

Dear Padre,

My friend's parish is having a St. Joseph's Day Altar. What is that?

According to tradition, the altar to St. Joseph originated in the Middle Ages by Sicilians who invoked their patron saint during an extended drought and famine. When rain finally brought relief, the people expressed their gratitude in two ways: by displaying a table with the foods they harvested and by distributing their plenitude to those most in need.

Over time, the custom of an altar around the March 19 feast day of St. Joseph gained popularity and is now embraced by the faithful of any nationality wishing to share their good fortune with those who have less. The meatless feast usually includes baked items, beans, nuts, fruits, and seafood presented in ways that symbolize elements of the faith. Prayerful rituals and children portraying the Holy Family add to the celebration and heritage.

Whether the altar is modest or elaborate, at home or in church, it's a labor of love meant to strengthen the bonds of family and friends in its preparation and to strengthen one's faith and charity in its execution.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MARCH 19, 2013

Calendar

Monday
MARCH 15
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17-21
Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday
MARCH 16
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1-9, 12
Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday
MARCH 17
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8-15
Jn 5:17-30

Thursday
MARCH 18
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7-14
Jn 5:31-47

Friday
MARCH 19
St. Joseph,
Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4-5a,
12-14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday
MARCH 20
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18-20
Jn 7:40-53

Sunday
MARCH 21
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-21

You Decide

We normally take great pride in making our own decisions. When we did this as children, it was a sign that we were growing up; as adolescents, it was a proclamation of independence. Now as adults, when making decisions we demonstrate that we are self-directed. The problem doesn't seem to lie in decision-making itself but in the options given to us that require a decision. And there is the rub. Often these are options not of our choosing. This can make decision-making very difficult.

Today's Gospel is all about making decisions. Options are placed before us. We either choose Jesus and the extraordinary way of life that he has outlined for us, or we go along with the movements of society. This could include making money at any cost, denying hospitality to those who knock on our door, harboring an attitude of superiority over others. We either choose to live in the light with the insights that our faith provides, or we simply accept the values that bombard us each day through the media, namely: Me first. What's mine is mine. What's in it for me? Not in my back yard.

If we look carefully, we will realize that the way of life Jesus promotes is based on the dignity of each person, who is made in the image and likeness of God. Actions that dismiss, demean, damage, or destroy human life are contrary to the teaching, life, and example of Jesus. Accepting his way brings forth a new society called "the reign of God." Rejecting it will undermine the foundations of the society we have. Which will it be? You decide.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ✦ How might you have compromised your religious values in order to get by in life?
- ✦ Might God be asking you to choose something new?

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

JOHN 3:19





Rectory & Parish Office
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 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
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|--|----------------------|
| Louise Miller, Bookkeeper | jingles@pld.com |
| Molly Shelden DRE | 451-0548 |
| RCIA | 355-6405 |
| Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair | 272-1030 |
| Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair | 355-6206 |
| Altar Society President, Nanette Rice | 355-7676 |
| Tom Bachman, Grand Knight | 640-8259 |
| Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice | 355-1696 355-7676 |

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

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|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday, Mar. 15 | 8:00 a.m. | Dorothy Hoffman |
| Tuesday, Mar. 16 | 8:00 a.m. | Favorable Weather |
| Thursday, Mar. 18 | 6:00 p.m. | Confirmation Candidates |
| Friday, Mar. 19 | 12:15 p.m. | Special Intention |
| Saturday, Mar. 20 | 4:00 p.m. | S.I. –Conversion |
| Sunday, Mar. 21 | 9:00 a.m. | For the People |

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| March 13, 4:00 p.m. | Gwen Waechter |
| March 14, 9:00 a.m. | K of C Members |
| March 20, 4:00 p.m. | Tom Bachman |
| March 21, 9:00 a.m. | Mike Broeckelman |
| March 27, 4:00 p.m. | Karen Burden |
| March 28, 9:00 a.m. | Julie Kaps |

Thank you so much for your ministry!

