



*In the spirit of St. Joseph,
we lovingly serve Jesus Christ
and His people.*

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF

SAINT JOSEPH

613 N. Tuscarawas Avenue

Dover, Ohio 44622

www.stjosephdover.org

PARISH STAFF

Rev. James Hatfield, *Pastor*

Ms. Brenda Stilgenbauer, *Pastoral Associate*

Ms. Cindy Teynor, *Director of Religious Education*

Mr. Jeremiah Jones, *Director of Music*

Mrs. Jodi Lindberg, *Bookkeeper*

Ms. Diane Lemmermann, *Coordinator of Family Life Center*

Mr. Russ Clay, *Church & Cemetery Maintenance*

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Brian Bauer, Mr. Chris Chaney, Mr. Mark Clemence,

Mr. Jack Dooling, Mr. Dennis Gonano, Mr. Jan-Michael LaBrake,

Mrs. Brenda Pope, Mr. Frank Rose

PARISH OFFICE | 330-364-6661

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Email stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com

After-hours Emergency Line 330-364-6662

Fax 330-602-7488

Youth Ministry 330-364-6661

Hispanic Ministry 330-364-6661

Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School 330-343-9134

Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School 330-343-3302

NEW PARISHIONERS Please register in person at the Parish Office or complete a registration form (available in church). Please return to Parish Office or put in collection.

MASS TIMES	Saturday	4:00 p.m.
	Sunday	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
	Mass in Spanish	Sunday 1:30 p.m.
	Holy Days	Check inside of bulletin
	Weekdays	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
		Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 3:00-3:45 p.m. | Sunday 12:30-1:15 p.m.

or anytime by appointment

MARRIAGES Arrangements should be made through the Parish Office at least eight months before any other planning.

BAPTISMS / BAUTISMOS Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. (outside of Mass). Parents must attend the Baptismal Preparation Program. This is at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Family Life Center. Godparents are also welcome to attend. Please pre-register by calling the Parish Office. *Bautismo en español se celebran una vez al mes después de la Misa el Domingo. Los padres y padrinos deben recibir charlas de preparación en el Centro Familiar. Deben inscribirse llamando a las Oficinas de la Parroquia.*

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS Please have bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, or e-mail stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com.

St. Joseph Church
Dover, Ohio 44622
The First Sunday of Lent
February 17 and 18, 2024
17 y 18 de Febrero del 2024



Mass Intentions

Monday, February 19

No Mass

Readings: 224: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/ Ps 19/ Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday, February 20

6:00 p.m. Frank Conidi

Readings: 225: Is 55:10-11/ Ps 34/ Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, February 21

8:15 a.m. Judy Penrod

9:00 a.m. Rosary

Readings: 226: Jon 3:1-10/ Ps 51/ Lk 11:29-32

Thursday, February 22

8:15 a.m. Jack and Ruth Beckman

9:00 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration

Readings: 535: 1 Pt 5:1-4/ Ps 23/ Mt 16:13-19

Friday, February 23

8:15 a.m. Doug Sopher

Readings: 228: Ez 18:21-28/ Ps 130/ Mt 5:20-26

Saturday, February 24

The Vigil for The Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Tony and Sue Ionno

Sunday, February 25

The Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Larry Jones

11:00 a.m. John and Katherine Gopp

1:30 p.m. People of the Parish (Mass in Spanish)

Readings: 26: Gn 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Ps 116/
Rom 8:31b-34/ Mk 9:2-10

Offertory for February 10 and 11, 2024

Loose Cash and Checks	\$ 2,886.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes	\$ 4,676.00
Online Giving	\$ 785.00
Total	\$ 8,347.00

Other Funds

Poor Fund	\$ 427.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 24.00
Youth Ministry	\$ 76.00
Other Collections	\$ 250.00

Thank you for your generosity.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19, 2024 in observance of Presidents' Day. If you have a Sacramental emergency, please call the office and leave a message. Someone will return your call as soon as possible. The voicemail is checked routinely.

