

**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 08

8:00am: +Father, Mummy & Peter
5:00pm: +Joshua St. Germain

SUNDAY, MARCH 09

8:15am: For the Parish
+Nancy Marie Leslie
11:15am: +Andrew Sturgill

MONDAY, MARCH 10

7:00am: Mark & Patty Gerry

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

7:00am: Ezra Morris

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

7:00am: +Grandparents of Sergio
& Rosanna Barbieri

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

7:00am: +Willie James Hutchinson

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

7:00am: Lisa Citrano

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

8:00am: +Thomas Chvala
5:00pm: +Ella Mae Claridy

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

8:15am: +Angel Araiza Carrillo
11:15am: For the Parish
+Celia Dunn

Dear Brothers and Sisters:



I hope you are all doing well. On Ash Wednesday, March 5, the readings, as always, were very relatable: **Joel 2:12-18; Psalm 51:3-6, 12-14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.** The following meditation came from *The Word Among Us: Catholic Mass Readings and Daily Meditations*. For those of you who have this Lenten issue, I hope you have taken the time to read it and that you found it to be food for thought.

Your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you. (Matthew 6:18)

“What are you giving up for Lent?” Isn't this the first question that typically comes to mind as we begin this holy season? Are we going to fast from a favorite food or from a meal once a week? Are we going to read a chapter of the Scriptures each day or try to make an extra donation to our favorite charity? There are countless choices and opportunities to take part in the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

But this year, instead of just asking what we are going to do, let's ask ourselves why we are doing it. What is our purpose and goal?

In today's gospel reading, Jesus warns his listeners not to pray, fast, or perform righteous deeds in a showy way, just to impress other people (**Matthew 6:1**). Instead, he tells us to do them “in secret” - out of love for our heavenly Father (**Matthew 6:4, 6**). And what is the fruit of such practices? We grow closer to the Lord; that's our “reward” (**Matthew 6:5**).

Thinking about the “why” along with the “what” also helps us take the focus off our own efforts or performance. If our willpower gives out and we eat that piece of chocolate that we vowed to give up, it's just another opportunity to turn to the Lord and offer up our weaknesses to him. It's just another opportunity to realize how much we need his grace and power in our lives.

So yes, go ahead and make those Lenten resolutions, and try your best to keep them. But remember why you are doing these things. It's so that God can soften your heart and fill you with all the love, mercy and grace he wants to give you. That's how he will “repay” you (**Matthew 6:4, 6**)!

“Lord, help me to draw closer to you through my Lenten practices!”

You are in my daily thoughts and prayers. May you be blessed today and every day.

Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe

WE HAVE A SPECIAL NEED

The church organ is broken, and it will cost upwards of \$20,000 to repair or replace. If you would like to help save our organ, please consider donating. Put your donation in an envelope marked “Organ Repair”.

If we get enough donations, we will go ahead with the repair or purchase. If not, your donation will be returned to you. Thank you for your assistance and generosity.

Fr. Joe

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Barbara Brodeur, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Rachel Johnson, Faye Fletcher, Batchelder Family, Stachura Family, Sayre Family, Maddie Clearly, John Rourk, Jr., Cindy Morales, Linda Dimmock, Josephine Stratton, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Judi Trygg, Marianna Young, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Jane and Dena Bell, Juliana Goode, Marie Basta, Richard Brown, Jena Lanszell, Charlotte Johnson, Emma Lang, Matthew M., Selena M., Jackie Weems, Bob Strang, Jacqueline Meador, Adrianna Hilburm, Jason & Jaxson Rivera, Therese Thomas, Mary Bell, Art Sandridge, Chris Karlson, Mary Vandergraft, Jeff Baldwin, Ben Sunde, Anna Wilks, Bill Boehme, Claude Davis, Mary Flatt, Kennita Turner, Eva Nave, Judy Blanche, Anna Belander, the Price family, Gail Johnson, Sally Cox, Mary Andrus family, Bruce Jansen, Mary Jean & Ron Travis, Jean Arndt, Mil White, Fr. Tim Pfander, Bobbie Quintana, Jr., Ezra Morris, Mark Manning, Larry Barnett.

Note

If you wish to add someone to the prayer list, please contact 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**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Matthew 25:31-46	Friday	Ezekiel 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 Matthew 5:20-26
Tuesday	Isaiah 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Matthew 6:7-15	Saturday	Deuteronomy 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 Matthew 5:43-48
Wednesday	Jonah 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Luke 11:29-32	Sunday	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14 Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1 Luke 9:28b-36
Thursday	Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 Matthew 7:7-12	2nd Sunday of Lent	

FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Lenten fast and abstinence is a call to a deeper spirit of penitential conversion. Ideally, this personal penance should reach out to the rest of the world through acts of charity and mercy. The real purpose of the fast and abstinence is “to develop the inner freedom to resist.”

Abstinence means not eating meat (beast or fowl). All Catholics, age 14 and older, are obliged to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and the Paschal fast of Good Friday. Fasting means not eating as much as usual. This means only one full meal with two smaller meals (the sum of which is less than the full meal) and no solid food snacks.

