



*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



**3rd SUNDAY
OF EASTER**

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day." - Lk 24:45-46

April 18, 2021

MEATBALL & PASTA FUNDRAISER



Take out dinner will be held at St. Joseph Parish Saturday, April 24, 2021. It includes meatballs, pasta, salad and dessert. The dinner is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #103. This year our dinners are dedicated to our brother Knight and head chef, Phil Janchuk. All meals must be pre-ordered and pre-paid at St. Joseph Rectory. Meals will be delivered to you at the St. Joseph Church parking lot. Pickup times will start at 4 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. When you arrive, kindly give the attendant your name and number of meals. Each dinner is \$15.00. All proceeds will go to St. Joseph Parish.



20/20 TICKETS

If you need 20/20 tickets, please call the rectory at 413-445-5789.



And the Word Is..... PANERA

by Fr. John Connors

Is there a connection between the Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal and Panera? For me, the answer is yes! I saw it firsthand. About a year ago, on my day off, I was at Panera over in West Springfield. (I usually get the Cinnamon Crunch, toasted with butter). As I was eating it, a young employee of Panera, who was around 21 years old or so, came over to my table to clear it. In doing so, he asked me if I was a priest. I said, yes. He then went on to tell me that he remembered me coming up to New Spirit Camp one summer in Goshen. New Spirit is a Catholic youth camp conducted for high school and middle school students for one week each summer. It is held up at Camp Holy Cross in Goshen. I usually visit the camp to lend support on one day for each of the two weeks. Some of our youth in our parish have been there over the years. I hope this summer it will be back.

What happens during the camp? Students get the opportunity to share, witness, and talk about their faith and Jesus Christ through music, interaction, and, of course have fun. Mass is available and confessions are provided in the middle of the week. The students really enjoy the camp. The formula the New Spirit organization uses really does work. It is an extremely popular summer youth camp and fills up with registrations in just a few days. Most of the students return year after year. There are typically about 150 students from high school, and on another week, about the same number of middle school students. Learning and growing more understanding about God can not only be fun, but life changing. Thus, the name "New Spirit." It is incredible the effect that week of camp has on these young people. You can check out New Spirit at their website at www.newspiritinc.org. The camp is very popular and books up fast. The Panera employee told me the camp had changed his life about God.

Now he has a powerful new relationship with God. He told me he enjoyed the experience so much, that, after high school, he stayed on as a Camp counselor for a couple of summers. The Annual Catholic Appeal supports this youth ministry in our Diocese, as well as other outreach ministries. Your contributions to the Appeal help fund their work. The impact of the Appeal touches many people, young and old, in Western Massachusetts. This conversation with the young man at Panera is yet another example of how that happens. This year's Appeal is winding down in the weeks. Right now, we are still a third of the way from the \$3 million goal. We thank those who have supported the Appeal, and encourage those who haven't to make their gift today. So, the next time you are at Panera, look around. Because there might be someone working there who has experienced a "new spirit" and a new relationship with God. In part, because of your support for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL www.diospringfield.org/ACA

Annual
Catholic
Appeal



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Thank you to the 147
parishioners who have donated
or pledged \$26,628.

Our parish goal is \$35,000. We're almost there!
Please considering donating to help us reach our
goal.



Thank you for all who donated
to the beautiful Easter flowers!

Dear Parents, May God's peace be with you:

Coinciding with the celebration of Easter, the month of April is the **National Child Abuse Prevention Month**. As Bishop Byrne has said, "the Easter spirit-filled celebration of prevention is a reminder of the God given responsibility which is entrusted to every Catholic adult throughout the Diocese to join in the cause to create and maintain nurturing environments for the children God has entrusted to our care and protection." In conjunction with an invitation from Bishop Byrne to all parishes to join this national effort to bring an increased awareness, the Diocesan Offices of Catholic Schools, Faith Formation and Safe Environment and Victim Assistance have developed a few resources to promote child safety in our schools and faith formation programs. We have developed age appropriate, grade specific lessons and activities to raise awareness about child safety and well being that will be delivered through our Catholic schools and religious education programs. These will be made available to every family through our programs, Diocesan social medial channels, as well as a designated area of the Diocese of Springfield website. In addition, on Wednesday,

