January 24, 2021

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time



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Jesus said, "Follow me."

Will you?

MASS

Saturday

5:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri.

9:00 AM

Masses are also livestreamed

SERVED BY

Rev. Michael P. Lang, Pastor

frmikestjoseph@optonline.net

Rev. Dan Murphy, Retired Assis-

sabatman 2000@yahoo.com

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon

chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Carmen Santos, Pastoral Associate

carmenstjoseph@optonline.net

Genevieve Semanchick

Parish Secretary & CRE

jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

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Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

Jesus started his preaching. He could not postpone it any longer. John had been arrested. It was time for Jesus to step in, not as a replacement, but as the fulfillment of the message that was entrusted to John. Jesus went to Galilee and started to speak. What he said seemed to be simple: "The right time has come, and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Good News!"

Jesus' preaching was not in vain. His words do not fall on the ground without bearing fruit. Several people on hearing his voice and his message leave everything they have to follow Him. Some are mentioned by name: Andrew, Simon, James and John. Within a few days it was clear that the old world was disappearing and a new world was coming. The expectancy turned into fulfillment and the hope turned into excitement. The world as they knew it was passing away, all problems would be tackled and all issues would be solved.

That was two thousand years ago, among totally different people in a totally different culture, in a very small part of the world's population. The story is still told today. Yet, we have to ask does it make a difference? After all, aren't fairy tales immortal also? Are not nursery rhymes things that endure for generations?

Perhaps that becomes one of the most important choices that we have to make. Do we accept the Good News, the preaching of Jesus, the call to repentance and the invitation to discipleship as something real or just something that is nice to hear? It is nice to think about Jesus. It is nice to dream about Jesus. It is nice to have a picture of Jesus. It is nice to wear a crucifix. It is nice to watch a movie about Jesus. It is nice to have a bumper sticker with Jesus' name. However, if we are focused on what is nice about Jesus, we easily turn Him into a fairy tale. It is only when we treat the message of Jesus as being relevant for each one of us personally in our own time, in our own situations and in our own life that the Good News becomes not something that is nice to hear, but something that must be lived. Repentance, love, service, forgiveness, hope, mercy and new life cannot be something we read about, but something we must choose today if Jesus is real to us.

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr Míke

Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday January-23

St. Marianne Cope - St Vincent

(Heb 9:2-3, 11-14 Mk 3:20-21)

5:00pm Danuta Kulessa 1/16 Her Family

Sunday January-24 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Jon 3:1-5, 10 1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20)

9:00am Eleanor Laguna 1/10 The Dobrolsky Family

11:00am Francisco Bahena 1/16 Millstone Mom's Club

Monday January-25

The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle

(Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22 Mk 16:15-18)

9:00am Frank & Theresa Scotto 1/10 The Family

Tuesday January-26 St Timothy - St Titus

(2 Tim 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mk 3:31-35)

9:00am David Bagatoli 1/16 His Family

Wednesday January-27 St Angela Merici

(Heb 10:11-18 Mk 4:1-20)

9:00am Thomas McCaffery 1/10 Frances DeRosa

Thursday January-28 St. Thomas Aquinas

(Heb 10:19-25 Mk 4:21-25) No Wass

Friday January-29 Weekday

9:00am Al DeRosa 1/16 Frances DeRosa

Saturday January- 30 Weekday

(Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 Mk 4:35-41)

5:00pm Jack Lockwood 1/b Joseph & Sharon McCawley

Sunday January-31 **4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

(Dt 18:15-20 1 Cor 7:32-35 Mt 1:21-28)

9:00am John O'Leary 1/10 Donna & Scott Cranmer

11:00am Thomas Hardman

r/b Teddy & Susan Magielnicki



Sanctuary Candle... this week
Sonny Buser

7/b John & Jean

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, for vocation to the priesthood and religious life and for the hungry and the homeless.

A letter to the Parish from Fr. Dan Murphy...

Dear Friends of St Joseph Parish,

For the last three years I have had the privilege of being a part of your warm and welcoming parish community.

It has been an honor for me to celebrate the Eucharist with you on weekends and weekdays and to come to know a number of you personally.

I have been so very impressed with your well-planned liturgies and joyful music.

Your sense of monthly hospitality after Sunday Masses is the best I have ever encountered. I have had the chance to see your outreach in your being a part of the Hospitality network to feed and house the homeless.

For the last year I have been through a period of discernment and prayer regarding my place of residence.

When I retired from active ministry as a priest of the Paterson Diocese and moved to the shore area I did not expect to be called back up north so often. In my position as adjunct chaplain at Xavier High School in New York I have had to travel into the city very often. The wear and tear on my psyche and my car and the costs incurred have become a burden to me.

I felt it prudent for me to move back to the Diocese of Paterson and be involved in my Diocese again. I will take up residence in Rockaway township on Feb 2,2021.

My last weekend liturgy at St. Joseph's will be the 5 PM Mass on January 30. I told Fr. Mike to hold on to my contact info and to feel comfortable to call if he needs help at times. If possible, I would truly enjoy coming back on occasion.

I thank you for the gift of your presence and support in my life these last three years and I am very thankful to Fr Mike for his sense of welcome and allowing me to be involved with such a caring parish community. Please know you will continue to be in my prayers and thoughts. My email remains the same: sabatman 2000@yahoo.com.

Sincerely In Christ,

Fr. Dan Murphy

We all wish Fr. Dan the best as he moves to Rockaway. As a parish, it has been great to have Fr. Dan with us for the last three years and we thank him for being with us to celebrate the Mass. Hopefully, Fr. Dan will be able to come back on occasion and celebrate with us. Best of luck and prayers to Fr. Dan in all he does.

