

February 22, 2026  
1st SUNDAY OF LENT

St. John      St. Anthony  
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CATHOLIC CHURCHES  
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<https://stjohnchurchleopold.com>

# Parish Lenten Retreat Preached by

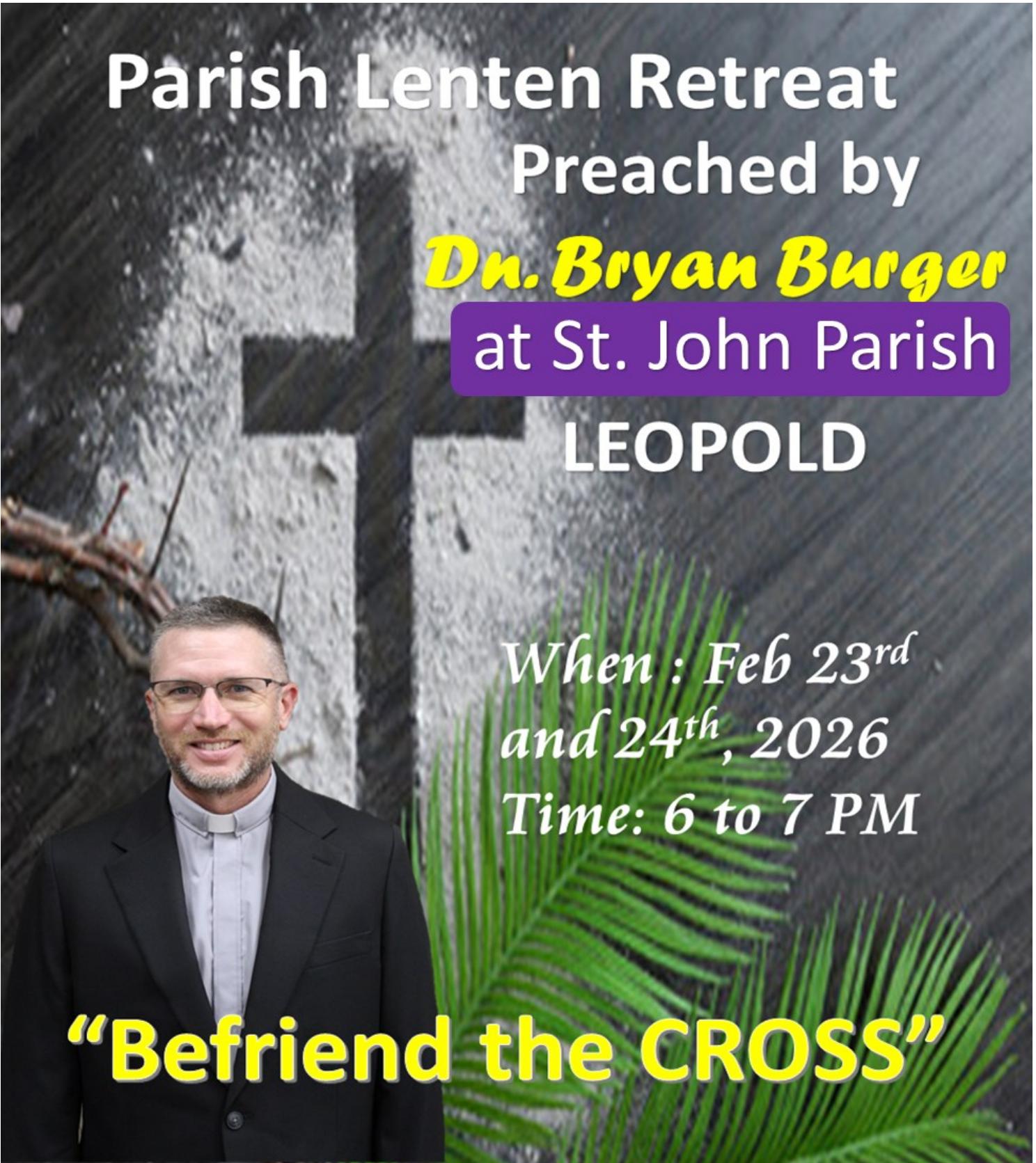
**Dn. Bryan Burger**

at St. John Parish

LEOPOLD

*When : Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>  
and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Time: 6 to 7 PM*

