

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 22, 2009

Dear Parishioners,

The rains of the deluge lasted forty days. In punishment for their disobedience, the Israelites had to wander through the desert for forty years. Moses had to fast for forty days before he received the commandments from God. The prophet Elias had to fast for forty days before God allowed him to set eyes on Mount Horeb. And the Holy Spirit led Jesus, immediately after his baptism, into the desert, and there fasted forty days and forty nights.

As we begin this Lenten journey for forty days and nights, let us through prayer, fasting and penance draw closer to God as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery: the passion, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Last year Pope Benedict invited us to reflect on a Lenten practice that of giving alms. This year he invites us to focus on the value and meaning of fasting. Indeed, Lent recalls the forty days of our Lord's fasting in the desert, which He undertook before entering into His public ministry. We read in the Gospel: "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry" (Mt 4,1-2). Like Moses, who fasted before receiving the tablets of the Law (cf. Ex 34,28) and Elijah's fast before meeting the Lord on Mount Horeb (cf. 1 Kings 19,8), Jesus, too, through prayer and fasting, prepared Himself for the mission that lay before Him, marked at the start by a serious battle with the tempter. Lent invites us to "train ourselves" spiritually, also through the practice of almsgiving, in order to grow in charity and recognize in the poor Christ Himself.

May this great season of Lent and Easter create a clean heart in us and draw all of us closer to our God, so that we can truly rejoice, as did the disciples on that first Easter morning. "Jesus Christ is Risen!"

*Blessings,  
Msgr. John Shamleffer*

### Our Week Ahead at St. Joseph

#### Monday, February 23

1:00 pm Prayer Group, Madonna Rm  
4:30 pm Children's Choir, Music  
5:15 pm PSR, School  
7:30 pm Adult Choir, Church

#### Tuesday, February 24

2:00 pm Bible Study, MR  
7:00 pm RCIA, Madonna Rm

#### Wednesday, February 25

**Masses at 6:30, 8:00 am,  
12:00, 12:10 & 5:00 pm**

4-7 pm Fish Bake, Parish Hall

#### Sunday, March 1

9:30 am PSR, School  
9:30 am Bible Study, MR  
7-8:15 pm Parish Mission, Church

### Readings for the Week Feb. 22, 2009

Sun: Is 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25 Ps 41:2-5,13-14 2 Cor 1:18-22  
Mk 2:1-12  
Mon: Sir 1:1-10 Ps 93:1-2,5 Mk 9:14-29  
Tues: Sir 2:1-11 Ps 37:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40 Mk 9:30-37  
Wed: Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-6a,12-14,17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 Mt 6:1-6,16-18  
Thur: Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-4,6 Lk 9:22-25  
Fri: Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-6a,18-19  
Mt 9:14-15  
Sat: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-6  
Lk 5:27-32  
Sun: Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1 Pt 3:18-22  
Mk 1:12-15

### Mass Intentions

**Monday, Feb. 23**  
Polycarp, bp, martyr  
6:30 am  
Fr. Raymond McCarthy  
8:00 am  
Fr. Robert Knight  
12:00 pm  
Moran Family Int.

**Tuesday, Feb. 24**  
6:30 am  
Helene Schweitzer  
8:00 am  
Erika Bender  
12:00 pm  
Msgr. McGuire

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
6:30 am  
Virginia Schroeder  
8:00 am  
Eugene Kilgen, Jr.  
12:00 pm  
Dustin Hadley Griffin  
12:10 pm  
Ann Ryan  
5:00 pm  
Ken & Matt Clark

**Thursday, Feb. 26**  
6:30 am  
Poor Souls  
8:00 am  
Mary Elizabeth Moloney  
12:00 pm  
Charles Fallert Family

**Friday, Feb. 27**  
6:30 am  
Richard Goyer  
8:00 am  
Robert H. Sicking  
12:00 pm  
Alexander Mahmood

**Saturday, Feb. 28**  
8:00 am  
John & Marigrace Clarke  
40th Anniv.  
5:00 pm  
Betty Williams

**Sunday, March 1**  
7:30 am  
Ruth Hronick  
9:00 am  
People of the Parish  
11:00 am  
Charles & Josephine Judge

### Neighbors in Need

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference has been visiting two heads of households who need some part time work to help meet their household expenses.

Mrs. M would like some clerical work on weekends, and Mrs. C would like to do some housework in the Clayton area.

If you would like to discuss some employment options with either of them, please call 862-0809 to leave your information.

