

**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 14

8:00am: Ezra Morris  
5:00pm: +Damien Donnelly

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

8:15am: For the Parish  
11:15am: Ouedraogo Family

MONDAY, MARCH 16

7:00am: +Jacqui Pirl

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

7:00am: Fr. Joy Thomas Nellissery

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

7:00am: +Dave Royer

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

7:00am: +John Baptist Justin

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

7:00am: +Grace Margaret Walter

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

8:00am: +Ronald Edward Tepool  
5:00pm: Incarcerated Populations

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

**5th Sunday of Lent**

8:15am: +Dave Royer  
11:15am: For the Parish, +Frank (Tom) Uss

Dear Brothers and Sisters:



Today I would like to share a meditation with you from *The Word Among Us: Daily Meditations for Catholics*. It had some very thought-provoking questions that might be good to think about as we continue our Lenten journey. The meditation is from February 26, in the first week of Lent. The readings for that day were: **Easter C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Psalm 138:1-3, 7-8/Matthew 7:7-12.**

**Everyone who asks, receives. (Matthew 7:8)**

Are there days when you feel as if Jesus' words here just don't apply to you? Days - Or even longer - when you think that God is, in fact, hanging with stone or a snake instead of bread or a fish (**Matthew 7:9-10**)? Or maybe you struggle to understand why, when you "ask," "seek," or "knock," it seems as if he's just not answering (**Matthew 7:7**). Your faith tells you that God is all good and all loving, but your experience seems to be pointing in a different direction. Why is this?

Here's an answer you may not like, but it's an honest one: we simply don't know. It could be that his answer to our prayers is a quiet no. It could be that you're asking for the wrong thing and that God has something better in mind for you. Or it could be "not yet" - he will respond, but just not right now. Or it could be something altogether different. Whatever the reason, you are facing the mystery of God's will, and it can sometimes be hard to accept.

But even if the answer, or "non-answer," is not very comforting, Jesus' promise remains true: "everyone who asks, receives" (**Matthew 7:8**). Everyone receives. Maybe in ways we don't expect maybe ways we cannot perceive. Maybe in ways we will experience only in heaven. But our heavenly Father hears every prayer we offer. He hears the cries of our hearts. And he gives us the grace we need, the wisdom we need, or the courage or hope or correction or refocus that we need. Sometimes, he even gives us the silence that we need so that we will continue to grapple with our feelings and come to a better grasp of his calling and direction for us.

Jesus promises that God will "give good things to those who ask him" (**Matthew 7:11**). He is faithful. He is loving. He is just. He is kind and merciful. Hold on to those truths, no matter with what you are dealing. Grasp them tightly. Inscribe them in your memory. Write them on a piece of paper and keep it in your pocket as a reminder. Give yourself the gift of time and ask the Lord to give you the gift of patience. He won't fail you. Make this prayer, day and night:

**"The Lord will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O Lord, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands" (Psalm 138:8).**

I hope you have a blessed day and a blessed Lent. You are in my daily thoughts and prayers.

*Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe*

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**PLEASE NOTE**

If there is an emergency and you need me, please call the parish office at 256-534-8459 and leave a message. I am at the office at least 12 hours each day and that is the easiest, most direct way to get in touch. Please do not call my cell phone - I don't always have it with me and it is off most of the time. I hope this helps and does not inconvenience you.

*Thank you, Fr. Joe*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



Barbara Brodeur, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Faye Fletcher, Batchelder Family, Stachura Family, Sayre Family, Maddie Clearly, John Rourk, Jr., Cindy Morales, Linda Dimmock, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Judi Trygg, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Jane and Dena Bell, Marie Basta, Richard Brown, Jena Lanzell, Charlotte Johnson, Emma Lang, Jackie Weems, Bob Strang, Jacqueline Meador, Adrianna Hilburn, Jason & Jaxson Rivera, Therese Thomas, Art Sandridge, Chris Karlson, Mary Vandergraft, Jeff Baldwin, Ben Sunde, Anna Wilks, Bill Boehme, Kennita Turner, Eva Nave, Anna Belander, the Price family, Gail Johnson, Sally Cox, Mary Andrus family, George deVuyst, Milly Kuszynski, Brent Weisbecker, Mary Jean Travis, Jean Arndt, Mil White, Fr. Tim Pfander, Bobbie Quintana, Jr., Ezra Morris, Larry Barnett, Susan Sheehy, Chris Johnson, Peter Donnelly.

**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	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-10, 11-12 John 7:40-53
Wednesday	Isaiah 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 John 5:17-30	Sunday <b>5th Sunday of Lent</b>	Ezekiel 37:12-14 Ps 130:1-8 Romans 8:8-11 John 11:1-45
Thursday <b>Solemnity of St. Joseph</b>	2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a		

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL** is seeking coaches for our spring sports programs, including flag football, track and tee ball. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our students, promote teamwork and help our young athletes grow both on and off the field.

Virtus training is required for all coaches.