April 14th the Diocese of Springfield will be recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month. A special flag raising ceremony and prayer service will take place to honor those who have suffered abuse and raise awareness for child abuse prevention. St. Michael's Cathedral will fly the Children's Memorial Flag throughout the remainder of the month to honor and recognize National Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month. We hope this event and the lessons prepared for our schools and programs will raise awareness of the role we play in providing a safe and loving environment for each child in our care. We hope the resources provided also encourage good conversations at home about child safety and well being.

God Bless, Daniel Baillargeon, PhD,
Superintendent of Catholic Schools



YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH
December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021

2021 YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Pope Francis recalled the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021. Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.

Pope Francis encourages all of us to pray:

**HAIL, GUARDIAN OF THE REDEEMER,
SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.
TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;
IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;
WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.
BLESSED JOSEPH, TO US TOO,
SHOW YOURSELF A FATHER
AND GUIDE US IN THE PATH OF LIFE.
OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY, AND
COURAGE, AND DEFEND US FROM EVERY
EVIL. AMEN.**



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.



**APRIL 18, 2021
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

We often act out of ignorance. Armed with the best of intentions, we think we are seeing clearly and correctly, but we are not. We don't always understand the full meaning of things and only perceive part of the truth. Hence, our judgments and actions can be impaired by myopic, incomplete or erroneous perceptions. The meaning of life, understanding of human experience, and negotiating life's challenges can all become skewed without proper understanding and vision. The resurrection of Christ is the corrective to our incomplete and limited view of life. Looking at things with the eyes of faith brings a depth of clarity and understanding to how we see God, ourselves, others, and the world. Given the disciples struggled with their limited understanding and ignorant perceptions. It was only when Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures that their eyes were opened. It was their "aha" moment when everything clicked. We all want the substance of our lives to come together, make sense, and have meaning. This is easier to achieve when things are going positively, and life is good. It is when suffering, disappointment, death, hardship, and injustice enter the picture that things can become unsettled and disoriented. Our faith in the goodness and love of God is tested. We tend to shift our focus on these difficult and challenging moments and do not see them within the greater picture of how God intends life to unfold. We can gain, from the passion and resurrection of Christ, the clear vision we need in order to move away from ignorance to enlightenment. We need our "aha" moment when everything comes together and clicks. It can come in a fleeting instant when we feel totally connected with God, where we find ourselves, others and all of creation. It is a moment when all is right and good, regardless of how difficult our journey. Our "aha" moment assures us that God is here, right with us, in us and around us bringing us a gift and blessing we can receive nowhere else: peace. In those brief sacramental encounters when we are lifted up out of ourselves and centered, we can hear God say, "peace be with you," and we feel secure. It's all okay. The resurrected Christ has the power to bring this gift to us. Some people, as they are facing their deaths, remark about this peace. When looking into the window of eternity, they experience a depth of joy and are amazed at God's goodness and closeness. We are called to be witnesses to this Good News.

Saturday, April 17th Frances Lysonski Requested by Family	4:00 PM
Sunday, April 18th Jeanne Dolan Requested by Carol Moloney	9:00 AM
Phil Janchuk Requested by Knights of Columbus	11:30 AM
<i>Sanctuary Candle</i> Bill & Rose Ann Miller Requested by Dottie & Steve	
Monday, April 19th Stefania Swiech Requested by Barb & Bob Conway	12:10 PM
Tuesday, April 20th Stephen "Jake" Trzepacz Requested by Family	12:10 PM
Wednesday, April 21st Peg Scholz Requested by Dave & Peggy	12:10 PM
Thursday, April 22nd George Martin Requested by Pat	12:10 PM
Friday, April 23rd Dinh Nguyen Requested by Van Bui	12:10 PM
Saturday, April 24th Tina Marcinczyk Requested by Family	4:00 PM



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APR. 18th
Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/ Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/ Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69