



# MARK TIMES

March 18, 2018 + Fifth Sunday in Lent



## From Your Pastor...

Yesterday (or tomorrow, depending on when you read this) was/is one of our favorite holidays, **St. Patrick's Day**.



Our liturgical colors for Lent may be purple, but I hope that you will wear/wore **a bit o' the green**, for it's a day that everyone—German, Polish, Italian, Scandinavian—can pretend to be Irish for the day.



But we can wear the green for another reason too: to **give thanks to God for the gift of spring that lies only four days away**. While we haven't had a lot of snow, we have had a number of bitterly cold days. And thus we can at last rejoice that the dreariness and cold of winter is on its way out, and soon we will see the blessed signs of **new life** "springing" forth from the ground and the tree limbs. Wear the green in anticipation of this change of seasons. Wear it also in **anticipation of the end of Lent** that is soon to come, when the dreariness & cold of the tomb is left behind in the wake of the warmth of new life God that brings to us through Christ's resurrection.

"May God give you...

For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each prayer."



—An Irish Prayer, from islandireland.com

*Pastor Brian*

**Adult Forum: Middle-Aged Hearing Loss**  
Audiologist Kim Ott leads this presentation about a very timely topic for many (including your pastor!)

## Game Day!



Come join us **NEXT Saturday, March 24** from **2:00–4:00PM** in the **Parish Hall** for a **GAME DAY** sponsored by the Social/Evangelism committee. Our goal is to raise funds and collect needed items for our neighborhood **warming/cooling shelter at Trinity Church** (47 N. Douglas Ave). Come for games, snacks, and fellowship and help out a great cause!

Some of the needed items:

- Female products
- Warm socks
- Long Johns
- Hats/gloves
- Sleeping bags
- Paper products (plates, napkins)
- Cash

## Blood Pressure Checks



Our Faith Community Nurse, **June Benedick**, will be doing blood pressure checks during the coffee hour today. June is also in the **church office from 9:00AM to 11:45AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

## About that New Year's Promise

If you had a resolution to lose weight in 2018, how is that going for you? If you need some support and accountability, along with some nutritional guidance and encouragement, consider joining **TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly)**. TOPS meets at Trinity United Church of Christ, 47 N Douglas in Belleville on Monday nights. Weigh-in begins at 5:30 and the meeting begins at 6:30. Come visit for free and see what it's all about! What have you got to lose?



**Easter Flower Donations** are **appreciated** for decorating the altar area with lovely flowers on Easter Sunday. Donation envelopes are in the hymnal racks. **Donate any amount & take the flowers with you after worship**. Thanks for making our church especially beautiful for its biggest day of the year.



**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

Monday	2:00P	Fiber Arts @ Westfield
Wednesday	7:00P	Lent Evening Prayer
Thursday	7:00P	Bell choir rehearsal
	8:00P	Adult choir rehearsal
Friday		Pastor's Sabbath
	12:10P	Stations of the Cross @ St. Luke's
Saturday	9:00A	Church & Chapel Cleaning Day
	1:00PM	Game Day Benefit – PH
<b>Sunday, 3/25</b>	<b>8:45A</b>	<b>The Divine Liturgy</b> <i>(begins in the chapel)</i>
	10:20A	Coffee & Fellowship
	10:30A	Sunday School & Confirmation
	10:30A	Adult Forum

**Offerings for March 11, 2018**

<b>Sunday worship attendance:</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>General Fund Donations</b>	<b>\$2,587</b>
<b>Easter Flowers</b>	<b>\$30</b>

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
3/4-3/10	\$3,881	\$383.66	\$3,497.34
3/11-3/17	\$2,587	\$181.61	\$2,405.39
YTD	\$29,988.71	\$29,987.10	\$1.61

**Stations of the Cross at 12:10PM each Friday in Lent at St. Luke's Catholic Church.**

**Midweek Evening Prayer**

Join us on Wednesday evenings in Lent at 7:00PM in the church for our evening prayer series, "A Lenten Journey to the Easter Vigil."

105 East "D" Street, Belleville, IL 62220  
 Office: 618.233.9809 Fax: 618.233.4090  
 Pastor Brian's cell phone: 314.363.6784

**Sunday, March 25, 2018**

**LESSONS:**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 31:9-16  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Mark 14:1-15:47

**WORSHIP SERVERS**

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison  
**Assisting Minister:** Greg Guenther  
**Acolyte:** Jackie Lynch  
**Crucifer:** Keith Kniepkamp  
**Chalice Bearer:** Mike Murakami  
**Lector:** Don Muller  
**Ushers:** Jim Jolley & Roland Jacquot

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Confirmation Schedule**

The Spring session will continue to cover the books of the Old Testament. Upcoming class dates:

**March 18    March 25**

**Food Pantry Spotlight** item for

March is **canned meats**. SPAM, ravioli, canned chicken – any type of canned meat product is useful! Bring items to the Welcome Area on Sundays or to the church office during the day.



**Franklin School Lunch-Makers** are in need of **protein items, chips, and fruit in quantities of 12.**

A sign-up sheet for volunteers is on the counter in the coffee area in the Parish Hall and is for all of the holidays until the end of the school year.



**Coffee Hour Hosts!**

If you're able to help host our coffee/fellowship hour on an occasional Sunday morning, please sign up in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.



**Palm Sunday worship starts at 8:45AM NEXT Sunday in the CHAPEL!**

Email: office@stmarkbelleville.org  
 pastor@stmarkbelleville.org  
 Website: stmarkbelleville.org