Ministry Schedule

Tuesday, February 20 – 6:00 p.m. – Vicki Wilhelm

Wednesday, February 21 – 8:15 a.m. – Matt Ritzert

Thursday, February 22 – 8:15 a.m. – Jeannine Kennedy

Friday, February 23 – 8:15 a.m. – TCCES Students

February 24, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Lectors: Sue Quillen – 1st Lector

Debbie Tristano – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Avon, Jackie Hostetler,

Beth Cecil, Kateri Renicker, Susan Murphy,

Jessica DeBois, Mary DeBois

Ushers: Tim Avon, Roy Montan

Servers: Sophia Ionno, Miya Olson, Matthew Olson

February 25, 2024

8:30 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Keith Knestaut – 1st Lector

Nancy Allen – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Jack Burnham, John Kuczirka,

Sharon Kuczirka, Doug Telle, Becky Sedares,

Matt Ritzert, Jan Michael LaBrake

Ushers: Chris Chaney, Kelly Chaney, John Karl,

Max Burnham, Ronnie Saffell

Servers: Easton Pope, Nadia Pope, Brady Pope

11:00 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Mark Clemence – 1st Lector

Bonnie Edwards – 2nd Lector

Eucharistic Ministers: Cathy Galbraith, Dan Galbraith,

Elizabeth Clemence, Marcus Clemence, Beth Ernest,

Mike Ernest, Patti DeVault

Ushers: Patti DeVault, Lindsay Williams,

Larry and Linda Clawson

Servers: Nick Civiello, Megan Martinez, Marleny Ajanel

If you know of a friend or family member that is in the hospital, for surgery or due to illness, or is currently homebound, please call the Parish Office and someone will visit them as soon as possible.



Prayer Chain: To place your request on the prayer chain, please call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions: Please be reminded that any parishioner is welcome to request Masses to be celebrated for deceased or living loved ones. To schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the Parish Office.

Spiritual Notes

In Genesis, God establishes a covenant with Noah and his family and, by extension, all future humanity. It is a covenant of promise: "never again shall all bodily creatures be destroyed." This covenant binds God and creation and is symbolized by the bow in the sky. For the ancients, this bow, reminiscent of a hunter's bow, is a sign of God's promise to sustain life even in the face of sin. In First Peter, we are reminded that Christ suffered for sins...that He might lead you to God. Jesus' suffering reconciles us with God. The writer goes on to say that Jesus went to preach to the spirits in prison, who had been disobedient...in the days of Noah. This ties in with the ancient belief that between the time of His death and Resurrection, Jesus "descended into hell," which the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* interprets as "Christ went down to the realm of the dead. He opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him." Mark's presentation of Jesus' temptation is minimal, as was his description of Jesus' Baptism. For Mark, these two episodes provide a transition to Jesus' public ministry. He does not narrate individual temptations, as we find in Matthew and Luke, but tells us that Jesus "remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan." Perhaps Mark does not detail the temptations because his Gospel contains many other encounters between Jesus and the devil, beginning with the exorcism in the Capernaum synagogue several verses later. What Mark's text emphasizes is that, though Jesus was threatened among wild beasts, He was protected by angels, who ministered to Him. This serves as a reminder to us that God watches over us as well.

For reflection: Do I understand Jesus' temptation to be a "once-in-a-lifetime" event or something that happened more than once? How does this shape my understanding of Jesus and temptation?

Please keep Judy Penrod in your prayers, age 77, who died on Friday, February 9, 2024, and Frank Conidi, age 69, who died on Friday, February 9, 2024.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Please, also keep their family in your prayers.

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank the parish for their support of their "Baby Bottle Campaign"! Through the generous support of St. Joseph Parishioners, the Campaign is able to provide \$1,719.07 to Birthright. If you still have Baby Bottles, you may drop them off at the Parish Office.

Birthright

Annual Steak Dinner

Saturday, March 2, 2024

Dennison Knights of Columbus Hall
122 Grant Street

The cost is \$25.00 per meal.

For advance tickets, please contact

Georgianna at 330-874-3635 or

Bernie at 330-447-7932

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events!

February 18, 2024

No Family Faith Formation

February 19, 2024

Parish Office is Closed

No School

February 23, 2024

Stations of the Cross

1:00 p.m. with TCCES

7:00 p.m. in English

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

February 25, 2024

Family Faith Formation - SEEK Week 4

9:45 a.m.

