

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018

**He himself bore our sins
in his body upon the cross,
so that, free from sin,
we might live for
righteousness.
By his wounds
you have been healed.**

1 Peter 2:24



LENT

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

8:00am +Father, Mummy & Peter
5:00pm +Marie Pentecost

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

8:15am +Anthony Richard Battista
11:15am For the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 12

7:00am +Fr. Jack Heisse

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

7:00am +Grandparents of Sergio &
Rosanna Barbieri

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

7:00am John & Anna McGuiness

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

7:00am +Ann Leyden

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

7:00am +Robert Langevin

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

8:00am +Deborah Conaway
5:00pm Derek & Jessica Mayer

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

8:15am For the Parish
11:15am +Elisa Enriquez

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Henry Hollman, James Hudson Miller, Janice Mazikowski, Marie McCune, George Franklin, Debi Royer, Cecilia Hall, James McGee, Janet Ennis, David Miller, Barbara Brodeur, Jim Berthot, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Reb Salvo, Chuck Salvo, Teresa Gregory, Rachel Johnson, Faye Fletcher, Kia Batchelder, Karlie Batchelder, Richard Wertz, Maddie Clearly, John Rourk, Jr., Greg Riley, Cindy Morales, Richard Chandler, Mary Chandler, John Dimmock, Linda Dimmock, Sharron Vandurn, Sally Purvis, Wanda Sharp, George Wertz, Ada Carden, Dollie Jackson, Josephine Stratton, Katherine Algie, Nick Rosa, Helen Kissel, Ralph Kissel, Dan Vandergrift, Marrison Lefebvre, Eva Nave, Mary Jean Brost Travis, John Howard, Lisa Andrews, Harold Jones, Sondra Adams, Judi Trygg, Marianna Young, Bill Mitchell, Bob Sayre, Elaine Sayre, and Melissa Lee.

Note

This is our new, updated prayer request corner. If you wish to add someone to the list, please contact Renate at the parish office. When that person recovers, please call again to remove their name so that others can be put on the list.

Thank you, Fr. Joe

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last weekend, I began to share the text of the Pope Francis' 2018 World Communication Day message. I am including the first two points and next weekend will share the last two points of the Holy Father's message. Let's take the time to read, reflect and pray so that we can grow not just in age but in the grace of God.

1. What is "fake" about fake news?

The term "fake news" has been the object of great discussion and debate. In general, it refers to the spreading of disinformation on line or in the traditional media. It has to do with false information based on non-existent or distorted data meant to deceive and manipulate the reader. Spreading fake news can serve to advance specific goals, influence political decisions, and serve economic interests.

The effectiveness of fake news is primarily due to its ability to *mimic* real news, to seem plausible. Secondly, this false but believable news is "captious", inasmuch as it grasps people's attention by appealing to stereotypes and common social prejudices, and exploiting instantaneous emotions like anxiety, contempt, anger and frustration. The ability to spread such fake news often relies on a manipulative use of the social networks and the way they function. Untrue stories can spread so quickly that even authoritative denials fail to contain the damage.

The difficulty of unmasking and eliminating fake news is due also to the fact that many people interact in homogeneous digital environments impervious to differing perspectives and opinions. *Disinformation* thus thrives on the absence of healthy confrontation with other sources of information that could effectively challenge prejudices and generate constructive dialogue; instead, it risks turning people into unwilling accomplices in spreading biased and baseless ideas. The tragedy of disinformation is that it discredits others, presenting them as enemies, to the point of demonizing them and fomenting conflict. Fake news is a sign of intolerant and hypersensitive attitudes, and leads only to the spread of arrogance and hatred. That is the end result of untruth.