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—MARCH 14, 2021



“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3: 16)

I know that when I look at myself in a completely honest and thorough way, I’m going to come face to face with a lot of ugly stuff --- countless times I acted selfishly, times I treated people unfairly or got angry when I shouldn’t have. I’m going to see that I haven’t always been there for people who needed me or haven’t been generous with those less fortunate. I’m going to find that my motives for some of the good things I do are less than pure. And I know I’m going to come face to face with a lot of other disappointing stuff too, which --- if you don’t mind --- I will save for the confessional. And I wonder, what exactly is God going to do about it? Jesus in this Sunday’s gospel (John 3: 14-21) tells us, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.”

My friends, our God does not want to pounce on us. Our God is not someone sitting on a cloud ready to dole out punishment for every offense since “God so loved the world.”

And I’m not saying there aren’t consequences for our sin. There are. And I’m not saying that God doesn’t allow certain things to happen in our lives to help lead us to live in a more loving and faithful way. Parents do the same. But God only acts out of love --- for that is who he is. So as we examine our lives during this holy season, when we realize just how far short we have fallen, let’s not sit in fear and trembling. Rather, let’s race into the loving embrace of our incredible God who only wants us to be the very best we can be. That’s how he created us. And once we feel that infinite love of God, once we experience his profound mercy and forgiveness, let’s turn around and share it with someone else. Let’s try and I’m sure you will feel much better!

Have a blessed Lent everyone.

Fr. Peter Tran

COLLECTION for March 7, 2021: Envelopes: \$800.00; Loose: \$119.00; Online Giving: \$1,452.75; Total \$2,371.75; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under (+610.58) *Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

LENT—CONFESSIONS Please make an extra efforts to reconcile with God, the Church, and with others in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, ready for Easter Celebration. Fr. Peter will be available every Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. and every Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. or by appointment.

EASTER FLOWERS If you want to send flowers in memory of a Loved One for Easter, please put your donation and names into the regular collection.

2021– TRIDUUM, EASTER CELEBRATION

Holy Thursday—April 1 at 6:00 p.m. In Lakin; 6:30 p.m.(MT) in Syracuse

Good Friday—April 2 at 3:00 p.m. In Lakin; 6:00 p.m. (MT) in Syracuse

Easter Vigil Saturday—April 3 at 8:30 p.m. in Lakin

Easter Sunday Mass – April 4 at 9:00 a.m. in Lakin; Deerfield at 9:00 a.m. & Syracuse 10:30 a.m.(MT)

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION Please pray for Sebastian Beltran, Jara Davidson, Kinzie Lohman-Fuller, Jessica Gallegos, Maggie Gannett, Ingrid Gardea, Anais Gonzalez, Conor Jones, Garrett Messenger, Jovan Saenz, Leo Shelden, Cesar Ramirez, Victor Ramirez, and Erin Urie and their sponsors, parents, and catechist. Those twelve young candidates will be confirmed on March 18 or Easter Vigil, April 3. May they open their minds and hearts fully to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit on those special dates!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES –MARCH: 24 & 31. There will be no class on 3/17 (Spring Break)

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, March 13 and Tuesday, March 16. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. And “Thank You” ahead of time. We will work again on April 10 and April 13.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Praying the “Stations of the Cross” is one of the most popular devotions for Roman Catholic and is often performed in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during His Passion. The object of the Stations is to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. **We hold Stations of the Cross led by Knights of Columbus every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. during Lent. We hope you will join us for this prayerful devotion.** A plenary indulgence may be gained by praying the Stations of the Cross.

VOCATION VIEW To be cut off from the treasures of the Church is to be cast away from life itself. As the Israelites longed to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem, so must we long to continue to build up the Church today. PS37

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. “We are truly his handiwork,” says St. Paul in the second reading, “created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance.”

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from a prayer by St. John Henry Newman) Lead me, Kindly Light, amidst the encircling gloom, The night is dark, and I am far from home. Lead me on! I do not ask to see all you have planned; one step is enough for me. I have not always prayed for you to lead me on; I chose my own path, but now, lead me on! Once pride and fear ruled my will – forgive me, and lead me on! Long have you blessed me, still are you leading me over all that drags me down and trips me up. Until the night is gone, Lord, lead me on!

