

February 28, 2021

2nd 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

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,

The first Reading for the second Sunday of Lent provides us with an extraordinary glimpse into the faith and character of Abraham. The command to kill his son Isaac, his only child, seems absurd to us today. God had made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. If Abraham killed his only son, how would that promise ever be fulfilled? Even though the request was very painful, in the greatness of his faith and trust in God, Abraham quickly set out to be obedient to the divine command. In Abraham's mind, God must be obeyed at all costs. As Abraham raised the knife to slaughter his son, God stopped the final blow. Isaac's life was spared.

While the purpose of God's request was not understood by Abraham at the time, we are still able to recognize that Abraham's faith and obedience remains as an example to us today. Like Abraham, we are sometimes called into the unknown and respond to God's call with complete trust, even when circumstances make faith seem unreasonable and contrary to our human way of thinking. Abraham is one of the greatest examples of an individual who was willing to walk by faith and not simply by sight. Part of our journey calls us to grow in faith so that we believe, not because we have seen, but because of the word and power the power of God who is present in our lives.

In the Gospel story of the Transfiguration of Jesus, three of the Apostles were given a glimpse of Christ in all His glory. Their reaction was simply to believe that they were spectators of the blessed event where God revealed that Jesus was God's "beloved Son." The Apostles did not understand that they were being called to enter into a moment of divine revelation. It was to reveal to them that being obedient to the example of Jesus' life would lead them to glory. They would eventually come to understand that their paths would lead them to experience many things that were contrary to human nature and would require great trust and obedience to the way Jesus would show them.

Abraham's obedience and the message offered in the Transfiguration remind us to always be open to God, even when it seems contrary to our desires.

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr Mike

Mass Schedule + Readings

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
Monday	March- 1 Lenten Weekday (Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-28)
9:00am	<i>Michael Schwenk</i> r/b Bill & Marie Schubel
Tuesday	March- 2 Lenten Weekday (Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12)
9:00am	<i>Giovanni & Clara Camerino</i> r/b The Sawicz Family
Wednesday	March- 3 St Katherine Drexel (Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-22)
9:00am	<i>Special Healing Intentions of Sheda Joeman</i> r/b Val & Babu Perumpail
Thursday	March- 4 St Casimir (Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31) <i>No Mass</i>
Friday	March- 5 World Day of Prayer (Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46)
9:00am	<i>Al DeRosa</i> r/b Frances DeRosa
Saturday	March- 6 Lenten Weekday (Mt 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32)
5:00pm	<i>Alfred Aloine</i> r/b Theresa Mendelsohn
Sunday	March- 7 3rd Sunday of Lent (Ex 17:3-7 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42)
9:00am	<i>Julia Petrick</i> r/b The Zaleski Family
11:00am	<i>Thomas McCaffery</i> r/b The Hill Family

Sanctuary Candle... this week

Sonny Buser r/b A Friend



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.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST EUCHARIST AND CONFIRMATION

Emails were sent to parents who have a child in 2nd and/or 8th grade in our Religious Education Program about the dates for 1st Eucharist and Confirmation and the requirements. Please be sure that you have checked your email. If you did not receive it, please contact the parish office so that it can be resent.

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 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 held outdoors or via Zoom. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Fr. Mike – frmikestjoseph@optonline.net or 732-792-2270.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to the decrease in the cases of the Coronavirus, the number of people permitted in the church has increased. Beginning in March, we will be changing from permitting seating in every third pew to every other pew. All other policies remain in effect – masks must be worn and social distancing must be observed. We will continue to seat people and space people in the pews. It is good to see the number of cases drop, but we must still be careful so that the numbers do not climb again. There is reason to be hopeful as more people receive vaccines so let us continue to pray that we remain on the path that will put this behind us.

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.

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

Thankfully, the number of cases of the Coronavirus is once again dropping. It is now possible to allow groups that wish to meet to do so in the Parish Hall. All precautions remain in effect – masks must be worn and social distancing must be observed. If your group wishes to meet, be aware of the following:

- Only one group at a time can meet and all meetings will take place in the Parish Hall.
- You must contact Fr. Mike about your desire to meet
- No materials may be handed out or brought out (candles, statues, etc.
- No food is to be served
- After the meeting, a list of those who attended must be given to the parish office

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!

Covid-19 Vaccine

If you know of any seniors who may not have technology to go online, please help them to be aware of the process or help them to know the information.

PREPARED ON JAN 13, 2021

As of January 14, 2021, the following groups are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine:

- ✓ **Paid or unpaid persons working or volunteering in a healthcare setting**
- ✓ **Residents of long-term care facilities and other congregate settings**
- ✓ **Frontline first responders**
- ✓ **Persons aged 65 and older**
- ✓ **Persons aged 16 to 64 years old who have at least one chronic medical condition that poses high-risk for severe COVID-19:**
 - Cancer
 - Chronic Kidney Disease
 - Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
 - Down Syndrome
 - Heart conditions (e.g. heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies)
 - Immunocompromised (weakened immune system) due to organ transplant (consult with your doctor)
 - Obesity (e.g. body mass index of 30kg/m² or higher)
 - Pregnancy (consult with your doctor)
 - Sickle cell disease
 - Smoking
 - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

These groups can start making vaccination appointments. More groups will become eligible in the coming weeks.

To register for a COVID-19 vaccine visit [**covidvaccine.nj.gov**](https://covidvaccine.nj.gov)

For a list of open vaccination sites nearest to you and to learn more, visit [**covid19.nj.gov/vaccine**](https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccine)



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

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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