**“Befriend the CROSS”**



# Liturgical Roles

## 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

### Saturday, February 28, 5 PM (SA)

Servers: Caroline Horrell, Lorna Brandel

Lector: Jennifer Rosanna

Extraordinary Min. \*Richard Eeftink

Ushers: Ben Beel, Kevin Beel

Offertory: Family of Joe & Nora Beuter

Sacristan: Gina Bueter

Rosary: Mark Kiefer

### KC Sunday

### Sunday, March 1, 8 AM (SJ)

Servers: Finn Beussink, Jacob Beussink

Lector: Aimee Hampton

Extraordinary Min.: \*Cody Van de Ven  
Matt Beussink, Ron Wesbecher

Choir Min.: Jason Van de Ven

Ushers: Derek & Brady Halter

Offertory: KC Knight of Month: Trent Elfrink

Sacristan: Pam & Ron Wesbecher

Rosary: KC - Stan Seiler

### Sunday, March 1, 10 AM (SJ)

Servers: Blaine & Talon Hoesli

Lector: Marian Hutchings

Extraordinary Min.: \*Sarah Deck,  
Sheryl Eftink, Holly Hoesli

Choir Min.: Harlan Elfrink

Ushers: Doug Deck, Mark Deck

Offertory: Hannah & Ryan Burger  
Family

Sacristan: Polly Mungle, Cassie Engelen

Rosary: volunteer

### StoneBridge & Homebound

### Extraordinary Minister for

February 29: Cindy (Andrew) Jansen

St. John Gifts	2/15/26
Adults	\$1965.00
Youth	\$2.06
Loose	\$298.25
Online	\$343.00
Eastern Europe	\$50.00
Latin America	\$5.00
Mirror	\$146.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$200.00
Votive Candles	\$52.00

St. Anthony Gifts	2/15/26
Adults	\$435.00
Loose	\$136.00
Mirror	\$24.00

## Sacrament Schedule and Weekly Schedule

SJ= St. John | SA= St. Anthony

### Monday, February 23

6:55-7:15AM - CONFESSIONS (SJ)

**7:20 AM MASS** - Jessica Keith † (SJ)

8:00 AM - 7:00 AM - EUCHARISTIC ADORATION (SJ)

**6:00 - 7:00 PM - PARISH LENTEN RETREAT (SJ)**

### Tuesday, February 24

8:05-8:25AM - CONFESSIONS (SJ)

**8:30 AM MASS** - Steve & Mary VanGennip † (SJ)

**6:00 - 7:00 PM - PARISH LENTEN RETREAT (SJ)**

### Wednesday, February 25

3:15 PM - Rosary Club (church basement)

5:30-5:55 PM - CONFESSIONS (SA)

**6:00 PM MASS** - L/D Members Leo & Ann Horrell Family (SA)

6:30 PM - Stations of the Cross (SA)

### Thursday, February 26

8:05-8:25AM - CONFESSIONS (SJ)

**8:30 AM MASS** - Tony Beussink † (SJ)

### Friday, February 27

6:55-7:15AM - CONFESSIONS (SJ)

**7:20 AM MASS** - Joan McWilliams † (SJ)

5:00-7:00 PM - KC Fish Fry (KC Hall)

7:30 PM - Stations of the Cross (SJ)

### Saturday, February 28

6:30 AM - Men's Group (KC Hall)

8:00 AM - Women's Cursillo (St. Anne's)

4:15-4:45 PM - CONFESSIONS (SA)

**5:00 PM MASS** - L/D Members Joe & Nora Bueter Family (SA)

### Sunday, March 1

7:20-7:50 AM -and - 9:30-9:50 AM CONFESSIONS (SJ)

**8:00 AM MASS** - Rose Marie Laurentius † (SJ)

**10:00 AM MASS** - Families of St. John & St. Anthony Parishes (SJ)

5:00 PM - OCIA (Parish Office)

**LENTEN MISSION:** Deacon Brian from St. Augustine in Kelso has graciously accepted our invitation to speak to us for our Lenten Mission on February 23 and 24. It will begin each night at 6:00 for about an hour. A basket will be available for offerings and finger food and drinks will be served in the basement each night after Deacon's presentation. All are welcome. Please come and join us for two nights of renewal and fellowship.

*Blessings*

to a Wonderful  
Priest on your  
Birthday!



**Happy Belated Birthday, Fr. Vincent!**

**Wishing you a very  
blessed birthday,  
thank you for being  
such a wonderful  
shepherd to us all.  
(his birthday was on  
February 10th)**

**Remember Your Home Parish  
in Your Will:**

As an act of faith and gratitude,  
consider remembering your  
home parish in your will. This  
lasting gift helps ensure that the  
Church which nurtured your  
faith may continue its mission  
for generations to come.

