



Saints Joseph and  
Francis Xavier  
Parish

Our Mission:

We honor the traditions of  
our parish and welcome all to  
unite in prayer and the Sacraments.  
Loved by God and guided by the  
Holy Spirit, we share the good news  
of Jesus Christ through joyful  
worship, faithful formation and  
dedicated service.



March 8, 2026



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Dear Friends,

As I write this, bombs are exploding in the Middle East and people are stranded in resort places like Dubai. The people in Mexico still live on edge, wondering what and where the next eruption of violence will be. We hear of another mass shooting, this time in Texas. All over the internet and on social media (which I do my best to avoid) we see finger pointing, accusations and brutal negativity. We might be tempted to ask the question, which we already know the answer to, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?"

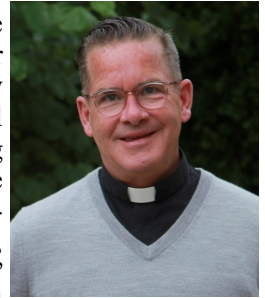
Grumbling and gossiping, bitterness and anger, cynicism and negativity harden our hearts. These things stop anything from penetrating our hearts. The psalmist writes, "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts." Our second reading this weekend reminds us that God wants to pour something into our hearts. God has poured His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us. God wants to continue to allow a free flow of that love to enter our hearts. This lent, let us continue to strive to soften our hearts, to rid ourselves of the hardness that prevents God's goodness from working in us.

What a place was Massah and Meribah, but it could have been Wilmette. Isn't that a question we want to ask often? I tell you, I hear it a lot. When difficulties arise, when life goes not as well as the faithful would have it, when roadblocks seem to get in the way, when the going gets tough, we are tempted to doubt. Especially now, with war and terrorism, with senseless violence and political polarization, the question becomes our own.

In the Hebrew Scripture reading today, the doubted. Tired and thirsty from their journey to freedom, they grumbled against God, and against the one God had chosen to lead them. Their hearts were beginning to harden. Negativity had begun to set in. So, faithfully, and a bit fearfully, Moses pleaded with God. And God gave them water ... from a rock. God gave Moses water from the rock to remind his chosen ones (and that includes us!) of his presence in the midst of difficulty. His response to Moses' plea invites each of us to present our needs in faith.

Our Gospel gives us another point of view. We see Jesus, tired and thirsty from his journey, encountering the woman of Samaria. Her heart, hardened a bit by difficult relationships and a difficult, lonely life, almost prevents God's

love from being poured into it. She comes at him, presumably alone. Her situation in life, the way others may look at her, or the way she may feel about herself prevents her from being part of the morning group. She doubts, questions, and rejects his request. "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" This opens the door for Jesus to tell her and us about the life giving water he can give. Her comment allows Jesus to minister to her, to love her, to provide for her.




Because of Jesus' mercy and love, because of the offer of thirst-quenching water, the poor woman's life was changed; this encounter changed her life, and she became a disciple, an evangelist. She brought others to see and know Jesus, who broke down social barriers, stayed with the Samaritans for two days and caused many of them to believe in him. Jesus offers living water and his shares his inviting words not only to the woman at the well, but each one of us today. He challenges her, and us, to worship in spirit and in truth.

Jesus bids us to see the great things we can accomplish if we allow ourselves to live with him, in him, and through him. Jesus invites us to see and hear for ourselves, as the people of Samaria did, and come to know that he truly is the savior of the world. Perhaps we can respond to that bidding, that invitation, this Lent. When we do reply with fleshly hearts to that invitation, we will indeed see for ourselves the answer to our question, "Is the Lord in our midst?"

Happy Lent,  
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PS we have three weeks to complete the Disciple Maker survey. The last time our parish led the archdiocese in the response rate. Let's try to do so again. Also, next week we will welcome our Catholic Extension partners to share their experience and seek our collaboration in their mission. Please be generous.

