

Welcome To

SAINT JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ASH
WEDNESDAY



A Clean Heart Create For Me, GOD;
Renew Within Me A Steadfast Spirit.

Psaln 51:12



© Doreen

February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Church

400 E. Simpson St.
www.stjosephmech.org
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Parish Office

717-766-9433
410 E. Simpson St.
officemanager@stjosephmech.org

Saint Joseph School

717-766-2564
420 E. Simpson St.
www.sjsmch.org

WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH PARISH!

MASSES AND EVENTS FEBRUARY 10-11

Saturday, February 10 - Vigil, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45)

4:00 PM Mass - People of the Parish Living and Deceased

After Mass Saint Monica Prayer Service (Church)
Lenten Resource Table (Narthex)

Sunday, February 11 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Mass - Special Intention

9:30 AM RCIA (Lee Horan Rm.)

9:30 AM REP Preschool/Kindergarten (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)

+9:45 AM Mass - † Francis Maceiko (Maceiko)
with Childrens Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

11:30 AM Mass - † Richard Sterner (SJ Choir)
11:30 AM Deaf Ministry Bible Study (Little Flower Rm.)

After Masses Saint Monica Prayer Service (Church)
Lenten Resource Table (Narthex)
Coffee and Donuts & Bingo Ticket Sales (Brindle Hall)
Soaps by Survivors Sale (Brindle Hall)

1:00 PM Sacrament of Baptism (Church)

+ American Sign Language

Mission Statement

Like our Patron, Saint Joseph, the Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are called to foster the presence of Christ in all that we say and do. Our Mission is to grow disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ.



MUSIC MINISTRY THIS WEEKEND

4:00 PM Contemporary

8:00 AM Organ/Cantor

9:45 AM Cherub Choir

11:30 AM Sanctuary Choir

This Weekend's Candle Dedications:

AMBO CANDLES: Special intention.

ALTAR CANDLES: Special intention.

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Special intention.

TABERNACLE CANDLES: Special intention.

PRO LIFE ROSE: Special Intention.

ALL FLOWERS: For the Living and Deceased members of the Simon and Staub Family.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for those who have recently died, may they rest in peace. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let thy perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

WE REMEMBER:

Tricia Bowden

Barry Howard

Bernard Markey



WELCOME TO SAINT JOSEPH PARISH!

The Hospitality Ministry is excited to connect with members of our Legion of Mary who are greeting at Masses this weekend and Girls Novice Blue Basketball Team who are greeting at 11:30 AM Mass. In addition, members of our Greeter Ministry are also greeting this weekend. Thank you! We encourage other ministries and individuals to sign-up to greet. For Hospitality Ministry information please contact Marlene Steinour - Tynsteiny75@gmail.com or 717-712-9457.

Join our Parish: Visit www.stjosephmech.org/parish-registration

Sacrament of Penance: Saturdays at 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Please notify the Parish Office when you or a family member has been admitted to a hospital or healthcare facility. In the event of serious illness or injury please contact the Parish Office at 717-766-9433. Holy Communion can be brought to homebound parishioners, please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Baptism: Visit our website for more information:

<https://www.stjosephmech.org/baptism>

Sacrament of Matrimony Common Policy:

It is necessary for a couple to contact the clergy NINE TO TWELVE MONTHS prior to the anticipated date of the wedding.

Parish Info

Parish Office: 717-766-9433

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM - Noon

Bulletin Deadline Mondays by 8:00 AM.

Email submission: bulletin@stjosephmech.org

Phone Numbers

Video Phone for the Deaf: 717-610-0326

Mass & Confession Times: 717-766-8032

Saint Joseph School: 717-766-2564

Religious Education: 717-766-2472

Our Staff

Pastor:.....Reverend Thomas J. Rozman

Parochial Vicar:.....Reverend Kenneth C. Roth

Deacon:.....Deacon Steven Auchey

Parish Manager:.....David Maceiko

School Principal:.....Rebecca Bamberger

Pastoral Musician:.....Justin Myers

Religious Education Coordinator:.....Mark Rebuck

Family Ministries Coordinator:.....Becky Davis

Youth/Evangelization Coordinator:.....Dan Menezes

Communications Coordinator:.....Mary Vukelich

Parish Advisory Council:.....pac@stjosephmech.org

February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



JOIN US THIS WEEK FOR MASSES AND EVENTS - FEBRUARY 12-17, 2024

Monday, February 12 - Weekday (James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13)

