



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 100 * New Melle, MO 63365

Website: www.ihm-newmelle.org

Office Phone: 636-398-5270

Deliveries only address: 8 West Highway D, New Melle, MO 63365

All Masses and other devotions have been suspended until at least April 6.

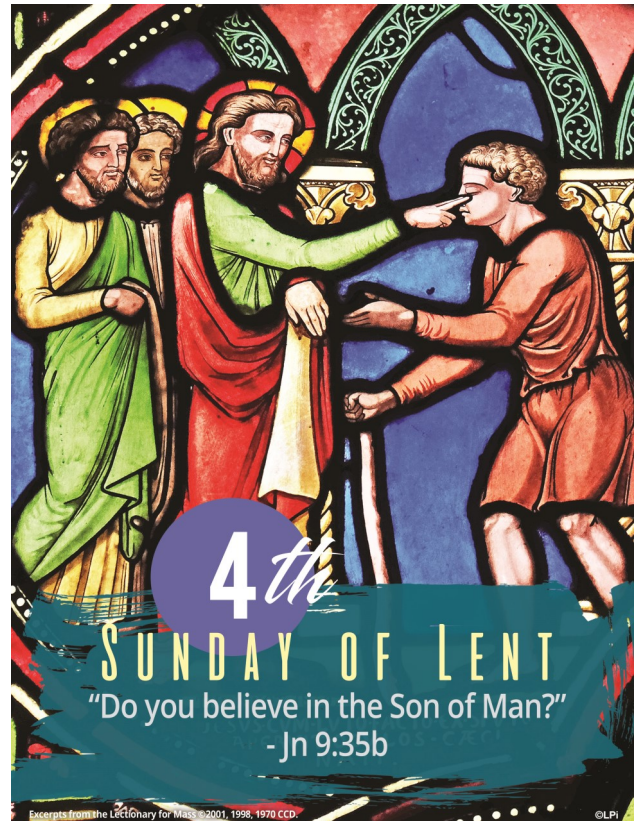
St. Joseph Chapel will be open for Eucharistic Adoration.

St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, pray for us.

Sacraments

- Reconciliation:** Mon/Tue/Wed in church, 7pm
Saturday following 8am Mass
- Marriage:** Contact the parish office
at least six months prior to the wedding
- Baptism:** Contact the parish office
to register for class and to arrange date
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:**
Contact Shawn Mueller in the parish office

March 22, 2020



Deeper Understanding of Scripture

“Do you believe in the Son of Man?” Jesus wants to motivate each one of us to see the truth. After developing a relationship with Jesus, the blind man “sees” as someone very special. The Pharisees, due to the blindness caused by their ignorance, prejudice, and need for self-preservation, still remain blind. Presuppositions, prejudices, assumptions, and our needs can easily blind us to truth. We see what we want or need to see and not what is really there. In addition, our stubbornness continues to convince us that we are right and that our vision is perfect. Only God can complete the picture.

Look around at our world. So much

of what is happening today is due to the reluctance of folks to allow themselves to be stretched and brought to see what is really there. Many react to what life presents to them more with the lenses of ignorance than lenses of clarity. The Gospel carries great transformative value. With it, God corrects our vision and replaces our limited sight with the fullness of his sight. God opens our eyes so that we can see that it is not about preserving what we have created but of living in the immensity and wonder of God’s kingdom.

Through a simple, loving relationship with God, we can break through the tethers of prejudice, eradicate fear,

dispel the darkness of hatred and sin, discover freedom, live in peace, work for justice, be effective stewards of creation, assist the migrant and the immigrant, and safeguard our economic systems and policies so that they truly serve all of God’s children. What we see is often an artificial lie. Our truth is much bigger than what our limited sight believes it to be. Allow God to work in and through you. Do not be afraid. Be open and be humble enough to know that you need help. Many human beings are living with severe cataracts that produce sight that is at best blurred. Are you one of them?

Welcome to Immaculate Heart of Mary: *Informed—Hospitable—Missionary*

Parish Staff

Parish Office: 636-398-5270

Fr. Tom Miller, Pastor askpadre@aol.com
(for emergencies only: 314-303-2428)

Deacon Chris Ast chrisast@archstl.org
Deacon Tony Falbo tony.2011@centurylink.net
Laura Orf, Business Manager lorf@ihm-newmelle.org
Peggy Dupree, Secretary secretary@ihm-newmelle.org
Bryan Beams, Director of Music and Liturgy
bryanbeams@ihm-newmelle.org
Janet Hespen, Youth Leader janethspn@outlook.com
Karen Wappelhorst, Child Safety Coordinator
childsafety@ihm-newmelle.org

