

Pastor's Letter

February 22, 2026 – 1st Sunday of Lent

Dear Church Family,

I've mentioned before that one of Pam and my favorite TV shows is Finding Your Roots. In each episode two famous people learn about their family histories, sometimes going back many centuries. It's very interesting to see the effect that hearing these family stories has on the show's guests. Very often they respond very emotionally, as if they just happened yesterday, not to someone who lived decades or even hundreds of years ago. And even though they may have never heard of these ancestors of theirs before going on the show, there is often a strong sense of connection.

In our first reading for today, we hear the story of the fall from grace of our first parents, Adam and Eve. Throughout the season of Lent, we will be learning how God moved in history to heal the rift between us and God caused by this original sin. Knowing the salvation story as recorded in Holy Scripture is important. Even Jesus, when he faced temptations from the devil in the desert, turned to God's Word for guidance and strength. The Bible contains the wisdom and promises of our Creator. It tells the stories of our spiritual ancestors and how God helped them face the challenges and temptations of their lives and what happened when they did or did not listen to God.

What they went through is not so different from what we face today. We are still looking for answers to the same questions they asked: What is the good life? Why am I here? Where am I going? God has the answers for us and the church presents those answers to us in Scripture and Tradition.

In this season of Lent, we are invited to give our attention to these stories in a fresh way, to step outside the distractions of material pursuits through a season of intensified prayer and fasting so that we can really hear the story of our salvation and recommit ourselves to walking with God on the path that Jesus Christ has opened up for us by his life, death, and resurrection. May these forty days clear our minds, warm our hearts, refresh our souls and help us find our spiritual roots.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Winners of the St. Edward/Bloomfield Cemetery raffle were, as follows:

Daryl Duesterhaus, Brian Veihl, Denny Woodworth, Kay Dempsey, Kim Bush, Lori Hildebrand, Gary Starman, Paul Bealor, Steven Frese, Mike Tryba, Janette Otto, Seth Knox, and Heather Andrews.

Bulletin Deadline

All information must be submitted by noon on Tuesday. Submit to: church@stsbej.org

“Healing” Rosary

Please join us in praying a “Healing” Rosary for all parishioners, family members and friends combating any illnesses at this time. It will be held Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church. Bring family members and friends. All are welcome!

QCES Mass Attendance Cards

Mass attendance cards are available at the back of church.

Calendar

Saturday, February 21

3:45 p.m.—4:15 p.m. Reconciliation @ St. Brigid

4:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

Sunday, February 22 – Rite of Sending

7:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

9:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph, Stations of the Cross to follow

9:15 a.m.—10:15 am PSR @ St. Edward

10:00 a.m.—11:15 am PSR @ St. Joseph

10:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

*2:30 p.m. Rite of Election @ Cathedral in Springfield, IL

Monday, February 23

6:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

Tuesday, February 24

7:15 a.m.—7:45 a.m. Reconciliation @ St. Edward

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

7:00 p.m. Pastoral /Finance Council @ St. Brigid

Wednesday, February 25

7:15 a.m.—7:45 a.m. Reconciliation @ St. Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph

3:10 p.m.—4:30 p.m. PSR (K-4) @ St. Edward

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Confession @ St. Brigid

6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. PSR @ St. Brigid

Friday, February 27

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Brigid, Stations of the Cross to follow

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross @ St. Edward

Saturday, February 28

3:45 p.m.—4:15 p.m. Reconciliation @ St. Brigid

*CHWC Trivia Night, Food Served 4p.m., Trivia 6:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

Sunday, March 1

7:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

9:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph, Stations of the Cross to follow