- 8:30 AM Mass - Special Intention**
 9:00 AM Rosary (Church)
 4:30 PM REP First Session Grades 1-8 (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)
 5:50 PM Cherub Choir Practice (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)
 6:30 PM REP Second Session Grades 1-8 (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)

Tuesday, February 13 - Weekday (James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21)

- 6:30 AM Mass - Special Intention**
 9:00 AM Leisure Club Steering Committee Mtg. (Brindle Hall)
 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Mtg. (Lee Horan Rm.)

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

(Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6,16-18)

- 6:30 AM Mass - † Deceased Members of the Weber Family**
 7:50 AM Rosary (Church)
8:30 AM Mass - † Kathy Marie Husic McKinney (Husic)
 9:30 AM Divine Mercy Chaplet (Church)
12:00 PM Mass - Special Intention
6:30 PM Mass - People of the Parish Living and Deceased
 6:00 PM REP HS (Lee Horan Rm.)
 6:30 PM Legion of Mary (John Paul II Rm.)

Thursday, February 15 - Thursday after Ash Wednesday (Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25)

- 8:30 AM Mass - † John Maciejczyk (Maciejczyk)**
 9:00 AM Leisure Club (Brindle Hall)
 9:30 AM Abiding Together (John Paul II Rm.)
 7:00 PM Abiding Together (Lee Horan Rm.)

Friday, February 16 - Friday after Ash Wednesday (Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15)

- 6:30 AM Mass - † Antoinette Salvo (Dietrich)**
 1:20 PM Stations of the Cross (Church)
 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross (Church)
7:00 PM Mass - † Barry Howard (Marchick)
 7:30 PM Holy Hour (Church)
 8:30 PM Benediction (Church)

Saturday, February 17 - Saturday after Ash Wednesday; The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order (Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32)

- *8:00 AM Mass - Increase of Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate & Consecrated Life**

***Please note: the doors of the Church will be unlocked at 7:30 AM.)**

- 6:15 AM That Man is You (Brindle Hall)
 10:00 AM Junior Legion of Mary (John Paul II Rm.)
 2:15 PM Confessions (Church)

Saturday, February 17 - Vigil, First Sunday of Lent (Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15)

- 4:00 PM Mass - Martin & Catherine Schaffer (Olinger)**

After Mass Welcome Kiosk (Narthex)

Sunday, February 18 - First Sunday of Lent

- 8:00 AM Mass - People of the Parish Living and Deceased**
 9:30 AM RCIA (Lee Horan Rm.)
 9:30 AM REP Preschool/Kindergarten (Parish Life & Ed. Ctr.)
+9:45 AM Mass - † Tricia Bowden (McMullin)
 with Childrens Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)
11:30 AM Mass with Rite of Sending- † Daniel O'Connell (Thomas)

11:30 AM Deaf Ministry Bible Study (Little Flower Rm.)

After Masses Welcome Kiosk (Narthex)
 Coffee and Donuts (Brindle Hall)

- 1:00 PM Sacrament of Baptism (Church)
 2:00 PM Bingo (Brindle Hall)

+ American Sign Language



After all Masses this weekend, we will have a prayer service and offer prayers to Saint Monica for family members who have left the Catholic Church or are unengaged in their commitment to the Catholic Faith.

Please remain after Mass to join in prayer asking for the special intercession of Saint Monica. She prayed unceasingly for her lax son, who not only turned his life around and committed himself to Christ, but became one of the great Doctors of the Church, Saint Augustine. The prayer sheets will be available at the back of the church after Mass. Please return the sheets at the end of the service for the next Mass. If you would like a copy, please feel free to keep it!