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK (John 3:14-21)

Talking with Nicodemus These verses are part of a passage in which Jesus is talking with the Pharisee Nicodemus. It's not clear if Jesus or the evangelist is speaking at this point. Nicodemus has approached Jesus at night, which suggests the Pharisee is drawn to Jesus but hesitates to believe in him. **Lifted up** When the Israelites complained about their struggles in the desert, God punished them by sending deadly snakes that bit them. When the people repented, God told Moses to make a bronze statue of a snake. Those who looked at the statue were healed (Numbers 21:4-9). Jesus, the Son of Man, will also be lifted up like that bronze statue. He will be lifted onto a cross and lifted or raised from the dead. Those who believe in the saving power of this “lifting up” of Jesus will be healed of suffering and death. **Loving the unlovable world** God sends his Son to save the very world that will become so hostile to Jesus it will send him to an excruciating death. The world doesn't deserve salvation, but God loves the world so much that he saves it nonetheless. Thus, Jesus' mission isn't about condemning people but saving them. Jesus reveals God's love so that people can accept it and be saved by it. Those who deny that Jesus is from God can't be saved because they've chosen darkness rather than the light. **Rendering a verdict** This Gospel-writer presents Jesus as being on trial. People like John the Baptist (1:29f) and the woman of Samaria (4:39) give testimony in defense of Jesus. Ultimately we must render our own verdict; we must judge for ourselves who Jesus is. **Our true selves** People reveal who they really are when they encounter the light. Those who oppose God and all that comes from God – love, forgiveness, justice, goodness, and so on – will turn away from the light. They will reject Jesus, who embodies God himself. Those who are trying to live as God intends, no matter how imperfectly, will move toward the light. They believe that Jesus perfectly reveals God. Their works are listening to and following Jesus, who incarnates or embodies the love of God. [oursundayreadings](#)

QUESTIONS CATHOLIC ASK

Question: I just had a “discussion” with my visiting 28-year-old son about needing to fast one hour before receiving Holy Communion. He is asking, “Who made that rule up?” and “Where in the Bible is that?” If stomach-emptying is one of the goals, then conversely, why shouldn’t a person wait an hour after receiving Communion before eating? – so goes his argument. Thanks for your help! – D.

Answer:

The tone of your son’s question makes one wonder whether he might be struggling with other issues. So this might not really be about the fast but about bigger matters such as faith and Church authority. No matter ...

The hour fast is a discipline prescribed by the Church to help us prepare spiritually for Communion. It helps to underline the deep distinction between normal food and the Body and Blood of Christ that nourishes us supernaturally.

In the old days the fast was from midnight, so an hour fast is hardly an onerous obligation.

Many of the rules of the Church are not found explicitly in the Bible. Rather, Christ gives the Church to make disciplinary rules.

So if your son insists on some kind of biblical basis for the rule on fasting, you could cite Matthew 18:18 (“Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven”) and Luke 10:16 (“Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me”).

The idea here is that Jesus gives the Church real authority on earth, including authority over the administration of the sacraments.

The Church has no prescribed rules on eating after Communion, though it does say we should dedicate some time to a proper thanksgiving (which is often done in the period of silence before the final blessing).

I hope some of this helps. By the way, you might want to intensify your prayers for your son. (Fr. Edward McIlmail, LC—rcspirituality.org)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT DON'T LOOK AT ME

During Lent, it’s easy to imagine we’re scoring points with heaven by all this fasting, praying, and almsgiving. Giving up binge-watching for a season, spending 15 minutes daily in contemplation, or funding a different cause each Friday are all worthy activities that may deepen our commitment to faithful living. None of these practices will actually buy us a ticket to paradise, however. Grace is free and unearned, so we can’t boast about it. Our Lenten practices are simply our way of saying “Thank You” to the Giver of all good gifts. (Prepare the Word)

CUARTO DOMINGO DE CUARESMA NO ME MIRE

Durante la Cuaresma, es fácil imaginar que estamos ganando puntos con el cielo por todo este ayuno, oración y limosna. Dejar de ver películas durante una temporada, dedicar 15 minutos diarios a la contemplación o financiar una causa diferente cada viernes son todas actividades dignas que pueden profundizar nuestro compromiso con la vida en la fe. Sin embargo, ninguna de estas prácticas nos comprará un boleto al paraíso. La gracia es gratuita y no se gana, así que no podemos presumir de ella. Nuestras prácticas de Cuaresma son simplemente nuestra manera de decir "Gracias" al Dador de todos los buenos dones.