2. How can we recognize fake news?

None of us can feel exempted from the duty of countering these falsehoods. This is no easy task, since disinformation is often based on deliberately evasive and subtly misleading rhetoric and at times the use of sophisticated psychological mechanisms. Praiseworthy efforts are being made to create educational programs aimed at helping people to interpret and assess information provided by the media, and teaching them to take an active part in unmasking falsehoods, rather than unwittingly contributing to the spread of disinformation. Praiseworthy too are those institutional and legal initiatives aimed at developing regulations for curbing the phenomenon, to say nothing of the work being done by tech and media companies in coming up with new criteria for verifying the personal identities concealed behind millions of digital profiles.

Yet preventing and identifying the way disinformation works also calls for a profound and careful process of discernment. We need to unmask what could be called the "snake-tactics" used by those who disguise themselves in order to strike at any time and place. This was the strategy employed by the "crafty serpent" in the Book of Genesis, who, at the dawn of humanity, created the first fake news (*cf. Gen 3:1-15*), which began the tragic history of human sin, beginning with the first fratricide (*cf. Gen 4*) and issuing in the countless other evils committed against God, neighbor, society and creation. The strategy of this skilled "Father of Lies" (*Jn 8:44*) is precisely *mimicry*, that sly and dangerous form of seduction that worms its way into the heart with false and alluring arguments.

In the account of the first sin, the tempter approaches the woman by pretending to be her friend, concerned only for her welfare, and begins by saying something only partly true: "Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" (*Gen 3:1*). In fact, God never told Adam not to eat from *any* tree, but only from the *one* tree: "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you are not to eat" (*Gen 2:17*). The woman corrects the serpent, but lets herself be taken in by his provocation: "Of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it nor touch it, under pain of death" (*Gen 3:2*). Her answer is couched in legalistic and negative terms; after listening to the deceiver and letting herself be taken in by his version of the facts, the woman is misled. So she heeds his words of reassurance: "You will not die!" (*Gen 3:4*).

FROM THE



PASTOR

continued on next page

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Isaiah 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; John 4:43-54	Friday	Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Tuesday	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16	Saturday	Jeremiah 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; John 7:40-53
Wednesday	Isaiah 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30	Sunday	Ezekiel 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-8; Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45
Thursday	Exodus 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; John 5:31-47		

The tempter's "deconstruction" then takes on an appearance of truth: "God knows that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil" (**Gen 3:5**). God's paternal command, meant for their good, is discredited by the seductive enticement of the enemy: "The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye and desirable" (**Gen 3:6**). This biblical episode brings to light an essential element for our reflection: there is no such thing as harmless disinformation; on the contrary, trusting in falsehood can have dire consequences. Even a seemingly slight distortion of the truth can have dangerous effects.

What is at stake is our greed. *Fake news* often goes viral, spreading so fast that it is hard to stop, not because of the sense of sharing that inspires the social media, but because it appeals to the insatiable greed so easily aroused in human beings. The economic and manipulative aims that feed disinformation are rooted in a thirst for power, a desire to possess and enjoy, which ultimately makes us victims of something much more tragic: the deceptive power of evil that moves from one lie to another in order to rob us of our interior freedom.

Next week, look for the third and final part of the Holy Father's message. May you have a blessed week. You are in my daily thoughts and prayers.

Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe

ANNUAL SEDER MEAL

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH
Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

The Seder Meal will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 25 in the Fr. Messmer Center. Tickets for the meal are \$8.00 per person and \$5.00 for children ages 3-12 years.

There is a maximum cost of \$25.00 per family. Tickets are available in the church vestibule and the parish office, and should be purchased by March 18.

Volunteers to help set up and clean up can sign up in the breezeway, or contact Theresa Arnold at (256) 503-5773.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you would like to make a donation to seasonal flower arrangements, please call the parish office at 256-534-8459.

