

St. Joseph ~ Mother Church of the Berkshires

~Established 1849~



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday-4:00 PM

Sunday~9:00 & 11:30 AM

9 AM Mass streamed live at
stjoepittsfield.com & the
Parish App

Daily Mass~12:10 PM

RCIA~Wed. 6:30 PM

Holy Hour ~Mon.-Fri. 11 AM

Rosary ~Mon - Fri. 11:30 AM

Prayer Line 413-443-1221

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

414 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201
Tel: (413) 445-5789

Hours: Mon.- Wed: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Website: www.stjoepittsfield.com

THE STAFF

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

Parochial Vicar~Rev. Michael Goodreau

Deacon Robert Esposito
413-281-5812

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

7th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

“Be merciful, just as your
Father is merciful.” - Lk 6:36



TAKE-OUT FISH FRY DINNER
Friday, March 11th from 4 to 6PM at St. Joseph Church Parish Center.
Lenten fish fry includes fried scrod, French fries, coleslaw and dessert. The donation is \$15. Tickets are prepaid by calling the Rectory at 413-445-5789. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #103. The proceeds will benefit St. Joseph Church and the Knights of Columbus. Everyone is welcome!



February 20, 2022 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST
“In increasing grace, the Eucharist enlightens our faith, revives our hope, kindles our charity, and infuses our souls with a new outpouring the gifts of Fortitude, the Fear of God, and Piety.” St. John Vianney, *Eucharistic Meditations: 8th Meditation.*
For more information and videos check out www.yearoftheeucharist.net



Thank you to everyone who sent a Valentine to a shut-in. It means so very much to them to know they are remembered by their Parish family.

MASS INTENTIONS
Remember your loved one by having a Mass said for them. Call the rectory at 413-445-5879.



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.

PRIESTS & MARRIAGE COUNSELING

Question: How can a priest counsel people about marriage when he has never been married?

Answer: If a marriage counselor is in a bad marriage does that mean that he or she will be a bad counselor? If one's counseling ability depended upon first-hand experience, would that require counselors to be perfect before they can help others? Obviously not. Some of the skills necessary to help others do come out of personal life experience. But you don't need personal, first-hand experience in order to understand something. We would not think that a doctor, who is an oncologist, would not be able to treat cancer because he himself has never been sick. We also would not expect every doctor to treat cancer. It is the same with priests. Essentially marriage is a relationship and we've all been involved in different kinds of relationships: in our family, with our friends, and with God. And so counseling people about marriage is really helping them to look at the issues that really are part of their relationship, finding ways to better understand themselves in relationship to one another and in relationship to God. In many ways a priest's training, background, and experience, as well as his personal knowledge of many different relationships in families and couples, gives him a broad background from which to draw upon. Most priests are quite capable of helping couples prepare for marriage and discussing the issues that are important as they begin their life together. And they do not do it alone. With the help of married couples and specially trained counselors, most parishes offer a very good preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL
Theme this year: Transformed in Christ. Our Parish Goal is \$35,000. The Bishop asks for our prayers, leadership, cooperation and support. Starts Ash Wednesday and continues to Pentecost Sunday, June 5th. Our Parish can make a difference.



For a Synodal Church
Communion/participation/mission

If you had the chance, what question would YOU ask Pope Francis? What question would YOU ask Bishop Byrne?

SYNOD 2021/2023- Pope Francis invites all to take part in Synod 2021/2023. The synod invites all peoples throughout the world, and all of us here in western Massachusetts, to reflect on how we're journeying together as a people of God. Consultations will take place in March and April in every parish and hopefully many communities here in western Massachusetts. But we need volunteers to assist in planning, facilitating, note taking, hosting, hospitality and communications outreach. If you would like to learn more and/or volunteer let your pastor know or email or call 413 452-0571. You can also learn more about this worldwide synod including some informational videos by logging onto www.diospringfield.org/synod.

Note
from the
pastor



If you or a loved one are going into the hospital, please let us know so we can visit. Call the rectory at 413-445-5789.



FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry wishes to thank the Parish for its continued support and recent personal care item donations. The need is real. Please keep them coming.



