



ST. DONATUS



ST. ALEXIUS



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



ST. PETER & PAUL



OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS



ST. PAUL'S



UPCOMING PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE SUPPER CONTINUES FAVORITE PARISH TRADITION

Join Us for Meal and Fellowship on Palm Sunday, March 24

If you have been hungry for pancakes and sausage since last October, you can tell your appetite to get ready for the St. Francis de Sales Pancake and Sausage Supper set for March 24, Palm Sunday, at the Parish Center in Belgrade. The hours are 2:30-6:30 p.m. and tickets will be available at the door.

“We’ve been having the supper since 1956, and all proceeds go to the church,” says Aaron Lieble, Chair of the Sausage Supper Committee. “We hold it twice a year, on the last Sunday in October and always on Palm Sunday.”



Aaron Lieble is chairing the Pancake and Sausage Supper.

The menu will include freshly made hot pancakes, sausage, ham, and homemade desserts brought in by parish families. There also will be apple sauce and horseradish.

“We start frying the sausage at noon and start getting the pancakes going at 2 p.m.,” Aaron says.

Anyone is welcome to attend the supper, as it is open to the public. Signs are posted outside the center.

Besides tickets being sold at the door, all St. Francis de Sales parishioners have received tickets to sell.

Not only do the suppers raise

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Searching Souls meets on Mondays each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Centre for Christ. Videos are presented, followed by small-group discussions to grow together in our Catholic faith. Follow the Searching Souls Ministries Facebook group to see what is happening! Call 320-761-3590 for more information.
March 4, 11, 18 — *Consoling the Sacred Heart of Jesus* book study

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry — March 8 and 22
5-8:30 p.m., at the Ka-De-Shack in Brooten

St. Alexius Youth Group — Saturday, March 16

Movie Day from 2-4:30 p.m. at the St. Alexius parish house, for fourth through 12th grades. Younger families are always welcome to join us if a parent/guardian is accompanying.

Popcorn, treats and refreshments will be served. Bring a comfy camping chair, beanbag chair, or any seat of your choice. Join us!

Movie TBD

RSVP to Christina at 320-980-0475 by Wednesday, March 13

St. Francis de Sales Sausage Supper — Sunday, March 24

2:30-6:30 p.m. at the Belgrade Parish Center

Centre for Christ

Stearns County Public Health Neighborhood WIC program is using Centre For Christ on the second Tuesday of every month. If you or someone you know would like to make an appointment, please call Lori at 320-656-6479.

Holy Family School

March 3 — Springfest

March 20 — Kindergarten Roundup

SAVE THE DATE — Eucharistic Revival Procession reaches Sauk Centre

Thursday, May 23

This pilgrimage will follow Jesus through rural Minnesota and Wisconsin farmland, with many Masses along the way. Sauk Centre is included in this route, arriving on Thursday, May 23.

Honoring the

FEAST OF ST. PATRICK *with a Spirit of Stewardship*

Dear Parishioners,

While March means we are in the middle of our Lenten journeys, it also brings the festive holiday of St. Patrick's Day, a time for us to reflect on the Catholic teachings and spiritual significance of this celebration. St. Patrick's Day is not merely about revelry and merriment; it is rooted in the life and teachings of St. Patrick, who was a devout Catholic bishop and patron saint of Ireland.

St. Patrick, known for his missionary work in Ireland, brought the Catholic faith to the Irish people. His dedication, faith, and tireless efforts in spreading Christianity serve as an inspiring example for us all. In celebrating St. Patrick's Day, we can embrace this Catholic heritage and faithfully observe the holiday through acts of Catholic stewardship, particularly during the Lenten season. Here are some ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a spiritually meaningful and stewardship-focused manner:

- **ATTEND MASS:** On St. Patrick's Day, make attending Mass a central part of your celebration. St. Patrick's commitment to the Catholic faith should inspire us to come together in worship and prayer, reaffirming our own faith.
- **LEARN ABOUT ST. PATRICK:** Take some time to learn about the life and work of St. Patrick, his dedication to God, and his missionary efforts. Reflect on how his example can guide your own faith journey.
- **SHARE YOUR FAITH:** Just as St. Patrick shared his faith with the people of Ireland, take this opportunity to share your faith with others. Engage in conversations about Catholicism and encourage open dialogue about your beliefs.
- **EMBRACE THE LENTEN SPIRIT:** St. Patrick's Day often involves indulgence, but as it falls within the season of Lent, consider refraining from excessive feasting and drinking. Use this day to practice moderation and self-discipline, aligning your actions with the spirit of Lent.
- **ACTS OF CHARITY:** St. Patrick's Day can be a time for acts of charity. Donate to a Catholic charity, support a local food bank, or participate in community service to help those in need. These acts of love and generosity reflect St. Patrick's dedication to serving others.
- **CELEBRATE IRISH CULTURE AND TRADITION:** While celebrating Irish culture is an integral part of the day, do so in a manner that respects your faith. Enjoy traditional Irish music, dance, and cuisine, but do not lose sight of the spiritual significance of the holiday.
- **STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS:** Use St. Patrick's Day to renew your commitment to Catholic stewardship. Reflect on how you can contribute your time, talents, and financial resources to support our parish and the broader Catholic community.

