

*This
is my
beloved
Son.
Listen
to him.*

M. Marren

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

St. John Fisher Parish

10234 South Washtenaw Avenue
Chicago, IL 60655

(773) 445-6565

www.stjohnfisherparish.net



On this Second Sunday of Lent our readings go from the unthinkable to the incredible; from the horrifying to the holy. We begin with our First Reading, taken from the Book of Genesis. It tells us a story about Abraham and his son Isaac. The story of Abraham began when God told him to leave his native land to go to a place that was unknown to him. Abraham did so as an act of faith. God had made a covenant with him and promised him descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky. He also gave Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac, in their old age. In today's reading, God asks him to do the unthinkable: to sacrifice his only son, the one who was the hope for numerous descendants. How could Abraham have descendants "as numerous as the stars of the sky" if he had to sacrifice his only son? Abraham trusted that God would be faithful to his promise but did not know how. At the last moment, as Abraham was getting ready to slaughter his son, a messenger of the Lord called out to him to stop. Because of his obedience and willingness to withhold nothing from the Lord, the Lord rewards Abraham and reiterates his promise to make his descendants "as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore." Gen. 22:17

The story of Abraham and Isaac is often called the sacrifice of Isaac, but that is a misnomer. The Jewish description of it is "the binding of Isaac" ("*Aqedah*") and is more accurate since Isaac is not sacrificed. In any event, that is a terrifying and unthinkable thing to be asked to do: To think about sacrificing a loved one. On the other hand, how great was Abraham's faith that he believed that, somehow, God would make things work

out in the end? This reminds me of a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase." Abraham took that first step.

Our Gospel reading is equally dramatic but in a completely different way. An incredible event happens as Jesus leads Peter, James, and John to a mountain top. Upon arriving, Jesus is transfigured before them (in Greek, *metamorphoo*) and Moses and Elijah appear, conversing with Jesus! Peter suggests they build three tents, so that they could remain there in the presence of Moses the Lawgiver and Elijah the Prophet. A cloud hovers over them and from it a voice proclaims: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Listen, that is, to what he has been saying about going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die. This "peak experience" as the theologian Paul Tillich would call it, could not go on forever, however. Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the "high" of this experience, Jesus immediately leads them back down the mountain. They needed to go back down to where the world awaited them and to where their real work was to be done: To where they would witness Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.

These two readings are extreme examples of faith and encounters with God. How terrifying was it for Abraham to think he would have to sacrifice his only son? The Gospel tells us that Peter, James, and John were also terrified upon seeing a transfigured Jesus, along with Moses and Elijah. Taking these two scenarios and putting them into the context of our own lives this Lent, I invite you to think about difficult choices you have had to make during your life and how you felt as you were making them. Think also of times when you felt that you were truly in the presence of God and how that felt. Whether you felt it or not, God was there in the difficult times as well as the joyful ones.

This Friday evening, March 1, Bishop Dan Turley will be conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation upon the St. Cajetan 8th Grade School and Religious Education students (and one from St. John Fisher...) This is an important day in the Faith life of these students as they become fully initiated adults in their Catholic Faith. Keep them in your prayers.



Pro Labore Dei News

Some old business and some new:

Our next lunch-making will be on
Saturday, March 2, at 9:15 a.m.
in the rectory basement.

Our current needs are:

100 sweet treats

70 chips

and, always, our marvelous volunteers.

We continue to collect food for our pantry every Saturday morning from 9:30 to 10:00 and are trying something new. We call it **ITEM OF THE MONTH**. **For February the item will be RICE**. Please consider grabbing a box of rice while you are getting that extra box of cereal, jar of pasta sauce, or cans of vegetables to help us bag staples to hand out to our clients. Truth be told, St. John Fisher is the example used by many parishes and schools.

Please support our annual Easter basket collection. We are collecting Easter baskets or parts of baskets we can finish for those who would not have this celebration without our help. We will collect baskets until March 21. Whatever you can do is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Any questions or concerns,
 contact Pam O'Mara (773) 612-0281
 or Jerry and Pat Hayes (773) 203-7881

SUNDAY OFFERTORY

Sunday, February 18, 2024 \$6,123.00

Thank you for your stewardship
 in support of St. John Fisher Parish!

Taller de José

Taller De Jose (Sisters of St. Joseph) offers companionship and personal attention to people who have difficulty finding their way in a complex social system. Rather than duplicate existing services, we seek to collaborate with other agencies to make social services more accessible to a population in need. Staff members are trained to listen to clients to assess the services they need and then accompany them in finding resources.