February 25, 2024

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

9:45 a.m.

March 1, 2024

First Friday

Mass 8:15 a.m. followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:00 p.m.

March 1, 2024

Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. in English

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

March 8, 2024

Stations of the Cross

1:00 p.m. with TCCES

7:00 p.m. in English

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

March 9, 2024

First Penance

10:00 a.m.

March 13, 2024

Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School

Penance Service - 10:00 a.m.

March 15, 2024

Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. in English

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

March 19, 2024

The Solemnity of St. Joseph

Eucharistic Adoration 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mass - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner following

March 22, 2024

Stations of the Cross

1:00 p.m. with TCCES

7:00 p.m. in English

8:00 p.m. in Spanish

March 25, 2024

Reconciliation Monday

Confessions - 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

March 26, 2024

No Mass

Family Faith Formation

Important Dates!

March 3, 2024 – First Reconciliation Family Retreat

April 21, 2024 – First Communion Family Retreat

St. Joseph Youth Ministry – Upcoming Dates!

Sunday, February 18th

Holy Trinity

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Game Night!

Sunday, March 3rd

Family Life Center

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Create spring crafts to be delivered to a local Nursing Home



Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools



Registration underway at TCCES!

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open for pre-school through grade six at Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School. If you would like to learn more about our schools and arrange a visit, please call 330-343-9134. We are open to all. Affordable to all.

We invite you to be a Saint

Mini Food Pantry

Our Mini Food Pantry box, located at the Family Life Centers, has been able to provide food for many people in need. Our volunteers are restocking several times a week. The items most in need are:

Canned Ravioli Spaghetti-Os
Canned fruit Canned Vegetables
Dry Beans Rice

Please No Glass

If you would like to contribute items, there is a tote in the Vestibule of the church. Or you can make monetary donations by placing an envelope in the collection basket marked, "Mini Pantry."

St. Joseph Soup Kitchen

The intention for the Soup Kitchen is to serve God's children in need: the poor in spirit, as well as the needy. Teams, if you need assistance, please contact Andrea Settimio or the Parish Office.

February 21, 2024 – Team K (Hannah Jacobs)

February 28, 2024 – Team L (Chrissie Hensel)

March 6, 2024 – Team M (Fran Mason)

March 13, 2024 – Team O (Pat Figuly)

**Please keep our guests and
volunteers in your prayers!**



It costs **\$55,000** per year to educate and form a seminarian.



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC
VOCATIONS

The Diocese of Columbus has a **GOOD AND GROWING NEED** by virtue of **16 ADDITIONAL** young men interested in the priesthood. A contribution from you today will support this immediate need to fund future priests throughout our Diocese.

"Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these, they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense they deserve."

– St. Francis of Assisi

There will be a second collection throughout the Diocese on the weekend of February 24 and 25, dedicated to supporting these seminarians in their discernment process. Please join us in this mission to support future priests. You may also donate to the Seminary Support Fund by visiting www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/seminarian-support-fund.

Sacred Heart Parish **LENTEN FISH DINNER**

- FISH (choice of BAKED, FRIED, or LEMON PEPPER)
- POTATOES (choice of GARLIC ROASTED or FRENCH FRIES)
- HUSH PUPPIES
- COLESLAW, APPLESAUCE OR MAC & CHEESE
- BREAD & BUTTER
- DESSERT
- ALA CARTE ITEMS: CHEESE PIZZA, MAC & CHEESE

OPTIONS	REGULAR	LARGE
	\$12	\$15
Fried	3 pcs	5 pcs
Baked	1 pcs	2 pcs
Lemon Pepper	1 pcs	2 pcs
Ala Cart items	\$2 each	

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family.

"If in Christ we have been tempted, in him we overcome the devil. Do you think only of Christ's temptations and fail to think of his victory? See yourself as tempted in him, and see yourself as victorious in him. He could have kept the devil from himself; but if he were not tempted he could not teach you how to triumph over temptation."

+SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Monday, February 19 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Meditation: Jesus' parable about goats and sheep must have both amused and surprised his audience. Goats and sheep shared the same grazing ground during the day, but had to be separated at night. Goats were less docile and more restless than sheep. They came to symbolize evil and the expression "scapegoat" has become a common expression for someone bearing blame for others. (*You might want to read Leviticus 26:20-22 for a description of the ritual expulsion of a sin-bearing goat on the Day of Atonement.*) Separation is an inevitable consequence of sin and judgment. The Day of Judgment will reveal who showed true compassion and mercy toward their neighbor.

Prayer: Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: This parable is similar to the parable about Lazarus and the rich man. The rich man, who let Lazarus die on his doorstep, was doomed to crave for drops of cold water he had not thought of giving to the poor man. When Saint Martin of Tours, a young Roman soldier and seeker of the Christian faith, met an unclothed man begging for alms in the freezing cold, he stopped and cut his coat in two and gave half to the stranger. That night he dreamt he saw the heavenly court with Jesus robed in a torn cloak. One of the angels present asked, "Master, why do you wear that battered cloak?" Jesus replied, "My servant Martin gave it to me." Saint Martin's disciple and biographer, Sulpicius Severus, states that as a consequence of this vision Martin "flew to be baptized." God is gracious and merciful; his love compels us to treat others with mercy and kindness. When we do something for one of Christ's little ones, we do it for Christ himself. Do you treat your neighbor with mercy and love as Christ has treated you?

Tuesday, February 20 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15 Jesus said to his disciples: "In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This is how you are to pray: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. "If you forgive men their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions."

Meditation: We can approach God confidently because he is waiting with arms wide open to receive his prodigal sons and daughters. That is why Jesus gave his disciples the perfect prayer that dares to call God, Our Father. This prayer teaches us how to ask God for the things we really need, the things that matter not only for the present but for eternity as well. We can approach God our Father with confidence and boldness because Christ has opened the way to heaven for us through his death and resurrection. When we ask God for help, he fortunately does not give us what we deserve. Instead, he responds with grace and mercy. He is kind and forgiving towards us and he expects us to treat our neighbor the same.

Prayer: Look upon your family, Lord, that, through the chastening effects of bodily discipline, our minds may be radiant in your presence with the strength of our yearning for you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Consider what Saint John Cassian wrote about the Lord's Prayer and the necessity of forgiving others from the heart: "The mercy of God is beyond description. While he is offering us a model prayer he is teaching us a way of life whereby we can be pleasing in his sight. But that is not all. In this same prayer he gives us an easy method for attracting an indulgent and merciful judgment on our lives. He gives us the possibility of ourselves mitigating the sentence hanging over us and of compelling him to pardon us. What else could he do in the face of our generosity when we ask him to forgive us as we have forgiven our neighbor? If we are faithful in this prayer, each of us will ask forgiveness for our own failings after we have forgiven the sins of those who have sinned against us, not only those who have sinned against our Master. There is, in fact, in some of us a very bad habit. We treat our sins against God, however appalling, with gentle indulgence: but when by contrast it is a matter of sins against us ourselves, albeit very tiny ones, we exact reparation with ruthless severity. Anyone who has not forgiven from the bottom of the heart the brother or sister who has done him wrong will only obtain from this prayer his own condemnation, rather than any mercy." Thus we need to honestly ask ourselves: do I treat others as the Lord has instructed me – with compassion, mercy, steadfast love, and kindness?

Wednesday, February 21 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent Saint Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:29-32 While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. At the judgment the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation and she will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and there is something greater than Solomon here. At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here."

Meditation: The Lord Jesus came to set us free from slavery to sin and hurtful desires. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit he pours his love into our hearts that we may understand his will for our lives and walk in his way of holiness. God searches our hearts, not to condemn us, but to show us where we need his saving grace and help. He calls us to seek him with true repentance, humility, and the honesty to see our sins for what they really are – a rejection of his love and will for our lives. God will transform us if we listen to his word and allow his Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Ask the Lord to renew your mind and to increase your thirst for his wisdom. James says that the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity (James 3:17). A double-minded person cannot receive this kind of wisdom. The single of mind desire one thing alone – God's pleasure. God wants us to delight in him and to know the freedom of his truth and love. Do you thirst for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14)?

