

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for February 25, 2024

THE WEEK AHEAD:

- Monday 2/26:** 6:00PM Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
7:00PM Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday 2/28:** 6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper
7:00PM *The Pilgrimage Way of the Cross* - church
- Thursday 2/29:** 6:15PM Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:15PM Voice Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday 3/2:** 6:00PM SHINE Contemporary Worship

Adult Forum: *The Holy Land Revealed: Galilee – Setting of Jesus' Life & Ministry*

Today's Adult Forum following coffee hour will feature a 30-minute video by Professor Jodi Magness surveying through Scripture and archaeology some of the smaller towns and villages in the Galilean countryside that formed the backdrop to Jesus' life.

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

Come enjoy a meal of **soup and salad at 6:00PM** in the **Parish Hall this Wednesday, February 28**, before joining us in the church for evening prayer.

Get a group together and host one of the soup suppers! A sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall near the coffee stand.

Wednesday Evening Prayer: *The Pilgrimage Way of the Cross*

During Lent we renew our commitment to the radical living out of our baptismal promises. The extended stations we pray on Wednesday evenings this year, written by the late Father Edward Hays, recall not only Christ's death and resurrection, but also the challenges we each face in living out the baptized life that binds us intimately to both.

As we make this pilgrimage way of the cross, we will proceed with Jesus from his baptism to his death, resurrection, and ascension. We will likewise journey spiritually to those times and places in our own lives that echo the events and meaning of Christ's way of life, death, and resurrection.

Join us **Wednesdays at 7:00PM in the church** for this thought-provoking journey with Christ.

Ladies Lunch Bunch!

All ladies, come join the new "Lunch Bunch" in the St. Mark Parish Hall on **Tues, March 12** from **11:30A-1:00P**. Please bring your own lunch and beverage this first time only. This will be an organizational meeting to make plans for a monthly social meeting at various local restaurants. If you need transportation, call Peggy Andersen at 618-791-0992 to find a volunteer chauffeur. The more, the merrier!



THANK YOU to those who contributed to our **Epiphany Diaper Drive** from January 7 through February 4 for little ones in need in our community.

In addition to the donations pictured, two members requested/received \$250 Thrivent Action Team gift cards which were used to purchase \$500 in additional diapers, disposable training pants, diaper wipes and diaper creams.

The collected were distributed to St. George/St. Mark Food Pantry, Pregnancy Care Center of Belleville and Fontabella Maternity Home in O'Fallon.

Noisy/Not-So-Noisy Change Collection

"Giving up" our loose change is a great way to observe Lent while serving our Franklin School families. As of February 16, students still owe \$3914.79 in past due lunch, snack and book fees. The Noisy/Not-so-Noisy change buckets will circulate on **Sundays March 3** and **March 10**. A bucket will also be available at the SHINE service on **Saturday March 2**.

All donations will go to reduce student past due fees. The school staff will determine which student's accounts will be credited. Not so Noisy offerings may also be mailed to the church office with Noisy Change written on the Memo Line or be made at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-14EWR>

February 2024 Evangelism & Social Ministry Monthly Mission Giving

\$300 to Moms On a Mission

MOMs is a 501(c) non-profit Public Charity. They are a GROUP of everyday people making a DIFFERENCE every day. Based out of Dupou, IL they serve MANY areas in both Illinois and Missouri. They have no paid staff which means we are Donation Driven and always giving.

They LOVINGLY serve our homeless and displaced Friends on the streets, foster children and foster families, veterans, teens, low-income families, disabled people and our elderly. They assist in everything from food to clothing, hygiene products and shoes to prom dresses and window AC units. They also run a nonprofit donation only thrift shop called The Pay-or-Pray from their facility at 440 McBride Ave, Dupou, IL 62239.

For more information visit their Facebook page *Moms On a Mission*

\$300 to Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern IL in Belleville

The Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois works to eliminate domestic violence in individual lives and in society as a whole. They envision a community that values all of its members and promotes individual and community safety and well-being. They believe that all people have the right to be free from harm, to be respected, and to determine and pursue their own goals.

For over forty years, The Violence Prevention Center of Southwestern Illinois has been a leader in providing safety, shelter, support, and guidance to survivors of domestic violence. During this time, have witnessed both the triumphs and heartaches surrounding the pervasive and complex issues that affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men.

They are trusted partners with local law enforcement, legal agencies, and other community resources, which allows us to continue the fight for the rights of those dealing with domestic violence and create a society where everyone can have relationships in a safe and healthy manner.

St. Mark Offerings for 2/18: General Fund: **\$4,420.41** (*incl. online offerings received by 2/9*); Food Pantry: \$567; Coffee Fund: \$84; Diaper Drive: \$171.44