

HOLY FAMILY PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 98 - 3027 Pearl St
Oldenburg, IN 47036
Phone: 812-934-3013

STAFF

Fr. John Barker, OFM
Pastor - jbarker@friars.us

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Resident Friar at Holy Family

Fr. Mike Chowning, OFM

WEBSITE

www.holyfamilyoldenburg.com

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyChurch.Oldenburg.IN/>

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend

Monday-Friday at 8:00 am

Saturday at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 & 10:00 am

3rd Sunday at St. Mary of the
Rock at 11 am

Holy Days

Check the Bulletin for Mass Times

VIRTUAL MASS SCHEDULE

LIVE on Saturdays at 5:30pm

on our Facebook page

A link is available on our website from
livestream 'til next Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

First Friday of the month after
Daily Mass - 7pm

Main body of Holy Family Church

ADORATION

Monday-Friday 9am-9pm

St. Anne's Chapel located by
the East side entrance.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact **Beth Geis** to arrange a Baptism
[holyfamilybeth@gmail.com/](mailto:holyfamilybeth@gmail.com)
812-934-3013 (ext. 125)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday - Friday from

7:15am-7:45am

Saturdays from 4:30pm - 5:30pm

Sundays 7am-8am & 9am-10am

A Franciscan Parish for 158 years! • March 2, 2025 • 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Family Parish

"When fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher." (Luke 6:40)

This week Lent begins, a time for training to become more like Jesus. Of course, God's grace will be doing most of the heavy lifting, but we have our part to play, too. We don't become saints without working up a lot of spiritual sweat. Last week we saw that we are called to be like Jesus by learning to forgive others, to pray for those who will not pray for us, to bless those who do not have a kind word for us, and to be merciful toward all, even those who hate us.

This week Jesus reminds us that becoming like Him is not just about doing "random acts of kindness" (although those are good). Our transformation in Christ involves the deepest part of us, what the Bible calls our "heart." This is the place of identity, of decision-making, and of basic life orientation toward (or away from) love of God and neighbor. Our heart is who we are and the source of all we do. It is our heart that we need to train so that it can be strong in compassion, in care for others, in devotion to God, in goodness, truth, and beauty.

Jesus says that, just like only a good tree (that is, a healthy tree) can bear good fruit, so only a spiritually healthy heart can regularly and reliably produce what Saint Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, and more.

Lent is a time to really kick our disciple cardio into high gear, to work up a healthy spiritual sweat. So, this year instead of just giving something up (unless it's a sin – give that up!), let's ask the Holy Spirit to show us where our hearts really need a workout. Do we neglect our relationship with God? Let's commit ourselves to serious, faithful prayer *every day*. Do we have trouble with impatience or anger? Let's practice *every day* being more patient, gentle, and kind. Do we tend to look out only for ourselves? Let's train ourselves in generosity and self-control by doing something purely for the sake of others *every day*. Do we tend to judge, criticize, or gossip? Let's trade those for doing *every day* something loving that brings joy and peace to others.

Have a great and holy Lent, everyone!

Young Mothers' New Baby Meal Train

What a blessing a new child is to a family! As many mothers know, those first few weeks bring excitement, challenges, and adjustments to family life. We would love to support those mothers and families who have recently had a baby with the gift of a meal train! If you are interested in being on the meal train list to deliver a meal to a family that had a new baby or you recently had/will be having a baby and would like to receive meals, please contact Kara Janssen by email (kjanssen0517@gmail.com) or cell (812-212-3207).

- Fr. John



RUMMAGE SALE Upcoming Collection/Sorting Dates

MARCH Collection Dates:

March 4, 2025 from 6pm-7:30pm
SAT., March 15, 2025 from 9am-Noon
 March 4, 2025 from 6pm-7:30pm

April Collection Dates:

April 8 from 6pm-7:30pm
 April 22 from 6pm-7:30pm

Please use **FRONT** entrance of school. Must bring items to sorting room **INSIDE** building.



