



THIS IS MY CHOSEN SON;
LISTEN TO HIM.

LUKE 9:35



March 16, 2025
2nd Sunday of Lent



Holy Spirit
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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630-922-0081 | www.hscc.us



Blessings and peace to you!

As we begin our Lenten journey, marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, I am writing to inform you of two identical pieces of legislation that would legalize assisted suicide in Illinois: SB 9 and HB 1328. Please consider offering your prayers and fasting to help stop this. In addition, take action by writing, calling, or emailing your state elected officials to vote “**NO**” on this legislation. For further information, visit www.ilcatholic.org or call 217-528-9200.

Assisted suicide would make it legal for a physician to prescribe a range of lethal drugs to a person diagnosed with a terminal disease who requests to end his or her life.

It is alarming that in states where suicide is legalized, there are documented cases of people being denied life-saving medical treatment by insurance companies in favor of the much cheaper option of life-ending drugs. The poor and those with disabilities are particularly at risk, as they are the most vulnerable to such abuses. Every major national organization that represents people with disabilities opposes assisted suicide. There is no way to prevent the vulnerable from being coerced or intimidated into ending their lives once assisted suicide is legal.

The American Medical Association (AMA) has summed up the case against assisted suicide well: *“Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks.”*

Proponents argue that this legislation will end suffering at the end of life. As Catholics, we agree that no one should needlessly suffer or have to watch a loved one experience unnecessary pain. Fortunately, there are now effective ways to make a person more comfortable at the end of life through palliative care.

Assisted suicide is not the compassionate solution for those who are suffering. Through palliative care, expanded access to mental health care, and stronger family and community support, providers and families are finding better ways to accompany these individuals compassionately — ways that truly reflect the love for and dignity of each human life.

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, let us continue to pray for respect and dignity for human life from conception to natural death.

As I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads “+ Ronald A. Hicks”.

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Please visit www.ilcatholic.org/take-action or call 217-528-9200 to find out how to contact your local elected officials and urge them to vote **NO** on SB 9 and HB 1328.



Bishop Hicks' Column March 2025



IF...

The title of this article, **“if,”** is so short that it’s easy to overlook — yet few words carry so much weight in the Catholic imagination. These two simple letters hold the potential to launch beautiful dreams or plant seeds of destructive doubt.

On the positive side, the word **“if”** opens possibilities, like saying, *“If I work hard, I can succeed.”* It encourages hope and stimulates creativity, like wondering, *“What if we did it this way?”* It motivates action by highlighting the rewards, like a teacher saying to their student, *“If you study, you’ll pass the exam.”* And it suggests a promising outcome, like me predicting, *“If you are reading this article, you are probably a disciple of Jesus.”*

“If” is the kind of word that sparks dreams — *“If I trust in God, maybe He will take care of everything.”* It invites us to imagine what God could do if only we dared to trust and surrender ourselves to His will. Consider the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus says, *“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you”* (Matthew 17:20). That tiny word, **“if,”** encourages us to believe in the miraculous, and to trust that God can work wonders through even the smallest act of faith. It does not demand perfection but presents many hopeful possibilities.

There is, however, another side to **“if”** that can be perilous. When used with doubt or hesitation, **“if”** becomes a stumbling block. During this Lenten season, we are reminded that Jesus was tempted in the desert by Satan with the word **“if”** (Matthew 4):

- *“If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”*
- *“If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down.”*
- *“All these I will give you, if you kneel down and worship me.”*

Satan’s use of **“if”** was not just about testing Jesus’ power — it was about trying to plant doubt in Jesus’ very identity as the Son of God. That is the same tactic the enemy uses against us today, aiming to make us question who we are in God’s eyes. But Jesus bravely resisted these **“if”**-based lies. He knew and fully embraced His identity as the Son of God and remained grounded in His mission, united with His Father and the Holy Spirit.

In moments of trial, we too face the temptation to question God’s love or plan: *“If God is good, why am I suffering?”* We are fallible humans; our faith is often tested during challenging times. But our faith calls us to move beyond these doubts, trusting in God’s greater purpose even when we do not completely understand.

Just as Satan tempted Jesus to doubt His own identity, we too can be lured into believing a deceitful lie about our identity. But there is **no “if”** about our awe-inspiring identity: we are all made in the image and likeness of God. We are God’s beloved sons and daughters. And although we are sinners, Jesus came to forgive us and save us from our sins. We trust that promise. Our faith is founded on that truth.

I have seen too many people accept the lie about their true identity. That lie is often planted subtly through internal narratives like, *“I cannot really be God’s beloved son or daughter because I am not smart enough, not good enough, not holy enough, not attractive, not athletic, not popular, not likable... or even worse, not lovable.”* We are bombarded daily with subtle lies about our worth — in social media, in relationships, and even in our own thoughts. But God’s truth is unwavering: you are His beloved. There’s no **“if”** about it. When we reject that basic lie and live in the light of our identity as a beloved daughter or son of God, we are on the road to true joy and salvation.