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may so follow the teaching and example of the Bishop Saint Peter Damian, that, putting nothing before Christ and always ardent in the service of your Church, we may be led to the joys of eternal light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Do you pay careful attention to warning signs? Do you pay attention to these signs at all? Many fatalities could be avoided if people paid attention to such signs. When the religious leaders demanded a sign from Jesus, he gave them a serious warning to avert spiritual disaster. It was characteristic of the Jews that they demanded "signs" from God's messengers to authenticate their claims. When the religious leaders pressed Jesus to give proof for his claims he says in so many words that he is God's sign and that they need no further evidence from heaven than his own person. The Ninevites recognized God's warning when Jonah spoke to them, and they repented. And the Queen of Sheba recognized God's wisdom in Solomon. Jonah was God's sign and his message was the message of a merciful God for the people of Nineveh. Unfortunately the religious leaders were not content to accept the signs right before their eyes. They had rejected the message of John the Baptist and now they reject Jesus as God's Anointed One (Messiah) and they fail to heed his message. Simeon had prophesied at Jesus' birth that he was "destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that inner thoughts of many will be revealed" (Luke 2:34- 35). Jesus confirmed his message with many miracles in preparation for the greatest sign of all – his resurrection on the third day.

Thursday, February 22 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

Holy Gospel: Matthew: 13:16-19 When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Meditation: Jesus tests his disciples with a basic, yet crucial question: "Who do men say that I am" followed by "who do you say that I am?" Jesus was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets -- John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God. Jesus then confers on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers would overcome. Jesus plays on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is one of the greatest of compliments. The ancient rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, he exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to found the world upon." Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognize Jesus as the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The Lord Jesus tests each of us personally with the same question: "Who do you say that I am?"

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that no tempests may disturb us, for you have set us fast on the rock of the Apostle Peter's confession of faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus Christ also asks each one of us: "Who do you say that I am?" Obviously our personal response has great ramifications. A wonderful response to come not only from our lips, but from deep from within our hearts would be: "Lord Jesus, I profess and believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You are my Lord and my Savior. Make my faith strong and help me to live in the victory of the cross by rejecting sin and by accepting your will." Our response to Jesus' question requires sincere thought and discernment. But more importantly it requires action in how we think, speak, and live out our daily lives. Ask yourself: Do I live my life as a disciple of Christ? If not, what's holding me back?

About the Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter: This feast brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by Christ on Peter, and continued in an unbroken line down to the present Pope. We celebrate the unity of the Church, founded upon Christ and his Apostles, and renew our assent to the Magisterium of the Roman Pontiff, extended both to truths which are solemnly defined *ex cathedra*, and to all the acts of the ordinary Magisterium.

Friday, February 23 ~ First Week in the Season of Lent

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26 Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, *Raca*, will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny."

Meditation: Do you allow sin or anger to master your life? Maybe at first glance you say "no, of course not." But take a deep look, an honest look at yourself, at your life, at how you live. The first human to hate his brother was Cain. God warned Cain: 'Why are you angry? ...Sin in couching at the door; it's desire is for you, but you must master it (Genesis 4:6-7). Sin doesn't just happen; it first grows as a seed in one's heart. Unless it is mastered, by God's grace, it grows like a weed and chokes the fruitful vine. Jesus addressed the issue of keeping the commandments with his disciples. The scribes and Pharisees equated righteousness with satisfying the demands of the law. Jesus showed them how short they had come. Jesus points to the heart as the seat of desire and choice. Unless forbidden and evil desires are eradicated, the heart will be corrupted. Jesus points to forbidden anger with one's brother. This is a selfish anger that broods and is long-lived, that nurses a grudge and keeps wrath warm, and that refuses to die. Anger in the heart as well as anger in speech or action are equally forbidden. What is the antidote to anger and rage? Mercy, kindness, and forbearance spring from a heart full of love and forgiveness. God has forgiven us and he calls us to extend mercy and forgiveness towards those who cause us harm and grief. In the cross of Jesus we see the supreme example of love and the power for overcoming evil. Only God's love and grace can set our hearts and minds free from the tyranny of wounded pride and spiteful revenge. Do you harbor any anger towards another person? And are you quick to be reconciled when a rupture has been caused in your relationships? Ask God to set you free and to fill your heart and mind with his love and his timeless truths.

