



*St. Joseph ~
Mother Church of
the Berkshires
Established 1849*



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

414 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tel: (413) 445-5789

Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Website: www.stjoepittsfield.com

THE STAFF

Pastor ~ Msgr. Michael Shershanovich
e-mail: msgrmike@berkshire.rr.com

Parochial Vicar ~ Rev. Michael Goodreau

Priest in Residence ~ Most. Rev. Timothy McDonnell

Secretary ~ Michele Madden
e-mail: Michelemadden@berkshire.rr.com

Coordinator of Youth Religious Education
John Arasimowicz
e-mail: johnaccd@gmail.com

Pastoral Minister ~ Mrs. Patricia Momnie

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY ~ (413) 499-1317

Website: www.stjoecem.com

e-mail: stjoecem@verizon.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday-4:00 PM

Sunday-9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

*The 9 AM Mass is streamed live at
stjoepittsfield.com & on the Parish App*

Daily Mass-12:10 PM

RCIA-Wed. 6:30 PM

Holy Hour —Monday - Friday 11:00 AM

Rosary —Monday - Friday 11:30 AM

PRAYER LINE 413-443-1221



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

- Mk 9:7-8

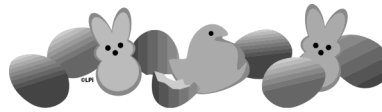
February 28, 2021

The
Season
of
Lent



LENTEN REGULATIONS

1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat as well as days of fast, when only one full meal is allowed. On days of fast 2 other meatless meals may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.
2. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.
3. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at 14 years of age.
4. The obligation to fast begins at 18 years of age and ends at 59 years of age.
5. Although the faithful may excuse themselves for a just cause from these laws of fast and abstinence, there is an obligation to substitute another penance and no Catholic should lightly excuse himself/herself from this obligation in the Lenten season.



Lenten
S C H E D U L E

DAILY CONFESSION: Mon. ~ Fri. 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.// Wed. evening 6:30 ~ 7:00 p.m.// Sat. 3:00 p.m. ~ 3:45 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fri. 6:00 p.m.

VESPERS: Sun. 6 p.m. in the church.

RCIA: Wed. 7 p.m.

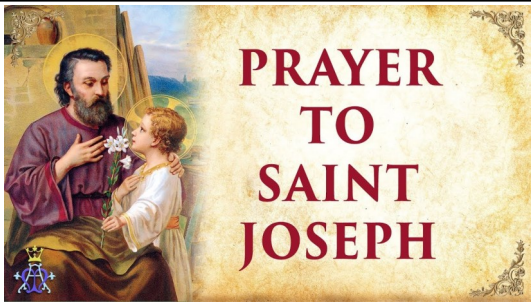
HOLY HOUR: Daily 11:00 a.m. ~ Noon

DAILY MASS: 12:10 P.M.

Annual Catholic Appeal will begin on February 17th. This appeal funds the many ministries conducted by the diocese. Our goal this year is \$35,000. Please be as generous as your means allow.

Annual
CATHOLIC
Appeal

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL PRAYER ~ SOWING THE SEEDS
O God, open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seed of Your Word scattered among us fall on the fertile land and through the Annual Catholic Appeal make us good stewards in faith. May these seeds take root in our hearts and lives and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. Fortify us for difficult times that we may endure. Deliver us from distraction and all that may confuse us and choke us with false promises. Till us, turn us, and enrich us with every blessing of your spirit that we may be fruitful and forever faithful for you. Amen



PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O
blessed
Joseph,
do we come
in our
tribulation,
and having
implored the
help of your
most holy

Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.
Amen.

Seniors need help to get your shot? Call the Froio Senior Center at 499-5575 or call 499-9346 or just dial 211. They can help you make an appointment.

If you weren't able to come last week to the first Lenten Vesper session, it's not too late to begin. Vesper Service begins at 6 p.m. in the church. This is a great way to prepare spiritually for the Easter Celebration.



Please consider signing up to give your donations to our parish online. It is very easy to do. You can donate either with a credit card or a check and choose

how much you would like to give and how often: weekly, monthly, semi-monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. You can go directly to the website at <https://stjoepittsfield.weshareonline.org> to sign up. We thank you for your generosity during these difficult times.



From the desk of John Arasimowicz: To our families and students of Saint Joseph CCD programs, please remember that Lent has begun. Please try to remember Jesus every day in prayer, being kind to a friend or a family member, going out of your way and doing something nice for someone else, giving up your time to help someone. This is our way of showing Jesus how much we love him. This is a wonderful way to prepare for Easter. Please continue to use your weekly news. If you can, watch Mass on our website. Please continue to follow all the restrictions with COVID-19 to keep everyone safe and healthy so we can you get back to our parish community in person. May God bless you and watch over you and keep you safe.