## We Pray For Our Loved Ones

May God provide health and comfort to:

Bruce Hagen  
Maryanne Dolan  
Fr. Gerry Kleba  
Mary Lee Rovira  
John Gillis  
Robert Coplan  
Mildred Fraser  
Elvessie Edwards  
Barbara Lindsay  
Joan Wilson  
Bob Wilson  
Sean O'Connor  
Josh Eckhoff  
Maria Guehlstorf  
Michael Phelps  
Lynn Burch  
Joseph Niedbalski  
Naomi Carmody  
Beth Wilcox  
Richard Vance  
Paula Mulhearn  
LaVerne Safron  
Susie Taff  
Sr. Eleanor  
Lois Laffey  
Peggy Holmes  
Vincentia Majka  
Barbara Beauzethier

Welcome to St. Joseph - Clayton, Missouri

### St. Joe's Seniors Center

What a lovely day - 70 degrees and a St. Valentine's Day Party! Not much better than that, unless it is a St. Patrick's Day party. Mark your calendars for Tuesday March 10th, for lunch, Irish sing-a-long, and "Rob Your Neighbor". Stay tuned for details.

### Habitat for Humanity Build 2009

We are participating in a Habitat for Humanity Build again this year. Please consider spending a day helping a family build their home. You can lend a hand even if you don't know anything about construction or using tools. Our build days are Fridays May 1, and June 19, Saturdays April 18, May 2, May 9, May 16, June 20, June 27, July 25 and August 1<sup>st</sup>. As part of a blitz build we will be working Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> too. We are also asking for volunteers to help clean the inside of the house on Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Ash Wednesday Dinner and in the bulletin throughout the month of March. For any questions about volunteering, please contact Betsy Sampson at 725-3380. If you are a skilled carpenter interested in working on Wednesdays in July please contact Mike Marks at 862-4167.

### Rest in Peace

Let us pray for all of our deceased parishioners, relatives, benefactors and friends. We remember all of our loved ones who have gone before us and pray that they are celebrating with our Lord in heaven.

### St. Joseph Trivia Night

March 7, 2009

St. Joseph Church in the Church Hall  
Doors open 6:30 p.m., questions 7 p.m.  
\$ 12.50 per person, tables of 8  
Prizes for top three tables!  
Call 727-9059 to sign up!

### Religious Education

#### PSR

We are thrilled that so many parents attended the Protecting God's Children workshop and have completed the paperwork for our Safe Environment compliance.

#### R.C.I.A.

Ellen Young is engaged to Tyler Zimmer. They will be married in Columbia, Missouri in October, because they are University of Missouri graduates. MIZ...ZOU! Go Tigers! She is excited about converting to Catholicism. She is an accountant at Arco construction.

### Lent Begins Wed., Feb. 25th

Ash Wednesday is February 25th. Masses for the day are at 6:30 & 8:00 a.m., 12:00, 12:10 and 5:00 p.m.

### Stations of the Cross

During Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m., followed by Confession. The dates are March 11, 18, 25 and April 1, and 8.

This traditional prayer of the church offers all the opportunity to **more deeply meditate on the Passion of Our Lord.**

The Stations are visible signs of Christ's path which are available to us year round. We have come to overlook them week after week. Let us walk the Way of the Cross to Resurrection together this Lent.

### ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN REGULATIONS

Then to all Christ said, "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps" (Lk 9:23).

The Church has always helped us respond obediently to these words of Jesus by prescribing certain acts of penance for all Catholics. Accordingly, the Holy Father and the Bishops of the United States have set forth the following regulations of obligatory fast and abstinence:

**Ash Wednesday (February 25, 2009) and Good Friday (April 10, 2009)** are days of **abstinence** for all Catholics **over the age of 14**. On these two days, **fast**, as well as abstinence, is also obligatory for **those from the ages of 18 to 59**. Abstinence means abstinence from meat. Fast means one full meal a day, with two smaller meals and nothing between meals (liquids are permitted). No Catholic will lightly excuse himself or herself from this obligation.

**All other Fridays of Lent** are days of **abstinence** from meat. Here again Catholics will not hold themselves lightly excused, but if there is a serious health problem, the obligation does not apply.

We should strive to make all days of Lent a time of prayer and penance.

### White House Retreat

The retreat begins March 5 with dinner at 6:00 p.m. and ends March 8th after lunch at 2:00 p.m. For those interested, call Greg Browne at 726-6933.

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### Parish Mission:

**Living Lent: Preaching, Prayer and Action**

5 days, March 1- March 5, 7-8:15 p.m.

Redemptorists Fr. David Polek and Fr. Matthew Bonk  
will lead the mission.

You are welcome to attend all or any sessions possible. Help is  
always appreciated. Call our D.R.E., Terri Venneman, at 314-727-  
9059 for details or to offer help.