MARDI GRAS Celebration

March 4th - 5pm-8pm - MENU: Fat Tuesday Spread
Holy Family Cafeteria, Oldenburg
Family Affair - All ages welcome - Free Will Offering
 All proceeds go to Holy Family Parish Lenten Outreach project.
 Hosted by the Daughters of Isabella, All Saints Circle #1384 & Holy Family Parish

Oldenburg Academy Drama Club presents



LITTLE WOMEN

the Broadway musical

March 2nd at 2pm
Oldenburg Academy Auditorium



MORRIS VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S

BREAKFAST

MARCH 9th, 2025
 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

ST. ANTHONY HALL | 4755 CHURCH ST. | MORRIS, IN

BREAKFAST INCLUDES
 PANCAKES, WHOLE-HOG SAUSAGE, EGGS AND BISCUITS AND GRAVY

Free will offering | Proceeds go towards fire equipment



EAGLE FIRE CO. DRIVE THRU FISH FRY

OLDENBURG FIREHOUSE ON PEARL ST.

March 7th 4pm - ???
FRIDAY ONLY!!

DINNERS include:
 12 oz of Cod Fish, French Fries & Cole Slaw for \$15/dinner



You're invited to...

MARY'S WAY

Women Answering Yes



3rd Annual Mary's Way Candlelight Dinner

Free will donations accepted. Thank you, Parish Festival for their generous contributions.

Thursday, April 3, 2025
 6:00: Doors open for registration
 6:30: Dinner
 Guest speaker to follow dinner

Candlelight catered dinner, inspirational speaker, prayer & fellowship for women (high school age and older) in the St. Mary's School gymnasium.

St. Peter's Ladies Sodality

Drive-Thru Fried Chicken Dinner

Sat., March 15 - 4pm-7pm

The cost of a dinner will be \$15. Dinner includes 1/2 chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, slaw or applesauce & dessert 1207 East Road, St. Peter (Brookville) - School Building - Not gym. For more info, please call 812-623-2878 or 812-576-3153.




LENTEN SERIES & RETREATS

LENTEN SERIES

Thursdays in March
6:30pm-8:30pm

With Fr. John Barker, ofm & Fr. E.J. Stein

Join Fr. John & Fr. E.J. for a special Lenten series offering reflections, spiritual guidance & meaningful practices to deepen your faith journey during this sacred season.

Oldenburg Franciscan Center

St. Teresa of Avila Retreat Center

Traditional Silent Retreats

Women's Lent Retreat - March 13-16
Men's Lent Retreat - April 3-6
 edelweisshouse.org / 812-221-5370



LOCAL LENTEN FISH FRIES

ASH WEDNESDAY

Batesville KoC Fish Dinner

THE HALL - 624 Delaware Rd - Batesville

Ash Wednesday- March 5th
 from 5pm-7:30pm
 Adult Meal: Fried Catfish & Pollock, potato & vegetable - \$15
 Child Meal (ages 4-8): Cheese pizza, green beans & applesauce - \$6

Eagle Fire Co. Drive-Thru Fish Fry

Oldenburg Firehouse on Pearl St.
Friday ONLY - March 7th
 from 4pm - 'til they run out!

St. Martin Fish Fries

St. Martin Hall - 8044 Yorkridge Rd - Guilford, IN
 Fridays - March 7th - April 11th
 from 4:30pm-7pm

St. Mary's Fish Fries - Aurora, IN

211 Fourth St - Aurora, IN - 812-926-1558
 Fridays - March 7th - April 11th
 from 4:30pm-7pm
 Dine in, Drive Thru or Carry Out

St. Teresa Fish Fries - Bright, IN

By Knights of Columbus - Council 14862
 211 Fourth St - Aurora, IN - 812-926-1558
 Fridays - March 7th - April 11th
 from 4:30pm-7:30pm
 Dine in or Carry Out

Annual Faith Formation Fish Fry

Hosted by: St. Anthony & St. Nicholas Parishes
 St. Anthony - 4773 Church Rd - Morris, IN
 March 14th from 4:30pm-7pm
 Drive Thru & Dine in



HelpOurMarriage.org

RETROUVAILLE

A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Cincinnati Retrouvaille weekend
April 4-6

Retrouvaille has been helping troubled marriages since 1977. The program is confidential, effective, and can help you find hope and healing!

