2223 St. Anthony Rd.
Quincy, IL 62305

4100 Columbus Rd.
Quincy, IL 62305



FISH FRIES

- ON THE MENU -

Catfish Plate (Whole or Fillet).....\$10.00

(includes 3 sides, dessert & drink)

Walleye Plate.....\$9.00

(includes 3 sides, dessert & drink)

Fish Sandwich & French Fries.....\$5.00

Child's Plate.....\$5.00

(includes 1 pc. of walleye, 2 sides, dessert & drink)

• HOMEMADE PIES, CAKES AND DESSERTS •

ST. DOMINIC'S FRY-DAYS

4:30pm - 7:00pm

February 28

March 13

March 27

Carry-outs available;
enter through EAST driveway

ST. ANTHONY'S FRY-DAYS

4:30pm - 7:00pm

March 6

March 20

April 3

Carry-outs available; enter
through SOUTH basement entrance

A Steward's Guide to LENTEN COMMITMENTS

Dear Parishioners,

Making a Lenten commitment is simple. Keeping it is the difficult part! The Lenten commitments we make ourselves are frequently a lot like New Year's resolutions — they sound good, but we don't get far into the new year before they've been broken and then abandoned.

If you are like me, you approached Ash Wednesday with the intention of doing better than you did last year. But as Lent continues, our enthusiasm may wane, and it seems harder and harder to keep our commitment. And then we begin to wonder, "What's the point?"

Often, we realize we've already broken our commitment in some way — perhaps we decided we'd pray a decade of the Rosary every evening, but we were too tired one night or simply forgot. Maybe we slipped up and ate a cheeseburger on the first Friday in Lent, even though we know that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat. So we conclude that we just can't keep a good Lenten commitment and give up trying to make it a special season in any way.

If you're tempted to give up, **don't do it!** Just pick up where you left off, ask God for forgiveness, and begin again. Our Lenten commitments should challenge us, and we can grow spiritually. We can even benefit from our failures if they help us better realize how much we need God's grace.

After all, nothing worthwhile is accomplished without discipline and structure. Whether it's a football player in training, a musician practicing or a medical student mastering the intricacies of the human body, hard work, discipline and even frustration will be part of the process. Only those who keep at it will master the skills those activities demand.

The spiritual life follows the same principles. Spiritual growth requires hard work, discipline and practice. Making our wills conform to God's will is the result of repeated efforts over a period of years.

It is true that sometimes we must reevaluate our Lenten commitments. If we are aware we're consistently failing in some way, we may need to modify how we approach our commitment. Above all, the key to success is our steady, day-to-day observance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving all through the season.

But when we do fail, we should remember the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). He had failed miserably. Suppose he had concluded, "I've blown it. I rejected my father and my home. There's no way I can go back." He'd have given up in despair. But "coming to his senses," he decides to return home in penitence, to be a servant. When he arrives home, he is welcomed with joy and restored to his position.

This parable sets forth the pattern we should follow when we fail in our Lenten commitments. Begin our observance again, and keep up our Lenten journey, eventually arriving at the joys of Easter. God our Father will welcome us. Then we will indeed be ready to celebrate.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Tom Donovan
Pastor

MEET DAVID AND

Faith

Though life will always be tumultuous and trials are inevitable, hope remains the great gift of Christianity. Our Lord reminds us repeatedly throughout Scripture to be not afraid, casting our cares and worries on Him instead. Looking back on their journey thus far, parishioners David and Janice McCleary describe faith as the bedrock to their life. It's been a staple to their family and has gotten them through life's challenges.

"Faith has helped us get through difficult times in our lives, including some health issues over the past couple of years," Janice says. "Ever since I was a child, faith has always just been there — part of who I am. For me, Sunday just starts the week."

"Ever since I was born, my parents and family have always been very active in the Church," David says. "So, I grew up being involved in the church and its activities."

Formed by these early examples, Janice and David knew the kind of example they wanted to set for their own children. Consequently, attending Mass on Sunday and becoming involved in parish ministries has remained a priority in their marriage. Janice enjoys leading the Rosary before Mass, viewing it as a concrete way to give back to God and Mary, while David serves as both an usher and a greeter. And their two daughters, Madison, 9, and Emma, 6, enjoy helping them, truly making stewardship a way of life for the entire family.