All Catholics between the ages of 18-59 inclusive are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Exceptions: The sick and infirm and those for whom these rules do not meet their real physical needs (not just desires) may adjust their fast as necessary. For clarification and other exceptions, contact the parish office.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

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

2025 ST. JOSEPH LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Adoration & Stations of the Cross

All Fridays during Lent
11:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. Church

Lenten Communal Anointing

Saturday & Sunday, March 22/23
After all Masses Church

Lenten Communal Reconciliation

Wednesday, April 2
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Church

Fish Fry

Friday, March 14/March 28/April 11
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Fr. Messmer Center
\$15 adults, \$6 ages 6-17

Enchiladas/Beans/Rice

Friday, March 7/March 21/April 4
3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Fr. Messmer Center
\$10 per plate

Parish Seder Meal

Palm Sunday, April 13
5:30-7:00 p.m. Fr. Messmer Center

CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING

Regular Collection	\$ 12,333.13
Other Designated Funds	\$ 2,591.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

MARCH 15-MARCH 16, 2025

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00pm: Larry Bayer
8:15am: Levi Stewart
11:15am: Michael Terry

LECTORS

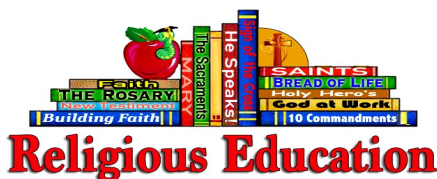
5:00pm: Maria Craig, Lydia Tadesse
8:15am: Robert Styles, Ellen Styles
11:15am: Bruce Taylor, Helen Taylor

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00pm: Patty Ayala*, Matteo Ayala, Maureen Chemsak,
Jenny Craig, McKinley Curtis
8:15am: Linda Billingsley*, Bill Billingsley, Gina Bain,
David Brost, Paula Bertrand
11:15am: Kristy Hayne*, Jane Dodds, Michelle Jansen,
Nelene Odutola, Jerolyn Golightly

Religious Education

Formation and Catechesis



FORMATION CALENDAR

- March 9 **NO RE/OCIA—Spring Break**
- March 16 **NO RE/OCIA—Spring Break**
- March 23 RE 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Holy Family School/St. Francis Hall
OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Parish Office Building
- March 30 RE 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Holy Family School/St. Francis Hall
OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Parish Office Building

Women’s History Month Program Saturday, March 15, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. St. Joseph Catholic Church

We invite you to come and celebrate with us.

Mistress of Ceremonies: Mrs. Michelle Nash.
Q&A Panel Discussion Moderator: Dr. Shannen Dee Williams.

We will honor, inspire and promote women who have been instrumental in breaking barriers and building bridges.

If you are not able to join us, please consider making a donation of \$20.00 or more. Your support does make a difference!

Proceeds from this event will go to the Holy Family School building fund.

With grateful hearts, we thank you for your support.

*The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary
kpcla286@gmail.com*

HUNTSVILLE AREA 2025 LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Our Lady Queen of the Universe | March 15 @ 8:30 a.m. * |
| St. Joseph | April 2 @ 5:00 p.m. * |
| St. Mary of the Visitation | April 5 @ 10:00 a.m. ** |
| St. John/Madison | April 7 @ 5:00 p.m. * |
| Mercy Parish/Madison | April 10 @ 6:30 p.m. ** |
| Holy Spirit | April 15 @ 7:00 p.m. ** |
| St. John/Madison | April 17 & 18 @ 9:15 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. * |

* = Confessions

** = Penance Service

Please verify date and time with the individual parish

JOYFUL WORKERS ANNUAL PLANT SALE This spring’s plant sale, sponsored by the Joyful Workers, will be April 26/27 in St. Francis Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you have plants to share, please contact Judy Morgida at 256-479-8981 or jamorgida@gmail.com. If you would like to purchase plants for your garden, stop by the plant sale.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION MARCH 8/9 This collection has supported evangelization and education efforts for Native Americans and African Americans in the United States for 140 years. In our diocese, the national fund supports seven parishes, four schools and four diocesan ministries each year. Your generosity to this collection reflects your willingness to help our brothers and sisters in need and further the missionary cause of bringing the Gospel to them.

Here Is What’s Happening This Week

HFS Closed March 10-14 for Spring Break

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

- 10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)
- 6:00pm: Spiritual Life Commission (LMR)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

- 6:00pm: St. Vincent de Paul (LMR)
- 6:00pm: 11:15am Mass Choir (SJC)
- 7:00pm: 8:15am Mass Choir (SJC)

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

- 9:00am: Rosary Makers (LMR)
- 4:00pm: HFS Foundation (LIB)
- 6:00pm: Adult Formation (LMR)

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

- 11:00am: Eucharistic Adoration (SJC)
- 12:00pm: Stations of the Cross (SJC)
- 5:00pm: Lenten Fish Fry (FMC)

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

- Joyful Bakers Bake Sale (SFH)**
- 10:00am: Women’s History Month Program (SJC/SFH)

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

- Joyful Bakers Bake Sale (SFH)**
- NO RE/OCIA—Spring Break**
- 12:30pm: African Catholic Association (LIB/LMR)

Facilities Key

- FMC = Messmer Center/Gym
- SJC = St. Joseph Church
- SFH = St. Francis Hall
- LMR/LIB = RE Center
- STA = St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel
- BRZWY = Breezeway
- VBC = Von Braun Center