By celebrating St. Patrick's Day in a way that aligns with Catholic teachings and focuses on stewardship, we can honor the legacy of St. Patrick and his dedication to spreading the Catholic faith. Let us remember that the core of St. Patrick's work was to bring the light of Christ to the people of Ireland, and we too can continue to share the love and teachings of Christ with those around us.

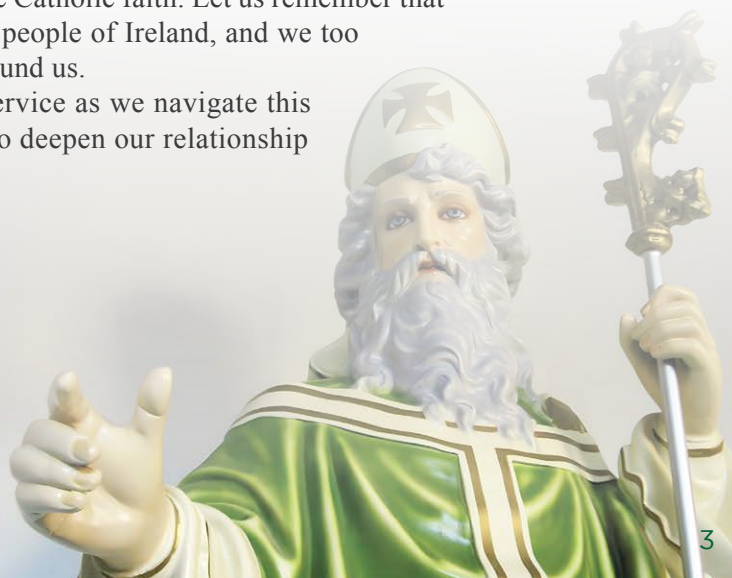
May this St. Patrick's Day be a time of faith, reflection, and service as we navigate this special day during the season of Lent. Let us use this opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and one another.



In our Father's hands,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Greg Paffel".

Fr. Greg Paffel
Pastor



MAKE THIS THE BEST

Considering the Ways We Can Sacri



As we approach the season of Lent each year, it can seem too easy to become complacent and give up the “normal” things. Maybe each year, you give up chocolate or dessert. But this year, let’s commit to making this Lent the best one yet, so we can fully celebrate the joy of the Easter season.

Fr. Greg Paffel reminds us that the first sin in the Garden of Eden was eating the forbidden fruit. This is one reason we give up something for Lent.

“We can go against Satan’s temptation in the garden,” he says. “This joins us to the suffering of Christ during Lent, reversing what happened in the garden.”

We should also make more time for prayer and consider how we can give. These should be done all year, but especially during Lent.

Fr. Greg does something a little different each Lent. One year, he wore chains all through Lent, even when he was sleeping. You can pick a Lenten observance as unique or

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LENTEN SCHEDULE

Communal Reconciliation Services

Sunday, March 17

St. Donatus, 1 p.m.
Our Lady of the Angels, 4 p.m.
St. Alexius, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 24

St. Francis de Sales, 1 p.m.
Sts. Peter & Paul, 4 p.m.
St. Paul’s, 7 p.m.

Individual Confessions

Monday, March 25

Our Lady of the Angels, 8-10 a.m.
St. Alexius, 7-9 p.m.

Tuesday, March 26

St. Francis de Sales, 9-10 a.m.
St. Donatus, 12-1 p.m.
Sts. Peter & Paul, 8-9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27

St. Paul’s, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. (all day)

Stations of the Cross

Sundays

St. Alexius, after Mass
St. Paul’s, 1 p.m.

Mondays

Our Lady of the Angels, after Mass

Tuesdays

St. Paul’s, 2 p.m.

Wednesdays

St. Donatus, after Mass
St. Alexius, after Mass

Thursdays

Sts. Peter & Paul, after Mass
St. Paul’s, 5:15 p.m.

