March 14, 2021

# 4th Sunday of Lent



# St. Joseph

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of faith

growing in

God's love

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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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

Chrls Chandonnet, Deacon

chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Carmen Santos, Pastoral Associate carmenstjoseph@optonline.net

Genevieve Semanchick

Parish Secretary & CRE |eanst|oseph@optonline.net

# CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

Website:

www.stjosephmilistone.org

Facebook:

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Twitter:

@frmikestjoseph

Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

The most moving truth that the Church preaches is that we are loved by God. Christianity rests on the firm conviction that God's love reaches down into our sick, bruised and damaged world. That love came to us in the most visible way in the person of Jesus Christ. For every faithful heart, this is the very essence of the Good News. No passage in Scripture puts it better or more clearly than the words which Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, "God so loved the world that God sent His only begotten son, so that whoever believes in him may not die, but may have eternal life." Our love for others, even for the person we hold dearest in our lives, comes nowhere near the kind of love God has for us. The extent of God's love is so great that God offers life to all and excludes nobody. God loves each one of us as if there is nobody else to love. God desires nothing more than to walk with each one of us as we go through life and cannot be satisfied until each one of us have come home safely.

The magnitude of God's love should be remembered each time we look at a crucifix. The crucifix portrays the image of the suffering Christ lifted up on the cross, absorbing the full brunt of the evil of our sins. All life's cruelties, hatreds and injustices are concentrated in that cross planted on the hill of Calvary. The most amazing fact of the passion and death of Jesus is that it has become the supreme proof of God's love. When all else fails, the down and out, the despairing and the lonely are drawn towards that far off cross on the hillside, aware that there is someone to turn towards. The cross, once a sign of shame and humiliation becomes a channel of healing grace. The tree of death becomes the tree of victory.

Of course, God does not force anyone to accept God's love. God will never stop loving, but we are free to accept or reject that love which offers us the path to new and eternal life.

At this point in our Lenten journey, it is a good time to review our Lenten commitment. Are our lives joyful responses to god's love? Is God's love finding expression in the way we choose to live? What are we doing to bring the love of God into the lives of family and friends?

Remember, it is never too late to choose the path of God's love. Yet, the sooner we do, the sooner we will be convinced of God's never-failing love!

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr Míke

#### Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday March- 13 Lenten Weekday

(Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18: 9-14)

5:00pm Sue Stelmach 1/10 James & Dawn McCaffery

Sunday March- 14 4th Sunday of Lent

(1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38)

9:00am Sister Pius Yavier 1/10 The Zaleski Family

11:00am Albert Carro r/b Jose Carro

Monday March- 15 Lenten Weekday

(Is 65:17-21 Jn 4:43-54)

9:00am Michael Schwenk

r/b The Detwiler-Rabinowitz Families

Tuesday March- 16 Lenten Weekday

(Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16)

9:00am Wayne Milligan 1/b Susan Werner

Wednesday March- 17 Saint Patrick

(ls 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30)

9:00am *Curtis Cashill* 1/10 Mickey Napolitano

Thursday March- 18 St Cyril of Jerusalem

(Ex 32:7-14 Jn5:31-47) No Mass

Friday March- 19

St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12:14a, 16 Rom 4:13; 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16; 18-21, 24a / Lk 2:41-57a)

9:00am Al DeRosa 1/b Frances DeRosa

Saturday March- 20 Lenten Weekday

(Jer 11:18-20 Jn 7:40-53)

5:00pm Dawn Giobbe 1/10 The Nugent Family

Sunday March-21 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

(Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)

9:00am Dec'd Mbrs of the Lancia & Gilch Families

r/b The Gilch Family

11:00am *Josephine Nardone* 1/15 Children & Grandchildren

Sanctuary Candle... this week

Carmine Buono r/b A Friend



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.

#### **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGY SCHEDULE**

PALM SUNDAY – March 28

HOLY THURSDAY – April 1 7:00PM

5:00PM (Saturday Evening) 9:00AM

11:00AM

HOLY SATURDAY - April 3

3:00PM Liturgy

GOOD FRIDAY - April 2

1:00PM Blessing of Food (Drive Up) 7:00PM – Easter Vigil (No 5:00PM Mass)

**EASTER SUNDAY - April 4** 

8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 NOON

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# 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 – <a href="mailto:ambiofran@gmail.com">ambiofran@gmail.com</a> 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.

#### WELCOME

As a parish community, we joyfully welcome:

#### James Anthony Cipriano

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

#### **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.

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#### **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 – <a href="mailto:frmikestjoseph@optonline.net">frmikestjoseph@optonline.net</a> 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 <a href="https://vimeo.com/event/106444">https://vimeo.com/event/106444</a>, on our parish website at <a href="www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream">www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream</a> on our Facebook Page <a href="www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone">www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone</a> and on the Parish YouTube channel <a href="www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp">www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp</a> (\*\*\* 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.

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#### **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

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#### 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.

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#### 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 – <a href="stjosephmillstone.org/flocknotes">stjosephmillstone.org/flocknotes</a>. 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 <a href="www.stjosephmillstone.org">www.stjosephmillstone.org</a>. 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!

Parish & Giving.

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 <a href="https://www.stjosephmillstone.org">www.stjosephmillstone.org</a> 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.

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

PREPARED ON JAN 13, 2021

- 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/m<sup>2</sup> 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

For a list of open vaccination sites nearest to you and to learn more, visit 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

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

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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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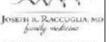
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