

Dear Padre,

What is the value of lighting a candle in church?

Lighting candles is one of many customs that can be found in most of the world's religions. Lit candles, in church or at home, in front of a picture or statue of a favorite saint, serve a symbolic function. The light of the candle represents our desire that our prayer may be constant, as St. Paul urged (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The candle burns while we go about our daily tasks, symbolizing our desire to be at prayer with God. Similarly, Tibetan Buddhists spin prayer wheels and believe that as long as the wheels spin, a prayer is offered. Candles give light and banish the darkness. For Catholics they symbolize the light of Christ, by whose death and resurrection we are saved.

Lighting a candle isn't a required act. You can pray without lighting candles, without statues, without anything but your faith in God. However, we Catholics love our symbols. We like to engage all of our senses in our prayer experience: beautiful churches, colored light, incense, great music and, yes, candles.

One extreme position to avoid is lighting a candle hoping it will cause something else to happen, like the sudden cure of a loved one or relief from financial ruin. We are to avoid all appearance of using candles as if they have an untapped, magical power. Nevertheless, lighting a candle as a part of our prayer is a comforting custom and most things (and people?) look lovelier by candlelight. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](#) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17-28	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	Ex 17:3-7
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
						Jn 4:5-42



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy,... "The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint."

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD), MARCH 19, 2018



CNS PHOTO/JAMES RAMOS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 5, 2023
Second Sunday of Lent (A)
Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-19



Once Upon a Mountaintop

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Many people, perhaps most people, have had a religious experience of some sort, something akin to that of Peter, James, and John atop the mountain with Jesus. It may or may not have included hearing a voice. Most often it is a deep sense of God's presence beyond anything they have ever known, like a profound realization of what life is about or how it is laced through and through with God. It usually occurs as we are idle, not doing anything in particular, and often when we are younger, yet it is also something that changes our understanding of what life and God are about.

Most people do not talk about such experiences for any number of reasons, partly because there do not seem to be words to describe such a moment in a way anyone would understand, like trying to describe falling in love. Partly because if we tried, we fear others would think us strange. And partly because we can find ourselves wondering whether it was real or simply our imagination. Yet always we remember the moment and know it to be true.

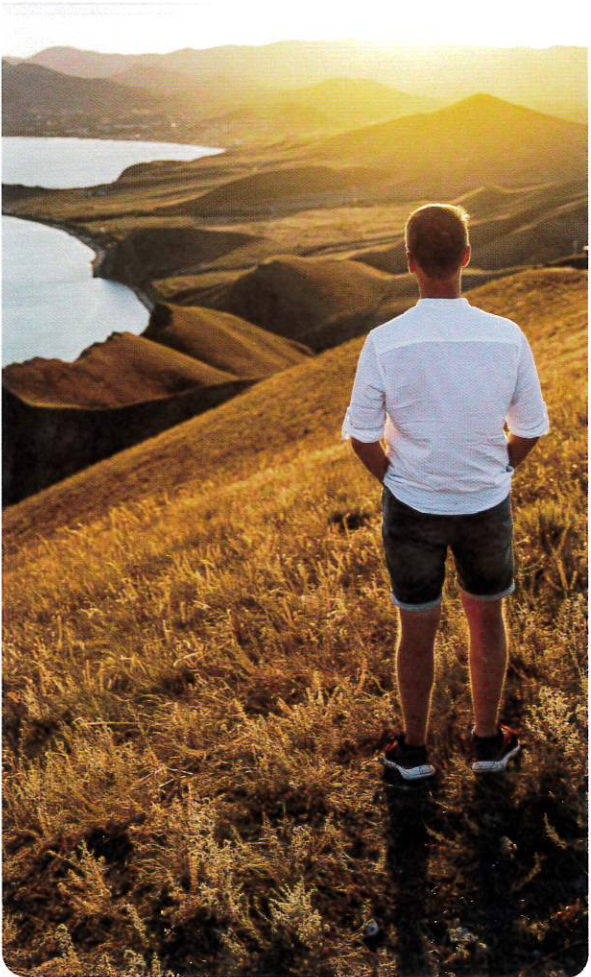
One additional characteristic of such moments is that they tend to take us to a new place in life, as with Abram in the first reading. For him it was to pack up his life and move. More likely for us it is to a life of service, caring, and treasuring all of life now in a new way. ●

Reflect

If you've had a religious experience, is there someone you can talk to about how it changed your faith?