Fridays

St. Francis de Sales, 7 p.m.
Our Lady of the Angels, 7 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday, March 28

7 p.m. Mass — St. Donatus
7 p.m. Mass — St. Paul’s

Good Friday, March 29

12 p.m. Service — Our Lady of the Angels
1 p.m. Service — St. Francis de Sales
3 p.m. Service — St. Paul’s

Easter Vigil, March 30

8 p.m. Mass — St. Paul’s
8 p.m. Mass — Sts. Peter & Paul

Easter Sunday, March 31

8 a.m. Mass — Our Lady of the Angels
8:15 a.m. Mass — St. Alexius
10:30 a.m. Mass — St. Francis de Sales
10:30 a.m. Mass — St. Paul’s

LENTEN SEASON YET

fice, Give, and Grow Closer to Christ

standard as you want — just make sure it’s something that truly challenges you. Jesus died on the cross for us. So, what are we doing for Him? The Church gives us Lent to prepare for Easter. It is a gift.

“Lent is a call to be quieter in the garden with Jesus,” Fr. Greg says. “We should take a little extra quiet with Jesus in the garden.”

We also fast because Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert. So, our own sacrifices may closely align with Christ’s.

“We join with Jesus on his 40 days in the desert,” Fr. Greg says.

When Fr. Greg chooses an observance that involves fasting, he only breaks that for the two solemnities — the solemnity of St. Joseph and the Annunciation. But, this year, the Annunciation is during Holy Week.

Besides fasting, you can consider adding something to your Lenten observance. Clean out your closets of clothes or toys to give to the poor. Make an extra donation to your favorite nonprofit.

Importantly, we should also be sure to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. As Catholics, we are to go to Confession at least once yearly, and Lent is an excellent time for that.

Fr. Greg looks forward to celebrating the Triduum with all of us. He especially loves the washing of the feet at Holy Thursday Mass. We also celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood on Holy Thursday.

“Washing of the feet shows the humble love Jesus had for His disciples,” Fr. Greg says.

Whether you’re considering new ways to challenge yourself in sacrifice and giving, or taking spiritual stock ahead of attending Confession, make plans so that this will be your best Lent yet!

“Lent is a call to be quieter in the garden with Jesus. We should take a little extra quiet with Jesus in the garden.” — FR. GREG PAFFEL

Pancake and Sausage Supper

continued from front cover

funds for the church, but the events offer our parishioners some valuable opportunities to gather in fellowship, as well as to engage in stewardship.

“So many show up and clean tables, fry pancakes and sausage, and do what it takes to make sure it is all wonderful,” Aaron says. “As chair, I get the dates set up and make some calls, and the people in the parish pull together and make it something special. With the dessert they bring in, there are a lot of homemade cakes, brownies, cookies, lots of things homemade.”



Elaine Zenzen is preparing to fry up sausage for the Pancake and Sausage Supper. According to Chair Aaron Lieble, Elaine embodies the fun atmosphere everyone can find at the supper.

If you have any questions about the Pancake and Sausage Supper, contact Aaron Lieble at unprimed1234@gmail.com.



Easter Stewardship:

Sharing Hope of the Resurrection with Those in Need

What hope Jesus' Resurrection offers to us! Indeed, had He not raised Himself from the dead, our faith would be in vain, as St. Paul says. And yet, this hope is for every human being, even those who do not know Him.

Jesus calls us as Catholic Christians to rejoice in the hope He gave us through His Resurrection, but He calls us to share the joy of His Resurrection with the world, particularly with those whose condition in life makes it difficult for them to be joyful.

As we celebrate Easter in the comfort of our homes and churches, let us do our part to reach out to those, who at this time, still find themselves amid great suffering. So many are still experiencing Christ's death, as it were — the victims of war-torn areas around the world, the unwanted and abused, the homeless and the starving — many of whom cannot find a reason or meaning for the tragedy in their lives.

If there is anything worse than suffering, it is the horror of feeling alone in one's suffering. When we devote our lives to sharing the Gospel and the love of Jesus with these poor souls, we undertake a truly awesome and meaningful task — to show those in pain that they are not alone, to assure them of the compassion of Jesus, Who experienced all the physical pain, all the effects of sin, the very same sufferings endured by every person who has ever lived or will live on this earth. Who of all people is more ready to show compassion to the suffering than our Precious Lord?

As St. Paul says, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses" (Hebrews 4:15). But the great triumph in the tragedy of the Cross

is that Jesus did not merely experience suffering; He sanctified it, redeemed it, and ultimately conquered it through the Resurrection, thereby bringing hope to every person who suffers.