"I love leading the Rosary," Janice says. "It gives me a greater connection with Mary and some one-on-one time with her when I am able to lead the Rosary for the congregation. And the girls see what we do and they want to be a part of it. They know that sometimes we just get to do stuff at Church. They also always enjoy participating

in Children's Liturgy of the Word. I think it just makes faith a part of them."

"I know between my wife doing the Rosary and me ushering, we are leading the girls in the right direction," David adds.

In addition to the couple's public service, prayer has become a key part of their stewardship offering. Drawing strength from the Bible verse "All things are possible to those who believe" (Mark 9:23), Janice has learned to speak with God more freely in prayer, asking Him unhesitatingly for help not only for others, but also for herself.

"One thing I have learned is to pray — pray and ask God for help," Janice says. "I used to think I couldn't ask God for help, that I should only ask for help and pray for other people. But a friend once told me that if I don't ask God for what I needed, how will He know? That made sense to me. So I started really talking to God and asking Him for help and even pinpointing things that I really needed guidance and support with."

Not only has seeking God's aid in this way deepened Janice and David's trust in the Lord, but it's also made them more attentive to the signs He provides, as well as the way He uses others to communicate His messages.



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JANICE MCCLEARY

He is the Bedrock

“Every time I realize that I am getting a sign from God answering my prayers, I smile and stop and thank Him,” Janice says. “His works are truly everywhere — you just have to be aware of them.”

Though the couple has had their share of ups and downs — including Janice’s recent diagnosis of breast cancer — God has revealed His faithfulness time and time again to them. They’ve been blessed with an amazing support system, both through their families and spiritual community. Janice says she’s also been blessed with good health throughout her treatment journey and the continuous reminders of God’s love that He sends her way.

“I ask God all of the time for strength, both physically and mentally, and every week He provides,” Janice says. “He has put several people in my path to help me on this journey. I am always so grateful for the people who come in to my life to offer support and encouragement. I appreciate all of the prayers I have received — both from people who tell me they pray for me and for those who do it and I have no idea I am in their thoughts.”

“Over the years, I have learned to try and not stress about the difficulties of life too much,” David adds. “You have to give those worries and prayers to God. He will lead me through it.”



David and Janice McCleary with their daughters, Madison and Emma

“I ask God all of the time for strength, both physically and mentally, and every week He provides. He has put several people in my path to help me on this journey. I am always so grateful for the people who come in to my life to offer support and encouragement. I appreciate all of the prayers I have received — both from people who tell me they pray for me and for those who do it and I have no idea I am in their thoughts.” — Janice McCleary

LENTEN PROJECT UNITES PARISH YOUTH THROUGH

the Corporal Works of Mercy

continued from front cover

Through both preparation for the sale and the sale itself, students will be able to live out the Corporal Works of Mercy in a number of ways. Admission to the garage sale will be two non-perishable food items or a \$2 donation, which will be given to local food pantries — this will fulfill “feed the hungry.” All proceeds from the garage sale will be donated to the “2 by 4 for Hope” water filtration program — this will fulfill “give drink to the thirsty.”

All leftover items from the garage sale will be donated to local charities — this will fulfill “clothe the naked.” We will be working on “welcome the stranger” by serving as greeters two weekends during Lent, when we will be speaking before Mass to introduce the project to the parish and encourage people to find items for the sale.

This Lenten project is a valuable chance to unite children in our parish — for our youth to be part of a team and not two separate entities. These students will make up a large part of our next Confirmation class and we are excited to bring them together. They will be busy over the next month making

posters, practicing presentations, being greeters at masses and collecting items for the sale.

The dynamic project leaders include the fourth and fifth-grade PSR teacher Julie Peter, St. Dominic fourth-grade teacher Katie O’Neal, St. Dominic fifth-grade teacher Joann Ellerman, St. Dominic sixth-grade teacher Tera Smith, sixth-grade PSR teacher for Kim Peters, St. Anthony’s DRE Bonnie Nytes, and St. Dominic Principal Carol Frericks.