I invite you to eliminate any and all doubts about Jesus and yourself. God never says, *“I will only love you “if” you are perfect.”* God’s love and mercy for you are unconditional.

So, as we journey through this Lenten season, let us reject the **“if”** of doubt and embrace the certainty of God’s love. Pray for the strength to ignore the negative **“speak”** and to center on the positive truths. With clarity and conviction, we proclaim that Jesus is God. He alone is worthy of our praise, honor, and glory. He is our Savior through His life, suffering, death, and resurrection. He has won the victory over death and offers eternal life to all who believe and follow Him.

You are a beloved child of God. When it comes to God and the divine love freely given to all of us, there is no **“if”** whatsoever!



CELEBRATION FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

Join the procession after the 4:30pm Mass on March 22nd. We will go forth to bless our St. Joseph Table Altar in the Gathering Place.



SAVE THE DATE

How to Help?

- ✔ Bring light finger food, cookies, chocolates, mini-cupcakes, wine to drink or auction off, etc. to add to the St. Joseph Table.
- ✔ A silent auction with wine carriers, snacks and St. Joseph breads with all the proceeds to go to the Daybreak Shelter in Joliet.
- ✔ Buy something from the bake sale for dessert or to take home.



Come and celebrate St. Joseph - the patron saint of the Universal Church!

We look forward to celebrating St. Joseph's Day with you!

To help out, contribute food for the event or the bake sale, or make a donation, contact Roberta at rbalsewicz@hsc.us or scan the code to sign up!



Mass Schedule

Monday - Wednesday...9:00 am

Saturday...4:30 pm

Sunday...8:00 am, 9:30am, and 11:00 am

Adoration

Tuesdays following the 9:00 am Mass until 12 noon.

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30pm -4:00pm

Holy Hour
12:15 - 1:15 pm

**Sundays,
March 16,
23, & 30**

*Quiet
Adoration*

A Grief Support Group

TUESDAYS
At 1:00 - 2:30 pm
In the Multi-Purpose Room

seasons of hope
Winter & Spring Schedule
MARCH 25 - JUNE 3, 2025

March 25
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Register by March 14, 2025

April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3
Spring Series
GRIEVING WITH GREAT HOPE
6 PART SERIES
Register by April 15, 2025

Any parishioner who is mourning the loss of a loved one is encouraged to attend and invited to bring a guest.

Contact
Bernadette Beyer
beyerbh@gmail.com

Roberta Balsewicz
rbalsewicz@hsc.us
630-922-0081 x7

Youth Group Lenten Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
12:15 - 1:30 PM

Our Lenten Service will include creating Easter Baskets for the children at Hased House.

If you are a teen between 8th and 12th grade, please be sure to join us for prayer, snacks, and service!



Congratulations to new Sir Knights of Columbus **Brian Balsewicz, Peter Chinnici, Don Cervenka, Jim Costelloe, Roger Garvert, Ed Ishman, John Juarez, David Kammes, Tom Kasler, and Kevin Krusenoski** for their induction into the Fourth Degree Exemplification of Patriotism!



This northern IL exemplification of 156 new Sir Knights on March 1 was extra special in that it marked the 125th anniversary of the

first awarding of "Fourth Degree" in NYC in the year 1900. The Knights seek to foster love of country and to impress upon its members the duties of faithful citizenship...patriotism with passion, purpose and pride.

The Knights' Northern IL District-Marquette Province added a very special tribute on March 1st to Sir Knight Tony Maviglia, who was unable to be present. Tony was inducted into the Fourth Degree on Feb 16 at The Springs at Monarch Landing in also a highly deserving honor ceremony attended by family and friends.





JOIN OUR TEAM

The RE Coordinators would love to meet and tell you more about helping in the RE Program. Please contact us about the Upcoming RE Year!

We are looking for a few awesome volunteers!

Open Positions

<p>Sunday 3pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Kindergarten 2 First Grade 1 Third Grade 1 Fourth Grade 2 Sixth Grade 	<p>Sunday 5pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 First Grade 1 Fourth Grade 2 Fifth Grade <p>Sunday 7pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Seventh Grade 2 Eighth Grade 	<p>Tuesday 5pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Fourth Grade 1 Seventh Grade 1 Eighth Grade
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Hall Monitors and Parking Lot Supervisors are needed at all sessions. RE Office Volunteers are needed various times throughout the week.

