

February 18, 2018

1st SUNDAY OF LENT



St. Joseph

Catholic Church

*A community
of faith
growing in
God's love*

91 Stillhouse Rd., Millstone Twp., NJ 08510 732-792-2270



Lent begins in ashes and it journeys through darkness. It is a Spiritual pilgrimage that we are all invited to make in order to experience genuine spiritual renewal and growth.

MASS

Sat. 5:00PM

Sun. 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Mon. 9:00AM

Tues. 9:00AM

Wed. 9:00AM

Fri. 9:00AM

Holy Days—check bulletin

SERVED BY

Rev. Michael P. Lang, Pastor

frmikestjoseph@optonline.net

Robert Follnus, Deacon

robstjoseph@optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon

chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Carol Schulz

cschulzstjoseph@optonline.net

Genevieve Semanchick

jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

Online:

www.stjosephmillstone.org

Facebook:

@stjosephchurchmillstone

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@frmikestjoseph

Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

Lent has begun. There is something about Lent that touches Christians deep down in our hearts. Lent presents us with the challenge to reject sin and to be faithful to God. Fasting, prayer and alms giving have traditionally been the central elements of Lent for Christians. They are tools, which we have been taught to use in order to edge closer to God as we continue our journey through life. No matter what we do during Lent, the most important factor is our motive. If someone fasts and deprives himself or herself of food simply to have a slimmer figure, there will be little spiritual benefit to be found. If a person lends a hand to others simply to establish a reputation as a do-gooder in the community, that person cannot expect to grow closer to God. If someone prays simply looking for what he or she wants, that person will deprive himself or herself of what God knows we need.

It is spiritually beneficial to use the example of Jesus for our Lenten journey. Jesus went into the desert in order to evaluate his life, scrutinize his motives and to stand before God as nothing more, and nothing less, than what God the Father called Him to be. Metaphorically, Lent beckons us into the desert to do the same as Jesus. Lent invites us into the wilderness of our inmost being to see ourselves as we really are and to see ourselves as God sees us. No deception, no excuses, no denials, just an honest evaluation of how we have used all that God has given us to serve God and others. Sometimes exposing our inmost thoughts, desires, failures and procrastinations can be painful, but pain is not the desired outcome, growth and change are the only reasons to make the journey into the spiritual desert. Prayer, fasting, lending a hand, expanding our understanding of God's plan for us, learning more about our faith and sharing our resources are the tools that we can use to begin the adjustments that are needed in our lives.

All that we do to experience change must be focused on loving God more. There is no better motive than that. God knows who we are and loves us no matter what our shortcomings may be. God also knows who we can be and calls us to growth - not so that God can love us more, but so that we can find out how great it is to say yes to God's transforming love.

Peace and prayers,
Fr. Mike

Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday February-17 **Saturday after Ash Wednesday**
The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
(Is 58:9b-14 Lk 5:27-32)

5:00pm *Anna Morin* r/b Her Family

Sunday February-18 **1st Sunday of Lent**
(Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15)

9:00am *Special Healing Intention of Baby Gabriel*
r/b Mema & Pa Barcellona

11:00am *Ron Cannella* r/b The Rollo Family

Monday February-19 **Lenten Weekday**
(Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Mt 25:31-46) **Presidents' Day**

9:00am *No Mass*

Tuesday February-20 **Lenten Weekday**
(Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15)

9:00am *Frank Simacek Sr.* r/b His Son

Wednesday February -21 **Lenten Weekday**
(Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32) **St Peter Damian**

9:00am *Special Healing Intentions of Robert Martin*
r/b The Hill Family

Thursday February- 22
The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle
(1 Pt 5:1-4 Mt 16:13-19) **NO MASS**

Friday February- 23 **Lenten Weekday**
(Ez 18:21-28 Mt 5:20-26) **St Polycarp**

9:00am *James Farrell* r/b The King Family

Saturday February -24 **Lenten Weekday**
(Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48)

5:00pm *Elizabeth Sweeney* r/b The Marone Family

Sunday February-25 **2nd Sunday of Lent**
(Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10)

9:00am *Patricia Null* r/b Joanne & Westy Schiumo

11:00am *Joseph J. Frikker & John W. Simon*
r/b The Hill Family



Sanctuary Candle... this week

Molly Bendick r/b Frances DeRosa

To dedicate a Sanctuary Candle in memory of or for the intention of a loved one, Please call the office @ 732-792-2270. The donation is \$10.00.

