

**Gathered Together: A Lenten Journey of  
Love and Belonging**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent | March 16 | Luke 9:28b-36**  
**Theme: Listening that Leads to Action**

In today's Gospel, Jesus taps Peter, James, and John to come up the mountain with him to pray. This wasn't that unusual since Jesus often spent nights in prayer. It was not to be like any other lengthy prayer session with their Lord, however. This time, they would be shown—and told—exactly who Jesus was. In Luke's Gospel, the three sleepy apostles miss the whole conversation between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, and when they did wake up, they must have been quite overwhelmed by the scene. And why not? They saw Jesus in his transformed glory and recognized the two men with him. After the disoriented suggestion to build some tents and stay, a voice told them, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." And then they were alone with Jesus. Followed by stunned silence.

Had they not been truly listening to Jesus? Were they searching their hearts to understand why they needed this somewhat frightening encounter to remind them to listen to him? After all, they had been following him, they had been chosen, and they were close.

It is possible that the disciples engaged in selective perception—hearing only what they wanted to hear. Some may have only listened to Jesus's encouraging and uplifting words and ignored the difficult parts. Others may have understood his words and actions as a promise to become the long-anticipated Messiah who would lead a political and military uprising to liberate them from oppressive Roman rule.

Today's reading challenges us to reflect on our own listening. Are we, like the apostles, engaging in selective hearing? Do we struggle to fully embrace the truth that before the glory of resurrection

comes the reality of passion and suffering? The Transfiguration is a gift—a moment of clarity and strength—to prepare us for what lies ahead. It fills us with awe and reverence so that, like Peter, James, and John, we can descend the mountain and re-enter a world marked by suffering and loneliness, ready to introduce others to Jesus.

The apostles' experience reminds us that true listening compels us to act. Who might we invite to journey down the mountain with us, sharing the light of Christ in a world longing for hope and belonging?

**Daily Challenges**

3/16/25—Reread the Gospel account of the Transfiguration (Luke 9:28b-36). Write down one way you feel God is calling you to act in your community.

3/17/25—Take time to fully listen to someone today without interrupting or thinking about your response. Focus on understanding their heart and needs.

3/18/25—Spend five minutes in quiet prayer, asking God to help you truly listen to His voice and be open to His call.

3/19/25—Find one small way to serve someone today—hold a door, lend a hand, or do an unnoticed chore—with the mindset of reflecting Jesus's love.

3/20/25—Identify someone who may be struggling or feeling lonely and send them a kind message, note, or call to remind them they are seen and loved.

3/21/24—Make an intentional effort to invite someone to join you in an activity—coffee, a walk, or Mass—building connection and belonging in their life. *Don't forget: today is a day to abstain from meat.*

3/22/25—Prepare for the Third Sunday of Lent by reading the Gospel, Luke 13:1-9

**Saint Mary's Village Church**  
**P.O. Box 155**  
**St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876**  
**(812) 535—1261**  
[www.saintmaryvillagechurch.org](http://www.saintmaryvillagechurch.org)

**March 16, 2025**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**



**Weekend Worship Sunday 9 am**

**Parish Life Coordinator**  
**Elizabeth Davis**  
[elizabeth@shjth.org](mailto:elizabeth@shjth.org)  
**(812) 240—5234**  
**Hours: TH, F 9—4**

**Secretary**  
**Connie Fitch**  
[secretary@shjth.org](mailto:secretary@shjth.org)  
**(502) 821—1022**  
**Hours: W, F 8:30—2:30**

**We welcome new members. To enroll, call the Parish Office or contact Connie Fitch.**

**Coordinator of Religious Education**  
**Jena Robertson**  
[jenaleerobertson@gmail.com](mailto:jenaleerobertson@gmail.com)  
**(812) 243—5070**

**Sacramental Minister**  
**Fr. Darvin Winters**

**Fr. Darvin is available to hear confessions on Saturdays from 4—4:20 pm at Sacred Heart or by appointment.**

**The sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony are arranged by calling the Parish Office to schedule preparation.**

# WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

©LPI

Date	Mar 16	Mar 23
Lector	Easton Robertson	Edie Breneman
Server	Owen Ramsey	Dallas Thralls Vivian Sereno
Gift Bearers	Bennett Family or Volunteer	Breneman Family
Ushers	Steve Norris Waylon Robertson	Scott Thralls Nick Savant
EMs	Marylou Thralls Lana Thralls	Bonnie Warn Krista Toney
Counters	Tom McKinney <b>Need Volunteer</b>	Patty Curley Colleen Meyers
Cleaners		Chris & Marlene Smithson

## Special Collection Envelope

Next week, our parish will take up a collection to support the Solidarity Fund for the Church in Africa. Although the Church in Africa is growing, many still lack access to basic resources and pastoral care. The Solidarity Fund supports pastoral projects to build the capacity of the Church and foster lasting peace and reconciliation across a continent often marked by division and tension. To learn more, visit [www.usccb.org/africa](http://www.usccb.org/africa).

# BINGO

Be sure to purchase your tickets from Robin or Kelly to attend the Gift Card Bingo **TODAY** at 1 pm at West Vigo High School. Doors open at Noon. Food will be available for purchase.

## SAVE THE DATE

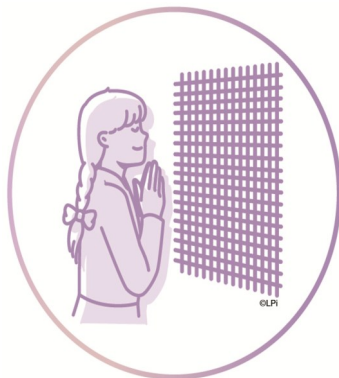
Be sure to mark your calendars for the Parish Council & Finance Meeting on March 23 at 10 am in Galvin Hall.

## Please Pray For Our Loved Ones

David Auterson  
Jon Auterson  
Ray Edwards  
Jane Frazier

Gary Garzolini  
John Heck  
Dan Kane

Please pray for our 2nd graders who will be making their First Reconciliation today.

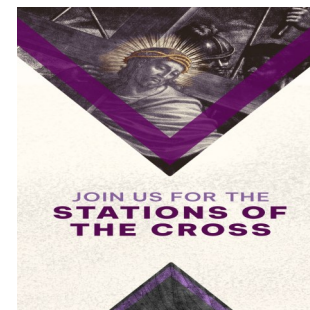


## Finance Report

Description	March 9	Budgeted
Sunday Collection	\$ 2,352	\$ 2,308
Galvin Fund	\$ 50	\$ 115
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 110	

## Mass Intentions

- 3/16 In Honor of Greg & Marylu Thralls  
By Frances Faulkner
- 3/9 In Loving Memory of Doug & Randy Marris and John Sullivan



Thursdays  
During Lent

5:30 pm

### March 21

St. Margaret Mary  
4—7 pm  
Sponsored by K of C



**When:** Thursdays during Lent  
**Time:** 6 PM  
**Where:** Galvin Hall

We sometimes arrive at Easter no different than we were on Ash Wednesday. Dare to be different this Lent! This program is an opportunity for our entire community to enter Lent intentionally and receive the grace God wants to give us during this holy season. Please let Elizabeth know if you will be attending.

## Crackers for a Cause

Religious Ed classes are collecting Crackers for a Cause between now and Easter. Parishioners can help by donating crackers to the classes. Please label them for which class you'd like to donate them to before placing them at the back of church or give them to Jena. Kids and parents are encouraged to bring as many as they can as well. Thank you so much for your support!



## BIRTHDAYS

Casey Sereno	16
Analiza Brockmeier	17
Lincoln Miller	22