A Prayer to Saint Monica

Dear Saint Monica, troubled wife and mother, many sorrows pierced your heart during your lifetime. Yet, you never despaired or lost faith. With confidence, persistence and profound faith, you prayed daily for the conversion of your beloved husband, Patricius and your beloved son, Augustine; your prayers were answered. Grant me that same fortitude, patience and trust in the Lord. Intercede for me, dear Saint Monica, that God may favorably hear my plea for: (*mention your intention here*) and grant me the grace to accept His Will in all things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



PRAYER FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS



O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties. Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion. Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEXT WEEKEND

- 4:00 PM Organ/Cantor**
8:00 AM Organ/Cantor
9:45 AM Sanctuary Choir
11:30 AM Sanctuary Ringers

EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



Personal Reflection: Sharon, on Unity With Our Savior

Sharon Ezzo recently shared this reflection:
I am blessed to have made a Cursillo almost nine years ago and now attend a weekly follow up group. One of the members of the group said that Cursillo "made me take out my faith and really look at it". I feel the same and the experience helped me be more intentional in my spiritual journey. The first thing we discuss in group is the moment closest to Christ we noted during the week. This helps me pay attention to my awareness of His presence as I go about my day, knowing I will be presenting it to others. It may be some facet of nature I find exceptional on my frequent hikes, or witnessing some poignant act of kindness, or even a homily that resonates and stays with me. Often, it's the Lord reminding me that I am not in charge and it's His plan, not mine, that forces me to take notice.

I know that He is always trying to get my attention, but I am too often busy, distracted, or intent on going my own way without thought or intervention. I don't listen as I should. That is when the majesty of the consecration grabs me and I am reminded that I am about to partake in a serious and profound experience. I don't have to rely on my imperfect awareness of Christ, because I will be sharing in an intimate, physical unity with my Savior. He is with me and His promise, "Come to Me and I will give you rest" takes on new meaning. I am able to surrender and receive respite from the fears, chaos and anxiety of living life in a very scary world. The key is to take that respite and hold onto it as I go through the challenges of life. I can always reach for the comfort and peace and consolation only He can provide. What an amazing gift and reminder that He is with us and also, within us.

**"... the majesty of
the consecration
grabs me and
I am reminded
that I am about to
partake in a
serious
and profound
experience."**

- Sharon

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT THE
EUCHARIST MEANS TO YOU, CONTACT MARY AT
COMMUNICATIONS@STJOSEPHMECH.ORG OR 717-766-9433.**

**[www.stjosephmech.org/
eucharistic-revival](http://www.stjosephmech.org/eucharistic-revival)**



Catholic Schools Week:



Please visit our Facebook page, Saint Joseph School of Mechanicsburg, to see photos from Catholic Schools Week. Events included our Catholic Schools Week Liturgy, Vocations Day with Diocesan Director of Vocations and SJS alumnus Father Joshua Weaver, Ice Cream Treat, Pajama and Movie Day, Jersey/Sports Dress Down Day, Staff Luncheon, Crazy Socks, Hat, and Hair Dress Down Day, 8th Grade vs. Staff Volleyball Game, Spirit Dress Down Day with Pep Rally, Family Fun Night, and Souper Bowl Collection for New Hope Ministries' Food Pantry.



Interested in a Catholic education for your child?

Spaces for the 2024-2025 school year are limited, so please don't delay. Please visit www.sjsmch.org for more information or contact Amanda Koerner, Director of Development, with any questions (akoerner@stjoesmech.org or 717-766-2564).

Substitute Teachers:

An interested candidate must be a practicing Catholic and must possess at minimum a Bachelor's Degree. Candidates must be at least 21 years of age and will need to complete all Harrisburg Diocesan clearances. Candidates are expected to uphold the values of the Catholic Church and our Saint Joseph School. Please send cover letter and resume to Mrs. Rebecca Bamberger at rbamberger@stjoesmech.org.

Weekly Stewardship Report: February 4, 2024

Regular Sunday Offerings:

Weekly Goal \$ 28,355.00

Actual Offerings:

Weekend Offerings (basket) \$ 23,538.00

Electronic Check - Bill Payer \$ 3,885.00

Online Thru WeShare \$ 10,258.00

Total Offerings \$ 37,681.00

Comparison Prior Year - February 5, 2023 \$ 38,557.00

Additional Offerings:

Propagation of the Faith \$ 1,918.00

Aid to Catholic Church (Central/Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa) \$ 110.00

Solemnity of Mary \$ 5.00

Christmas \$ 60.00

Kentucky Mission \$ 25.00

Capital Improvement \$ 1,780.00

"Building Disciples, Sharing Gifts"

Thank you for your continued generosity.