Taller de José's model of accompaniment:

- Challenges social structure in order to create a culture of inclusivity and mutuality
- Creates, maintains, and supports just relationships with individuals and organizations
- Seeks to create systemic change to promote a more just and equitable society
- Cultivates a consciousness of the inherent worth of each person

Check out more about Taller de José on page 6.

Rectory: 10234 S. Washtenaw Avenue
 Chicago, IL 60655

Phone: (773) 445-6565

Fax: (773) 445-1644

SJF Parish Website:

www.stjohnfisherparish.net

Weekend Liturgies:

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Liturgies: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:15 a.m.

School: 10200 S. Washtenaw Avenue
 Chicago, IL 60655

Phone: (773) 445-4737

Fax: (773) 233-3012

SJF School Website:

www.sjfschool.net

Office of Religious Education

Phone: (773) 238-1851

St. John Fisher Parish Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Community of St. John Fisher, formed by the gospel, nourished by the Eucharist, and united by love, are called to celebrate the kingdom of God and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action.

Pray the Rosary

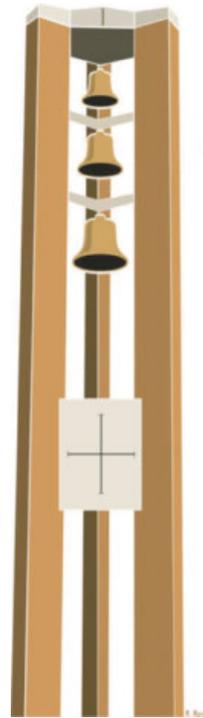
Saint John Fisher Parish celebrates our 75th anniversary year from late 2023 through late 2024. We launched Praying the Rosary in October 2023 as one of our Jubilee activities.

Please attend the next recitation of the rosary:

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024
at 7:00 p.m. in the church**

The sorrowful mysteries are generally prayed on Tuesdays. Lent is a perfect time to focus on the sorrowful mysteries:

- The Agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
- The Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar
- The Crowning of Jesus with Thorns
- The Carrying of the Cross
- The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus



St. John Fisher Parish

75th Anniversary 1948-2023

**Please Support
St. John Fisher
and our
75th Anniversary
Raffle.**

**You
could win
\$20,000!**

**We will draw the
winning tickets
on Sunday,
April 14,
after 11:00 a.m.
Mass.**



McAuley Pre AP Algebra Class

ADVANCE YOUR MATH SKILLS WHILE MAKING NEW FRIENDS!

McAuley will host a **PLACEMENT TEST** for current 7th grade students who are interested in taking Pre AP Algebra during their 8th grade year.

**Saturday, March 2
8:00am**

- The test will be held at Mother McAuley.
- Doors open at 7:45am.
- Students should bring two #2 pencils.
- Pre-registration is required.
- Test will conclude at 9:00am.



3737 W. 99th Street | Chicago | mothermcauley.org

This class will be taught by a McAuley math faculty member. Students who successfully complete Pre AP Algebra may have the opportunity to enroll in Geometry Honors during their Freshman year at McAuley.

Class will meet Monday - Friday mornings from 7:00-7:45am during the 2024-2025 school year.

Course fee is \$450 and includes textbook rental. Students must bring a TI-84 calculator.



**REGISTER
HERE**

Get a jump on your high school experience!

75th Anniversary Raffle

Tickets: \$100 each

Credit card, check, or cash payments are accepted.

Tickets are still available. The drawing will be held at a later date,

Tickets can be purchased:

◆ **Online...**

- Go to the Saint John Fisher Parish website at: <https://www.stjohnfisherparish.net>
- Click on wording in the center that states “75th Anniversary RAFFLE” under “Weekly Announcements.”
- Click on “ORDER NOW.”
- Follow the instructions on the secure online gateway for credit card payments.
- If more than one (1) person is buying the ticket, please list the names under special instructions.

◆ **After all the weekend masses at a table in the back of church**

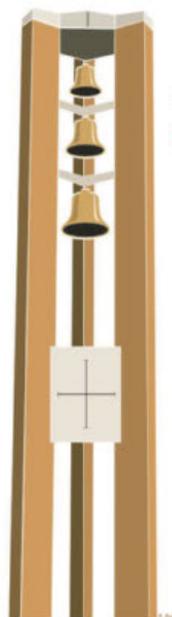
◆ **At the rectory during regular hours**

◆ **After the school sports games in the gymnasium**

Raffle tickets make great gifts too. They also provide financial support to our parish.

