

**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, FEBRUARY 24

8:00am: +Victor Pesqueira

5:00pm: +Don Acosta

+Emma Lois Robert

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:15am: For the Parish

11:15am: +Jenny Lausch

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7:00am: Ezra Morris

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

7:00am: +Catherine Utlak Chemsak

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:00am: +Ted & Jean Sikora

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

7:00am: Special Intention for J. Neely

9:00am*: HFS New School Project

FRIDAY, MARCH 01

7:00am: Ezra Morris

SATURDAY, MARCH 02

8:00am: For the Unborn

5:00pm: +Johnny Will Vandiver

SUNDAY, MARCH 03

8:15am: +Butch Damson

11:15am: For the Parish

***HFS School Mass**

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This reflection came from Monday, February 19 in *The Word Among Us: Catholic Mass Readings and Daily Meditations*. The readings for that day were: **Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18/ Psalm 19:8-10, 15/and Matthew 25:31-46**. I found the reflection to be very thought provoking.



“Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.” (Leviticus 19:2)

When we hear this commandment, two questions come to mind: What does it mean to be holy? And how are we supposed to get there?

The Hebrew word for “holy” is *kodesh*, which means to be “set apart.” When God describes himself as holy, he is saying that he is different, or set apart from, any creature or creative thing. He is transcendent, and in his perfect purity, he lacks nothing. God’s holiness isn’t an action he does; it is simply who he is. And incredibly, it is his deepest desire to share this holiness with us

So, for us to “be holy” (**Leviticus 19:2**), we have to set ourselves apart and make time for the One who is all holy. That’s how we open ourselves up to God’s work of transformation in us. Before becoming Pope Benedict XVI, then cardinal Joseph Ratzinger pointed out that “being holy does not mean being superior to others; the saint can be very weak, with many mistakes in his life.” Instead, it has far more to do with maintaining a steady rhythm of “profound contact with God, being a friend of God” (*October 6, 2002, L’Osservatore Romano*).

Just as God’s holiness is a matter of who he is and not what he does, the same is true of us. Through our time spent with the Lord, he makes us into a new creation. This transformation isn’t the result of our own moral fortitude or strength of will; it can only come about through a deep and abiding friendship with God. He is the only One who can truly heal our hearts and fill us with his own goodness and mercy.

As with all relationships, growing as a friend of God takes humility and time. It requires commitment on our part - we need to set ourselves apart from the world each day to be with him. It also means accepting that we will make mistakes along the way

But thankfully, we do not just pursue friendship with God; he is pursuing friendship with us. Because of his great love, his deepest desire is to be with us. In that communion of love, he can do what we could never do on our own: he can make us holy as he is holy.

“God, give me the grace to look more like you every day.”

You are in my daily thoughts and prayers. May God bless each of you in a special way this Lent.

Always in the Savior, Fr. Joe

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.



Barbara Brodeur, Carolyn Wingenter, Zanetta Brown, Rachel Johnson, Faye Fletcher, Batchelder Family, Stachura Family, Sayre Family, Richard Wertz, Maddie Clearly, John Rourk, Jr., Cindy Morales, John & Linda Dimmock, Josephine Stratton, Ralph & Helen Kissel, Dan Vandergrift, Judi Trygg, Marianna Young, Cecilia Hall, Deacon Mike Rooney, Antonio Beltran, Ramona Hallit, Rene Gonzalez, Bernice Geigel, Jane and Dena Bell, Juliana Goode, Marie Basta, Wanda Boren, Richard Brown, Jena Lanszell, Charlotte Johnson, Emma Lang, Diane Goguen, Matthew M., Selena M., Steven Weems, Serge Corvington, Bob Strang, Mateo Hernandez, Jacqueline Meador, Adrianna Hilburm, Jason & Jaxon Rivera, Therese Thomas, Mary Bell, Emma Rose Montague, Art Sandridge, Chris Karlson, Heidi Brown, Mary Vandergrift, Jeff Baldwin, Ben Sundry, Anna Wilks, Bill Boehme, Claude Davis, Mary Flatt, Kennita Turner.

Note

If you wish to add someone to the prayer 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**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday	Daniel 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13 Luke 6:36-38	Friday	Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46
Tuesday	Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Matthew 23:1-12	Saturday	Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
Wednesday	Jeremiah 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Matthew 20:17-28	Sunday	Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
Thursday	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Luke 16:19-31	3rd Sunday of Lent	Ps 19:8-11 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEW STUDENT OPEN ENROLLMENT
Grades K-8 for the 2024/2025 school year begins on February 1. For more information, call 256-539-5221 or visit www.holy-family-school.com.

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL is accepting applications for open teaching positions for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested, please send your resume and cover letter to jbell@hfscatholic.com.

2024 LENTEN FISH FRIES have been scheduled for Friday, March 8 and March 22 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Father Messmer Center. Menu includes fried or baked catfish and tilapia, French fries, hushpuppies, cole slaw and cheese pizza. Eat-in or takeout. Prices are \$12 for adults, \$5.00 for children 4-12, ages three and under are free.

