

## From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

All three of today's readings speak of God's mercy and compassion in disciplining His children by occasional punishment while giving them another chance despite their repeated sins. Although God's love for us is constant and consistent, He will not save us without our cooperation. That is why He invites us during Lent to repent of our sins and to renew our lives by producing fruits of love, compassion, forgiveness, and faithful service.

The first reading tells us how God shows His mercy to His chosen people by giving them: Moses as their leader and liberator. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob reveals Himself to Moses from the burning bush and assures Moses of His Divine presence with His people and of His awareness of their sufferings in Egypt. He declares His intention to use Moses as the leader who will rescue His enslaved people. Then God reveals His name as Yahweh ("I AM Who AM") and renews His promise to the patriarchs, to give them a "land flowing with milk and honey." Our Responsorial Psalm, reminds us of God's unfailing mercy: "Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness." The second reading warns us that our merciful God is also a disciplining God. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that they must learn from the sad experience of the Israelites who were punished for their sins by a merciful but just God. The merciful and gracious God is also just and demanding, and hence they must be free from sexual sins and idolatry. Today's Gospel explains how God disciplines His people, invites them to repent of their sins, to renew their lives, and to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Citing two tragic events, Jesus exhorts the Jews to repent and reform their lives. With the parable of the barren fig tree, Jesus also warns them that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. Although God patiently waits for sinners to repent, giving them grace to do so, He will not wait forever. Time may run out; therefore, timely repentance is necessary. Hence, one can say, "A Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life."

**God Bless You!**

**Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Parable of the Fig Tree

We may be unfamiliar with fig trees, but we know about the growth of spring flowers. Perhaps we have looked at a dry, brown flower bulb and wondered how this produces the colorful tulip or daffodil. Gardeners know about patience and hopefulness as they wait for flowers to bloom. When the person who had the fig tree found no figs on it, he tended it more carefully. God is like that. God does not give up on us but calls us to conversion, to repent and tends to us with greater care so that we may know the fullness of life at Easter.

**Classes: Wednesday - March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Gilman: **Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Grades 6 -11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.**

Sheldon: **Grades K - 11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.**

+ Thank you to Aly Aleigha and her band and manager, Laura, who filled the church with song and inspirational messages. Thank you to the teachers who helped with the evening meal and concert. Thank you to all who attended the concert or prayed for its success.

+ We invite you to the **Pancake Breakfast** this **Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** prepared by Carolyn Schmitt, the youth, parents, and teachers. The proceeds support the religious education program.

+ The Confirmation retreat for Candidates & Sponsors will be held in Sheldon on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sister Julia Walsh will direct the retreat. **Blessings ~ Sister Marianna**

## OUR WEEKLY GIVING

<b>Ss. Peter &amp; Paul</b>	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,955.00
Loose	96.00
Total	2,051.00
Total from March 18, 2018	1,504.00
Building Fund	190.00
Black & Indian Mission	90.00
Easter	10.00
<b>St. Stanislaus</b>	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 545.00
Loose	235.00
Total	780.00
Total from March 18, 2018	718.00
Building Fund	310.00
Black & Indian Mission	75.00
<b>St. John</b>	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 549.00
Loose	65.00
Total	614.00
Total from March 18, 2018	644.01
Black & Indian Mission	9.00
<b>St. Michael</b>	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 130.00
Loose	54.00
Total	184.00
Total from March 18, 2018	253.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>	

## *Called to Become Saints* Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal is underway throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility is listed below. As of **March 1<sup>st</sup>**, we have collected:

	<b>Payments</b>		
	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>&amp; Pledges</b>	<b>Amount Due</b>
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$ 6,690.00	\$ 4,703.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$ 5,360.00	\$ 3,798.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$ 5,234.00	PAID IN FULL
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 2,789.00	PAID IN FULL

On the weekend of **March 30 & 31, the World Concern Collection** will be held in the Diocese of Superior. Your generosity will provide critical support and relief services wherever it is needed around the world. The five initiatives include Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, Peter's Pence and Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for your support!

## OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

**SKABROUD'S STORE**  
**W5541 Main St. - Sheldon, WI 54766**  
 Brian & Jody Oelkers invite you  
 to stop in and enjoy great service!  
 We look forward to serving you in the future!  
**(715) 452-5161**