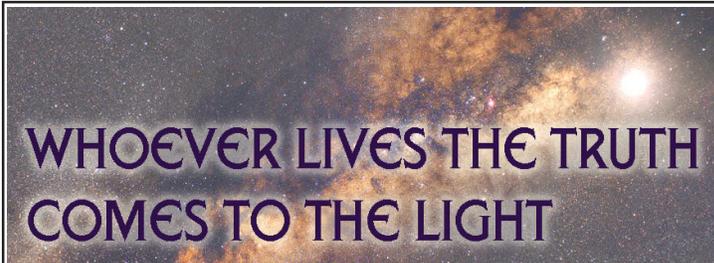


**"THE LIGHT CAME INTO THE WORLD,
BUT PEOPLE PREFERRED DARKNESS TO LIGHT"**

by Fr. Jeremy Myers

John 3:14-21

The evangelist John is a master of images and symbols. The gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Lent offers us a well-known section of John's gospel—the visit of Jesus with Nicodemus. The story is focused on the conversation between the two, but it is encapsulated in images of light and darkness. For example, at the start the evangelist tells us that "This man came to Jesus by night." We are to understand, then, that Nicodemus is in the darkness, but he is seeking the light. As their conversation continues, the evangelist tells us that Jesus says to Nicodemus, "This is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil." He continues, "For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed, but whoever lives the truth comes to the light." We find a beautifully crafted story built around the image of light and darkness—images that we know and experience every day. Jacques Lusseyran was only a boy of seven years when he lost his sight in a school accident. This was in France some years before World War II. Doctors advised Jacques' parents to send him to a residential school for the blind in Paris, but they decided against it. They wanted him to learn to function in the seeing world. His mother learned Braille with him. The school provided a special desk for him large enough to hold his Braille typewriter. His parents never pitied him. Instead, his father encouraged his son, "Always tell us when you discover something." Years later, Jacques would write that ten days after his accident he discovered a light within himself that enabled him to "see" things he might never have found any other way. He says that from that moment on, he was guided by a light that was as real as the light he could no longer see. "I felt this light gushing forth every moment and brimming over. I felt how it wanted to spread out over the world. I had only to receive it." He would say that "the source of light is not in the outer world. We believe that it is only because of a common delusion. The light dwells where life also dwells—within ourselves." In 1940, at the age of 17, he joined the French Resistance, helping to smuggle French POWs across the border. He was arrested in 1944 and sent to Buchenwald. He was one of only 30 to survive that concentration camp. That he was able to survive as a blind man was a miracle. He later wrote that it was that light he found within himself that enabled him to survive. He explained it this way, "That is what you had to do to live in the camp: be engaged, not live for yourself alone. The self-centered life has no place in the world of the deported. You must go beyond it, lay hold onto something outside yourself. Never mind how: by prayer if you know how to pray; through another's man warmth which communicates with yours, or through yours which you pass on to him; or simply by no longer being greedy. Be engaged, no matter how, but be engaged." Jacques offers us a fascinating insight into a light more powerful than the exterior light upon which most of us depend. He reminds us that there is an interior light that is even more powerful—a light that leads us to wisdom and truth, to compassion and generosity, to selflessness and humility. During these days of Lent, we want to seek out that light, as did Nicodemus.



**WHOEVER LIVES THE TRUTH
COMES TO THE LIGHT**

MASS INTENTIONS

March 12 - 18, 2018

Monday, March 12—Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Dolores Ceballos by Dee Beaver
No Noon Service
Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54

Tuesday, March 13—Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Arthur & †Eve Mallette by Skotnik Family
No Noon Service
Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16

Wednesday, March 14—Lenten Weekday

9:30 a.m. Communion Service
Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30

Thursday, March 15—Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Julie Skotnik by Mom and Michael
Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47

Friday, March 16—Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. †Taylor & †Rose Hart by Mary Callahan
(Bilingual) *Wisdom 2:1, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30*

Saturday, March 17—Lenten Weekday

4:30 p.m. †Benedictine Monczynski by Ed Szafranski
Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 18—Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 a.m. Parishioners by Pastor
10:30 a.m. †Vi Sanders by Keith & Anna Nelson
12:30 p.m. †Alfonso Torres by Family
Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33

**The flowers in the narthex this weekend
were donated by Ed Szafranski
in memory of his sister, Benedictine Monczynski.**



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

STEWARDSHIP FOR MARCH 4, 2018

NEEDED TO MEET BUDGET	\$14,500.00
RECEIVED	\$17,093.00
DIFFERENCE	\$ 2,593.00
DIFFERENCE YEAR TO DATE	\$ 6,761.93

Blessings to you for your generosity.