Prayer: Grant that your faithful, O Lord, we pray, may be so conformed to the paschal observances, that the bodily discipline now solemnly begun may bear fruit in the souls of all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Saint Eusebius, a Father of the Church, offered the following prayer as instruction for his fellow Christians: "May I be no man's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides. May I never quarrel with those nearest me: and if I do, may I be reconciled quickly. May I love, seek, and attain only that which is good. May I wish for all men's happiness and envy none. May I never rejoice in the ill-fortune of one who has wronged me. When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait for the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself until I make amends. May I win no victory that harms either me or my opponent. May I reconcile friends who are angry with one another. May I never fail a friend who is in danger. When visiting those in grief may I be able by gentle and healing words to soften their pain. May I respect myself. May I always keep tame that which rages within me. May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never be angry with people because of circumstances. May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow in their footsteps." Do you seek to live peaceably and charitably with all? If not, pray that you will! Lent is about reconciliation, not only with God and Jesus, but with anyone whom we have harmed through our actions. Reconciliation is the first step toward conversion of mind and heart. Step-by-step, we turn away from sin and selfishness, and turn back to Christ. Begin these steps now, during Lent.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Lent* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueeller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2024



What is the Divine Mercy Message - Part 2

The Divine Mercy Message is about God's love for us. When humanity fell into sin, God made a covenant with humanity to heal the breach, ultimately sending His Son. That is why Divine Mercy takes on human flesh in Jesus Christ. So mercy is a particular kind of love. Mercy is love going out to misery, poured on sinful humanity to free it of sin and its consequences. Mercy is love's second name.

(The Message of Divine Mercy As Easy As ABC, 2015, Marian Press)

A very key message that Jesus gave St. Faustina is that Divine Mercy is His final offering to humanity, next comes His justice. There is no second chance. Divine Mercy is not just a pious devotion. It has to do with our eternal salvation – each one of us.

Jesus said, **"Tell sinful souls not to be afraid to approach Me; speak to them of My great mercy."**

(Diary, #1396)



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Other Information to Note

Please Note: If you would like to present the gifts at the Offertory, please contact the Ushers before Mass.

Pray for the Priest, Deacon, or Seminarian of the Day: Posted on the bulletin boards are calendars with the names of Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians. As you come into the church, you may want to look at the calendar and pray for the designated person of the day.

Low-gluten Hosts: If you are a person who needs to receive a low-gluten host because of wheat allergies or celiac disease, please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin deadline: The Bulletin Deadline is Monday at 12:00 p.m. Please include your contact information with phone number and email address. Bulletin notices may be in writing, faxed to 330-602-7488, dropped off, or emailed to stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com.

St. Joseph Cemetery

If you are interested in purchasing lots, or if you have questions regarding rules and regulations, please call Russ in the Parish Office, and he will be happy to assist you.



Online Giving. If you manage your bills online, we're sure you'll like giving to your church online. It's safe and secure, and you decide exactly when your gift is made and where it goes. To get started, please visit www.stjosephdover.org. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Parish Office.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

February 2024

For the Terminally Ill

Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

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Catholic Relief Services

In the Vestibule of the church, there are Rice Bowls for you to take home. These monies support Catholic Relief Services agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. They provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect for all people.



When traveling, and you need to find information on the closest Catholic Church and the times for their Masses, please check out www.masstimes.org.

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- Pope Francis

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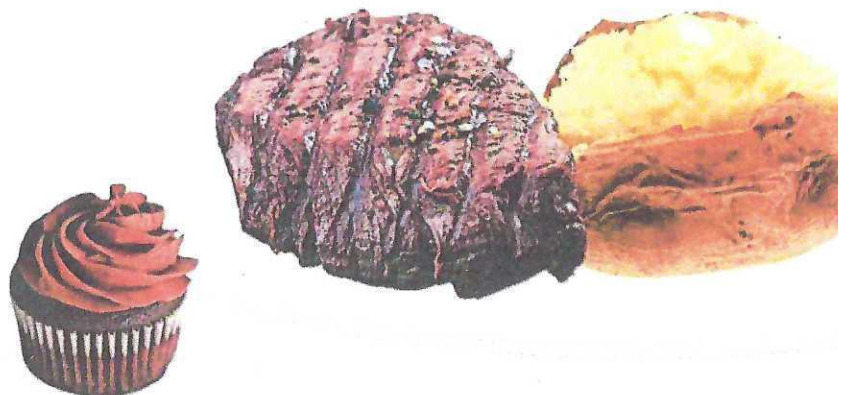
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Primer Domingo de Cuaresma