Together we are all working to be more Christ-like in our parish, becoming disciples for Christ through our actions and the Corporal Works of Mercy.

We will be collecting gently used items every weekend during Lent — please refer to the parish bulletin or call the parish/school offices for details.



IT IS TIME TO SPRING CLEAN

DONATE ALL YOUR GENTLY USED ITEMS TO THE GARAGE SALE HELD
ON SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

PLEASE BRING YOUR ITEMS EVERY WEEKEND IN MARCH. WATCH THE
BULLETIN FOR DETAILS.

PLEASE HELP US WITH OUR LENTEN PROJECT BY
DONATING ITEMS.

Sponsored by the 4th, 5th and 6th grade students of
St. Anthony of Padua

Stewardship of the Cross



The liturgical year is such a gift to us. As we approach the beginning of Lent at the end of February, and as we begin our Lenten journey by reflecting on the life of Christ, we have the opportunity to consider the most sublime events in the history of mankind. Of these events, perhaps none is more beautiful and worthy of contemplation than the one we are about to commemorate — Jesus' sacrifice of Himself for us on the Cross.

It is fitting and, at the same time, paradoxical. It is fitting that God should do it, because only an infinite God could rid us of the infinite debt we owed by our sin. It is paradoxical that He not only did it, but wanted to do it out of pure love for us, His lowly creatures. What is Jesus trying to show us? Even more staggering, what is He really asking when He exhorts us, in turn, to take up our cross and follow Him?

Jesus freely gave His life for the Church, and He calls us to do the same. Some of us may, in fact, give our entire lives for the Church. But for most of us, this giving takes place by a series of daily actions, both large and small, of Christ-like, sacrificial love — specifically, by giving our time, talent and treasure for the good of the Church. Yet, by joining these actions with His, we have the chance to participate in that very same sacrifice. This month, let us take the time to examine our hearts and actions in light of Jesus' as we journey with Him toward the Cross.

Jesus gave Himself unselfishly and excessively.

Consider the manner of His sacrifice — one drop of Christ's blood would have been more than sufficient to save the entire human race, and yet Our Lord Jesus chose to shed every last bit. From start to finish, Jesus showed us by His passion that He wanted to do more than what was merely sufficient. If there was more He could give, He gave it. He never stopped to count the cost or to look for what He could get in return.

Jesus made His sacrifice a supreme act of love for the Church.

Counter-cultural even to this day, Jesus actually upheld sacrifice as desirable — the most perfect way to show our love: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn. 15:13). In His infinite wisdom, Jesus now offers this path to us as the way to holiness: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk. 9:23).

Jesus gave Himself willingly and even joyfully.

"No one takes [My life] from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again" (Jn. 10:18). At the first Eucharist, Jesus even went so far as to say, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you" (Lk. 22:15). Needless to say, the Passover sacrifice to which Jesus referred was not a symbolic one, but was in fact His very Body and Blood He would give for us through the sacrifice of the Cross.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts more like Yours.

A Lenten Stewardship Prayer

*"O my God, teach me to be generous:
to serve You as You deserve to be served;
to give without counting the cost;
to fight without fear of being wounded;
to work without seeking rest;
and to spend myself without expecting any reward,
but the knowledge that I am doing Your Holy will."*

— St. Ignatius of Loyola

ST. ANTHONY *of* PADUA

2223 St. Anthony Rd.
Quincy, IL 62305
217-222-5996

Return Service Requested

WWW.STANTHONYPADUA.ORG

DAILY MASS: MON, TUE, & THU - 7:30 A.M.

SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M. & 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAY 5:15 - 6:15 P.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Spring Craft and Vendor Show

MARCH 7, 2020

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, March 7 — you'll have the opportunity to do some spring shopping at our Spring Craft/Vendor Event, sponsored by the St. Anthony Ladies Society. Join us for this wonderful event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Dominic School, 4100 Columbus Road, Quincy.

To learn more about stewardship at St. Anthony of Padua, please contact
the Stewardship Committee at stewardship@stanthonypadua.org