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Patty Hileman 732-446-7651 Mary Costagliola 732-446-4255

Please Keep in your prayers:

The Sick and the lonely, the safe return of our service men and women and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER...

God is ready to share everything that we encounter in life – even the greatest pain.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT

February 1st - \$7,094.00

Debt Reduction - \$103.00

For Churches in Eastern Europe - \$514.00

*Thank you for your generosity and
may God bless you for your support!*

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Monday is a Presidents' Day and a holiday.
The Parish Office will be closed on Monday.
There will not be morning Mass on Monday.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

There will be no Religious Education Classes
on Monday, February 19.

GIVE UP SOMETHING BAD FOR LENT

It is not too late to join the Lenten Faith Formation program. Come and join us as we continue to look at ways in which we can take our Lenten observances further – to give up something we are better off not doing. We are invited to seek God's help to focus on eliminating one habit or attitude that is destructive. Imagine giving up envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, gossip, or negative thinking. Wouldn't life be so much better? Join us for this six-week study that runs through March 23. Sessions are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm and Friday mornings at 10:00 am. **The book we use can be purchased at the session or from the Parish Office. The cost for the book is \$10.00. If you would like to join, contact Carol at the Parish Office – 732-792-2270 or cschulzstjoseph@optonline.net. +Come and be part of this faith-filled and fresh approach to your Lenten Journey+**

NIGHT AT THE RACES

Keep April 14 open to join us for *Night at the Races*. Bet on horse races in the comfort of the Parish Hall. More information will be coming – keep watching!

LENTEN SOUP NIGHTS

Each Friday evening at 6:30PM during the Season of Lent, we come together as a parish community for a simple meal of soup, bread and beverage. The purpose of our gathering for the meal is to help us focus on the simpler things in life. Sometimes, like a very complex meal, our lives may become complicated and filled with extensive details. When we simplify, we are open to experiencing more because we do not have to focus our energy on a multitude of things. It is an opportunity to also help others by making a donation (optional) that will be used to help the hungry. Soup night continues this Friday - February 23. At 6:30PM **Join us! HELP NEEDED.....** We are in need of one person each Friday for about an hour from 7:15 to 8:15 to help with clean up after our soup supper. Individuals can sign up for one Friday, or a number of them. If you would like to help, please contact Carol at the parish office (732) 792-2270 or email her at cschulzstjoseph@optonline.net.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross help us to focus on various messages that can be received through the life-giving journey that Jesus underwent to offer us the gift of new and eternal life. On Fridays of Lent we gather at 7:30PM for the Stations of the Cross.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED



Once again, we will be hosting members of the NET Team Ministries to lead a retreat for our Confirmation students. We are in need of families to host members of the retreat team over night. They would arrive after 9:00PM and will be leaving in the morning. The retreat team will be here March 8. If you are able to host some of the retreat team members or would like more information, please contact Jean in the Parish Office or email Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net.