HelpOurMarriage.org
 513-486-6222



Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 1

5:30 pm † Edith 'Eydie' Lamping

Sunday, March 2

8:00 am † Shirley Obermeyer
10:00 am Members of the Parish

Monday, March 3

8:00 am † Marjorie Fischer

Tuesday, March 4

8:00 am † Edith 'Eydie' Lamping

Wed, March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00 am † Alma Laker
NOON † Angela Burst
6:30 pm † Members of the Parish

Thurs, March 6

8:00 am Living & † Deceased Members of the Pete & Clara Bedel Family

Friday, March 7

8:00 am † Joe Scheele

Saturday, March 8

5:30 pm † Elmer & Carol Goldsmith

Sunday, March 9

8:00 am Members of the Parish
10:00 am Living & † Deceased
Members of the Moll Family

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mike Moll
Jim Heppner
Joe Moll
Patrick Schene
Diane Raver
Ben Batta
Rita Batta
Rita Brockman
Rory Biltz
Russell Wagner
Tim Wurtz
Logan Nicholas Doll
Melanie Jones
Dave Amberger
Doty Amberger
Tina Cohill

Connie
Alisa Doll
Terry Duncan
Beth Fasbinder
Rick Flodder
Marvin Gehring
Tony Gorbail
Lisa Haessig
Jean Ham
Dennis Harmeyer
Sylva Havens
Becky Horstman
Dale Kuntz
Eugene Laker
Beth Lamping
Jim Lamping Jr.
Todd Leising
Gary Lewis
Rita Litzinger

Carlos Luken
Carolyn Meyer
Sandy Meyer
Keith Milligan
Layla Mulcahy
Shane Neal
Bobby Patterson
Gary Payne
Tami Peters
Corey Peters
Jeanne Phillips
Bill Pierce
Clare Ronnebaum
Ruth Ronnebaum
Donn Salladay
Carolyn Scheele
Wilfrid Scheele
Leah Schornick
Pat Schrank

Ellen Siebert
Alma Simmermeyer
Ruth Ann Starost
Paul Strassel
Carol Strassel
Steve Suding
Terri Jo Thompson
Wesley Neil Thompson
Jen Tucker
Dan Wagner
Mattie Wagner
Rick Wilhelm
Tom Wilson
and all our nursing
home & homebound
parishioners.

March 2, 2025

2025 Capital Improvement Projects/Expenses

Project	Estimated Cost	Current Expenses	Description
Confessional	(\$4,285.41)	(\$4,285.41)	Reconstruct current confessional
4 Stage carts and Roller	(\$2,800.00)	\$ ---	Rollers for tables stored under the stage to get them in and out
Flooring replaced in vestibule right & left entrances	(\$10,000.00)	\$ ---	Quoting-estimated
Camera System	(\$2,000.00)	\$ ---	Update the security cameras and ensure each outside door is covered
Grout needs fixed on Church		\$ ---	Quoting
Bedroom & Bathroom Redone in Friary	(\$8,000.00)	(\$2,528.28)	Renovate Friary Bathroom & New Carpet in Bedroom
Total 2025 Projects	(\$27,085.41)	(\$1,757.13)	
Remaining Donations left from 2024	\$4,169.00		
Donations from 2025	\$13,060.00		
Total Deficit for 2025 Projects	(\$9,856.41)		

OFFERING AN ACT OF WORSHIP

February 23rd Sunday Collection

Envelope Collection.....\$6,060.25
Loose.....\$2,130.25
Total.....\$8,190.50
Budget.....\$7,692.31
ABOVE Budget.....\$498.19
February Special Collection....\$2,407.00

Special Parish **MARCH** Collection:

Capital Improvements



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 2, 2025

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13 -16/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5-7/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-8, 14 & 23/Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14 & 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4 & 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10 -15/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

Upcoming MISSION Office Special Collections

THIS WEEKEND

Church in Central & Eastern Europe

March 8 & 9

Black & Indian Missions

March 22 & 23

Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa

March 29 & 30

Catholic Relief Services

Info & envelopes can be found on the bulletin board in the center vestibule.