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

MATTHEW 17:5B



SACRED HEART CHURCH OF MANLY, IOWA

OUR MISSION IS TO BE A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY THAT WILL LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD, BE FAITHFUL TO HIS TEACHINGS AND KNOWING, LOVING AND SERVING GOD.

PASTOR: Fr. Neil Manternach Phone: 641-423-5001
PARISH PASTOR: Fr. Jake Dunne Phone 641-423-5001
PASTORAL COORDINATOR: Mike and Wilma Romig Phone: 641-454-2559
COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS ED: Kelley O’Keefe Phone: 641-425-1615
YOUTH MINISTER: Fr. Jake Dunne Phone: 641-423-5001
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday – 5:30 pm
WEEKDAY MASS: Wednesday – 8:00 am
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: First Saturday of the Month, prior to Mass
WWW. Sacredheartmanly.org

March 5, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

MASS INTENTIONS AT MANLY FOR OTHER AREA MASS TIMES
Saturday March 4th-----Frank Brcka SATURDAY 4:00 PM HOLY FAMILY
Wednesday March 8th-----Ray Aves SUNDAY 7:30 & 9:00 AM St. JOSEPH
Saturday March 11th-----Gene Halfman SUNDAY 10:30AM HOLY FAMILY

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

LECTORS
March 4th & 11th Betty Benjegerdes
March 18th & 25th JoAnn Andera

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
March 4th & 11th Marilyn Haugen
March 18th & 25th Betty Krones

USHERS OFFERTORY GIFTS
March 4th & 11th Mike Romig & Jamie Welsh Dennis & Jean Fitzl
March 18th & 25th Lennis Krones & Mark Halbach Mike & Wilma Romig

FINANCIAL GIVING: COLLECTION RECEIVED ON THE WEEKEND: February 25, 2023,
Tithing \$880.00; Offertory \$191.00; Renovation \$20.00 Total \$1091.00 Thank You!

There is 8:00 AM Mass Wednesday March 8, 2022

Parish Life will meet Thursday March 9, at 7:00 PM

FROM THE PASTOR

Week after week, you, our parishioners are financially generous to our Sacred Heart Parish. On top of that many of you gave to make possible the front step project last year, along with the grant we received. So, I want to make you aware of an upcoming challenge this spring for our parish financially.
Simply, we have three large bills that will come due totaling up to \$28,538.63.
Firstly, \$14,248.44 of assessed tax to the Archdiocese of Dubuque due here in March. This bill is higher than usual because of the grant that we received this last year for the front steps project. Secondly, \$11,214.19 to pay Rock Central who fixed our water leak that we had this winter. This bill is due as soon as we have the money.
Thirdly, our insurance bill of \$3,076 due in May. (We are self-insured through the Archdiocese).

These three bills aren’t superfluous, they represent the meat and potatoes of what it takes to operate our parish. Fixing the physical plant, covering our insurance, and paying for the services and support of the Archdiocese are not wants but needs. Obviously, the need to fix the water pipe coming into the Church building was a surprise, but these things happen, and we are lucky that the fix was relatively easy, and they found the problem quickly.
We have \$65,000 in savings, but it would be wise for us to meet our expenses without dipping into savings. Since these are necessary bills, I ask that you consider our needs and discern how much you can financially support our parish on top of your regular giving. Finally, allow me to preemptively express my gratitude to you knowing how generous our parishioners are.

Our sympathy goes to the Family and Friends of
John J. Hornyak
Eternal rest grant upon him O’Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Your Gift Changes Lives Through Catholic Charities:
Your support at any level makes a difference in the lives of your neighbors in Northeast Iowa. Did you know that a gift of \$50 helps put a client on the path to stable employment? Or that a gift of \$150 helps someone take their first step to improve their mental health? That a gift of \$300 helps to prevent eviction and keep a family in their home? Support this important work and much more with your gift to Catholic Charities Annual Appeal. Learn more at:
<http://www.CatholicCharitiesDubuque.org>.

Local Knight of Columbus Fish Fries and/of Chicken Dinners
The Knights of Columbus will be serving fish and/or chicken dinners every Friday during March at the Columbia Club, Mason City. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., serving begins at 5:15 p.m. Cost is \$10 per dinner. The meal includes 2 fish fillets and/or chicken, tuna casserole, mashed potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw and a dinner roll.