SAVE THE DATE: On Friday, March 1, we will show the film ***Sound of Freedom: God's Children Are Not for Sale*** based on an incredible true story. The movie will be shown in St. Francis Hall starting at 7:00 p.m.

After rescuing a young boy from ruthless child traffickers, a federal agent learns the boy's sister is still captive and decides to embark on a dangerous mission to save her. This is a movie that every parent and teen should see. I hope you will make plans to join us.

Fr. Joe

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY St. Joseph parish will partner with several other local parishes and churches to build a home for a deserving family through the Habitat for Humanity program. The build will start on March 2 with completion expected in mid-May. If you would like to help, contact Terry Leger at legertj@yahoo.com for details.

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2024 *Women who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.* Join us for a morning of inspiration on Saturday, March 2 at 10:00 a.m., St. Joseph Church. Reception to follow in St. Francis Hall. All are welcome.

Featured Speaker: Mrs. Michelle Gillian Jordan

Your donation of \$20 will help fund a new Holy Family Catholic School. **Hosted by the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary #286**



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.

CURRENT WEEKLY OFFERING

Regular Collection	\$ 13,549.44
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 2,879.00
Other Designated Funds	\$ 1,668.33

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE

MARCH 02-MARCH 03, 2024

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00pm: Ron Rodrigues
8:15am: Juliet Spradlin
11:15am: Michael Terry

LECTORS

5:00pm: Laura Hall, Sabine Wlodarski
8:15am: Claire Fried, Jillian Fried
11:15am: Maggie Taylor, Jeffrey Taylor

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

5:00pm: Rita Cusack*, Maureen Chemsak, Josette Dant, Curtis McKinley II, Geri Donnelly
8:15am: Ellen Styles*, Miriam Kilgore, Jamie Stewart, Kevin Nash, Michelle Nash
11:15am: Jerolyn Golightly*, Bernita Briggs, Michelle Jansen, Jane Dodds, Kristy Hayne, Nelene Odutola

Religious Education

Formation and Catechesis

Lenten Water Project



ALL RE families: Don't forget to help your children with our Lenten water project. There are many ways to earn a few coins or dollars that our youth can use to help the Salvatorian Sisters in Tanzania. We hope this will be a wonderful family project! The jars are due back no later than March 24.

Lenten blessings to all, **Carmen Amato, DRE**

FORMATION CALENDAR

Feb. 25	RE 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. HFS (enter via Messmer Center) OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Parish Office Building LWC at 8:15am & 11:15am Masses
March 3	RE 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. HFS (enter via Messmer Center) OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Parish Office Building
March 10&17	NO RE/OCIA—Spring Break
March 24	RE 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. HFS (enter via Messmer Center) OCIA 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Parish Office Building LWC at 8:15am & 11:15am Masses

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SHARE THE HARVEST FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION MARCH 2/3. We have special need for: spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly, mashed potatoes, cookie and cake mixes, taco or burrito shells and toilet paper. No bulk items, please. Drop off your donations at the collection point in front of the church before Mass.

Thank you for your continued support of those in need in our community. For more information, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Mark at morgidm@gmail.com or 256-658-8981.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH ANNUAL SEDER MEAL Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fr. Messmer Center.

Sign-ups on March 10/11 and 17/18. More information in upcoming bulletins.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. for our **Stay-at-Home Tea**.

All registered parishioners will receive a formal invitation by mail. Proceeds from the tea will be used to support the Holy Family Capital Campaign. Any donation will be appreciated.

ENJOY THIS FUN EVENT! Sponsored by The Joyful Workers in honor of the late Fr. Gary New, SDS, former pastor of St. Joseph Church.

Fr. Gary was a tea and teapot lover. We will have a display of some of the teapots he collected over the years in the church breezeway.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a "St. Patrick's Day Dinner." Sunday, March 17, 2024, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Fr. Messmer Center.

Dinner will include corned beef, cabbage and potatoes. Prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children, ages five and below free.

Tickets will be available after weekend Masses in the church vestibule.

Here Is What's Happening This Week

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

10:00am: Parish Staff Meeting (LIB)
2:30pm: Phase 2 Meeting (LIB)
5:00pm: HFS Capital Campaign (LMR)
6:00pm: Boy Scouts

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

10:00am: Adult Formation (LMR)
2:00pm: HFS Builders Meeting (LIB)
6:00pm: St. Vincent de Paul (LMR)
6:00pm: 11:15am Mass Choir (SJC)
7:00pm: 8:15am Mass Choir (SJC)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

3:00pm: HFS New Furniture Meeting (LIB)
6:00pm: Adult Formation (LMR)

FRIDAY, MARCH 01

11:00am: Eucharistic Adoration (SJC)
12:00pm: Stations of the Cross (SJC)
1:00pm: HFS Foundation (LIB)
7:00pm: **Sound of Freedom** Movie (SFH)

SATURDAY, MARCH 02

Hospitality after the 5:00pm Mass
10:00am: Women's History Program
& Reception (SJC/SFH)

SUNDAY, MARCH 03

Hospitality after the 8:15am Mass
9:30am: RE/OCIA (LMR/LIB/HFS/SFH)

Facilities Key

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