10:00 a.m.—11:15 am PSR @ St. Joseph

10:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward, Children's Mass

Monday, March 2

6:30 p.m. Mass @ St. Brigid

7:00 p.m. OCIA @ St. Brigid Hall

Tuesday, March 3

7:15 a.m.—7:45 a.m. Reconciliation @ St. Edward

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward

6:30 p.m. Healing Rosary @ St. Joseph

Wednesday, March 4

7:15 a.m.—7:45 a.m. Reconciliation @ St. Joseph

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph

3:10 p.m.—4:30 p.m. PSR (K-4) @ St. Edward

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Confession @ St. Edward

6:30 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. PSR @ St. Brigid

Thursday, March 5

60 p.m. Holy Name Mtg @ St. Joseph

Friday, March 6 – First Friday

8:00 a.m. Mass @ St. Edward, Adoration to follow

Mass Intentions

SAT. FEBRUARY 21

4:30 p.m.—St. Brigid: *For the People of Our Parishes*

SUN. FEBRUARY 22

7:30 a.m.—St. Brigid: +George Barry

9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph: +Jack & Irene Bunte

+Jon & Ann Faubel

10:30 a.m.—St. Edward: +Mary Ellen Woodworth

MON. FEBRUARY 23

6:30 p.m.—St. Brigid: +Helen Frese

TUES. FEBRUARY 24

8:00 a.m.—St. Edward: +Merle Hildebrand

WED. FEBRUARY 25

8:00 a.m.—St. Joseph: +Alice & Edward Dempsey

+Frances & Jane Meyer

FRI. FEBRUARY 27

8:00 a.m.—St. Brigid: +George Barry

+Marilyn Barry

SAT. FEBRUARY 28

4:30 p.m.—St. Brigid: *For the People of Our Parishes*

SUN. MARCH 1

7:30 a.m.—St. Brigid: +Rose Amry Howell

+George Barry

9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph: +Jim & Betty Brinkman

+Bob & Rosella Neisen

10:30 a.m.—St. Edward: *For the People of Our Parishes*

Parish Collection: Feb. 15

St. Brigid \$ 4,084.00

Online Giving \$ 120.44

St. Edward \$ 2,186.00

Online Giving \$ 100.00

St. Joseph \$ 2,198.28

Online Giving \$ 0

Thank you for your generous support!

All Collections included in total this week

Online Giving

Below are the links:

<https://pushpay.com/g/stbrigidliberty>

<https://pushpay.com/g/stedwardmendon>

<https://pushpay.com/g/stjosephquincy>

It will walk you through setting up your giving account

Ministry Schedules

ST. BRIGID CHURCH						
Feb. 28 & March 1	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Usher	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
SATURDAY 4:30 P.M.	Ashley Schutte Kelsey Schutte	Norma Neisen Theresa Neisen Angela Obert	Mara Ippensen Dan Kramer Mike Maas	Cheryl Schutte	Randy & Laura Maas	Stan & Marilyn Obert
SUNDAY 7:30 A.M.	Dylan Hocking Mason Hocking	Brandy Hocking Dot Smith	Ron Cramsey Mike Hummel Kyle Leonard	Justin Mewes	Greg & Nancy Obert	Glen & Sara Obert

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH						
March 1	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Usher	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
SUNDAY 9:00 A.M.	Piper Steffen Riggins Mock	Greg White Krista White Jeanne Cramsey	Mike Moore Andy Moore	Abigail Hildebrand		Moore Family

ST. EDWARD CHURCH						
March 1	Altar Server	Communion Minister	Rosary	Lector	Greeter /Hospitality	Gift Bearer
SUNDAY 10:30 A.M.	x	Emily Wellman Karen Woodworth Susan York	Donna Voss	x	x	x
* Please continue passing the basket for collection.						

Please Remember to Pray For:

Daran Knuffman	Ben Venvertloh	Lisa Bohan
Zoey Obert	Ripken Rangel	Rinley Barry
Julia Winfield	Tony Peters	Bill Hilgenbrinck
Haddlei Burnett	Joy Huebotter	Lily Jean Roberts
Jim Steinkamp	Raleigh Bess	Sandra White
Kayle Sheely	Karen Woodworth	Dorothy Mayfield
John Kroner	Doug Woodworth	Phil Freiburg
Marvin Meyer	Ryan Wiemelt	Jim Brinkman
Carl Schisler	Bernice Dittmer	Bennett Duesterahus
Rachel Cramsey	Joann Walton	Bill Ervin
Denny Meyer	Kent Hilgenbrinck	Sophie Shriver
Rosie Miller	Clayton Thompson	Kristy Bollin
Joe Rice	Jim Wilson	Carol Haistings
Linda Windoffer	Connie Dietrich	
Monica Mast	Corey Sheurman	

Stewardship Reflection

“It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’” MATTHEW 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other “gods” we have put before God.

Please contact us if we need to remove your name from our prayer list.



Trivia Night

Saturday, February 28

St. Brigid Catholic Church

Food Served Starting at 4pm

Trivia at 6:30 pm

All proceeds go to sending our youth to Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer. Not into Trivia? Come and enjoy a meal anyway!

For more information and registration contact:
Jeanne Cramsey
217-653-3962

\$20 per Individual or
\$160 per table
(max 8 people)

Chili Soup
Vegetable Soup
Chicken Noodle Soup
Maid-Rites
Hot Dogs, Chips
Homemade Desserts
Tea, Lemonade
Water
Available for free will donation.

Save the Date

Deacon Dennis Holbrook once again will be coming to St. Thomas Parish Hall, Camp Point on Monday March 9th at 6:30 p.m. This time he will be speaking on "The Sign of the Cross". All are welcome.