Fridays during Lent
Stations of the Cross at 1:20 PM
and 6:30 PM
Mass 6:30 AM and 7:00 PM with
Adoration following



To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313. To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, also please call the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection toll free number: 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org.

Coming Soon! LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES

What do a Seminarian, a convert to the Catholic Faith, a 3rd grade parent, and a Bishop Emeritus all have in common? Their love of the Eucharist! In this year's Annual Lenten Speaker Series, hear from very different speakers who will share their personal story of how they have encountered God in the Eucharist in very different ways. Each week we will gather in Brindle Hall at 5:15 with a shared Lenten meal followed by the speaker and finish in time for Stations of the Cross. Please register for the dinners by emailing Becky at familyministries@stjosephmech.org or on the Saint Joseph parish website <https://stjosephmech.org/lenten-supper-speaker-series>

PRAYING WITH ICONS, a women's Lenten retreat, will be held from 9 to noon on Saturday, February 24. After light refreshments, Iconographer, Jody Cole, will teach us how to "read" an icon. This event is free; however, please register so we can plan refreshments accordingly. You may register by emailing Diane Freundel at dianefreundel@gmail.com or complete the information below and drop it off at the Parish Office.

Lenten Women's Retreat Registration

Name: _____

Contact email or phone number: _____

youth GROUP

Bring your friends!



February 18
2-4PM, Lee Horan

Contact: Dan Menezes
evangelization
@stjosephmech.org
717.766.9433



400 E. Simpson St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Saint Joseph Catholic Church

www.stjosephmech.org

Respect Life Committee:

Information and Action on Human Trafficking



February 11: Soaps by Survivors

Soaps by Survivors offers trauma-informed employment to survivors of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. We offer handmade bath and beauty products with all proceeds going directly to Peace Promise, a local nonprofit. Products will be sold after Sunday Masses in Brindle Hall just in time for Valentine's Day! Alternatively, you can shop online at www.soapsbysurvivors.org.

February 21: Presentation

Join us on **February 21 at 6:30 PM** in the Parish Life and Education Center, Library for an overview of human trafficking in Central Pennsylvania with Susan Vigliano. Susan is the board president and one of the founders of Peace Promise, a local non-profit that works with women who have been exploited by the commercial sex industry. She will be sharing about what trafficking looks like here in our neighborhoods, what Peace Promise's calling is, and what you can do to help. Questions? Contact Sharon Younes: parishvisitor@stjosephmech.org.



Young Adults in their 20s and 30s

HARRISBURG
FEBRUARY 15TH
7PM — 9PM

NOW AT **ARCOGA'S**
7025 ALLENTOWN BOULEVARD
HARRISBURG 17112

FEATURING
KEVIN FOX

MERCY AND HOSPITALITY
THE CATHOLIC WORKER MOVEMENT

Synod on Synodality
Ongoing Engagement

Participate in a follow up discussion to contribute to the October Assembly in Rome

Wednesday, February 21
6 p.m. via Zoom
Registration:
www.hbgdiocese.org/synod

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Synod Team is preparing for the Interim Stage Synthesis. As part of this, each diocese has been asked to host additional discussions on the below two questions: 1. Where have I seen

or experienced successes—and distresses—within the Church's structure (s)/organization/leadership/life that encourage or hinder the mission? 2. How can the structures and organization of the Church help all the baptized to respond to the call to proclaim the Gospel and to live as a community of love and mercy in Christ? The Diocese of Harrisburg is holding an online session via **Zoom** on **Wednesday, February 21 at 6:00 PM**. All are invited to participate in this session. For planning purpose, please register online at www.hbgdiocese.org/synod. Thank you for contributing to this important process.



The gift of Lent, what Lent is all about, is to teach us to truly turn away from sin and toward the Lord. True repentance and avoidance of sin start with the difficult confrontation of our attachment and attraction to that sin. Join us on Saturday morning in Brindle Hall at 6:15 to learn how to truly desire a devout life! TMIY is a men's program to transform Catholic men, their families, and society. Free, hot breakfast is provided. Contact Tony Devlin at donmantho@gmail.com for information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORED BINGO, Sunday, February 18 in Brindle Hall at 2:00 PM!