If you are interested or would like more information, contact Muriel Weston at [muweston@hfscatholic.com](mailto:muweston@hfscatholic.com).

**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT** is open for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are interested in learning more about what we have to offer, please call the school office at 256-539-5221.

**ST. JOHN PAUL II HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR ARE STILL OPEN!** Apply today to become a part of the Falcon family. Schedule a tour or a shadow day to learn more about what makes JPII the #1 Catholic High School in Alabama.

Inspired by our patron, St. John Paul II Catholic High School develops students in spirit, mind, and body through a Christ-centered, college preparatory education.

For more information, contact our admissions office at 256-430-1760, ext. 2117 or [admissions@jp2falcons.org](mailto:admissions@jp2falcons.org).

**2026 ST. JOSEPH LENTEN ACTIVITIES**

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**Adoration & Stations of the Cross**

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

**Lenten Communal Anointing**

Saturday & Sunday, March 14/15  
After all Masses Church

**Lenten Communal Reconciliation**

Thursday, March 19  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Church

**Fish Fry**

Friday, March 20  
5-7 p.m. Fr. Messmer Center  
Eat in/take out - \$15 adults, \$6 ages 6-12

**Enchiladas/Beans/Rice**

Friday, March 27  
3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Fr. Messmer Center  
Eat in/take out - \$10 per plate

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE**

**MARCH 21, 2026 – MARCH 22, 2026**

**ALTAR SERVERS**

5:00pm: Geri Reddy  
8:15am: David Pohl  
11:15am: Samuel Newport

**LECTORS**

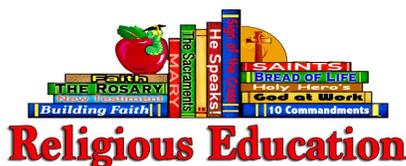
5:00pm: Terry Thompson, Lydia Tadesse  
8:15am: Ann Kvach, Bart Lynch  
11:15am: Debbye Joseph, Lee Cuffe

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

5:00pm: Ben Sunde\*, Webb Tadesse, Gus Smith, Patty Ayala, Maureen Chemsak  
8:15am: Ellen Styles\*, Rita Cusack, Teri Lynch, Anne Heatherly, Ashley Medina  
11:15am: Gerald Wocken\*, Bob Varga, Donniss Aragon, Kristy Hayne, Bernita Briggs

# Religious Education

## Formation and Catechesis



### FORMATION CALENDAR

- March 15 **NO RE/OCIA—SPRING BREAK**
- March 22 **NO RE/OCIA—SPRING BREAK**
- March 29 RE/OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
St. Francis Hall/HFS/Parish Office Building
- April 5 **NO RE/OCIA—Happy Easter**
- April 12 RE/OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
St. Francis Hall/HFS/Parish Office Building

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** If you attend Mass regularly at St. Joseph, you should be registered here. Single adults who no longer share an address with their parents should have their own separate registration. If you are planning to be married or are newly married, you are invited to join the parish. As a general rule, registration with a particular parish is important for any sacrament, such as baptism, 1st Communion, Confirmation, marriage and becoming a godparent. Please call the parish office if you have questions.

**BAPTISM:** Baptismal preparation class is required for parents and godparents. We offer the class at the beginning of each quarter, or four times a year. Please call the parish office to register. If you are a godparent from another parish, you must provide a letter of good standing from your pastor.

**MARRIAGE:** Marriage preparation classes are required if you plan to be married at St. Joseph. The preparation time is six months. You must be registered in the parish, complete the marriage preparation classes, attend an Engaged Encounter day or weekend and supply all the necessary documentation.

**FUNERAL:** Please call the parish office before making arrangements with a funeral home to ensure that the church and pastor are available. Schedule an appointment with the pastor to plan the service.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION NEEDED** Have you ever felt a desire to become closer to Christ? The EMHC may be the ministry God is calling you to join. Training sessions are available throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister, contact Josette Dant at [josette@hutchenscompany.com](mailto:josette@hutchenscompany.com).

*If you are not able to attend, please consider making a donation—any amount would be greatly appreciated. To RSVP, purchase a ticket or make a donation, please contact: Lou Thompson at 256-683-6411 or Bernita Briggs at 256-226-3085. Thank you!*

## Here Is What's Happening This Week

**HFS Spring Break March 16-20, 2026**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17**

10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18**

- 6:30pm: Knights of Columbus (LMR)
- 7:00pm: Knights of Columbus Holy Hour (SJC)
- 6:00pm: 11:15am Choir (SJC)
- 7:00pm: 8:15am Choir (SJC)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19**

- 10:00am: Ladies Bunco Group (LMR)
- 5:00pm: Lenten Reconciliation (SJC)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 20**

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

**SATURDAY, MARCH 21**

- Joyful Bakers Bake Sale**
- 10:00am: Lay Salvatorians (LMR)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

- Joyful Bakers Bake Sale**
- NO RE/OCIA—SPRING BREAK**

**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