SDCCW Lenten Retreat

"Heaven Meets Earth: A Journey through the Holy Mass"

The Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites all women to their annual Lenten Retreat at Villa Maria in Springfield, **Feb 24th – 25th** with Retreat Director, Sister Margaret Schreiber OP, PhD.

Registration forms with cost and further information is available in your parish office.

Deadline to register is Feb 14th. Contact Mary Ann Sullivan 217-822-1928.

Victims Assistance & Child Abuse Reporting

To report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about the Safe Environment Program in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, please call 217-321-1155.

CRS Rice Bowl

One simple way to enhance your Lenten experience is to participate in the [CRS Rice Bowl program](#). During Lent, Catholic families across the United States use a rice bowl—a small cardboard box—to collect alms. Each rice bowl also comes with a calendar that guides families through the 40 days of Lent with activities, reflections, recipes and stories.

Pick up your rice bowl at the back of church and return it on Easter Sunday.

St. Brigid Church

Hwy. 104, Liberty, IL

Fish Fry

Friday, March 13, 2026

5:00 – 7:30 PM

Adults..\$13 ● Ages 6-12..\$8 ● 5 and under Free

All you can eat

Buffet Style

Alaskan Walleye
Homemade Potato Chips
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Applesauce
Assorted Homemade Desserts
Beverage

Carryouts Available ● Wheelchair Accessible

SAT, MARCH 7TH

8:30AM
to
5:30PM

Quincy Notre Dame
High School
1400 S. 11th St. | Quincy, IL 62301

TOPIC: "LEARNING THE FAITH"
Knowing God helps us to Love him

Nationally Recognized Speakers:
Megan Murphy
Trish & Pete DeMaio

Register at quincyholyfamilyfest.com

Scan the QR code to get your ticket today! →

EQUIP:
QUINCY
HOLY
FAMILY
FEST



Project Rachel

Help for women and men to heal from the pain of abortion. For assistance call 1-877-RACHEL-5.

Diocese Special Collections

Catholic Charities — March 1

Every year, Catholic Charities serves thousands of our brothers and sisters in desperate situations throughout our 28 county diocese. This service comes in the form of meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, housing and medical/ dental assistance as well as providing long term professional services in social work, counseling, guardianship and legal assistance. Everyone who is helped by Catholic Charities is treated with dignity and respect and provided a path to hope and healing.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

Volunteers needed at Ladies of Charity

Ladies of Charity is looking for volunteers for both our Thrift Store (24 & Elm) and our Center (4th&State). Most volunteers are women but men are also invited to assist us with some of the heavy lifting jobs. We are particularly looking for volunteers who can work the cash registers at our Thrift Store but other opportunities also exist at both the Thrift Store and the Center. Volunteers typically donate 2 to 5 hours of their time per week. Please call/text either Kathy Obert at (703)786-4788 or Brenda Ehrhardt at (217)257-8832 to learn more.

Illinois Pro-Life March

(formerly the Illinois March for Life) the biggest & best pro-life event in Illinois.

When: Thursday, March 19, 2026; Rally at 1 PM; March at 2 PM

Where: The Lincoln Statue in front of the Illinois Capitol Building, 401 S 2nd St. Springfield, IL 62701

Why: To celebrate, defend, and speak out for LIFE!

Keynote speakers: Joshua Mercer and Kramer Soderberg

Right to Life of Adams County is sponsoring a chartered motor-coach to travel to Springfield.

Cost—FREE! (bring your own sack lunch)

Call/text Jake Reed for more information & reservation 217- 577-1555

Board bus at 9:00 at Town & County Inn and Suites, 110 N. 54th

Please join with your fellow Adams County Pro-Lifers for this important event!

FISH FRYS

Feb. 20 - St. Dominic School, 4:30-7 pm
4100 Columbus Rd, Quincy, IL

Feb. 27 - St. Anthony Church, 4:30-7 pm
2223 St. Anthony Rd, Quincy, IL

March 6 - St. Dominic School, 4:30-7 pm
4100 Columbus Rd, Quincy, IL

March 13 - St. Brigid Church, 5-7:30 pm
Hwy 104, Liberty, IL

March 13 - St. Anthony Church, 4:30-7 pm
2223 St. Anthony Rd, Quincy, IL

March 20 - St. Dominic School, 4:30-7 pm
4100 Columbus Rd, Quincy, IL

March 27 St. Anthony Church, 4:30-7 pm
2223 St. Anthony Rd, Quincy, IL



formed[™]
Forming Catholics for *Life*.

What Catholics Believe About Lent: Fasting, Ashes, and 40 Days Explained

Join Fr. Scott Bailey, a priest in the Archdiocese of Denver, as he answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Lent. What is Lent? Why is it 40 days long? Or even, what should I give up for Lent? Find out in this episode of What Catholics Believe.

Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish to get free access to this content and much more!



ST. BRIGID – ST. EDWARD – ST. JOSEPH PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR)



DATES TO KNOW

- Feb. 22 - St. Edward PSR practice for Children's Mass – Please bring a rosary
- March 10 – 1st Reconciliation for ALL 2nd Graders @ St. Joseph
- March 20 – LIVE Stations fo the Cross @ St. Edward, 7 p.m.
- March 22 – NO PSR @ St. Edward

QUEST

Quest is a fast-paced 24-hour Christian experience for 13 to 15 year olds. It is a time to come together to find out about God, friendships, and self in a fun-filled, exciting, amusing, thoughtful, and carefree surrounding. A time to meet new people while praying, playing, singing, and sharing with them. Quest gives you the chance to search for the real you.

Quest is held at the Franciscan Retreat Center of Quincy University and lasts from 6:00pm Friday to 5:30pm Saturday.

There is a fee for this retreat, but St. Brigid, St. Edward, and St. Joseph have funds available to cover this cost! Please contact the office at 217-645-3444 if you are wanting to go on a weekend, and our awesome churches will pay for you to go!

The next retreat weekend: May 8-9, 2026

What Happens in Lent?

In today's Gospel story, Jesus goes out into the desert to fast and pray for forty days. In the forty days of Lent, the Church asks us to fast, give alms, and pray.



In Lent we don't eat meat on Fridays. Many people give up things like candy or dessert for all of Lent. When we give up food that we like, it reminds us that food isn't the only thing we need- we need God too!



Giving alms means giving money or things to the poor or the Church. God lets there be people who need our help so that we can become better by helping them!

The third thing that we should do in Lent is praying. You could say an extra prayer every day- maybe an "Our Father" or a "Hail Mary" when you wake up or before you go to bed. Another good idea is reading a bit from the Bible, because when we read the Bible we let God speak to us.

What are some little things you could do for Lent? Try to do things that will help you think a bit more about God every day.

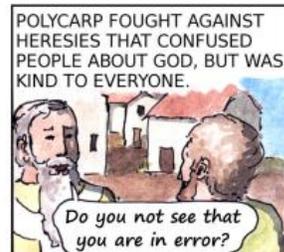


Saint Polycarp February 23

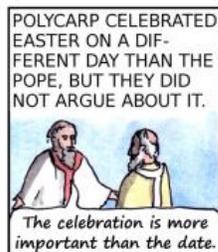
SAINT POLYCARP LEARNED ABOUT JESUS FROM SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE. HE BECAME THE BISHOP OF SMYRNA, IN WHAT IS NOW TURKEY.



POLYCARP FOUGHT AGAINST HERESIES THAT CONFUSED PEOPLE ABOUT GOD, BUT WAS KIND TO EVERYONE.

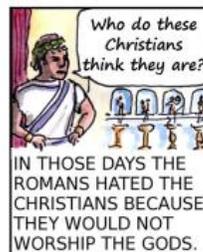


POLYCARP CELEBRATED EASTER ON A DIFFERENT DAY THAN THE POPE, BUT THEY DID NOT ARGUE ABOUT IT.

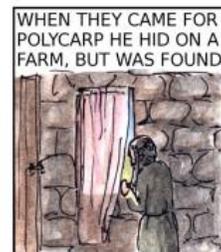


Who do these Christians think they are?

IN THOSE DAYS THE ROMANS HATED THE CHRISTIANS BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT WORSHIP THE GODS.



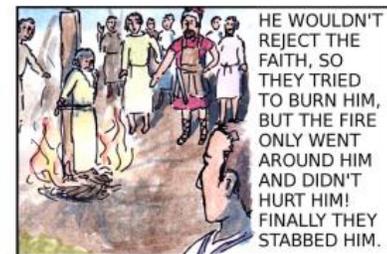
WHEN THEY CAME FOR POLYCARP HE HID ON A FARM, BUT WAS FOUND.



AT FIRST THEY FELT SORRY FOR HIM BECAUSE HE WAS SO OLD. THEY TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO GIVE UP THE FAITH.



HE WOULDN'T REJECT THE FAITH, SO THEY TRIED TO BURN HIM, BUT THE FIRE ONLY WENT AROUND HIM AND DIDN'T HURT HIM! FINALLY THEY STABBED HIM.



SAINT POLYCARP HELD ONTO HIS FAITH EVEN WHEN HE WAS VERY OLD. HE WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE UP ON JESUS WHEN HE WAS FACED WITH TORTURE. MOST OF US WON'T HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN KEEPING OUR FAITH AND GETTING KILLED, BUT WE STILL HAVE TO BE BRAVE TO STAY TRUE TO JESUS IN THE WORLD.