"Every one of us has something we can do to help others. It doesn't matter how rich or how poor we are, how smart, educated or famous we might be. Each of us has been given at least one gift that we can use on behalf of the rest of humanity."
Author Unknown

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Knights of Columbus, Council #1289, donated the proceeds from their February Fish Fry to the 2018 Confirmation Class. Grand Knight Andy Marak presented the check to two of the Confirmation students recently. The Knights will be hosting another Fish Fry on Friday, March 23rd, from 5:30 - 8 p.m. in the KC Hall. Join us!

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and suffering, especially Bill Bundschuh, Evelyn Hesse, Ron Peck, Victor Serrato, Gina Smith, and Colton Wood (grandson of Beverly Adamson). May the compassion of Jesus be present to them.

Please remember in your prayers all the faithful departed, especially Monica Marquez, niece of Lupe Soltero, who died recently and was buried in El Paso. May she follow Jesus into the kingdom of light and peace.

St. Mary's Rosary Makers Guild would like to extend many thanks to our parishioners for your continued support in 2017. Due to your generosity we were able to make and send 1,010 mission rosaries which are now in use all over the world. We really appreciate all of you.

Blessings to Darijan and Sonja Jajcevic who had their marriage blessed recently at St. Anne's Church. May God grant them much happiness and love.



We welcome into our community of faith the following children who were baptized at St. Mary's Church on Saturday morning: Amelia Noel Brock, Abigail Lupita Pena, and Lily Evelyn Roe. May the example of our faith inspire them to live good and holy lives with their days dedicated to Christ Jesus.

Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree, will meet this Wednesday, March 14th, at 7 p.m. at the Denison KC Hall.

Women's Guild will meet this Monday, March 12th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. Hostesses are Barb Plubell and Beth Williams.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated this Friday, March 16th, at 6 p.m. in English and at 7 p.m. in Spanish, both at St. Mary's Church. Please join us in this traditional Lenten practice and prayer.

40 Bags in 40 Days

Next weekend is the last weekend we are accepting donations for our 40 Bags in 40 Days Lenten project benefiting Four Rivers Outreach. Donations are being collected at the trailer in the west church parking lot after all weekend Masses. Items needed include Styrofoam plates, bowls, saucers, and cups (coffee and tea); plastic spoons and forks, coffee, creamer, bottled water, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry and dish soap, foil, trash bags (55 and 13 gallon), bleach, Fabuloso, Windex, Comet, Kleenex, shampoo and conditioner, body wash, deodorant and razors.

All middle school and high school youth are asked to help load the 40 Bags for 40 Days trailer after any weekend Mass they attend. Middle school and high school youth will next meet after Spring Break. On Saturday, March 24th, we will have a booth at the Celtic Festival and Highland Games in Sherman, where we will be offering an activity. Please contact Heidi to help that day at the festival. On Sunday, March 25th, we will have our Living Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m. Also, on Sunday, March 25th, at 5 p.m., we are hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt. We need lots of youth helpers. Email hscheibmeir@stmarych.org for more information, or to volunteer to help.

The University of Notre Dame Folk Choir is coming to St. Mary's Parish on Wednesday evening, May 23rd. Mark your calendar and save the date so you won't miss this prayerful and joyful concert of sacred music.

Save the Date

Bishop Edward J. Burns invites you to the Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner on Saturday, April 21st, at the InterContinental Hotel. This event benefits the Catholic Pro-Life Committee. The evening will include a raffle, wine, and jewelry pull, and private reception at 5 p.m., followed by a seated banquet, live auction and program at 6:30 p.m., and an after-party with live music and dancing. This event raises critical funds to save babies, support families, provide education and facilitate post-abortion healing. Dinner reservations are requested by April 10th. Seating is limited. Reservations may be made at prolifedallas.org/dinner or call 972-267-LIFE (5433). Spanish translation headsets available.



PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN) A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.



PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.