Thank you, in advance, for your support and participation.

Strengthening Our Joyous Future



St. John Fisher Parish

75th Anniversary 1948-2023

First Prize \$20,000

Second Prize . . . \$1,000

Third Prize \$500



Winners will be drawn on Sunday, April 14 2024, after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Winner need not be present.

Name

Phone

E-mail

Parishioner? Yes No

Seller

ALDERMAN MATT O'SHEA'S GET BEHIND THE VEST PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th

8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

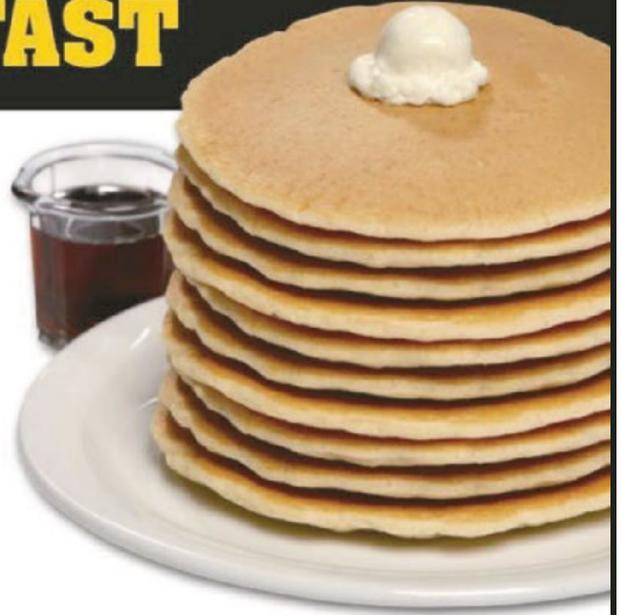
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Tickets: \$5 per person / \$25 per family

All proceeds will benefit the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's Get Behind the Vest Campaign.

For more information, please contact Matt O'Shea at mattoshea@the19thward.com or (773) 238-8766.



Taller de José (St. Joseph's Workshop)

During the season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on our values as Christians and recommit to living them out in our lives. As we commit ourselves to fasting and praying, among other things, we also commit to "give alms," to share our resources with our neighbors who are in need. This year, the St. John Fisher community is invited to share its resources with neighbors served by Taller de José

Taller de José is a community resource center, located in Chicago's Little Village, which offers accompaniment to people in need, connecting people to services and services to people. Founded by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Taller de José exists to fulfill the mission of Jesus, "that all may be one."

Accompaniment is a unique service in a city abounding with government agencies and resources. The staff of Taller de José offers companionship and personal attention to underserved people to help them to navigate the social service system and connect them to the resources they need. While accompanying a client, the staff is a supportive

presence, at times offering information, translation, direction, emotional support, and advocacy for the client. Staff members also accompany clients by physically walking with them to appointments and services throughout Chicago via public transportation.

**Won't you join Taller de José
in providing accompaniment
to those in need?**

On Holy Thursday, please consider making a donation to the collection. All donations received on Holy Thursday will help to provide our sisters and brothers in need with the support and guidance offered to all, free of charge, at Taller de José.

You can also donate online at
www.tallerdejose.org

We invite you to journey with us and our clients this Lenten season by reading the bulletin every week to hear the stories of our brothers and sisters served at Taller de José.

SOUTHSIDE PARISH RENEWAL NEWS



Christ the King Parish Mission

Monday, February 26 &
Tuesday, February 27
7:00 p.m.

Sister Mary Paul McCaughey, O.P.

Beloved:

Claiming Our Seats at the Family Table

What does it mean to be loved by God? Each of us has our separate journey to owning our being deeply "beloved" by God, but Lent is the perfect time to gently explore that road with all the suffering and joy along the way together. Please join us on February 26 & 27 for an exploration of the theme of divine love and what it means to be (very concretely) called by name and fed at the table of sacrifice, presence, and transformation.

Visit southsideparishrenewal.com
for Mass times, newsletter sign-ups,
and more information on ways to get involved.

Let us "Journey Together"

In 2021, Pope Francis invited the people of God to journey together on a synodal path reflecting on the themes of communion, participation and mission. The reflections of the people of God from all over the world were gathered in a document for discernment by participants of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2023.