THE READER'S CLUB

The Readers' Club of St. Joseph Church continues to meet virtually. The next book selected by the Reader's Club is *The Radium Girls (The Dark Story of America's Shining Women)* By Kate Moore. Written with a sparkling voice and breakneck pace, *The Radium Girls* fully illuminates the inspiring young women exposed to the "wonder" substance of radium, and their awe-inspiring strength in the face of almost impossible circumstances. Their courage and tenacity led to life-changing regulations, research into nuclear bombing, and ultimately saved hundreds of thousands of lives...

Our discussion date is February 11 and we will meet via Zoom. To get reminders from the Reader's Club contact Fran – ambiofran@gmail.com so she can place you on the contact list.

DONATION STATEMENTS

Anyone who needs a statement of donations for tax purposes is asked to send a self-addressed envelope to the parish office.

GOD AND YOU: PRAYER AS A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

Due to a very low response, we have put this study on hold for a future time. However, it is still a good book to read to enhance your prayer life. God and You: Prayer as a Personal Relationship by Fr. William A. Barry, S.J. The book describes what prayer can be when seen as a conscious relationship of a person with God. With only twelve short chapters, it is a small book that offers varying approaches to prayer that aim at deepening our friendship with God. Fr. William Barry is a trained spiritual director, author and educator and has spent much of his life training new spiritual directors. The book is available through Amazon for \$8.95.

RITE of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a wonderful faith journey for those who wish to be Baptized, those who are Baptized and are now interested are interested in joining the Catholic Church and those who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). The RCIA is a journey of faith where people are encouraged to discern God's call in their lives. It is not a typical classroom setting. Our Catholic beliefs are introduced and explained and participants in the RCIA are encouraged to see how our beliefs, practices, Liturgies and Sacraments can have an impact in everyday situations. Anyone and everyone is invited to "come and see" to find out if the RCIA process is what you are being drawn to in your life. RCIA sessions are ready to resume, although at this time the meetings will be help outdoors or via Zoom. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Fr. Mike – frmikestjoseph@optonline.net or 732-792-2270.

FOOD COLLECTION

You can still drop off donations in the box on the lower level or in the bin that is outside the front door to help those who may need something. The need for assistance continues to grow. Food banks are receiving more requests for assistance as people face financial challenges. Your donations are appreciated and your donations continue to reach those who are in need.

<u>SUNDAY MASS</u> – We do have public celebration of Sunday Mass on Saturday evening at 5:00 PM and Sunday morning at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. We only have one-third of the capacity in the Church. Please remember that masks must be worn and cover mouth and nose. Also, **doors are locked at the start of Mass** so that there is no need for people to wander around looking for a seat – so please arrive before Mass begins. Masses will also be live streamed at https://vimeo.com/event/106444, on our parish website at www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream on our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone and on the Parish YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp

DAILY MASS

The public gathering for Mass takes place at 9:00 AM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with no more than 50 people. Mass will also be live streamed at 9:00 AM on those days. If you miss the live stream, it is recorded and available to watch later on. The links for the live stream of daily Mass are the same as those for Sunday Mass which you can find in the Sunday Mass announcement above this announcement.

PARISH GROUPS

Due to the continuing rise in cases of Coronavirus, we are once again suspending the meeting of groups. When the cases decline again, groups will have the opportunity to meet with certain restrictions and policies in place.

A NOTE ON MASKS

Masks are required for all events in the Church. Masks must cover mouth and nose and form a barrier. Some people have started wearing clear plastic masks that are meant for food preparation. Those masks do not meet the criteria for helping to block the spread of disease. Those masks do not form a barrier at the nose. We are adhering to the recommendations prescribed by the professionals as well as the regulations of the Diocese. Thank you for cooperating and having a willingness to protect the health of others.

FOOD COLLECTION

You can still drop off donations in the box on the lower level or in the bin that is outside the front door to help those who may need something. The need for assistance continues to grow. Food banks are receiving more requests for assistance as people face financial challenges. Your donations are appreciated and your donations continue to reach those who are in need.

BAPTISMS

We are scheduling Baptisms. The number of people permitted at a Baptism is limited. Only one family at a time will be scheduled for Baptism. It is good news that we are welcoming God's little ones. Those who would like to schedule a Baptism, may call the parish office to schedule the Baptism of your child.

HELP US TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU

The Parish uses Flocknotes which is a program to send out email and text messages to parishioners. This will allow us to stay in touch about parish events, emergency closings and important information. To benefit from this, you must sign up with your cell phone number and/or email address. In the present time, it is important that we have a way to get news out to everyone. We will use Flocknotes to let parents know if Religious Education classes are canceled and we send out reminders about scheduled closings for holidays, etc. It is easy to be on the notification list – just text the code sjmill to 84576 and follow the prompts. You may also go to our website to be included – stjosephmillstone.org/flocknotes. Just enter your information and follow the prompts. You can then select the groups that you want information from. All information is confidential. Others are not able to view your information. Please remember that email and text message will be sent from Flocknotes. Thanks!

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 at 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!



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 email or leave a message for Fr. Mike

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!

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

Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor frmikestjoseph@optonline.net

Rev. Daniel Murphy - Weekend Assistant sabatman 2000@yahoo.com

Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon
Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary &
Coordinator of Religious Education
Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net
Carmen Santos, Pastoral Associate
carmenstjoseph@optonline.net

Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader
Kris0373@aol.com

MASS TIMES

Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM

Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM

Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin

Confessions: At this time, Confessions are Offered by appointment only.

<u>BAPTISM</u> – 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.

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

<u>Sick Calls</u> – 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

<u>Registration</u> – 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.

<u>Sponsor Certificates</u> – 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.

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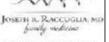
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