

February 21, 2021

1st Sunday of Lent



St. Joseph

Catholic Church

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growing in
God's love*

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



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
frmlkestjoseph@optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon
chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

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CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

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Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

There is something about the season of Lent that strikes a chord and touches something deep down in all our hearts as it presents us with the challenge to be more faithful to God. For Christians, fasting, prayers and alms-giving have been traditionally the central elements of Lent. They are the tools that we have been taught to use in order to edge closer to God. However, the key ingredient to any Lenten observance is motive. If we lack the motive to grow closer to God, our efforts are in vain.

When Jesus was ready to begin public ministry, one of the first things he did was to go into the desert for forty days. Why? It was to take time to honestly strengthen Jesus' bond with the father. This is what we are called to imitate during the time of Lent. The journey we make is an inward one, into the wilderness of our innermost self, to stand before God in all sincerity and truth. This helps us to see ourselves as we truly are and as we take stock of what we are doing with our time and talents, we become more aware of the ways in which we have failed to serve God. Then, and only then, are we able to comprehend the changes that are needed in our lives. Then, we are able to formulate a course of action that will begin the process of changing but with the motivation of growing closer to God.

If we happen to be among those whose specialty is always to assume the worst in everyone, perhaps it is time to take a hard look at ourselves and come to the realization that in holding on to such a view, we actually limit our relationship with God since we will fail to recognize and appreciate the presence of God in others. We can vow to see something positive in each person we meet, but if the motivation is not to grow closer to God we will likely not be any closer to God than when we started. Without the proper motivation, Lent is likely to just be a time of frustration or even resentment. The likelihood of experiencing true and lasting change is not very great.

When done for the right reason and motive, Lent is a time of grace to be taken very seriously, if we want it to be a purifying experience that enables and promote spiritual growth. The more we are motivated by a desire to grow in our love for God, the easier it becomes to say YES to God.

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr Mike

Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday	February-20	Saturday after Ash Wednesday (Is 58:9b-14 Lk 5:27-32)
5:00pm		<i>Robert J. Ciano</i> r/b Dorothy Kozak & Family
Sunday	February-21	1st Sunday of Lent (Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15)
9:00am		<i>Frank Simacek Sr.</i> r/b Son, Frank
11:00am		<i>Dale Samers</i> r/b Denielle Balint Avila
Monday	February-22	The Chair of St Peter the Apostle (1 Pt 5:1-4 Mt 16:13-19)
9:00am		<i>Marcel Pinteau</i> r/b Ernest & Micelle Leva
Tuesday	February-23	St Polycarp (Is 55:10-11 Mt 6:7-15)
9:00am		<i>Al DeRosa</i> r/b Frances DeRosa
Wednesday	February-24	Lenten Weekday (Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32)
9:00am		<i>Lorcan Dunne</i> r/b Bill & Marie Schubel
Thursday	February-25	Lenten Weekday (Est c 12, 14-16; 23-25 Mt 7:7-12) <i>No Mass</i>
Friday	February-26	Lenten Weekday <i>Special Healing Intentions of</i>
9:00am		<i>Shirley Puthumana</i> r/b Val & Babu Perumpail
Saturday	February-27	Lenten Weekday (Dt 26:16-19 Mt 5:43-48)
5:00pm		<i>Vincent Tavormina</i> r/b The Giffen Family
Sunday	February-28	2nd Sunday of Lent (Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10)
9:00am		<i>Douglas Lee Burns</i> r/b The Dobrolsky Family
11:00am		<i>Thomas McCaffery</i> r/b Theresa Chiusano

Sanctuary Candle... this week

For the People of the Parish



To dedicate a Sanctuary Candle in memory of or for the intention of a loved on. 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

A video for Children's Liturgy of the Word for February 21st is available along with activity sheets for those who would like it. You can watch the video and download the activity sheets at <https://www.stjosephmillstone.org/childrens-liturgy-of-the-word-1>

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 ***Have you seen Luis Valez*** by Catherine Ryan Hyde .

From New York Times bestselling author Catherine Ryan Hyde comes a moving novel about two strangers who find that kindness is a powerful antidote to fear. Raymond Jaffe feels like he doesn't belong. Not with his mother's new family. Not as a weekend guest with his father and his father's wife. Not at school, where he's an outcast. Mildred Gutermann, a German Jew who narrowly escaped the Holocaust, has been alone since her caretaker disappeared. She turns to Raymond for help, and as he tries to track Luis down, a deep and unexpected friendship blossoms between the two. Our discussion date is March 25 at 7:30 PM 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.

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.

WELCOME –

As a community of faith, we joyfully welcome

Joseph Ignazio DiGangi

who was received into the Church and God's family through the Sacrament of Baptism. Let us lift him up in our prayers.

SUNDAY MASS – 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 (** PLEASE NOTE, there have been some issues getting the live stream to stay connected to YouTube, if you normally watch the live stream on YouTube but do not see it, please try one of the other connections. Vimeo is the main location for the live stream.)

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.

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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	MASS TIMES
<p><i>Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor</i> fmikestjoseph@optonline.net</p> <p><i>Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon</i> Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net</p> <p><i>Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary & Coordinator of Religious Education</i> Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net</p> <p><i>Carmen Santos, Pastoral Associate</i> carmenstjoseph@optonline.net</p> <p><i>Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader</i> Kris0373@aol.com</p>	<p>Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM</p> <p>Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM</p> <p>Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM</p> <p>Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin</p> <p>Confessions: At this time, Confessions are Offered by appointment only.</p>

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.

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