WEEKLY OFFERING

Regular Collection	\$ 13,280.36
Other Designated Funds	\$ 2,596.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE • MARCH 17, 2018 - MARCH 18, 2018

Reminder: We will only be using one Eucharistic Minister for each Mass until we resume distribution of the Precious Blood of Christ

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00pm: Lilah Ross, Evie Mayer
8:15am: Wade Bucy, Andrew Amos
11:15am: Philip Bwayla, Angelite Nweke

LECTORS

5:00pm: Sabine Wlodarski, John Barisa
8:15am: Kiki Kane, Steve Kane
11:15am: Maddie Turner, Carrie Turner

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00pm: Damien Donnelly*
8:15am: Nikki Billingsley*
11:15am: Natalee Weir*

GIFT BEARERS

5:00pm: Michael & Maureen Chemsak
8:15am: Theresa Arnold
11:15am: Good Family

USHERS

5:00pm: Homer Reynolds
8:15am: Anita Deer
11:15am: Cramin Wiltz/Ade Odutola

Religious Education

Formation and Catechesis

Join our faith community and thousands of others across the country in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with **CRS Rice Bowl**. If your children are not part of our RE program, and your family wants to participate, pick up a **Rice Bowl** from the vestibule this weekend. During the 40 days of Lent, as companions on the journey, we will encounter our neighbor.

Encounter Andrise—a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community—and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community.

Visit crsricebowl.org for more information. **Rice Bowls** are due back on April 8. Thank you!

CALENDAR

- March 11 No RE/RCIA/Adult Ed
- March 14 Adult Ed 5:30 p.m.
- March 18 No RE/RCIA/Adult Ed
- March 21 Adult Ed 5:30 p.m.
- March 25 RE/RCIA/Adult Ed 9:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
- March 28 No Adult Ed 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Please note: Sunday Adult Ed participants are to come in through the gym entrance doors.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 8 Confirmation parent /sponsor meeting
10:00 a.m. in St. Francis Hall.

PLEASE NOTE – IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

Both Carmen Amato, our Director of Religious Education, and I are concerned about parent supervision of young children before, during and after Mass.

Two Sundays ago, as Carmen was returning to the church after Religious Education, she encountered a young school-aged child outside the building, moving towards the parking lot. The child had the opportunity to leave the church premises because he was not with a parent or guardian. Luckily, nothing happened. Even though I have talked about child safety and supervision before, I am very concerned that such incidents are still occurring. How can we work to improve on this? Here are a few suggestions:

- Always accompany your child to any area of the church.
- Never let your child run ahead of you, particularly in the parking lot or high traffic areas.
- Remind your child of safety rules, including speaking with strangers.

I cherish your children and youth and want to make sure they are safe. I appreciate all of your help in this effort.

Thank you!

Fr. Joe



2018 ST. JOSEPH LENTEN
ACTIVITIES



- **Stations of the Cross**
All Fridays during Lent
12:00 p.m. Church
- **Fish Fry**
Friday, March 23
5-7 p.m. Fr. Messmer Center
- **Parish Seder Meal**
Sunday, March 25
5:30- 7:00 p.m. Fr. Messmer Center

OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be performed at 12 noon on Good Friday, March 30, behind Holy Family School on the soccer field inside the track. Please bring chairs and/or a ground cover to sit on in case the bleachers are full. In the event of rain, the ceremony will be performed in the Fr. Messmer Center, the school gym.

Here Is What's Happening This Week

HFS Closed for Spring Break March 12-16

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

- 9:00am: Quilters (LMR)
- 10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)
- 6:00pm: Pastoral Council (LMR)
- 6:00pm: Boy Scouts (HFS)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

- 5:30pm: Adult Formation (SFH)
- 6:00pm: St. Vincent de Paul (LIB)
- 7:00pm: 8:15 am Mass Choir Practice (SJC)

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

- 12:00pm: Stations of the Cross (SJC)

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

- HFS Scrip Sales*
- 6:15pm: Gospel Choir Practice (SJC)

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

- HFS Scrip Sales*
- 10:00am: Sanctuary Choir Practice (SJC)
- 12:30pm: ACA (LMR)

Facilities Key

- FMC = Father Messmer Center/Gym*
- SJC = St. Joseph Church*
- LMR/LIB = RE Center*
- SFH = St. Francis Hall*
- STA = St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel*
- BEA = Beasley Hall*
- BRZWY = Breezeway*