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# Weekly Mass Schedule

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PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY, PRAY FOR PEACE

US Air Force

Cpt William Donovan  
Ssgt John Wesley Hobbs  
2nd Lt Luke Stenberg

US Army

Rev Chaplain Maj John Barkemeyer  
Cpt Christopher Cannon  
Cpt Ryan Cannon  
PFC Richard Carlson  
Sgt Harrison Daniels  
Pvt Ryan Higgins  
Erik Larson (Army Reserve)  
Sgt Brenda Lore Mayo  
Sgt David Lore Mayo  
SGT Seth Miller  
Col Kelly Quinn  
Lt Ryan Slattery  
Lt Col Shawn Swarz  
PFC Asher Walsh  
Lt John Williams

US Marine Corps

Pvt Stuart Corboy III  
Sgt Joseph Devroy  
Cpt Peter Dulaney  
Sgt Brandon Galgay  
Sgt Aidan Gobeyn  
Cpt Brad Gustafson  
Ssgt Walter Ramirez  
Maj William Smith  
Cpl Trevor J. Talbot  
Pvt 1st Class Stevie Williams

US Navy

Cmdr Kevin Carlson  
Lt Matthew Mah  
PO2 Kevin Morrison  
Cornelius Robert Murphy  
LTJG Hugh Rider  
Cmdr Tom Smith  
ENS John David Tobin  
Shane Zeman

US National Guard

Liam Gobeyn  
Sgt Steven Tetzlaff  
Sgt Jackson Knott  
Lt Col Grant Swinger

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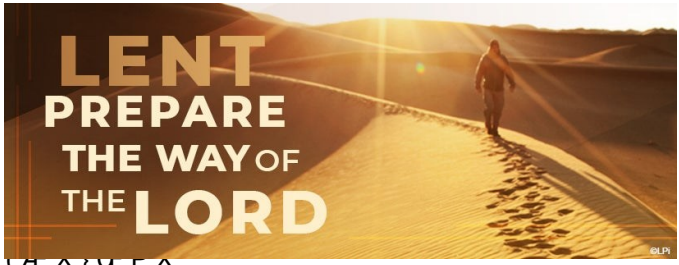


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Laura McCormick & Ryan Meade  
Bann III





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Congratulations to our Confirmandi who were sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation on March 7.

Cate Anderson  
Aidan Arriola  
Nicolas Azpell  
Tatum Baker  
Eric Beagen  
Griffin Bransfield  
Sean Bransfield  
Harper Buhle  
Zara Bullock  
Maxwell Cabonargi  
Connor Cagney  
Jose R. Cazares, III  
Luca Celentani  
Teddy Couri  
Norah Cox  
Gio D'Arco  
Joe DeVore  
Edward Dean  
Bridget Dennett  
Charlotte Dolan  
Margaret Dooley  
Jake Dunlap  
Annie Dunlop  
Leonidas Durvis  
Allison Ercek  
Nicodemus Estrada  
Cate Fischer  
Carolyn Fogarty  
Aria Gable  
Livia Galvao

Clara Garcia  
Shea Girard  
Ben Good  
Carly Good  
Alex Goven  
Tessa Hardt  
Declan Hayes  
Dillon Hays  
Edward Henry  
Hannah Mary Higgins  
Thomas Horton  
Brady Jenkins  
Eila Kelliher  
Lily Jane Kerwin  
Bobby Kirk  
William Korkus  
Grant Koshkarian  
Louie Kraus  
Cameron Langston  
John Lannan  
Kevin Lannan  
Caroline Lee  
Marcus Lee  
Katrina Luburic  
Annabel Mauceri  
Veronica Miller  
Jackson Mills  
Nora Minahan  
Amanda Morhart  
Emily Mosio