NEED A PLACE FOR FAMILY GATHERINGS?

WE CAN HELP. LOCATIONS & DATES AVAILABLE

Holy Family Cafeteria &/or Gym

OR St. Mary of the Rock

Hall & Shelter

Call Cheryl Borgman

@ 812-934-3013 Opt.2



2nd Weekend of the Month

Offering - March 8th & 9th

Children are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item for the Batesville Food Pantry as their weekly offering. Items will be taken up at offertory time by them & placed in a basket.



If you or a loved one are **seriously ill or getting ready to have surgery**, please contact

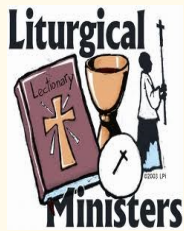
Fr. John Barker

@ 812-934-3013 opt. 1

or **Fr. EJ Stein**

@ 812-934-3013 opt. 6.

We will be VERY happy to come visit & celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing with you personally.



Liturgical Ministry Schedule

USHERS for March 5:30pm: Rick Obermeyer, Jay Pfeiffer & Ed Scheele
 8:00am: Brad Laker, Bob Schrank & Matt Schrank - 10:00am: Brian Lecher, Mike Meyer & Ron V. Obermeyer

USHERS for April 5:30pm: Louis Scheele, Marvin Wissel & Bill Beetz
 8:00am: Chris Stange, Tom Honnert & Jason Honnert - 10:00am: Ken Pfeiffer, Richard Rahe & Mike Schwegman

March 1st & March 2nd

Servers:
 5:30pm Annabelle Eckstein & Kenzi Froehling
 8:00am Luke Raver & Asher Suddath
 10:00am Maddie Dole & Annie Harmeyer

Lector:
 5:30pm Halle Meyer
 8:00am Patricia Doll
 10:00am Marty Werner

Eucharistic Ministers:
 5:30pm Dan Eckstein, Carla Enzinger, Connie Chaffee, Michael Irvin & Mary Gehring
 8:00am Cathy Kaiser, Deanna Raver, Jon Spreckelson, Angie Harmeyer & Theresa Boyce
 10:00am Dave Rieman, Teri Rieman, Monica Livers, AJ Strassell & Carol Dobson

Music:
 5:30pm Parish Choir
 8:00am Matt Trossman
 10:00am Leon Enneking, Tim Volz, Carol Roell & Kim Brockman

March 8th & March 9th

Servers:
 5:30pm Aubrey Kruthaupt & George Jelinek
 8:00am Henry Giesting & Kiersten Kreuzman
 10:00am Heidi Werner & Nolan Wanstrath

Lector:
 5:30pm Toni Cummings
 8:00am Eric Doll
 10:00am Jan Westerfeld

Eucharistic Ministers:
 5:30pm Deann Eckstein, Maureen Grote, Elaine Hawkes, Tom Meyer & Lisa Oldham
 8:00am Jeff Paul, Teresa Merkel, Eric Hepner, Connie Luers & Dennis Moeller
 10:00am Tina Duncan, Wendy Havens, Julia Heidlage, Jenny Ilderton & Melissa Jacobs

Music:
 5:30pm Leon Enneking, Tim Volz, Carol Roell & Kim Brockman
 8:00am Jayne Enneking
 10:00am Bryce & Shannon Mullins

March 15th & March 16th

Servers:
 5:30pm Makynze Borgman & Greyson Farmer
 8:00am Leo Spreckelson & Blaise Mullens
 10:00am Annie Harmeyer & Gus Robben

