

# Welcome To Our Tri-Parish

*St. Catherine  
Of Siena  
Piedmont*



*St. George  
Van Buren*



*Our Lady of  
Sorrows  
Williamsville*



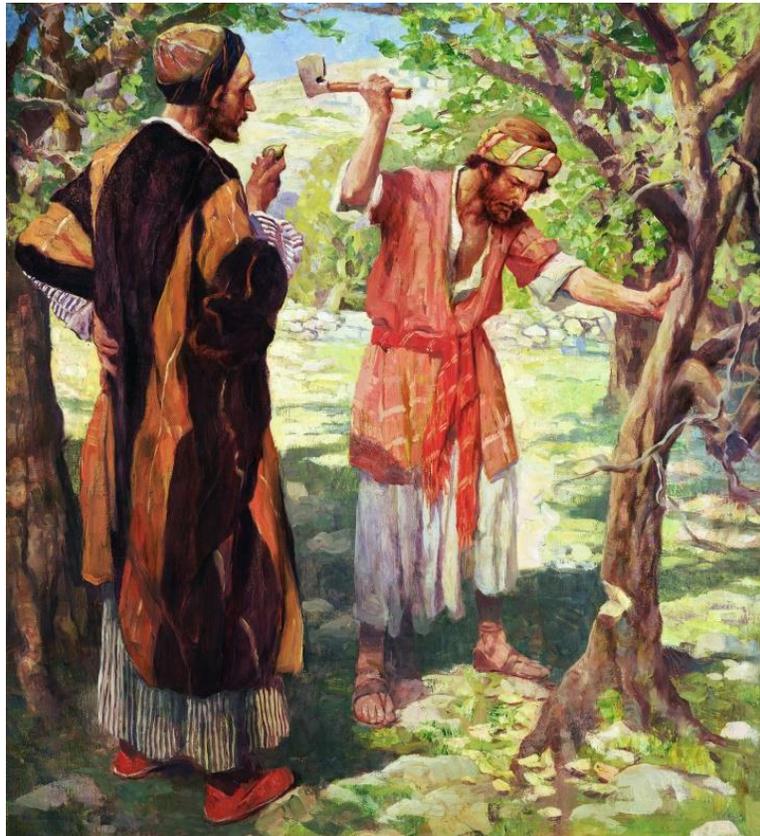
*Following Jesus in the Foothills of the Ozarks*

*Parish Staff*

*Pastor: Fr. Daniel Hirtz*

*Secretary & Bookkeeper: Jean Boldreghini*

*Parish Council Chairperson: David Miller*



*Parable of the Barren Fig Tree*

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**MARCH 24, 2019 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

## This Weeks Schedule

Monday P 6:00pm/ Tues. P 9:00am Nursing Home/ Wed. P 6:00pm, VB 9:00am / Thurs. P 8:00am  
VB 5:15/ Fri. P 8:00am

Thursday: UNPLANNED is not showing in Poplar Bluff

Friday: 6:00pm Stations

Daily 5:45am P. Communion Service

Clean Up Day Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, gather at 9:00am

THE PASSION Palm Sunday 1:30 April 14 at St. Catherine's

Premiered 15 years ago. If you haven't seen it, now is a great way to help finish Lent.

## March 24, 2019 Third Sunday of Lent

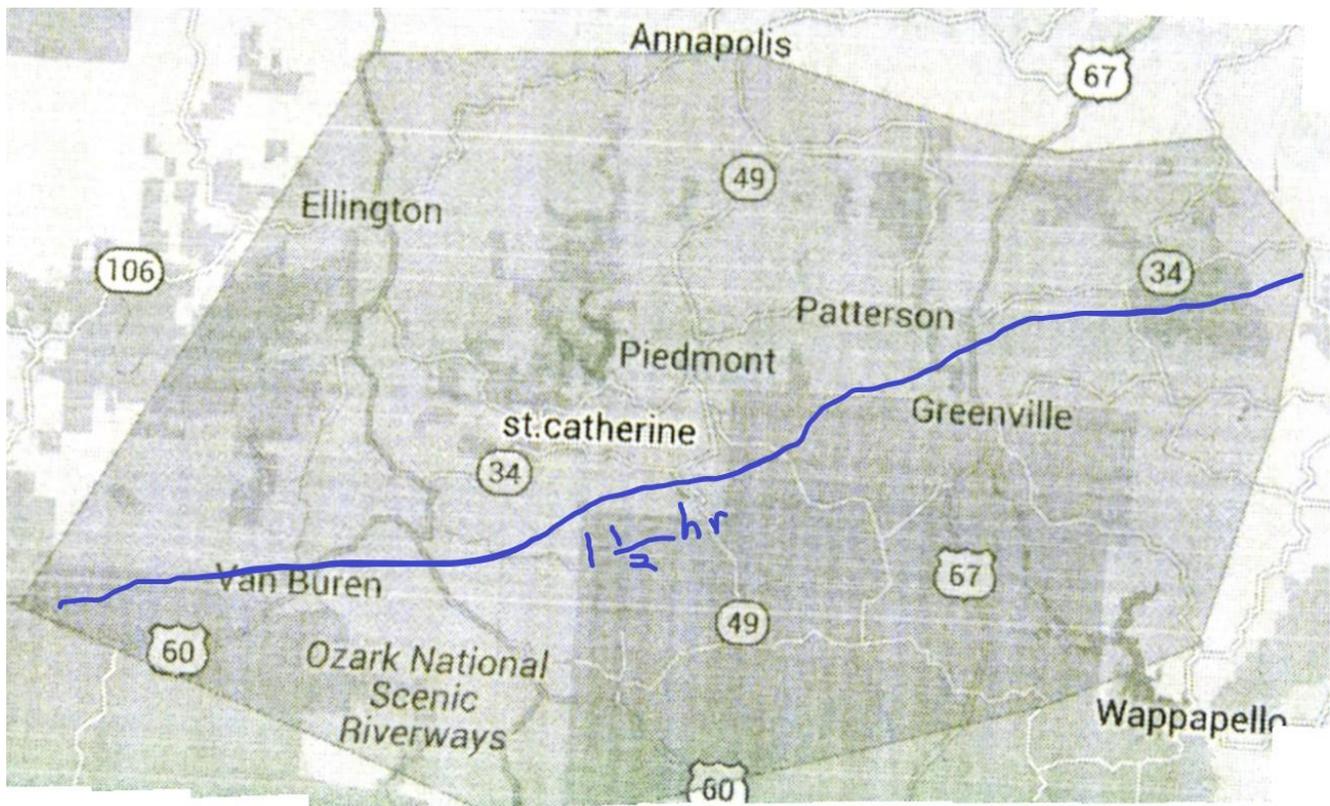
The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

