

Dear Parishioners,

As we have begun this Lenten Season, the Church provides us with an opportunity to intensify our focus upon our God. Three practices are set forth for us to put into action this season; To Pray, To Fast, To Give Alms. Today I would like to write about prayer.

Prayer gives us that opportunity to increase awareness of God in our lives and to be in deeper communion with Him. I would like to suggest six steps as a guide to moving through a time of prayer.

1. Place yourself in the presence of God. Remember that God is near, not far away. He is in the very depth of your heart, your spirit. Begin all of your prayers whether in silence or vocal, in the presence of God.
2. Ask the Lord to help you to pay attention to Him, to open yourself up to His word and presence.
3. Pick out a passage from Scripture, a scene from the gospel, a mystery of faith, or a passage from some spiritual reading. If the subject matter you have chosen lends itself to it, picture yourself in the same place as the action or event that is happening. Use your imagination to place yourself in the midst of the scene near Jesus, with the disciples.
4. Think about what you have chosen to meditate on in such a way as to increase your love for the Lord or for virtue. The purpose is not primarily to study or know more, but to increase your love for God and the life of discipleship.
5. If good affections should rise up – gratitude for God’s mercy, awe at His majesty, sorrow for sin, desire to be more faithful, more one with our God.
6. Come to some practical resolutions concerning changes you would like to make as a response to the affections. For example, resolve to be more faithful in prayer, or more ready to forgive, or more eager to share the faith with others, or more determined to resist sin, in as practical and concrete a way as you can determine.

Finally end all prayer with expressions to God for the light and affections He has given us in our time of prayer.

Lenten Blessings!
Msgr. John Shamleffer

Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers the soul of **Rita Maloney**, sister of Mary Maloney. May our Heavenly Father welcome **Rita** into His eternal home and may He send the comfort only He can to her family and friends.

Are You A Registered Parishioner?

It is as simple as a phone call. Call the Rectory, 726-1221, Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:00 p.m. and we can take your registration information over the phone.

Baptism

We welcome to the St. Joseph Parish Family, through the Waters of Baptism, **Luke Cornelius Lane**, son of Timothy and Karen Lane, and **Owen Henry Brown**, son of Christopher and Amy Brown. Congratulations to the happy families!



Daylight Savings begins next weekend. Be sure to set your clock **forward** one hour.

Monday, March 2

6:30 am

Poor Souls

8:00 am

Joan Hulla

12:00 pm

Dustin Hadley Griffin

Tuesday, March 3

6:30 am

Richard Hunter

8:00 am

Maloney Family

12:00 pm

Houlihan-King Family

Wednesday, March 4

6:30 am

Fr. Raymond McCarthy

8:00 am

Eugene Kilgen, Jr.

12:00 pm

James J. Schwartz

Thursday, March 5

6:30 am

Helene Schweitzer

8:00 am

Robert H. Sicking

12:00 pm

Salvatore Mancuso

Friday, March 6

6:30 am

Leahy-Wuennenberg Fam.

8:00 am

Fred Beckman

12:00 pm

Sr. Graciana

Raymundo, DC

Saturday, March 7

8:00 am

Respect for All Life

5:00 pm

John N. Shalhoob

Sunday, March 8

7:30 am

Rose Beckwar

9:00 am

Floro-Leonardo Fam.

11:00 am

People of the Parish

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

Attention all Irish and those not fortunate enough to be Irish. Plan on joining us for our St. Patrick's Day luncheon. We shall have lunch, Irish Sing-a-Longs, and as always "Rob Your Neighbor". So bring a friend and a gift to share on Tuesday March 10th, 12:45 pm in the church hall. RSVP to 726-1221.

ATTENTION ALL TRADITION LOVERS

How long has it been since you have experienced the joy and graces of **Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**? Did you know Benediction is offered the first Tuesday of each month, here at St. Joseph? Come to the 8 am Mass, stay for Perpetual Help devotions, and then attend the Prayer Service for the Sick. This ten-minute service concludes with Benediction. Come and pray with us.

Recently widowed and a devout Catholic, I am looking to rent in a home close to St. Joseph Church and Carmelite Monastery. If interested, please call me at 314-541-2282.

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!



Please pray for the following men and women in service to our country:

Christopher Johnson, grandson of Naomi Carmody.

James O'Connell, son-in-law of Deacon Al and Mickey Williams is stationed in Iraq.