DONATION STATEMENTS

If you are in need of a donation letter for tax purposes, please send a self-addressed envelope to the Parish Office

LIVING FROM YOUR HEART –

WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY

March 10 9:30-2:30

How is your heart? This retreat day invites you to engage in a heart exam, with the understanding that the "heart" refers to the core of your person, the source of your thoughts, feelings and decisions. Sr. Gerrie Muller, SSJ will be our facilitator as we reflect on how Jesus reveals in word and deed God's heart as loving, merciful, healing, and forgiving and teaches us how to form our heart. The day will conclude with some suggestions for acting out of a renewed heart in our daily lives. Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served. **There is no cost for the day but if you'd like to attend, it is important to sign up on the sheets in the vestibule to help us provide enough refreshment for the day.** Questions? E-mail Carol Schulz at cschulzstjoseph@optonline.net or call the Parish Office. **Don't wait! Sign Up Today!**

DIAPER DRIVE

During the month of February we will be participating in a diaper drive to assist with the John Corr Family Resources, a project of the Religious Teachers Filippini, that works to restore dignity to families. They presently serve 333 mothers; all are 200% below poverty level! If you would like to help, please bring diapers or disposable wipes during the month of February. The donations will be delivered to the John Corr Family resources at the end of the month. Please put your donations in the library. Thanks.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Confirmation Candidates remember that the Confirmation Retreat is on Thursday, March 8. It begins at 4:00PM and ends at 9:00PM. The Retreat is a required part of Confirmation preparation. You must be on time – late arrivals will not be permitted. You do not need books, pens or anything else. Food will be provided during the retreat. Leave your cell phones home – if you bring a cell phone, it will be collected upon arrival.

1st RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation for those in our 2nd year Religious Education Program and attend class on Mondays at 4:30PM, will take place on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00PM. Let us pray for the children who will be taking this next step on their faith journey.

BAPTISM BIBS

During the Sacrament of Baptism a white bib is placed on each child. This is a sign of the child putting on Christ. We have been very blessed to have parishioners make the bibs which are given to each baby who is baptized. We would like to continue the tradition and invite others to join in this ministry. There will be training sessions/sewing session on Tuesday, March 20. There will be a session at 10:00AM and another at 7:00PM. You do not have to be an expert to make the Baptismal bibs. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sue sue.folinus@gmail.com or 908-415-7223.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP BOY SCOUT TROOP 116 will be having a Pancake Breakfast. It will take place in our Parish Hall on Sunday, February 25 after the 9:00AM and 11:00AM Masses. Ages 12 and up - \$6.00, ages 4-12 \$4.00 and children 3 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the Relay for Life. Come and enjoy breakfast and support the local Boy Scouts.

ST. JOSEPH READERS' CLUB

The next Reader's Club selection is *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Meeting date is Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00PM with a Russian theme for the cuisine for the evening. Amor Towles transports readers to The Metropol, the famed Moscow hotel where movie stars and royalty hobnob, where Bolsheviks plot revolutions and intellectuals discuss the merits of contemporary Russian writers, and the danger of twentieth century Russia lurks outside its marbled walls. Join us for an evening of lively conversation and delicious food. Newcomers are always welcome! Be sure to email your attendance or questions to Fran at ambiofran@gmail.com.

FOOD COLLECTION



Food collections are held on the 1st and 3rd weekends of each month.

The next food collection will be on March 3/4. Non-perishable food items, paper goods and toiletries are appreciated. Parishioners can bring frozen food contributions to the Millstone Community Center on any Tuesday morning between 10:00AM and 11:30AM at the door to the lower level on Stage Coach Rd. You may also contact Greg at 732- 539-5042 to arrange pick up of frozen foods.

STAY CONNECTED – FIND THE LATEST NEWS

Don't forget to stay in touch with parish events through social media. Find out what is going on by visiting our website at

www.stjosephmillstone.org. Connect with the parish on Facebook. Give our page a like to keep informed about events. You can find the parish page on Facebook at St. Joseph Catholic Church Millstone Twp. NJ or @stjosephchurchmillstone.

Stay informed – stay connected!

SHOP AT AMAZON - SUPPORT THE PARISH

Help support the parish by designating St. Joseph Church as the charity you wish to support.

Eligible purchases will result in Amazon donating a portion to the parish. You do have to designate St. Joseph Church, Millstone Twp. as your charity. You also have to use the Amazon Smile site instead of the normal Amazon site.

Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6103657> (a direct link) or go to our website and click the link. Thanks for your support!



A convenient way to donate is through online Parish Giving. This is offered free of charge to you so that you may make donations by credit card or transfer from your checking account. Check it out at WWW.stjosephmillstone.org and click on "Contribute/Donate" then click on the link for **Electronic Giving**. You can then set up an account or choose a onetime donation without an account. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact the Parish Office.

→ Calendar of Events ←

- Feb 18 Parish Food Collection
Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00AM - RCIA
- Feb 19 President's Day – Holiday
Parish Office Closed
No Morning Mass
No Religious Education Classes
- Feb 20 6:00PM – 1st Reconciliation
(Monday, 4:30PM Class)
- Feb 22 5:00PM – Children's Choir Practice
6:00PM - Choir Practice
7:00PM – Give Up Something Bad For Lent
- Feb 23 10:00AM – Give Up Something Bad For Lent
6:30PM - Lenten Soup Night
7:30PM - Stations of The Cross
- Feb 25 Pancake Breakfast
Diaper Drive Ends
- Feb 27 6:00PM – 1st Reconciliation
(Monday, 6:30PM Class)
- Mar 4 Parish Food Collection
Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:00AM – Coffee & Conversation
- Mar 5 6:00PM – 1st Reconciliation
(Tuesday 4:30PM Class)
7:00PM – Building & Grounds Committee
- Mar 6 7:30PM – Ladies of St. Joseph Meeting
- Mar 7 7:00PM – Readers' Club Meeting
- Mar 8 4:00PM – CONFIRMATION RETREAT
- Mar 10 9:30AM – Women's Retreat Day
- Mar 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 12 6:00PM – 1st Reconciliation
(Tuesday 6:30PM Class)
- Mar 13 7:30PM – Men's Guild Meeting
- Mar 14 10:00AM – Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Mar 20 10:00AM – Baptism Bib Sewing Session
7:00PM – Baptism Bib Sewing Session
- Mar 25 Palm Sunday
- Mar 29 Holy Thursday
- Mar 30 Good Friday
- Mar 31 Holy Saturday
- Apr 1 **Easter**
- Apr 14 6:00PM – Night At The Races

Let us praise God in all we do.

LENT IS HERE –

Are you preparing your heart for renewal?

PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office: 732-792-2270

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Mailing Address: 91 Stillhouse Road

Millstone Twp, NJ 08510

WWW.STJOSEPHMILLSTONE.ORG

PARISH STAFF	MASS TIMES
<i>Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor</i> frmikestjoseph@optonline.net	Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM
<i>Rob Folinus - Permanent Deacon</i> Robstjoseph@optonline.net	Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
<i>Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon</i> Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net	Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM
<i>Carol Schulz, Pastoral Associate</i> CSchulzstjoseph@optonline.net	Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin
<i>Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary & Coordinator of Religious Education</i> Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net	Confessions: After the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday or by appointment.
<i>Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader</i> Kris0373@aol.com	

BAPTISM – The Sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. Parents are asked to register for a Baptism Preparation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms must be scheduled in advance by calling the Parish Office. Sponsors must obtain Sponsor forms from their home parish – Sponsors must be active practicing Catholics. The Sacrament of Baptism is not celebrated during the Season of Lent.

Marriage – Diocesan policy requires that arrangements for Marriage be made one (1) year in advance of the wedding. Refer any questions to the Pastor.

Sick Calls – Please contact the Parish Office when someone is seriously ill requiring a visit by a Priest. If someone is unable to attend Mass on a regular basis and would like to receive Communion please call the Parish Office

Registration – We are glad you are here and want you to feel like a full member of the parish. Registering as a parishioner helps us to know who you are and to stay in touch. Registration is required for sponsor forms.

Sponsor Certificates – This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Confirmation. To receive a form, the following is required: -Be a registered, active (attends Mass) member of the parish (for at least 6 months); be at least 16 years of age; must have completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation; If married, have a valid marriage within the Church.