## Notes from Fr. Vincent:

### First Sunday of Lent

*"Lent is a privileged time of interior pilgrimage towards Him Who is the fount of mercy," (Pope Benedict XVI)*

Christians all over the world begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday- a 40-day solemn liturgical season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in the Catholic Church, preparing for Easter. Today's readings speak about temptations. The temptations to which our Lord allowed himself to be submitted are for us a source of encouragement and consolation. If Jesus underwent temptations, we cannot and must not expect to live a life without experiencing similar tests and trials. Our basic temptations in life are the same: bodily comfort, pleasure, wealth and power. Church recommends prayer, fast and almsgiving to tackle temptations.

Fasting trains the heart to say "no" to itself, so that when temptation comes, we already have the spiritual muscles to choose God over our cravings. Prayer keeps us close to the Lord, filling our minds with His truth and strength, so we are not fighting alone but leaning on His grace. Almsgiving loosens our grip on selfishness and turns us outward in love, and a generous heart has less room for the temptations that trap us in ourselves.

Pope Francis suggested some practices that help us make this season more meaningful.

***Replace gossip, rumors, and verbal violence with kind words and silence. Move away from apathy towards your neighbor and God. Replace complaining with appreciation for simplicity. Fast from grudges and fill your heart with joy, patience, and compassion. Let go of anxiety and cultivate trust in God and hope. Give up self-centeredness to serve those in need. Pope Francis emphasizes that true fasting should "hurt"—meaning it requires real sacrifice and self-denial that changes a person's heart and actions.***

What are my most frequent temptations and how do I tackle them?

**Prayer: Lord God, in moments of weakness and testing, give us the grace, strength, and courage to face every temptation with faith and to choose Your will over our own. Amen.**

**St. John the Evangelist and St. Anthony, pray for us and protect us.**

***Fr. Vincent Joseph VC***

## Adult Education Notes

"Nothing except sin can take us away from God. All the contradictions and persecution from men and demons cannot take an inch from the Highest Good. If we are faithful, these trials help to unite us more closely with His Divine Majesty. I would wish that you do not let your heart be moved an inch, and that you would not be upset by the events taking place. God is permitting them for your great good that you may learn to deprive yourself more and more of every affection for earth and to die to all that is not God." – St. Paul of the Cross.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." —Romans 8:35-39.

Oh! If we only understood this principle that hardships and trials are all for our benefit in Christ! If we could settle this principle deep within our soul, then nothing could cause us to waver. Our love for God and His love for us would only deepen with every wave of distress, for He is for us. His desire is toward us in pure love, and eternal joy is a sure thing in our future, even in this life. Once this truth is firmly planted deep within the heart, we can be courageous in our prayer and outward expression of love toward God and others. Simply nothing can separate us from Him except sin!

How then shall we live? Let us be sober-minded, leaning on our Beloved, who gives us daily strength and power to overcome every sin. St. Paul of the Cross assures us that, "If we are faithful, these trials help to unite us more closely with His Divine Majesty". He goes on to give an exhortation to not let circumstances dictate our countenance. How can we bring our emotions into submission to the truth of His Word and not become distraught in trials? We must look up and see where our help comes from, taking our eyes off the circumstances and firmly placing them on Jesus and His unending love toward us. This fixed gaze on Him will grant us the ability to remain in Him in the place of peace, and even have joy in the midst of difficulties. Trusting in His goodness towards us even in every set back will help us to "...not let our heart be moved an inch". The Apostle Paul came to know this truth through suffering severe trials so that he came to know that in all circumstances, it is possible to overcome and become "more than conquerors"

Prayer: Dear Jesus, let me trust you with unwavering confidence in every trial. You are using every situation for my good. Let me adore your divine will in everything so that You may fully have your way in me and bring me into complete union with You. In Jesus name, Amen.

For Meditation: How can you apply St. Paul of the Cross's statement about how all contradictions and persecutions from men and demons cannot take one inch away from you and God, but in fact, can actually be used to do the opposite—that is, draw you nearer to Him? (from Spiritual Direction.com)

This Lent, may we look at our trials and suffering with different perspectives and with new insights of how God is using them to draw us closer to Him. Just try.