Contact Lauren at Inelson@hsc.us for Grades K through 5th
Contact Kim at kkroeze@hsc.us for Grades 6th-8th

Spring Flowers FUNDRAISER

Join Us to Support Our HSCC YOUTH MINISTRY

\$20

10" BASKETS

RED - PINK - WHITE

- Ivy Geraniums - Sun
- New Guinea Impatiens - Sun
- Impatiens - Shade

\$35

12" BASKETS

- Combination Basket
- Specify Sun or Shade

PLACE ORDERS BY April 1st

HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER

- Scan Code and order online
- Narthex sales March 15/16 and 29/30
- Submit order form available in Narthex



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14



Flowers

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Parish Stewardship

Monthly Offering	# of Donors	Feb-25	Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025	
WeShare Online Giving	149	\$13,187	Year-to-Date Budget Thru 2/28/2025	\$650,011
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)	158	\$17,263	Year-to-Date Sunday Collection	\$691,466
Envelopes & Loose Cash	182	\$58,007	Surplus/(Deficit)	\$41,455
Total February Collection	489	\$88,457		
Special Collections - February 2025				
Building & Maintenance Fund		\$8,157		

It is with grateful hearts that we thank you for your continued support of the parish!

Lenten Schedule 2025

Stations of the Cross & First Friday Adoration
April 4 at 7:00pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays, March 21, 28 & April 11 at 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 18 at 3:00pm

Hour Hour- Quiet Adoration
Sundays, March 16, 23, & 30
from 12:15-1:15pm

Lenten Confessions
Saturdays, 3:30-4:00pm

Sunday, April 6 following
11:00am Mass until all are heard

No Confessions
Saturday, April 12 & April 19

St. Joseph's Table
Saturday, March 22,
after 4:30pm Mass

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

LENTEN FISH FRY FRIDAYS!

FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH & FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH
5:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. ★ GATHERING AREA

DINNER OPTIONS (DINE-IN OR CARRY-OUT)

Cash, check, and credit card are all accepted!

FISH DINNER: \$17
Cod fillets, potato salad, cole slaw, apple sauce, French bread/butter, and condiments

SHRIMP DINNER: \$19
Shrimp, potato salad, cole slaw, apple sauce, French bread/butter, and condiments

MAC & CHEESE DINNER: \$5
Mac & cheese bowl and French bread/butter

DESSERTS: \$2
Wide variety available

ASSORTED BEVERAGES:
Available for purchase (prices vary)

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT K OF C CHARITIES!

PRE-ORDER ONLINE & GET MORE INFO:
LINK: <https://holyspiritknights.square.site/2025FishFry>

DINE-IN: Pay at door or online
CARRY-OUT: Pay at door or online

BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS STARTING AT 7:00 P.M.

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Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.

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DISCOVERMASS



This Week's Events

Monday, March 17

6:30pm K of C Council Mtg., Gathering Place

Tuesday, March 18

12:30pm Parish Leadership Team, Multipurpose Room

1:00pm Seasons of Hope, Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, March 19

9:30am Bible Study, Gathering Place

Thursday, March 20

10:00am Gathered in Prayer, Chapel

Friday, March 21

7:00pm Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday, March 22

7:00am Men's Ministry, Multipurpose Room

7:00am That Man Is You, Gathering Place

5:30pm St. Joseph's Table, Gathering Place

Sunday, March 23

9:30am OCIA, Multipurpose Room

12:15pm Holy Hour of Adoration, Church

See the parish website for all upcoming event information; www.hscc.us

Mass Intentions



Saturday, March 15

4:30 pm + Jonathan Trevino

Sunday, March 16

8:00 am + Carol White

9:30 am People of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

11:00 am + Betty Lou Woodring

Monday, March 17

9:00 am + Robert Ryan

Tuesday, March 18

9:00 am + Mary Jo Anderson

Wednesday, March 19

9:00 am + Juan M. Davila

Please keep all our military in your prayers, especially those within our Parish family.



Parish Information

Pastor

Rev. John Sponder
frjohn@hscc.us

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Richard Smith
frsmith@hscc.us

Permanent Deacons

Dcn. Eric Alvarez
deaconeric@hscc.us

Dcn. Steve Boffa
deaconsteve@hscc.us

Dcn. Tim Roberts,
deacontim@hscc.us

Music Director

Christina Eubank, ext. 8
ceubank@hscc.us

Adult Choir Director

Debbie Dujsik, ext. 8
ddujsik@hscc.us

Youth Choir Director

Sadie Wynne, ext. 8
swynne@hscc.us

Adult Faith Formation & OCIA

Roberta Balsewicz, ext. 7
rbalsewicz@hscc.us

Religious Education Coordinator Grades K-5

Lauren Nelson, ext. 61
lnelson@hscc.us

Religious Education Coordinator Grades 6-8

Kim Kroeze, ext. 62
kkroeze@hscc.us

Youth Leader

Ryan McGushin

Business Manager

Leslie Doherty, ext. 91
ldoherty@hscc.us

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Mackowiak, ext 92
kmackowiak@hscc.us

Parish Administrative Assistant

Mary Beth Owens, ext. 93
mbowens@hscc.us

Maintenance

Victor Velazquez
maintenance@hscc.us

Parish Office Hours

(630) 922-0081

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am to 4:30 pm
(closed 12noon-1pm)

Friday 8am to 1pm

Sacraments

Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:30pm -4:00pm

Baptisms

12:45pm on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of each month. For more information, please visit hscc.us/infant-baptism.

Weddings

Please contact the parish office.

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