Lector:
 5:30pm Mary Gehring
 8:00am Gary Laker
 10:00am Jaculin Wilhelm

Eucharistic Ministers:
 5:30pm Connie Chaffee, Dan Eckstein, Carla Enzinger, Michael Irvin & Carla Enzinger
 8:00am Christy Honnert, Karen Trenkamp, Dorothy Ziegler, Cathy Kaiser & Deanna Raver
 10:00am Kay Pulskamp, Allen Raab, Brandy Starost, Jacob Starost & Ryan Tekulve

Music:
 5:30pm Bryce & Shannon Mullins
 8:00am Parish Choir
 10:00am Leon Enneking, Tim Volz, Carol Roell & Kim Brockman

Grab a copy of FORTY DAYS OF GRACE - Lenten reflections with the Saints. The daily reflections will help us deepen our relationship with God during Lenten journey. They are located by the bulletins at the side entrances & center vestibule.

Holy Family
ASH
Wednesday
 Services
March 5
 8:00am
 12 Noon
 6:30pm
 w/Religious Ed Students

ASH WEDNESDAY Ministry HELP NEEDED
 for the 8am & NOON Masses!

Lectors filled - 5 Eucharistic Ministers
3 Ushers & 1 Sacristan for EACH Mass.

To fill a need, please contact
 Toni Cummings at tdcumings96@gmail.com
 or call/text 812-212-2354.

First Friday of the Month & Lent - March 7th

Adoration begins after 8am Mass
& Benediction begins at 7pm
Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross immediately follows Benediction

you ARE THE LIGHT OF THE world

A LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

Holy Family Church
 March 12, 2025
 6:30 PM

There will be more JOY in heaven!

A Lenten Penance Service

Holy Family Church
 March 18, 2025
 7:00 PM

COME & SPEND MORE TIME IN THE PRESENCE of the LORD, our SAVIOR

Monday – Friday 9am-9pm in the St. Anne's Chapel. Join us ANYTIME & for however long you have.

If you would like to sub when needed, PLEASE join our GroupMe Chat. You will then receive text messages for times when a sub is needed. If interested to be added to the Chat OR help with an hour, please contact Dustin Walke at 317-691-5209 or walkedustin@gmail.com.

Religious Education/Youth Ministry Page

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



1st – 8th Grade Religious Education - The next Class will be **Wed. March 5th from 6:30pm-7:30pm.**
March 5th is Ash Wednesday Mass for Religious Education Class. Please have at least one parent with you & meet in the Church.

Preschool/Kindergarten Religious Education Class
 Next Class is on **March 2nd** from 9:45am-11:00am.

This **Sun., March 2nd**, we have our **Confirmation Candidate/Sponsor Retreat.** Please say some prayers for our 8th graders preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation on **Sun., April 26th!**

Carly Blanton, Ella Bower, Breana Broshears, Alyssa Cummings, Taytum Froehling, Adylene Kreuzman, Stella Lecher, Kiersten Luers, Ellie Snapp, Lyla Struewing, Braylen Borgman, Isaac Deputy, Quintin Faust, Deacon Fledderman, Max Flodder, Jax Negovetich, Sam Patterson, Jack Pulskamp, Ryan Roell & RJ Schuerman.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION Due to some Lent events coming in the next few weeks, we will not be having Adult Faith Formation. We will let you know when the next class will be!



FORMED® PICK OF THE WEEK

HOW TO LENT - Sometimes, it feels like Lent is just about giving up chocolate. But deep down, we all desire to do something more for Lent- we just don't know how to do it. How to Lent is a new series from Augustine Institute that aims to equip Catholics with the tools to understand and practice the pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This series will challenge our preconceived notions about Lent, laying out a roadmap for entering the season with a purpose.



YOUTH GROUP

TEAM JESUS YOUTH GROUP (HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP): High School Youth Group is **Sun., Mar. 2nd**, from 5:30-7:30pm @ the St. Louis Youth Center.