Jesus calls us to put our faith in His Resurrection into action, to show by the way we live our lives that we really believe it makes a difference even in the darkest places of the world. How can we shine the healing light of the Resurrection on those still in the shadow of the Cross?

We do not have to travel abroad to find a soul in suffering. Perhaps there is someone in our parish to whom we can minister this Easter season or someone in our local community. We are all called to pray for our brothers and sisters who suffer, but perhaps we can do even more than that. Even if some of us may not have the freedom to devote our time or talent to serve the suffering, through our means, we can minister even to the furthest reaches of the globe. This is one reason why supporting Catholic outreaches and charities is so vital to the Church and our own faith lives. The Scriptures even say, "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:15-17).

Is our faith still buried in the tomb, or is it alive and bearing fruit in our lives and in the lives of others this Easter season? Let's not shrink back from the awesome task Jesus has bestowed on us.



THE GIFT BEARER MINISTRY

Answering the Call to Serve at the Supper of Our Lord

One overlooked, yet very important ministry is slowly growing at St. Paul's. The Gift Bearer Ministry offers a simple, yet profound way to be involved in the most important part of the Mass. That is, parishioners may bring up the bread and wine to the altar for the consecration.

Karen VonWahlde recalls that she was first called to this ministry back in 2021 when she and her dad would go out to visit other parishes.

"We went to other parishes, and I noticed other families would bring up the gifts," she says.

So, Karen started thinking and praying about seeing families bring up the gifts at other churches. She even notes that when they go places, her family is often asked to bring up the gifts.

"I thought, 'Could this be the ministry God wants me to do?'" Karen says. "In the spring, I was at the Baptism with Fire in the Holy Spirit prayer event in the Rosary Garden. Fr. Greg prayed over each person and when he came to me, he said, 'There's more for you to do. You're going to get many people involved.' I took that as a sign."

In turn, Karen told Fr. Greg about her thoughts of a dedicated ministry for gift bearers, and he gave his blessing.

"When we first started, we had First Communion families bringing up the gifts," Karen says. "Now anyone can sign up."

The Mass is the highest form of prayer for one's intentions, so serving at a Mass that is meaningful to you or your family is special. Often, people will sign up to be gift bearers at a Mass for a loved one who passed away, or for an anniversary or Baptism.

"To me, it's an honor to bring up the bread and wine to the altar," Karen says. "You're serving the Lord. I've had calls when there's something special that a family would like to bring up the gifts. It's nice when a family can bring up the gifts for a Mass that's special to them."

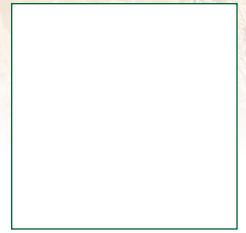
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"I've had calls when there's something special that a family would like to bring up the gifts. It's nice when a family can bring up the gifts for a Mass that's special to them."

— KAREN VONWAHLDE



Parish Office: 304 Sinclair Lewis Ave.
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
(320) 352-2196
parishesontheprairie.org



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

Saturday

- 4:00 p.m. - St. Paul's, Sauk Centre
- 6:00 p.m. - Our Lady of the Angels, Sauk Centre
- 8:00 p.m. - Sts. Peter & Paul, Elrosa

Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. - Our Lady of the Angels, Sauk Centre
- 8:15 a.m. - St. Alexius, West Union
- 10:30 a.m. - St. Francis de Sales, Belgrade
- 10:30 a.m. - St. Paul's, Sauk Centre

See our website for a full listing of daily Mass & Confession times.

THE GIFT BEARER MINISTRY *continued from page 7*

Anyone can do this job — from families and couples to individuals or children. There are no requirements. Once you're signed up, Karen explains, just simply go to the back of the church when you need to.

Karen notes that the ministry receives the most sign-ups for Sunday Masses. She encourages parishioners to sign up for Saturdays as well.

"If they're looking to sign up, we would sure welcome them," she says.

Seeing other parishioners' direct involvement helps to increase the sense of family we hold in the congregation. Stewardship isn't just about serving in outside ministries, but sometimes in small capacities during Mass. This small ministry brings an invitation to be a beautiful part of our faith with little commitment.

Karen arranges the schedule three months out so that people will know in advance when they need to come. They generally sign up in October with their yearly stewardship commitment cards, but they can also sign up by calling the parish office or emailing Karen.



To get involved as a gift bearer at St. Paul's, call 320-352-2196 or email Karen VonWahlde at kvonwahlde@parishesontheprairie.org.

To register as a gift bearer at another parish, reach out to that church office to find out more.