

Father Deo will not send you a text asking for money or gift cards. No priest will do this. There are very savvy scammers that attempt to impersonate a priest. Please notify the parishes if you receive this and BLOCK the text or email. Do not respond to them.

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of February 15th, 2026

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Monday: Saint Onesimus Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Saint John of Matha Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Saint Apollonia Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

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

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

When we look at the saints, we often forget that each began as someone ordinary — fishermen, shepherds, students, workers. What made them extraordinary was their response to God's call. Your vocation, too, begins right where you are, in the middle of your everyday life. God calls the willing, not the perfect.

Weekly Collections

Totals were not available at time of printing.



SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD

Father Deogratias Mpewo, Pastor
Deacon Ray Burton 309-657-0002
2240 E Legion Rd, Williamsfield, IL 61489
Mailing Address: PO Box 199 Brimfield, IL 61517
Emergency Number 309-645-2602
Emails: Parishoffice@stjameswilliamsfield.org
www.stjameswilliamsfield.org

February 22nd, 2026

1st Sunday of Lent

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" MATTHEW 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

Lenten Regulations

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age and not yet 59. *A Catholic tradition of fasting is one main meal per day, along with two small meals which do not equal the main meal.

Those who are sick, pregnant (or nursing), or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting or abstinence should not consider themselves bound by these observances.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun, Feb 22nd

Confessions 7:00am — 7:25am

Mass 7:30am Casey Haman

Offered by Wanner's

Sun, March 1st

Confessions 7:00am — 7:25am

Mass 7:30am Chuck Haman

Offered by Wanner's

Homily for the 1st Sunday of Lent

We received ashes on our forehead last Wednesday. In scripture, ashes are a sign of repentance for sin. Receiving ashes reflects our attitude during Lent: we want to repent of sin. But ashes and repenting of sin are not the end of the story. We received the ashes in the sign of a cross reminding us that we are saved from our sin by Jesus' death for us on Calvary. Jesus' death and resurrection is the end of the story, not our sin. Our celebration of Jesus' resurrection during the Easter Vigil is the completion of the story that began with our reception of Ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lent is our personal journey from sin to new life in Jesus' resurrection. We're told that over 300,000 people walk the Camino Way to Compostela every year to find answers to issues in their lives, or to discern a path forward for their lives. That journey of about 500 miles on foot to the tomb of St James in Compostela can take almost as long as Lent to complete. Lent is not just for just 300,000 people or more but for everyone. We do not have to walk 500 miles on foot, but like the pilgrims who go to the tomb of St. James in Compostela every year, we too want to be closer to Jesus at the end of Lent when we spiritually gather around Jesus' tomb at Easter to celebrate his resurrection.

In the 1st reading, we heard an account of the first sin, but in the Gospel, Jesus turned the situation around overcoming the devil's temptations. It was a strong contest with the devil who was trying to deflect Jesus from His mission. Lent is a time for us to reflect on our lives and make sure we are not in any way being deflected from love of God and neighbor. Jesus' statements can help us reflect on our journey through Lent, our journey to our destination when we will celebrate Jesus risen from the tomb. Jesus quoted Scripture, Deuteronomy, 3 times in the Gospel today and we can compare ourselves with these 3 Scripture quotations to see where we stand.

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God". Dt 8:3. We need bread for sure, which means all those things that are necessary for living, but there is a more important bread, the living bread, Jesus (Jn 6:51). Jesus reminds us not to place over emphasis on possessions. we need them but everything in its proper order - Jesus first. When we die, what will we take with us? Our love for God and neighbor. True happiness is to be found in loving God and neighbor.

"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test". Dt 6:16. Jesus lets us know the attitude we should have in all situations, " hallowed be thy name." "The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve." Dt 6:13.

We know that unfortunately some people do not journey to Jesus' tomb during Lent and instead look for answers to their lives in drugs or alcohol or other distractions. Some people get lost for a while going through life and run away from God. But running away from God will never bring true peace and happiness because it's running in the wrong direction.

Stations and Penance Services:

Thursday, February 19: Stations at Saint Dominic (7pm)
Friday, February 20: Stations at Saint Mary (7pm)
Thursday, February 26: Stations at Saint Joseph (7pm)
Friday, February 27: Stations at Saint Mary (7pm)
Thursday, March 5: Stations at Saint Dominic (7pm)
Friday, March 6: Stations at Saint Mary (7pm)
Thursday, March 12: Stations and Penance Service at Saint Joseph (7pm)
Friday, March 13: Stations at Saint Mary (7pm)
Thursday, March 17: Stations and Penance Service at Saint Dominic (7pm)
Friday, March 18: Stations at Saint Mary (7pm)
Thursday, March 26: Penance Service at Saint Mary (7pm)
Friday, March 27: Special Stations at Saint Joseph (7pm)

Lenten Events

Women's Retreat:

Saturday, March 7 at Saint Mary Hall/Church
8:00am – 2:30 pm

Men's Conference:

Saturday, March 14 at Saint Mary Hall/Church
8:00am – 3:00pm

Lenten Fish Fries:

Friday, February 20 at Soseman Hall (Princeville) 5:00-7:00 pm
Friday, March 6 at Soseman Hall (Princeville) 5:00-7:00 pm

Catholic Women's League of Peoria, IL presents:
Women at the Well. *"If you want living water, where is your bucket?"*

Lenten Reflection

Thursday, February 19th from 10 am - 12 pm
at St. Philomena Parish Center in Peoria, IL
1000 W. Albany, Peoria, IL 61604
Coffee & Donuts provided