Pope Francis made an effort to create an assembly that represented the whole church, including ordained, religious and lay women and men and young people.

Members sat in small groups around circular tables and discerned the reflection themes through conversation in the Spirit (Prayer, Listening, Silence, Dialogue).

As we journey toward the next General Assembly of the Synod in October 2024, we will provide monthly highlights from the Synod and its Synthesis Report, as well as reflections on how you can practice synodality in your daily life.

REFLECT: Synodality is centered in prayer. How would you rate your prayer life on a scale from 1-10...(and what makes it a...)? How often do you take time to talk with God throughout the day? What can you do to make daily prayer a healthy habit?

*Prayer is breath of faith in war-torn world.
Pope Francis*



St. John Fisher St. Patrick's Mass & Party

Saturday, March 9
Mass at 4:00 p.m.

St. Cajetan Irish Fest

Saturday, March 2
Following the 4:00 p.m. Mass



Morgan Park United Methodist Church
11030 S. Longwood Ave.



Your Life—and the World— Will Never Be the Same

This summer, Jesus is inviting you to encounter him in a new way. He wants to work wonders in and through you, making YOU a part of salvation history in ways you never could have imagined.

Ready to see what God has in store? Come and witness his transformative power at the National Eucharistic Congress.

For the first time in nearly a century, the Catholic Church from every corner of the United States will gather in one place. Together, we will be healed, converted, formed, unified, and launched into a new chapter of Eucharistic mission—on fire with love for Jesus Christ. Learn more at EucharisticCongress.org.

What: 10th National Eucharistic Congress

When: July 17–21, 2024

Where: Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN



eucharisticrevival.org

Wedding Banns



Alix Johnpolos and Brian Pillon (II)

Maeve McGlinchey and Brad Jerantowski (III)

Rest in Peace

Please remember especially in your prayers this week:

Michael McGinty

Fr. Daniel Smilanic

Patricia Golden

Regina Arndt

Sr. Michelle Elfering, *former SJF Principal*

Adele O'Sullivan

Victims of Gun and Domestic Violence

Victims of in Ukrainian and in the Middle East

Job Opportunities The Women's Center

Client Advocate—Full-Time—Evergreen Park

The Client Advocate plays a front-line role with pregnant women who are vulnerable to considering abortion for their unborn child.

Office Director—Full-Time—Evergreen Park

This position is for someone who can provide sound direction and thoughtful leadership to client advocates and support staff.

Send your resume, cover letter and life statement to svaldes@gotwc.org. We are immediately hiring.

Prayer Support for Our Military Personnel

We keep parishioners and all those who are serving in the military in our prayers, especially:

MSG Kevin Daley; CPL Thomas Leonard, USMC; Daniel Wagner; Pvt 1st Class Michael Carroll, USMC; Lt. Col. Eric Dougherty, USMC; Lance Cpl Kevin Butler, USMC; Lt. Brad Brunaugh; Pvt. Christopher Dinaso; PFC Ryan Hensley; PFC Steven Folliard; Captain Michael McCann, US Army; Kevin Roche; Steve Ayon; Pvt. Anthony Schmidt; PFC Terrance Wilson, US Army; Lance Cpl Brennan C. McDonald, Jr., USMC; Sgt. Robert Brennan Carroll, USMC; Lt. Cmdr. Patrick F. McInerney, USN.; Captain Patrick Tierney, USMC; Kyle Sellers, USAF; LCPL Jack Fitzpatrick, USMC; CA Christopher Chirillo, USA; Timothy Kelly, USN; Ensign Peter Smagur USN; 2 Lt. Bridget Bentley, USA; Matthew C. Adas, USN; Airman William L. Murray; Andrew Mitchell Cullen, USMC; Capt. Andrew Piech, USMC; Lance Cpl. Joseph Killeen, USMC.

Lord, hold our military men and women in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us.

Hot Topics—Archdiocesan Women's Committee

Inspiring Pastoral Outreach

Join the AWC for one of three Zoom discussions on pastoral approaches to persons in unchangeable positions that put them in conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church (for example, Catholics who are divorced and re-married without an annulment, who identify as LGBTQIA+, are in inter-religious marriages, whose marriages were not blessed by the Church, etc.).