Readings for the Week March 1, 2009

Sun: Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1 Pt 3:18-22
Mk 1:12-15
Mon: Lv 19:1-2,11-18 Ps 19:8-10,15
Mt 25:31-46
Tues: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7,16-19
Mt 6:7-15
Wed: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19
Lk 11:29-32
Thur: Est C:12,14-16,23-25 Ps 138:1-3,7c-8 Mt 7:7-12
Fri: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8
Mt 5:20-26
Sat: Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8
Mt 5:43-48

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:

Good Friday (April 10, 2009) is a day of **abstinence** for all Catholics **over the age of 14**. On this day **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.

We Honor St. Joseph as a Carpenter The Good Works Program of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

has committed to building a ramp for a household in our neighborhood, on March 16, 17 and 18th with the help of 2 dozen college students from Clemson University, S. C.

They will need as many workers with power saws and screw drills as we can muster on these days. (The ramp will be VERY long.) What better way for us to celebrate St. Joseph's feast day, March 19th, than the dedication of a ramp built to serve our neighbors by "neighbors"?

The Year of St. Paul

(READ: II Timothy 1:1-18)

Meditation: Lord the grace to show openly my feelings of tenderness and love.

In the Spring of 67 Paul returned to Rome which had become the center of persecution against the church. As he probably realized beforehand, it was not long before he was arrested and imprisoned as a leader of the Christian "conspiracy." This was a far different imprisonment for Paul than the previous one. Instead of being under house arrest, he was thrown unceremoniously into a dungeon in the Mamertine prison and chained to a wall like a common criminal. He was forced to endure dampness and cold and unbelievable filth. Hardest of all, he suffered great loneliness.

Occasionally Onisephorus took the risk of visiting Paul. Luke also tried to see him as often as he could in his role as physician. But between these visits, the aging Paul was a weary and lonely man. The long lonely hours allowed Paul an old man's luxury. He reminisced about the past. His thoughts went back to the days of young manhood -- to the fiery zealot on the road to Damascus, the blinding light -- the vision of the Master. Paul smiled. What a change that vision had wrought in him! He had travelled a long, long road since that day. Those glorious days with Barnabas! And then he felt a twinge of regret as he thought of his stubbornness about Mark. He had to fight back the tears as he recalled the loyalty and humility of Barnabas -- and his concern the day he himself was stoned and was found in the ditch. Paul never forgot the look of compassion on the faces of Barnabas and Timothy. Timothy was the hope of the future. He must write Timothy his last words of advice.

Lord, tenderness and gentleness are the marks of strong men. The strong are convinced of their masculine identity. No need for them to project a façade of masculinity in order to bolster a weak masculine image. Men of the caliber of Paul feel no need to prove their manliness. Paul could be gentle and kind, thoughtful, warm, tender. Paul was able to tell Timothy that he was praying for him. Paul remembered Timothy's tears at their parting and longed to see him again. He could share with Timothy his deepest feelings of love for the Lord.

Lord, You were the essence of manliness, and You were as gentle as a shepherd and as tender as a mother. Don't let me be afraid to be gentle and thoughtful. Let me express openly my warm feelings, my care, my concern, my compassion; my love without pretense!



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.

Call our D.R.E., Terri Venneman, at 314-727-9059 for details or to help.

Children's Mission

Fr. Bisgrove will speak to our children on Sunday at 7 pm.

The children will meet in church to be dismissed to room 6 of the school building.

They will meet their parents in the parish hall at 8 p.m.

Our 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:

March 1, 7:00 p.m. – The symbol this night is the Bible, the topic is Salvation.

March 2, 7:00 p.m. – The symbol this night is the Crucifix, the topic is Jesus as Savior

March 3, 7:00 p.m. – The symbol this night is the Easter Candle, the topic is sin, reconciliation and healing, living the life of conversion.

March 4, 7:00 p.m. – The symbol this night is bread, the topic is the Eucharist,.

March 5, 7:00 p.m. – The symbol this night is the Altar, the topic is our Mission, our calling to go out and share in the work of Jesus Christ and the Church.

5:00 pm

Altar Servers
Sean Gallagher
Connor Gallagher
Denny Schultz

Reader/Lector
Mary Molloy

Extraordinary Ministers
Vic Schulte
Mike Marks
+Ramon Floro

7:30 am

Altar Servers
Dan Hoff

Reader/Lector
Frank Hackmann

Extraordinary Ministers
Florence Beckwar
Jane Byrne
+David Ahner

9:00 am

Altar Servers
Brian Gaffigan
Connor Mulligan

Reader/Lector
John Gillis
Mary Lee Rovira

Extraordinary Ministers
Marcella Leonardo
Mary Carver
+Ruth Tredway

11:00 am

Altar Servers
Lauren Hill
Emily Looby
Andrew Looby

Reader/Lector
Pat Devereux
Roger Drone

Extraordinary Ministers
Carolyn Dickmann
Joe Dickmann
Thom Schwetye
*Gretchen Sander