Fr. John will be speaking on the importance of Lent & then will be playing a live Hungry Hungry Hippos game! Join your peers every Wednesday morning for High School Bible Study at the Youth Center 7:07-7:37 AM. Smoothies, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and Snacks provided.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: The next youth group is **THIS Fri., Mar. 7th from 3-5pm** at the St. Louis Youth Center.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY: Middle School Bible Study is **Mon. Mar. 10th** at the St. Louis Youth Center. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Beth Geis.

If you need any help getting your child from the Middle School to the Youth Center, please contact me & we will be willing to help figure something out.

TRIFORCE MISSION TRIP: This year, the group is going to East Bank, West Virginia July 6-12th, 2025. The next meeting is **Mar. 23rd** (make up meeting from last Sunday) from 4:30-5:30pm in the youth center at St. Louis.



ROYAL BALL & PIRATE COVE: Tickets are on Sale now!! **Sun., March 30th** @ the St. Louis School Activity Center.

Early Event 12:30-2:00 PM
 & Late Event 3:00-4:30 PM. To order tickets, please go to <https://www.triforcemissionteam.org/royalball> or scan the QR code



BAPTISM: If you are preparing to have your child baptized or need to receive a Baptismal Certificate, please contact Beth Geis. **If this is your first child**, you will need to schedule a Baptism Class with Beth Geis. If this is not your first child & have attended a class already, we will need proof. **Phone #:** (812)-934-3013 ext 3 Or **E-mail:** holyfamilybeth@gmail.com

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Beth Geis! E-mail: holyfamilybeth@gmail.com / Call: 812-934-3013 (ext. 3)



Calling ALL MEN who'd like to enjoy a cup of coffee & discuss the role of our Catholic faith in our everyday lives. **Join us TUESDAYS after morning Mass in the Fr. Rudolf room for some friendly conversation with your parish brothers.** No commitment, come and go as you please. Coffee is provided. Contact Dustin Walke at 317-691-5209 with questions.

Young adult men's group every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

The group welcomes young men who are single or married with or without young children. Call, text, or email Stephen Janssen to sign up or for more details. Phone: 317-502-9524
 Email: smjanssen08@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULTS



DID YOU KNOW... In some cases it is possible to reverse a chemical abortion if only the first drug, Mifeprex/ Mifepristone (RU486), has been taken. This drug blocks the action of progesterone, causing the death of the baby. The second drug, Cytotec (Misoprostol) cause uterine bleeding and produces strong contractions to expel the baby. There is help available for women who change their minds after taking the first pill at 1-877-538-0333 or abortionpillreversal.com
 Batesville's pregnancy hotline mission is to help mothers in difficult situations. If you need help or know a mother needing help, please call 812-934-5116, go to www.batesvillecph.org, or search for Batesville Pregnancy Hotline on Facebook & also reachable at FB Messenger.



Please welcome **David & Linda Adams (Johns)** to Holy Family Parish.



Daughters of Isabella MEETING
MON, March 3rd at the Hall of the Knights of Columbus at 7pm.. Please bring dues.

Holy Family Parish Lenten Outreach

Dear Parents,

This activity guide is a companion to Cross Catholic Outreach's **Water for Life** Lent Campaign and will connect your family with those in sub-Saharan Africa. In it, you will learn about the challenges they face every day in obtaining water and the importance of faith in their daily lives.

In this guide, you will also find the Sunday Mass Readings for each week of Lent, weekly reflections, discussion questions and activities for the whole family to enjoy together. For the first time, we have also included an illustrated children's story inspired by the stories of beneficiaries! Most of the weekly reflections will direct you to a corresponding part of the story, so children can discover the challenges, heartaches and persevering faith of the poor families we serve.

