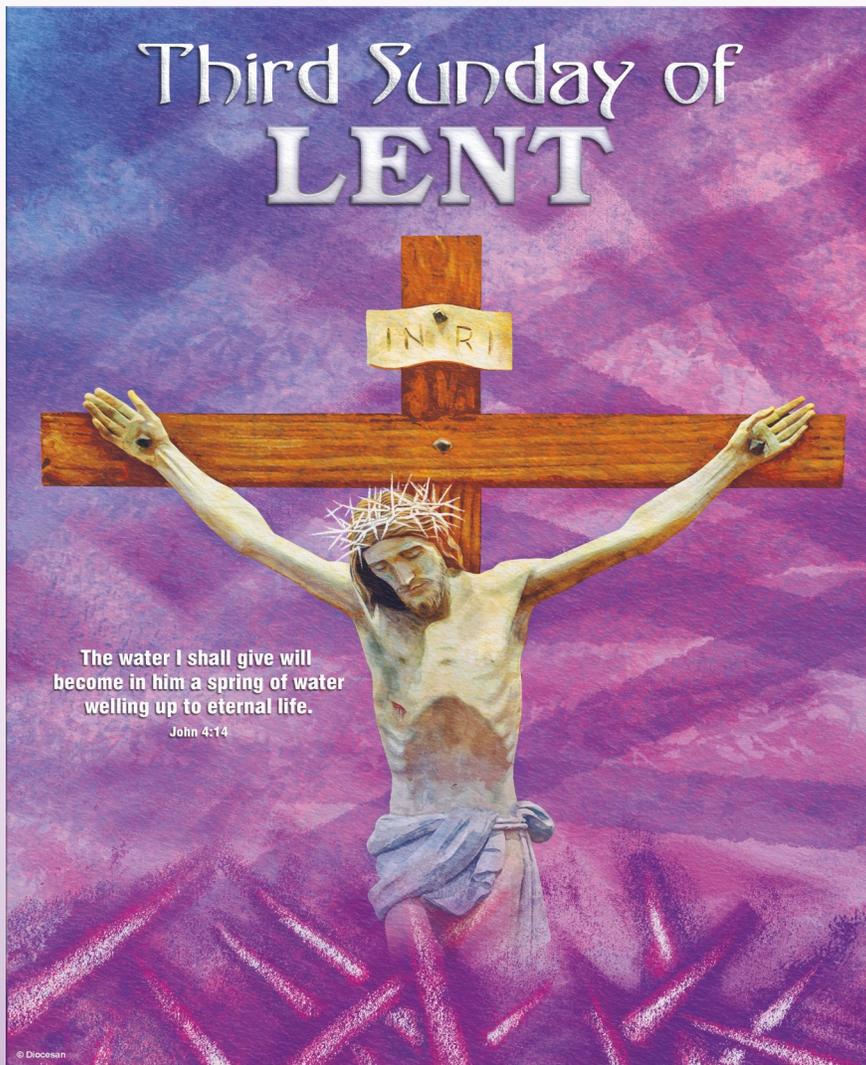


# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Lent  
March 12, 2023



### Contact information

2163 N. Winn Road  
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

Parish Office: 644-2041 / Fax: 644-2026  
School Office: 644-3970 / Fax 644-6968

Website: [www.bealcityparish.org](http://www.bealcityparish.org)

Email: [stjosephtheworkerbcparish@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephtheworkerbcparish@gmail.com)

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### Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Fridays: Office closed

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### Staff

**Pastor:** Father Tom Held

**School Principal:** Dennis Lorenz

**Secretary & Music Dir.:** Erika Hoogerhyde

**Dir. of Religious Ed.:** William Beers

**Bookkeeper:** Lily Monahan

**Maintenance:** David Faber

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays at 3:30 pm until all are heard or anytime by appointment.

**BAPTISM:** Parents should contact the parish office either before or after the baby is born.

**MARRIAGE:** Engaged couples should contact the parish office before setting a wedding date. Marriage preparation classes through this parish are required.