## Ministry Notes & Updates

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 5898:

Lenten Fish Frys are ongoing on Fridays from 5-7. Every Friday through March 27.

Knight of the Year dinner set for Saturday, March 14 honoring many Knights for various accomplishments, plus Lady Friend of the Year, Community Friend, Religious Teachers and Free Throw winners plus a delicious meal following Happy Hour. Mark your calendars!

### VOCATION MINISTRY:

*“Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4)* Lent invites us to rely on God’s Word. In holy matrimony, couples live by this Word, nourishing their love with faith. Spend some time this week in scripture and pray together. If you’re single, pray for your vocation and the one God may be preparing for you. **Vocation Crucifix for February: Francis & Peggy Nenninger** *For our parish, that we may walk alongside discerners in prayer and guidance throughout this Lent season, let us pray to the Lord.*

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

The High School Youth Group is looking for parishioners who would be willing to help sponsor a youth to attend Steubenville this summer. Most of the cost will be covered by grants and fundraising but we have some youth who need financial assistance with the required deposit. If you are willing to help, please contact Tannie Smith. Thank you!

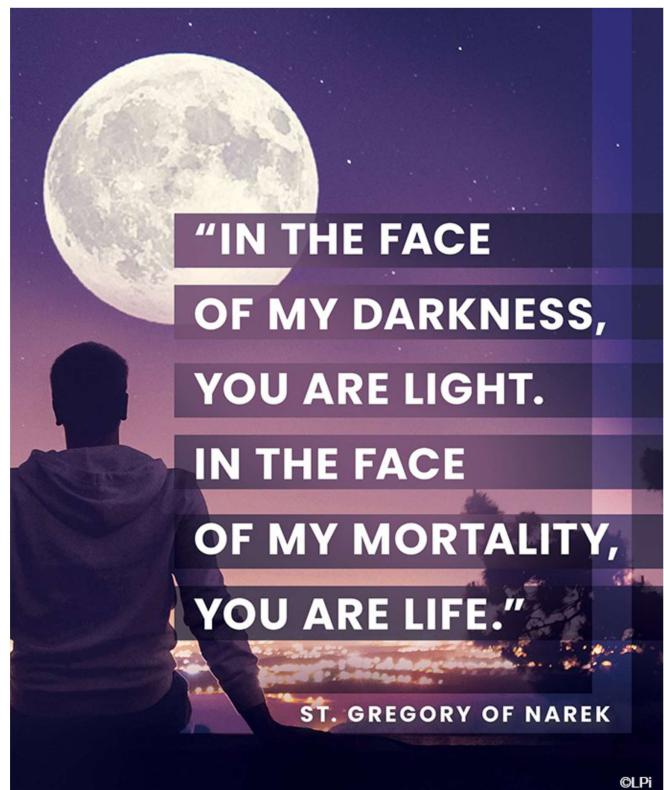
### ST. JOHN PCCW:

**DCCW Spring Assembly 2026:** April 10-11 at Drury Inn Cape Girardeau.

**Rummage Sale:** May 7-8 setup and sale is May 9-11 at KC Hall

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

As a Lenten service project, we will be having a diaper drive for our local Birthright. There is an immediate need for all sizes. Please help by donating. You may leave diapers in the back of church. For monetary donations to purchase diapers, please put in a marked envelope into collection basket. Thank you so much for your generosity!



## Diocese & Area Events

**Living the Mass: A Path of Discipleship:** this is a 4-night mission being held at Sacred Heart Church in Dexter March 2nd to the 5th. 7 - 8 PM nightly. See the flyer in back of church for more details on the nightly talks. Everyone is welcome to attend one or all nights.

**St. Augustine Spring Dinner:** Sunday, March 8 from 10:30 am - 1 pm in St. Augustine school gym in Kelso. Carry-outs start at 11 am. Pork Loin, Hashbrown casserole, cole slaw, corn & desserts. Adults \$15, Children (6-12) \$7.

## Area Lenten Fish Frys

**Advance KC Fish Fry:** Every Friday 2/13 through 3/13. 5-7 PM. \$13 for adults, all kids 15 and under are Free with paid adult.

**Scott City KC Fish Fry:** Every Friday in Lent (except Good Friday). Serving 4:30 - 7 PM Adults \$15, Kids (6-12) \$8, 5 & Under Free

**Jackson KC Fish Fry:** Every Friday from February 13 - March 27. Serving from 4:40 - 7:30 PM.

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