+ Only when no deacon is present

March 2009

<p>1 <i>Fr. Polek</i> <i>speaking at all</i> <i>Masses: Mission</i> 9:30 am <i>PSR, S</i> 9:30 am <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i> 11 am <i>CLW,</i> <i>PHC</i> 7 pm <i>Mission,</i> <i>Church</i></p>	<p>2 1 pm <i>Prayer</i> <i>Group, MR</i> 5:15 pm <i>PSR, S</i> 7 pm <i>Mission,</i> <i>Church</i></p>	<p>3 2 pm <i>Bible Study,</i> <i>MR</i> 7 pm <i>Mission,</i> <i>Church</i></p>	<p>4 7 pm <i>Mission,</i> <i>Church</i></p>	<p>5 7 pm <i>Mission,</i> <i>Church</i></p>	<p>6 7 pm <i>Cursillo,</i> <i>MR</i></p>	<p>7 7 pm <i>Trivia</i> <i>Night, Parish</i> <i>Hall</i></p>
<p>8 9:30 am <i>PSR, S</i> 9:30 am <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i> 10 am <i>RCIA, PH</i> 11 am <i>CLW, PHC</i></p>	<p>9 1 pm <i>Prayer</i> <i>Group, MR</i> 4:30 pm <i>Children's</i> <i>Choir, Music Room</i> 5:15 pm <i>PSR, S</i> 7 pm <i>Education</i> <i>Comm, S</i> 7:30 pm <i>Adult</i> <i>Choir, CH</i></p>	<p>10 12:45 pm <i>Seniors</i> <i>Luncheon, PH</i> 2 pm <i>Bible Study,</i> <i>MR</i></p>	<p>11 5:30 pm <i>Stations</i> <i>of the Cross—</i> <i>Followed by</i> <i>Confession</i> 7pm <i>Baptism Class,</i> <i>Rectory</i> 7:30 pm <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i> 7:30 pm <i>St V&P,</i> <i>PHC</i></p>	<p>12 6:30 pm <i>Bridge</i> <i>Group, PHC</i> 7 pm <i>Parish</i> <i>Council, MR</i></p>	<p>13 7 pm <i>Cursillo,</i> <i>MR</i></p>	<p>14 <i>Little Sisters of</i> <i>The Poor</i></p>
<p>15 <i>Little Sisters of</i> <i>The Poor</i> 9 am <i>RCIA, PH</i> 9:30 am <i>PSR, S</i> 9:30 am <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i> 11 am <i>CLW, PHC</i> <i>Anointing of the</i> <i>Sick</i></p>	<p>16 1 pm <i>Prayer</i> <i>Group, MR</i> 4:30 pm <i>Children's</i> <i>Choir, Music Room</i> 5:15 pm <i>PSR, S</i> 7:30 pm <i>Adult</i> <i>Choir, CH</i></p>	<p>17 2 pm <i>Bible Study,</i> <i>MR</i></p>	<p>18 5:30 pm <i>Stations</i> <i>of the Cross—</i> <i>Followed by</i> <i>Confession</i> 7:30 pm <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 7 pm <i>Cursillo,</i> <i>MR</i></p>	<p>21 <i>Anointing of the</i> <i>Sick,</i> <i>St. Joseph's Day</i> <i>Celebration in</i> <i>Parish Hall</i> <i>following</i> <i>5 pm Mass</i> 5 pm <i>RCIA,</i> <i>MR</i></p>
<p>22 <i>Anointing of the</i> <i>Sick</i> 9:30 am <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i></p>	<p>23 1 pm <i>Prayer</i> <i>Group, MR</i> 7:30 pm <i>Adult</i> <i>Choir, CH</i></p>	<p>24 2 pm <i>Bible Study,</i> <i>MR</i></p>	<p>25 5:30 pm <i>Stations</i> <i>of the Cross—</i> <i>Followed by</i> <i>Confession</i> 7:30 pm <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7 pm <i>Cursillo,</i> <i>MR</i></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30 am <i>Bible</i> <i>Study, MR</i> 11 am <i>RCIA, MR</i></p>	<p>30 1 pm <i>Prayer</i> <i>Group, MR</i> 4:30 pm <i>Children's</i> <i>Choir, Music Room</i> 5:15 pm <i>PSR, S</i> 7:30 pm <i>Adult</i> <i>Choir, CH</i></p>	<p>31 2 pm <i>Bible Study,</i> <i>MR</i></p>				<p><i>CH=Church</i> <i>MR=Madonna</i> <i>Rm</i> <i>PHC=Parish</i> <i>Hall Cove</i> <i>PH=Parish Hall</i> <i>S=School</i></p>