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK:** If homebound or hospitalized, notify the parish office so that requested sacraments or a visit can be arranged. In case of an emergency, call the pastor anytime - day or night.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Each Friday from 8:30-11:30 and Saturday from 10:00-11:00.

## WEEKLY LITURGY SCHEDULE

### Scripture Readings for the Week of March 12, 2023

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 <b>5:00 PM (Sat. Vigil) Mass: +Earl Schafer</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass: +Fred Streng</b> <b>10:30 AM Mass: People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday</b>	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
<b>Tuesday</b>	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 & 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35 <b>5:30 PM Mass: +Mike &amp; Clara Schafer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19 <b>8:00 AM Mass: +Giuliana Tombelli</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 11:14-23 <b>8:00 AM Mass: deceased members of the Ollie Schumacher family</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saint Patrick, Bishop</b> Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-8a 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 & 17; Mk 12:28-34 <b>8:00 AM Mass &amp; Adoration: Bishop Gruss</b> <b>3:40 PM Stations of the Cross</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Saint Cyril, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</b> Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14 <b>9:30 AM First Saturday Mass &amp; Adoration</b> <b>3:30 PM Confessions</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 <b>5:00 PM (Sat. Vigil) Mass: People of the Parish</b> <b>8:30 AM Mass: Joseph Hammerle</b> <b>10:30 AM Mass: +Fred Streng</b>

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

On this Sunday and the next two Sundays, we break from reading the Gospel of Matthew to read from John's Gospel. The Gospel of John is the only Gospel not assigned to a particular liturgical year. Instead, readings from John's Gospel are interspersed throughout our three-year liturgical cycle.

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to

the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshipping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

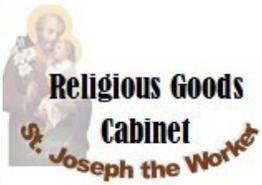
After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

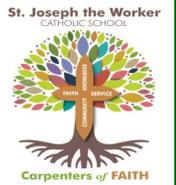


**RELIGIOUS ITEMS:** Christian Service Committee has rosaries, scapulars, crucifixes, holy cards & other religious items for sale in the gathering space of our church. 100% of all donations collected goes to St. Joseph the Worker School. Place payment in the marked cash drawer. Checks can be written to St. Joseph the Worker School. *\*Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto (just off the gathering space) has a fountain which contains water brought here from the shrine in Lourdes, France. There are glass bottles for purchase in our cabinet that can be used to take water home.*

**K OF C BREAKFAST:** March 12 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Please join us!

**K OF C MEETING:** March 14 at 8:00 p.m.

## SCHOOL NEWS



**SCHOOL MASS:** Thursday, March 16, at 8:00 a.m. Please join us!

### FRIDAY DEVOTIONS DURING LENT

Join us on Fridays for 8:00 a.m. Mass followed by these devotion opportunities:



- 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Adoration
- 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 3:30 p.m. Benediction
- 3:40 p.m. Stations of the Cross

## MINISTERS OF WORD

March 18, Saturday, 5:00 PM Mass: Daniela Richter

March 19, Sunday, 8:30 AM Mass: Jack Rau

March 19, Sunday, 10:30 AM Mass: Kristina Beers



Sunday Collections	3/5/2023	Year-To-Date
Envelopes/Online	\$ 10,722.00	\$ 333,534.00
School Support Fund	\$ 105.00	\$ 7,185.00
Cemetery Mtnc	\$ 125.00	\$ 4,065.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 2.00	\$ 1,393.00
Sunday-Holiday Collecti	\$ -	\$ 4,964.00
Loose	\$ 533.00	\$ 24,509.76
<b>Collection Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 375,650.76</b>
Total Budgeted	\$ 11,104.53	\$ 399,763.08
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 382.47</b>	<b>\$ (24,112.32)</b>
Capital Improvement	\$ 337.00	\$ 12,967.00
Flower Offering	\$ 6.00	\$ 1,090.00

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA):** Please remember in prayer our RCIA participants who will become full members of the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil Mass on April 8, 2023:

Ben Kisse



Shantelle Spencer



*O God, we thank you for implanting the gift of faith in human hearts. We thank you for sending Jesus, Your Son, as the fullness of your love. May His life and mission lead us to share in your divine life.*

*Today we ask you to bless in a special way those who have generously responded to the invitation of Jesus: "Come, follow me." Help them to persevere in their journey of faith despite any difficulties. Bless those who minister through the RCIA program so that under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, they may lead others to a life of faith in Jesus Christ.*

*Grant that all parishioners will take an active role in bringing new members into the Church. Call us all to a renewal of our faith, and inspire us all to be your light in the world, through Christ, our Lord. Amen*

**MOUNTAIN TOWN REHAB** (see ad on back page)

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The Catechism quotes Pope John Paul II: "The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."

## PRAISE & WORSHIP ADORATION HOUR

Join us for silent prayer  
and uplifting Praise & Worship music  
in adoration before Jesus in the  
Blessed Sacrament.



**MARCH 18, 2023 FOLLOWING THE  
5:00 P.M. SATURDAY MASS**

Every vocation in the Church comes from and through Christ Jesus. It is he who calls. Spending time in Eucharistic Adoration with our Divine Lord and Friend is a good place to go to ask what he wants with our life. Why not spend some time each week in adoration, in union, in contemplation of the Lord present in the Eucharist?

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## Why we pray, fast and give alms during Lent

*“Give alms ... pray to your Father ... fast, [but] do not look gloomy”  
~ Matthew 6:2-16*

### Why Do We Pray?

As Catholics, we believe that personal prayer is not complete unless our prayers are joined with the community of faith who is the living Body of Christ. The Sunday liturgy is the greatest form of prayer because together we receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist — the very real presence of the Risen Christ. Attending weekly (or daily) Mass is an essential part of a healthy prayer life.

#### Deepening Prayer

Throughout the season of Lent, we are called to deepen our prayer life. For some of us, this means beginning a habit of daily prayer, setting aside time each day to share our hopes, joys, fears and frustrations with God. Praying first thing in the morning or talking to God while on your commute to work are simple ways to integrate prayer into everyday life. Praying the Rosary, visiting the Blessed Sacrament or attending a daylong silent retreat may bring you to new places in your relationship with God.

### Why Do We Fast?

Lent has traditionally been the season where we give something up, often sweets or a favorite food, in order to focus on the sacrifice Christ made on the cross. But fasting is much more than a means of developing self-control. Fasting is spiritual and physical purification; the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. Fasting and abstinence help us to participate more fully in the cross of Christ.

#### Fresh Ways to Fast

- In the Western world, fasting from food is a reminder of our abundance and a way to walk in solidarity with people around the world who struggle with daily hunger and starvation. Pause to remember families that face hunger as you fast.
- Limiting social-media exposure or fasting from the 24-hour news networks are ways to quiet our minds and open our hearts to transformation.
- We might also strive to fast from anger, road rage, workaholism, judgment or jealousy.

Lent is a time to fast from those things or habits that may have become a roadblock to our relationship with Christ.

#### *Church Guidelines for Fasting and Abstinence*

*The law of abstinence obliges those 14 years of age and older not to eat meat on Fridays throughout the season of Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday. The law of fast obliges all those from ages 18 through 59 to refrain from eating between meals and to limit their eating to one full meal and two lighter meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

### Why Do We Give Alms?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives us a basic definition of almsgiving: to provide for the material needs of the Church according to their ability (CCC 2041-2043). Giving money to the poor is one of the most concrete acts of charity to our brothers and sisters. But just as with fasting, almsgiving is more than just giving money.

Almsgiving is an act of justice that pleases the heart of God when we care for our neighbor in need, whomever it is or whatever the situation is. The hope when we give alms is that we will learn to be generous and more dependent on God to meet our needs, rather than providing for ourselves while forgetting the needs of others less fortunate than us.

**Lent is a time to prepare for Easter; it is a necessary prelude. The sacrificial practices of Lent prepare and purify us in body, mind and spirit for the passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**