Doors open at 1:15 PM. Hot dogs, snacks and drinks will be available for purchase. Cost \$20 pre-paid or \$25 at the door. Tickets will be available for purchase Sunday after Mass in Brindle Hall. Contact Mike Yakubick at 717-329-2725 /email: myakubick@comcast.net with any questions. All are welcome!

Employment Opportunity: Our Saint Joseph School Extended Day Program has an opening for a caregiver 2-3 afternoons per week from 2:15 to 5:30 PM. Responsibilities include playing with and helping children, assisting children with homework, helping to serve snack, cleaning up after snack, and other duties as required by the Director. Applicants will need to complete or submit (done within the past 12 months) all necessary employee clearances and background checks along with a valid driver's license. If you are interested in earning extra income while performing a very rewarding service, contact Linda Schneider at lschneider@stjoesmech.org.

The Prophets
Messengers of God's Mercy

✦ **Wednesday 9:30 AM**
Starting February 21

✦ **Sunday 6:00 PM**
Starting February 25

Register on our website:
stjosephmech.org or contact Becky :
familyministries@stjosephmech.org

SARAH CHRISTMYER and THOMAS SMITH

SAINT JOSEPH PARISH PICTURE DIRECTORY!

Our Saint Joseph Church Directory is a great way to get to know our parish family better! Adding your family photo is quick and easy to do. It is safe and secure and for our parishioners only.

Only the information you add, is what is visible to our parish. Scan the QR code to get started: You will use your email address you gave when you registered with the parish. CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app. To view our directory on your phone, simply go to the App Store, search for **Instant Church Directory** and download the FREE app to begin. If you need assistance, call the parish office: 717-766-9433.

We thank our Sponsor of the Week:

MYERS-BAKER FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.

for sponsoring an advertisement in our parish bulletin.
Please patronize the businesses that underwrite all of the publishing expenses of our weekly bulletin.

February 11, 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



SEEKING JESUS IN SACRED SCRIPTURE

ASH WEDNESDAY WEEK

Feb 14 Mt 6:1-6,16-18
Feb 15 1 Peter 5:1-4
Feb 16 Is 58:1-9a
Feb 17 Ps 86:1-6

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Feb 18 Mk 1:12-15
Feb 19 Mt 25:31-46
Feb 20 Is 55:10-11
Feb 21 Ps 51
Feb 22 Mt 7:7-12
Feb 23 Mt 5:20-26
Feb 24 Mt 5:43-48

SECOND WEEK OF LENT

Feb 25 Mk 9:2-10
Feb 26 Lk 6:36-38
Feb 27 Is 1:10, 16-20
Feb 28 Mt 20:17-28
Feb 29 Jer 17:5-10
Mar 1 Gen 37:3-28
Mar 2 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Mar 3 John 4:5-42
Mar 4 Lk 4:24-30
Mar 5 Lk 1:26-38
Mar 6 Mt 5:17-19
Mar 7 Jer 7:23-28
Mar 8 Mk 12:28-34
Mar 9 Lk 5:1-11

FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

Mar 10 Jn 9:1-41
Mar 11 Jn 4:43-54
Mar 12 Ez 47:1-9, 12
Mar 13 Is 49:8-15
Mar 14 Jn 5:31-47
Mar 15 Ps 34:17-21,23
Mar 16 Jer 11:18-20

FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Mar 17 Jn 11:1-45
Mar 18 Jn 8:1-11
Mar 19 Jn 8:21-30
Mar 20 Jn 8:31-42
Mar 21 Gn 17:3-9
Mar 22 Ps 18:2-7
Mar 23 Ez 37:21-28

HOLY WEEK

Mar 24 Mk 14:1-15:47
Mar 25 Is 42:1-7
Mar 26 Jn 13:21-33,36-38
Mar 27 Mt 26:14-25
Mar 28 Jn 13:1-15
Mar 29 Is 52:13-53:12
Mar 30 Mk 16:1-7

"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified." - Mark 16:6

This holy time urges us to seek
Jesus through prayer, penance, and
works of charity.