CCD Classes: Sunday, the 20th and 27th is winter break, no classes.

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THANKING GOD FOR MISSING SPEARS

Imagine how Saul must have felt when he awoke from his sleep and saw his spear missing from its resting place. Now imagine how he felt when he realized that the person who had it was the same person seeking his life — and there he sat, safe and sound. Now there's a day you don't forget your morning prayers. I think if we look, we can all find a "missing spear moment" in our lives, when it hits us right in the gut that God has kept us safe from an impending disaster. This can be physical disaster, sure — but more commonly, I think it is spiritual disaster. Often the salvation comes through the gift of a person, or people, through whom God reveals His mercy. When I was in high school, I had a circle of friends who were really into their faith. We were all in youth ministry together, and the bond we shared taught me a lesson that changed me as a person: we become those with whom we associate. I can look back now, all these years later, and see that these people are evidence of God's hand in my life. Take a look at your life. In whose love has God shown you comfort? By whose hand has God brought you closer to Him, or kept you away from harm? Through whose friendship has God shaped you into the person you are? Let's strive to remember to thank God for these people — and to thank them, too.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. 4:00 p.m.	Sun. 9:00 a.m.	Sun. 11:30 a.m.
Pat Momnie	Bernadette Scapin	Jeff Gerard
Juliette Ekouah	Pat Keegan	Robert Bouquet
Robin O'Brien	Jeff Vincent	Mike McMahon

LECTORS

Sharyn Fresia	Rebecca Cao	Glenna Gerard
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**FEBRUARY 20, 2022
7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sometimes, Jesus' teachings don't seem to make practical sense. When we hear things like love your enemies and do good to them, turn the other cheek when struck, give to anyone who asks, do to others as you would have them do to you, be merciful, stop judging, forgive, and give to others, we get a bit unsettled. After all, it's okay for God to do all of these things, but does He really want us to do them, too? Many good-hearted Christians really draw the line with some of these ideals and say, "No way!" They even remark that if someone did something hurtful to someone they loved, they would have no reservations seeking severe retribution. There is still this persistent thinking, even among those who consider themselves Christian, that a violent action deserves a violent response. Somehow, we continue to justify this. Yet, it is most clearly against the very grain of the Gospel. Part of our difficulty has more to do with understanding God's love. We wrongly think that sinful or hurtful actions and evil people somehow are seen as lesser in God's eyes. They are not. God loves the sinner as much as He does the saint.

And, both of these inclinations exist in every human being, even those who consider themselves holy. Both the capacity for good and the disposition toward evil exist in every one of us. Viktor Frankl has this to say when reflecting on the Holocaust: "Our generation is a realistic generation because we have learned what a human being really is. When all is said and done, man is that same creature who invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz; but he is also that being who walked upright into those chambers with the prayer 'Shema Yisrael' on his lips."

If we believe in God, we have to act like God. Whether we like that idea is another issue. If we don't then perhaps, we need to reconsider our faith and whether we really believe in Jesus Christ. We are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian must, at all costs, leave resentment and the need for retaliation behind, lose defensiveness and bring into the mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world.

Saturday, February 19th Leverne Taylor-16th Anniversary Requested by Family	4:00 PM
Sunday, February 20th James Fabino-Birthday Remembrance Requested by Family	9:00 AM
Patricia Walsh Requested by Family	11:30 AM
<i>Sanctuary Candle</i> Bill & Rose Ann Miller Requested by Family	
Monday, February 21st For the Souls in Purgatory	12:10 PM
Tuesday, February 22nd Phillip Alfano-Birthday Remembrance Requested by Family	12:10 PM
Wednesday, February 23rd For the Parish	12:10 PM
Thursday, February 24th Alan & Mary Ricci Requested by A Friend	12:10 PM
Friday, February 25th Edith Mazzer Requested by the Parish	12:10 PM
Saturday, February 26th Pauline Harris Requested by Guy & Pam Harris	4:00 PM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 20th
Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/ 1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38
Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19
Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/Mk 9:38-40
Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50
Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12
Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16