The Parish Mission is an extraordinary preaching event. God's Word is proclaimed through the Bible and through the life, learning and personal experience of the preacher. The Parish Mission begins Sunday, March 1, at 7:00 p.m. and continues each of the next four evenings, concluding on Thursday evening.

The themes, symbols, topics and goals of the preaching and reflections and renewal are different each evening:

- Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. -- The symbol this night is bread, representing Jesus, the Bread of Life. The topic is the Eucharist, nourishment for our journey through life. The goal is our appreciation of the Eucharist and how this grace strengthens us in our witness of our faith to others.

We wish to thank Robert Briggs, our parishioner, of **I Love Signs**, for our outdoor Parish Mission sign, with the heavy winds our sign blew down. He found it, cleaned it and reset it.

### The Year of St. Paul

(READING: Titus 1:1, 3:15)

**Meditation theme: Lord grant me the grace to stand fast against those who would destroy the Church or the Faith.**

A weary, aging Paul was making his way to Nicopolis. It was autumn of the year 66. He had finished his last missionary visitation of the east, having established a new Church in Crete. He had left Titus in Crete, as his delegate, and Timothy in Ephesus, both with full power to act in his name. He would rest now at Nicopolis. Luke and some friends were with him. Then in the early Spring of 67, he would visit the weary, persecuted brethren in Rome.

However, his mind could not be at rest as yet. Much had to be done in Crete if that small community of Christians was to become a solid, firmly established Church. He must give Titus some final instructions, reminding him first to set up a council of presbyters. They were to be worthy men, strong and able to "hold fast the faithful word" of sound doctrine and to "resist vain babblers and deceivers." Next he admonished all Christians, young and old, slave or free, to respect authority, "ready for every good work." Finally he advised Titus: The best teacher is the one who lives what he teaches. "Show yourself in all things an example of good works, in teaching, in integrity, in dignity!"

No man loved freedom more than Paul. His life was a continual fight for freedom from the slavery of the Mosaic Law. For Paul "it was the spirit that gives life." Paul was no starry-eyed dreamer who pictured a Church without structure or freedom without responsibility! He knew that there had to be an organization, with power to command and authority to teach. There had to be obedience! Christian freedom is responsible freedom. Freedom under law is freedom under God.

We easily get caught up in the frenzied irresponsible talk of today. "We've got to do away with the structure," "The organizational Church is destructive of meaningful relationships! Authority is repressive of human dignity. The organization has to go!" The sweep and the noise of it, catches us as in a whirlwind. We are swept along, confused, afraid. We are afraid to say a word for the tradition who said that the vain babblers and deceivers must be rebuked.

*Your Church is Your Body, Lord. It must have a visible head, hierarchy and unity. Help me to see clearly. Help me to fight for the truth.*

## Sunday Worship

Feb. 28-Mar. 1, 2009

### 5:00 pm

Altar Servers  
Maria Ryan

Reader/Lector  
Paul Watson  
Mary Molloy

Extraordinary Ministers  
Ramon Floro  
Mike Marks  
+Vic Schulte

### 7:30 am

Altar Servers  
Adult Volunteer

Reader/Lector  
Greg Browne

Extraordinary Ministers  
Jane Byrne  
Frank Hackmann  
+Betty Torno

### 9:00 am

Altar Servers  
Dan Hoff

Reader/Lector  
Joe Dickmann  
Mary Joan Woods

Extraordinary Ministers  
Terry Carmack  
Susan Hackmann  
+Mary Carver

### 11:00 am

Altar Servers  
Caitlyn Lee  
Danielle Lee

Reader/Lector  
Carolyn Dickmann  
Rosemary Pickle

Extraordinary Ministers  
Anthony D'Agostino  
Roger Drone  
Pierce Powers  
+Carmen Leonardi

+ Only when no deacon is present



**St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus  
Shrimp,  
Baked or Fried Fish Dinner**

St. Joseph's-Clayton  
106 N. Meramec Avenue  
Call 726-1221 or Fax form to 721-5110

Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2009  
Serving dinners from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Catch a healthy, fun evening with the parish community.  
Visit with old friends, meet new ones and share a delicious dinner.

Reservations preferred. Walk-ins welcome.  
Carry-outs available.

Adults \$8.50      Children \$5.00 (12 years or younger)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify: Shrimp \_\_\_\_\_ Eat-in   
Baked \_\_\_\_\_ Carry-out   
Fried \_\_\_\_\_

No. of adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

***\*\*\*Pick up carry-out orders in the church basement.\*\*\****

Please detach and return with payment to the Rectory Office,  
106 N. Meramec, 63105, drop in the collection basket, or pay at the door.

***Side Dishes:***

*Mostaciolli      Green Beans      Salad      Slaw      Applesauce  
Coffee, Tea or Lemonade, Rolls & Butter Included*