Lent precedes and prepares for Easter. It is a time to hear the Word of God, to turn away from sin, to prepare for and remember Baptism, to be reconciled with God and one's neighbor, and to make more frequent recourse to the "weapons of Christian penance": prayer, fasting and good works (cf. Mt 6, 1-6. 16-18).

The Sacred Liturgy express a mystical aspect of Lent through its great themes or values, such a relationship between "the sacrament of forty days" and "the sacraments of Christian Initiation", and the mystery of the "Exodus" which is always present in the Lenten journey. Popular piety concentrates in a special way on the mysteries of Christ's humanity, and during Lent the faithful pay close attention to the Passion and Death of Our Lord.

In the Roman Rite, the start of the forty days of penance is marked with the austere symbol of ashes which are used in the Sacred Liturgy of Ash Wednesday. The use of ashes is a survival from an ancient rite

"THE NEED TO TURN THE MIND TOWARD THOSE REALITIES WHICH REALLY COUNT"

according to which converted sinners submitted themselves to canonical penance. The act of putting on ashes symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal penance to which all the Baptized are called during Lent. The faithful who come to receive ashes should be assisted in perceiving the implicit internal significance of this act, which disposes them towards conversion and renewed Easter commitment.

Notwithstanding the secularization of contemporary society, the Christian faithful, during Lent, are clearly conscious of the need to turn the mind towards those realities which really count, which require Gospel commitment and integrity of life which, through self-denial of those things which are superfluous, are translated into good works and solidarity with the poor and needy.

Those of the faithful who infrequently attend the sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist should be aware

of the long ecclesial tradition associating the precept of confessing grave sins and receive Holy Communion at least once during the Lenten season, or preferably during Eastertide.

There can be an effective and fruitful interaction between Sacred Liturgy and popular piety during the forty days of Lent.

An example of such interaction is to be seen in fact that popular piety often encourages particular observances on certain days, or special devotional exercises, or apostolic or charitable works which are foreseen and recommended by the Lenten Liturgy. The practice of fasting, characteristic of the Lenten season since antiquity, is an "exercise" which frees the faithful from earthly concerns so as to discover the life that comes from above: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (cf. Dt 8,3; Mt 4, 4; Lk 4,4; antiphon for the first Sunday of Lent).

Adapted from *The Directory of Popular Piety and the Liturgy*, 124-126.)



Seeking Jesus with the Church

*The following are the
guidelines for the
observance of Lent:*

Seeking the Forgiveness of Jesus

During Lent, we approach the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as the way of returning to the Father who restores for us the dignity of our Baptism and the full privilege of being adopted as His children. An integral confession calls us to spend time examining our conscience, not only remembering those material sins which we have committed, but also allowing God's Spirit to probe the depths of our hearts to uncover our unrecognized wounds and unclaimed motives. Discerning why we commit the sins in our life helps us to be open more

fully to the redeeming work of Christ through this Sacrament. The most important component of Confession is contrition, sorrow for our sins, which comes only when we make a good and honest self-examination before we enter the confessional.

PRAYER

Have I prayed as I ought? Has God been at the center of my life? How I have ignored God and His divine inspiration? Have I listened attentively to God's voice in the Sacred Liturgy? Have I been faithful to my obligation for Sunday Mass and Holy Days? Do I prepare myself and those entrusted to my care for Mass? Am I lazy or complacent in prayer? Do I pray for my loved ones and my enemies? Is my prayer self-centered? Have I explored the rich spirituality of the Catholic Tradition and its many ways of devotion? Do I spend time in prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament?

PENANCE

Have I made Fridays throughout the year a day of penance? If I eat meat, do I do another act of penance? Do I fast throughout the year? Do I willingly abstain from those unnecessary things which clutter my life? Does noise make me deaf to others and to God? Am I aware of the ways in which my sins make me

unworthy of my wonderful vocation as a Christian? Am I humbled by the love and goodness of God in my life? Do I see my faith as a gift and not a burden? Do I receive Holy Communion worthily? Do I have a sense of entitlement or superiority? Do I exercise my body and mind? Do I live a healthy lifestyle?