18 de Febrero del 2024



Calendario Litúrgico:

Misas en Español

Domingo	25 de Febrero	1:30 p.m.
Domingo	3 de Marza	1:30 p.m.
Domingo	10 de Marza	1:30 p.m.

Confesiones

Antes de misa de español de 12:30 a 1:15 p.m.

Misas en Inglés

Sábados	4:00 p.m.
Domingos	8:30 a.m. y 11:00 a.m.

Vía crucis "Estaciones de la Cruz"

Febrero 16, 23, y Marzo 1, 8, 15 y 22
8:00 p.m. en Español

La Cuaresma: Es un tiempo de Oración, penitencia y ayuno. Cuarenta días que la iglesia nos pide un cambio a nuestras vidas. El ayuno consiste en hacer una sola comida al día y la abstinencia es no comer carne. Este es un modo de pedirle perdón a Dios por haberlo ofendido y decirle que queremos cambiar de vida para agradecerle siempre.



Ya está abierta la registración para la escuela TCCES, si usted tiene niños en edad escolar o conoce a alguien que le interese registrar a sus niños, por favor llame a la oficina de la escuela.



Horario de los Coros

25 de Febrero	Seguidores de Cristo
3 de Marza	Mensajeros de Cristo
10 de Marza	El Buen Pastor
17 de Marza	Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Intenciones de Oración del Santo Padre

Febrero 2024

Por Los Enfermos Terminales

Oremos para que los enfermos terminales y sus familias reciban siempre los cuidados y el acompañamiento necesarios, tanto desde el punto de vista médico como humano.

Notas Espirituales

En Génesis Dios establece un pacto con Noé y su familia y, por extensión, de toda la humanidad futura. Es un pacto de la promesa: "no volverán las aguas del diluvio a destruir la vida." Este pacto se une a Dios y la creación, y es simbolizado por el arco iris en el cielo. Para los antiguos, este arco iris, que recuerda a la proa de un cazador, es un signo de la promesa de Dios para sostener la vida, incluso en la cara del pecado. En Primera de Pedro nos recuerda que "Cristo sufrió por los pecados..." que te puede llevar a Dios." El escritor continúa diciendo que Jesús "fue a predicar a los espíritus encarcelados, que habían sido desobedientes... en los días de Noé." Esta enlaza con la antigua creencia de que durante el momento de su muerte y resurrección, Jesús "descendió a los infiernos," que el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica interpreta como "Cristo descendió al reino de los muertos. Abrió las puertas del cielo para los justos que han pasado delante de él." La presentación de Marcos de la tentación de Jesús es mínima, al igual que su descripción del bautismo de Jesús. Para Marcos, estos dos episodios proporcionan una transición a la vida pública de Jesús. Él no narra las tentaciones individuales, como encontramos en Mateo y Lucas, pero nos dice que Jesús "se quedó en el desierto cuarenta días, siendo tentado por Satanás." Quizás Marcos no detalla las tentaciones porque su Evangelio contiene muchos otros encuentros entre Jesús y el diablo, comenzando con el exorcismo en la sinagoga de Cafarnaúm varios versículos más adelante. Lo que el texto de Marcos enfatiza es que aunque Jesús fue amenazado "entre las bestias salvajes," estaba protegido: "los ángeles le servían." Esto sirve como un recordatorio para nosotros que Dios vela por nosotros también.

Para reflexionar: ¿Entiendo la tentación de Jesús para ser una sola vez en toda la vida o algo que sucedió más de una vez? ¿Cómo afecta esto a dar forma a mi comprensión de Jesús y de la tentación?



Por favor, recuerde en su oración, a todos los enfermos, al salir de casa, y la recuperación de nuestra parroquia. Además, orar por aquellos que sufren de condiciones físicas o mentales.



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