Cameron Orzoff  
Alessia Pacini  
Margaret Pezza  
Reese Renz  
Abigail Riddle  
Lucy Roselle  
Harper Rundall  
Abby Sabo  
Nora Schmitt  
Cara Semple  
Enzo Seyferth  
Bridie Sloan  
Audrey Smith  
Violet Snellenbarger  
Mary Grace Solmos  
Joe Joe Soucheray  
Wilson St. Peter  
Eadaoin Stack  
Quentin Stephan  
Sydney Sterrett  
Katrin Stolar  
Henry Todd  
Jack Traficanto  
Angela Wallace  
Abigail Walberer  
Megan Weedon  
Clare Whisdosh  
Julia Wilkins  
Max Wilson  
George Zienkiewicz

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St. Vincent de Paul  
 Clothing and Household Items  
 Donation Drive!  
 Saturday, March 14, 10 am - 2 pm  
 Sunday, March 15, 1 - 3 pm  
 St. Joseph Church  
 Parking Lot  
 1747 Lake Ave., Wilmette

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*save the date for the*  
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*happening on*  
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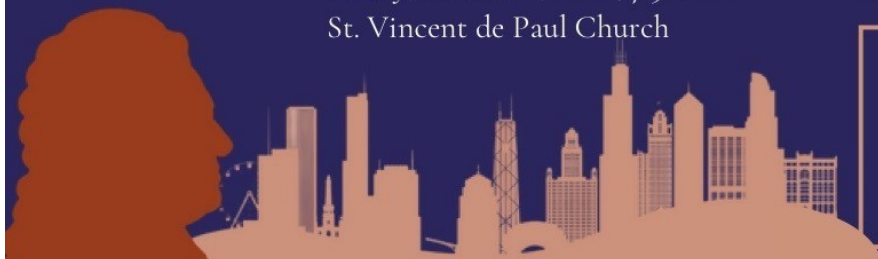



J.S. Bach  
**ST. MARK  
 PASSION**

Friday, March 20, 2026 | 7:30 PM  
 St. Vincent de Paul Church

For the finale of its inaugural season, Bach in the City will present J. S. Bach's St. Mark Passion. This Midwest premiere of Malcolm Bruno's acclaimed new reconstruction of Bach's lost masterpiece will include newly composed music for recitatives and turba choruses by Richard Webster.

Hannah De Priest, soprano  
 Ryan Belongie, countertenor  
 Oliver Camacho, tenor  
 David McFerrin, bass  
 Bach in the City Chorus & period-instrument orchestra conducted by Richard Webster.





**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**  
February 18th til  
March 29th

### HELP SAVE LIVES IN CHICAGOLAND!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

**With God's help**, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over **25,000** saved babies
- More than **170** closed facilities
- More than **270** converted workers

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

**Vigil location:** Carafem Abortion Center, 4711 Golf Rd. in Skokie. We meet in the middle of the block between Skokie Blvd. & Gross Point Rd. (south side of street).

**Vigil days/hours:** Every Saturday from 9:30 am – 10:30 am. Starting Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> through March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Local contact:** Kevin Connolly at 773-981-2972 [kconnolly@usa.com](mailto:kconnolly@usa.com) or Claudia Morse-Karzen at 847-924-9089 [cmorsekarzen@gmail.com](mailto:cmorsekarzen@gmail.com).

In addition, please donate to the follow pro-life groups: Aid for Women at [www.helpaidforwomen.org](http://www.helpaidforwomen.org), Pro-Life Action League at [prolifeaction.org](http://prolifeaction.org), and Students for Life at [studentsforlife.org](http://studentsforlife.org). [40daysforlife.com/Chicago](http://40daysforlife.com/Chicago)



*Aid for Women*

# SPRING LUNCHEON

5 | 7 | 26

**Skokie Country Club, Glencoe, IL**

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**Mark Schultz**  
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**Invocation:**  
**Fr. Wayne Watts**  
*Pastor of Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish, Wilmette*



**Scan for details & registration**

[helpaidforwomen.org/luncheon2026](http://helpaidforwomen.org/luncheon2026)




ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO 

 Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network 

## PRAY with THE POPE

One prayer intention every month




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**Blessings, luck, and a little green this St. Patrick's Day!**