CHARITY

Do I give of myself freely and generously to others? Do I forgive those who have harmed me? Do I give others the benefit of the doubt? Do I judge the motives of others? Am I faithful to my obligations to my family, to my parish, to those in need? Do I give from my surplus or my want? Do I trust that God will reward a cheerful giver? Am I sensitive to the sufferings of others? Do I allow myself to acknowledge the many persons I encounter each day? Do I hold opinions which bring harm to others? Do I make decisions which are contrary to Catholic moral teaching? Do I desire the admiration and praise of others? Do I love myself enough to study and grow in my faith? Have I been a good steward of creation and the created goods entrusted to me?

PRAYING. Catholics are encouraged to pray more during Lent, especially with Sacred Scripture. Spiritual reading, such as the lives of the saints, and devotions like the Stations of the Cross and the Holy Rosary are helpful to spiritual growth. Lent is also an ideal time to receive properly the Sacrament of Penance in preparation for the celebration of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

FASTING. Catholics aged 14 and older are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent. In addition, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics aged 18-59 are required to fast, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day not equal to the full meal.

ALMSGIVING. Moved by the sacrifice of Christ and the suffering of humanity, many Christians combine almsgiving with fasting, giving to the poor the money they saved by eating, drinking or buying less as they rely more upon God's abundant grace. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy provide ample inspiration for other ways to sacrifice time and resources for those most in need of help.



*Lord Jesus, Son of God,
have mercy on me a sinner.
Grant me the grace to be
renewed during this ob-
servance of Holy Lent.
Armed with prayer, penance,
and almsgiving, may I lay
aside those things which
hinder my search for You!*



Hearing God's Voice

TUESDAY LENTEN SERIES

A DIFFERENT AND REFRESHING APPROACH TO LENT

- Would you like to know more about what God wants for you in your daily moments?
- Do you try to do all the right things but still come up empty or only half full?
- Do you often feel more guilt than hope and joy?
- Do you need healing for things that have happened to you or for difficulties in your life?

In this 5-part series, you will learn how to let God, in His kindness, take you from where you are to where he wants you to be, and how to bring others with you.

DATES: Tuesdays: February 20, 27, and March 5, 12, 19

TIME: 7-9 PM

LOCATION: Church

COST: Free

*** You don't have to attend every session to participate! ***



Offered by two of our parishioners, Mary Kay Stebbins (Founder, As You are Ministries and student at Global Awakening) and Dr. Mike Stebbins (PhD systematic theology) assisted by a team from Global Awakening, an ecumenical team of fellow Christians!

For more information on the program and the presenters, please visit stjosephmech.org/Hearing-Gods-Voice-Lenten-Series, or scan the QR code provided.



REGISTRATION:

Visit stjosephmech.org/Hearing-Gods-Voice-Lenten-Series or scan the QR code above.

Or, feel free to fill out the slip on the right, and return it to the Parish Office or drop it in the collection basket at Mass.

HEARING GOD'S VOICE LENTEN SERIES

Name _____

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Archdiocese Of Harrisburg

2024 Individual Ticket Order Form

The Archdiocese of Harrisburg is working with *Hersheypark*® to offer tickets at a substantial discount to parishioners and their families.

If you would like to order tickets for the 2024 *Hersheypark* season (valid any ONE public operating day), complete and submit this ORDER FORM along with full payment, checks made payable to your parish, by

Friday, April 19, 2024.

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Note: Tickets are valid any ONE public operating day during the 2024 Hersheypark season. Tickets must be used on or before expiration date printed on the ticket. Hersheypark does not offer refunds, extensions or upgrades for unused tickets.

Quantity	Type	Gate	YOUR Price	Savings	TOTAL
	ALL Ages (ages 3+) Ticket valid through January 1, 2025	\$ 87.80	\$ 43.95	49 % OFF Gate	\$
	Single Use Meal Deal: Choose a meal at any one of the participating food venues. Voucher includes an entrée, side and drink	\$19.06	\$19.06		\$
	Prepaid Parking Passes	\$30.00	\$25.00	16% OFF Parking	\$
	ORDER GRAND TOTAL				\$

Parishes will receive tickets on or before the week of May 20, 2024

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