We hope these stories will help your children feel more deeply connected to their peers a world away and that they become ambassadors on behalf of those vulnerable boys and girls. As you engage with the story and activities found in this guide, we invite you to prepare your hearts as the Church calls us to: through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Yours in Christ,

Michele Sagarino

Michele Sagarino, President



Angel's Story

Meet Angel, a young girl in a farming village in Malawi who loves to play with her friends and to sit and eat a meal with her family — just like you do. But Angel lives in a village where there isn't always time to play or enough food to eat. Follow along as she shares her story (starting on page 8), and as you complete the activities found in this guide, consider how you can help young girls like Angel.



Scan the QR code to read the stories of African families in need and to give today.

Ash Wednesday | March 5

Today's Readings

Joel 2:12-18 • Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14 and 17 • 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2 • Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

What Is an Ambassador?

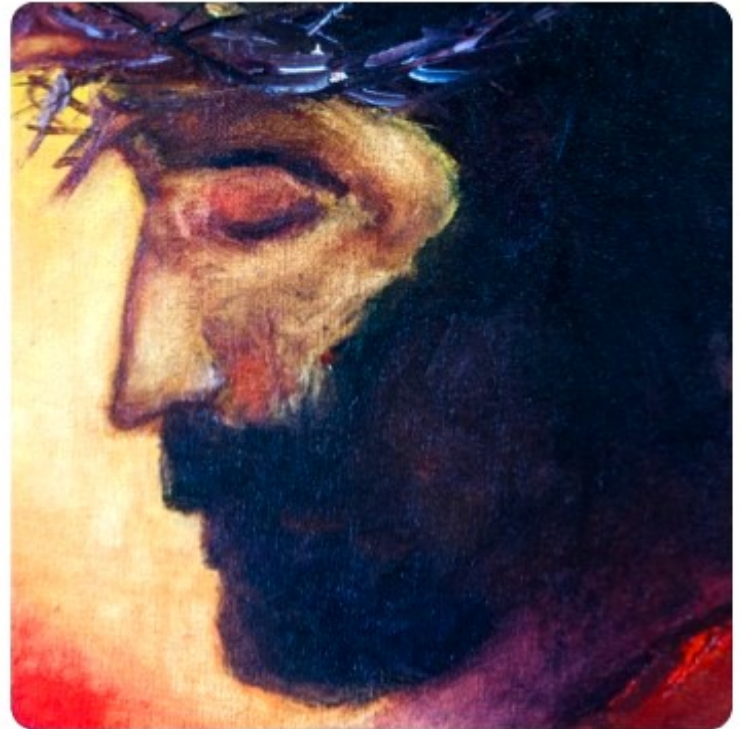
An ambassador is someone who represents or helps promote a person, place or activity. So, when we read today's second reading and Saint Paul tells us, "We are **ambassadors** for Christ," he is saying that we have an important role to play by representing Jesus here on earth. Here is another way to think of it: When people see you, they should be reminded of Jesus.

If we are Jesus' ambassadors, how should we act? Throughout Lent, the Church invites us to a special season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are great ways to show the world the power of Christ!

PRAYER is an opportunity to talk to God and tell him about your concerns and the needs of the world. We encourage you to include the children in countries like Kenya and Malawi in your daily prayers because they desperately need water, food and medicine.

FASTING teaches us to remember what is most important in life. Giving things up for Lent reminds us that God should always be the most important person in our lives — more important than our favorite foods, video games or TV shows.

The final practice of Lent is **ALMSGIVING**, which means sharing what we have with the poor. Usually, we practice almsgiving by collecting money to help support the Church's missions worldwide. This Lent, we also encourage you to be ambassadors for these missions by praying for them and by spreading the word about the needs of young boys and girls in Africa.



Family Discussion



1. What does Lent mean to you?
2. How can your family practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving together this Lent?
3. Our mission is to bless children and their families with water and other urgent needs. How can you be an ambassador for this mission during Lent?



Take Action: Make a Collection Box

Need an idea for putting almsgiving into practice this Lent? Try completing Cross Catholic Outreach's DIY collection box activity. Scan the QR code to find a printable PDF so you can put together a collection box. Throughout Lent, fill this box with spare change so that at Easter, you can donate to help build wells in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and Eswatini.