### Homily 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lent

'only Jesus'

Last week we spoke of the need to read/study Scripture. St. Jerome said 'ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ.' with that in mind, how do we study? Obviously it is not enough just simply to read it and think we understand it because we know English. It's been said that the average English word has 27 different meanings. That may be an exaggeration but it points out the problem of being able to pick and choose what definition I want. Even if you know Hebrew and Greek and are able to read the original it still helps to have a couple different translations as well as a Concordance to check out the occurrences of a word and how it may be used differently. For example, the words: brother or father. Then one must look at who wrote it, to whom, when. After that make sure you check out the context. How many relationships have been hurt because one person heard another say something out of context. Within the context it is good to look at how the author couches his words. Remember the writers of scripture did not have chapter and verse. They may use key words at the beginning and end of a section. Then look at the references which are included. They did not use footnotes. And finally look at words or numbers which have specific meanings. The scripture we used at church last Sunday is a good example. It is the story of the Transfiguration taken from Luke 9:42. Here are some things to look at. It begins by saying 'after 8 days'. After 8 days from what? 8 is simply an announcement that it is about a new creation. God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Next we notice it is about identifying this person of Jesus. Herod asked 'who is he? I killed John'. Jesus asks 'who do people say I am?' and they respond 'some say "John Baptist, or Elijah or one of prophets."' and Peter says, 'you are the Christ.' so Jesus takes Peter, James & John up the mountain where God Himself confirms who He is: 'this is my son..listen to him!' to him, not John the Baptist who led his own disciples to Jesus; not to Moses, the giver of the law who now appears with him and not to Elijah the great prophet who also appears. These two leave and the apostles saw 'only Jesus'. Now, we have his identity and know we must listen to him. You notice too that Moses' face glowed when he came near God's presence/ Jesus' face glows on His own accord confirming who He is. What other questions might you have? Why Moses and Elijah? Why not Abraham our father in faith and David of from whose line Jesus comes? What do they have in common? They all climbed a mountain to experience God. Jesus, Moses and Elijah are the only three in scripture who fasted forty days. Is it a command to fast? Moses was rejected by one whole tribe when he presented the law and 1/12 of God's people were swallowed up by

the earth. 1/12 of Jesus' disciples were lost. Elijah spoke to the Jews who rejected his word and they experience a famine. Is it a warning to listen to Jesus or else? Moses prayed and obtained miraculous bread, manna for the journey. Elijah was used to provide miraculous bread for the pagan widow for her and her son to survive the famine. Did Jesus provide miraculous bread? Moses and Elijah were discussing Jesus' upcoming Exodus. Was that a key word to let us know that just as Moses led people from the land of slavery to promised land Jesus would lead us from the land of slavery to sin to the heavenly promised land? Where were Mose and Elijah at this time? In heaven before Jesus? Why were Peter, James, John 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the fishermen the only one's with Christ? Were the others invited but too tired to climb the mountain and therefore miss out on the blessing? Why were they sleeping as they would again when called aside to pray with Jesus in the Garden? Is this sleep an indication that they are already experiencing a taste of God's eternal rest? In any case, you see how many questions you can have? Most of your reflections will be fine and good for you. The next time you read the passage you may have other questions and God will have you reflect on something else. This goes beyond study and becomes a part of prayer where you ask: "Lord, what do you want me to get from this?" Don't be afraid to ask questions and grow in your relationship with the Lord. They saw 'only Jesus.'



Do you have an appreciation of the size of our parish and how much effort some have to make to worship with you? One couple comes from 38 miles to the east of St. Catherine, another 32 miles to the west. And another 22 miles to the north. With that in mind think of taking time to get to know one another and make it a point to be here for special opportunities to gather.