Our goal is to hear the voices of 200 or more women. Discussion will address the following:

- Do the Church's current practices towards persons in these situations attract people to or drive them away from the Catholic Church?
- What are some pastoral approaches that you have seen, or would like to see, toward persons who are in these situations? In what ways could we encourage them and help them feel comfortable coming to church?
- Do you or do people you know feel injured or harbor resentment when exceptions are made for people in these situations?

If you have not already read the Declaration by Pope Francis titled *Fiducia Supplicans*, you can read it here to inform the portion of our discussion about LGBTQIA+ persons: bit.ly/fiducia-supplicans.

Advance registration is necessary in order to receive the Zoom link for participation.

To register please go to the link on your desired session below.

Wednesday, March 6 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. | bit.ly/HOTTPC20260306

Monday, March 11 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. | bit.ly/HOTTPC20230311

The Archdiocese Women's Committee is an adjunct committee of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. It serves as an advisory committee that works directly with Cardinal Cupich.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

CHRIST THE KING

Fridays in Lent 3:00 p.m.

ST. BARNABAS

March 1 6:00 p.m.
 March 8 3:00 p.m.
 March 15 6:00 p.m.
 March 22 1:45 p.m.
 March 24 2:00 p.m.

ST. CAJETAN

Fridays in Lent 1:00 p.m.

ST. JOHN FISHER

March 20 1:00 p.m.



**SOUTHSIDE
PARISH
RENEWAL**



Readings for the Week

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
 Ps 116:10, 15-19 Rom 8:31b-34
 Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13
 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23
 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16
 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 / Ps 1:1-4, 6
 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28
 Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12
 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11
 1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25



Lectors

Saturday, March 2
 4:00 pm Daniel Brennan

Sunday, March 3
 8:00 am Patrick Perner
 11:00 am Daniel Mueller

Masses and Intentions

Monday, February 26
 8:15 a.m. Adele O’Sullivan –
St. John Fisher Women’s Club

Tuesday, February 27*St. Gregory of Narek*
No Mass

Wednesday, February 28
 8:15 a.m. Rose Wegner – *Dan Simon Family*

Thursday, February 29
No Mass

Friday, March 1
 8:15 a.m. Lori Bates – *Marilyn Skier*

Saturday, March 2
 4:00 p.m. For the People of St. John Fisher Parish

Sunday, March 3 **Third Sunday of Lent**
 8:00 a.m. Mary Evangeline Resce –
Friends at Mount Greenwood Library
 Mary Resce – *Anna Duffy*

11:00 a.m. Elmer Dachota – *Family*
 Eli Luchini and John Malone –
Margie Malone



Presiders

Saturday, March 2
 4:00 pm Fr. Leo Glueckert, O.Carm.

Sunday, March 3
 8:00 am Fr. Ken Budzikowski
 11:00 am Fr. Marty Marren



If you wish to generously remember St. John Fisher Parish/School in your will, ensuring its growth and vitality for years to come, you may include the following general statement:

I give (the sum of \$_____)* to St. John Fisher Parish/School, located in Chicago, Illinois.

Please contact pastor Fr. Ken Budzikowski at (773) 445-6565 or Brendan Keating, Sr. Director of Planned Giving at (312) 534-5271 or bkeating@archchicago.org for more information.

*You may also give a percentage of your estate, or a specific asset.

PARISH PRIESTS

Rev. Kenneth BudzikowskiPastor
Rev. Martin Marren Associate Pastor

DEACONS

Deacon Robert Carroll
Deacon Raymond Reilly (Retired)
Deacon Couple Clayton and Betty Kort (Retired)
Mrs. Maura Nash Principal
Elena Chermak, D.Min. ..Dir. of Religious Education
echemak@sjfsschool.us
Phil and Amy SwitalskiMusic Directors
philnamy1992@gmail.com (708) 687-3302

Parish E-Mail: sjfparishchicago@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 am–7:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am–4:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am–12:00 noon

Baptisms: A Baptismal Preparation Program is a requirement in the Chicago Archdiocese. Contact the rectory for more information and dates and times the classes will be held.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):
Saturdays 3:00 to 3:45 p.m. or by appointment

Marriage: Arrangements are to be made at the Rectory at least **six months** before the wedding. The Archdiocese requires a marriage preparation program (Pre-Cana, Discovery Weekend, etc.).

Communion for Homebound Parishioners:
Members of our parish family who are ill or homebound, please call the parish office and a Minister of Care will bring communion to your home at your convenience.

New Parishioners: We welcome you! Please introduce yourself to us. We ask that you register in the rectory office. **Parishioners—Please keep your contact information updated.**

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