Sunday
School



VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR

We have no one in the seminary at the present time. This means there will be no ordinations for the next several years,. For this reason our bishop, Bishop William has made himself the new Vocation Director for the Diocese. He is inviting men to seriously consider the priesthood. He is calling all of us to pray for vocations publicly by participating in special Masses and Holy Hours throughout our diocese. We the parish of St. Joseph have been asked to start this public prayer for Vocations on Friday night, March 19th at 7 pm. This is the year dedicated to St Joseph. What a fitting place to start this vocation awareness. Please join us for this Holy Hour on March 19th at 7pm. There will also be an opportunity for private confession at this time. Area priests have been invited to be here.



Thank you everyone and especially the ladies of the St. Anne's Society who helped send Valentines to our shut-ins. We hope the cards and good wishes helped to bring a little joy and love to all who received them.

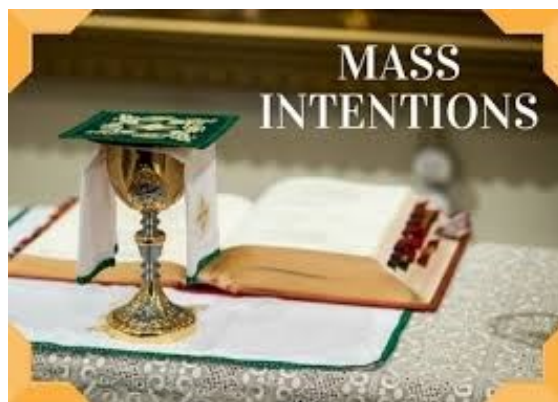


FEBRUARY 28, 2021 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

A pregnant woman was walking in the store and met an old friend. Her friend exclaimed, "You are absolutely beaming!" The new life God placed in her womb radiated throughout her body. It was brightly visible on her face and in her eyes. Transformation and change usually happen from the inside out. It is very rare that simply imposing structure from the outside does any good. Yes, it is true that routines and habits can change when things are done differently. But, for this change to last there has to be an interior renewal and metamorphosis as well. Simply regulating behavior and bringing someone into conformity with accepted protocols doesn't mean their heart and soul come with them. Peter was a homeless man who lived in a very remote and rudimentary tent community. He was happy to make his daily trip to McDonald's and always welcomed a gift card or two so that he could buy some coffee and something to eat. A generous advocate worked to secure him an apartment in hopes of moving Peter out of his makeshift housing and into something safer. Peter finally got the grand tour of his new "digs," received his own key, remarked how wonderful the place was, closed the door behind him when they left and never returned. He preferred his tent. No matter how much things changed on the outside, Peter was happy where he was. A poignant lesson was learned that day. How is your Lent going? By now you ought to have a sense of whether you're really "into it" this year and something transformational is happening. For many, it's only the stuff on the outside that changes for a few weeks and then they return to business as usual.

For others, there are some real inner changes happening that are deepening their relationships with God, others, self, and creation. If we are serious about moving to a new place and radiating with the presence of new life and joy, then we have to clear the way to listen for God's call. Then, there is God's request to change things up a bit and order our lives differently.

After realizing we have been called and given a mission, we have to trust that this is where we need to be. And then, after all of this hard work we are asked to act. The fruit that is revealed will indicate whether our journey is authentic. The brilliance of conversion will begin to shine on our faces as we contemplate the One to whom we are asked to listen.



Saturday, February 27th George Clark Requested by Rectory Friends	4:00 PM
Sunday, February 28th Carmen Giannopolo Requested by Family	9:00 AM
Sandy Chmielewski Requested by Diane DePatie	11:30 AM
Monday, March 1st Hai Wong Requested by Van Bui	12:10 PM
Tuesday, March 2nd Jose Blanco Requested by Mary	12:10 PM
Wednesday, March 3rd For the Parish	12:10 PM
Thursday, March 4th Pat Trzcinka Requested by Anne Flynn	12:10 PM
Friday, March 5th Anne Martin Requested by Pat	12:10 PM
Saturday, March 6th Linda Collins—3rd Anniversary Requested by Mike & Family	4:00 PM



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 28th

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 [9]/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9 11 and 13 [cf. 103:10a]/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16 [17b]/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 15:1-3, 11-3