Religious Education

Shawn Mueller, Director

636-398-5270, smueller@ihm-newmelle.org

Parish School of Religion
Grades 1 thru 8, September thru May, 6-7:30pm, Wednesdays
Confirmation Preparation
8th Grade—September thru May, 6-7:30pm, Wednesdays
Children's Liturgy of the Word
September thru May, during the 9:30am Sunday Mass
Adult Education
Wednesdays at 8:45am and 6:10pm, September thru May
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—contact Shawn for schedule

Quick Contacts Directory

Weddings, Receptions, Events

Pat Gentry, Hall Rental 636-398-5270
Kelly Meyer, Wedding Coordinator 636-828-4994
Jean Hitt, Wedding Coordinator 636-987-2131
Joan Marren-Slaughter, Event Coordinator 636-398-5270
Mary Keune, Event Coordinator 636-398-5270

Prayer and Devotion

Eucharistic Adoration
Shawn Mueller 636-398-5270
Legion of Mary
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
Prayer Chain
Brenda Hutchcraft 636-248-8493
Prayer Intercession/Jonah Team
Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Julia Kettler 314-616-0096

Liturgical Ministries

Extraordinary Ministers
Irene Caldwell 636-398-4311
Gift Bearers
Peggy Dupree 636-398-5270
Lectors
Ed Taylor 636-561-7099
Ushers
Gary Struckhoff 636-828-6067
Altar Servers
Deacon Tony Falbo tony.2011@centurylink.net
Altar Society
Pam DeBold 636-482-4765
Music Ministry
Bryan Beams 636-398-5270
Contemporary Music Group
Debbie Gillespie 636-398-4971

Youth and Young Adults

High School Youth Leader
Janet Hespen 314-369-6521
Young Adults
Julie Lassiter 636-357-0121

Parish Organizations

Art & Environment
Mary Karll 636-433-5049
Budget & Finance
Larry Graves 314-799-9804
Cemetery Committee
Mark Keune 314-220-7075
Dinner Committee
Jeff Comotto 314-570-6972
Funeral Lunches
Carol Grady 314-662-2281
Ruth Neske 636-398-5699
Vicki Grunz 636-497-5230
Helping Hearts
IHM Parish 636-398-5270
John Grady 314-662-2138
Mary Fischer 636-561-7747
Bob Hutchcraft 636-346-3471
Maria Romine-Kantor 314-614-0857
Knights of Columbus
Bob Hutchcraft 636-346-3471
Marian Council
Barb Pope 773-383-8602
Meal Train
Kelly Meyer meyer5853@qmcinc.org, 636-828-4994
Meals on Wheels
Jean Bammann 636-798-2718
Pro Life
Bill Winters 636-828-4133
Quilters
Mary Ann Brakensiek 636-828-5776
Ruth Willis 636-398-4597
Scouting
Chuck Hinkle 636-544-6639
Cub Scouts: Adam McCarthy 636-634-7622
Boy Scouts: Chad Peters 314-807-7177
St. Vincent de Paul
Joe Willis 636-398-2106
Welcoming Committee
Teresa Berfanger 636-398-5565

Be not afraid, just have faith

Dear Parishioners,

As we come to terms with the virus out of China—COVID-19, Coronavirus and other names—we want to take good precautions in limiting our exposure to it as well as safeguarding the health of each to the extent that we can. Somewhere between the “sky is falling” and “nothing to see here, all is fine” crowds is the wisdom of a thoughtful and measured response. Please use good judgment in coming to church. If you are older or possess fragile health, especially with immunity deficiency or respiratory issues, avoiding large social gatherings is prudent. If you are not attending worship, you should not be attending any other social gatherings other than to maintain your life and household.

Prayer is a great way to respond to situations that are crisis. Prayer is a much better response than over-emotionalism and panic-driven behavior. Prayer is much better than closing our eyes to problems and ignoring them. Prayer puts the situation and our lives in God’s hands and appeals to His wisdom in helping us find the best path forward.

Peace, Fr. Tom

Prayer for anxiety and worry

Dear Jesus, in this moment, I find myself struggling with worries.

I know this is not Your will and that You wish me to lay my burdens at Your feet.

I know I can turn my cares over to You, who have died on the cross to set me free.

I choose to trust in You, Lord, to focus on You,

and to leave behind my worries and my cares, as they are nothing in Your light.

When I find myself falling to my knees, let it be in front of You, with Your name on my lips, dear God.

You will ease my burden and let me live free.

In Your Name, Amen.

A Prayer to Overcome Fear, Anxiety and Worry

Most gracious and loving God, I don’t know what to do. I am filled with anxiety, fear, and worry. These feelings have taken over me, and I can no longer control them. Help. I can’t keep living like this anymore. It’s not living. I feel paralyzed, trapped, with no way out. Help me find a way out of my anxiety, fear, and worry. As I say this prayer, I realize that I have been pushing You away, along with pushing away Your love, and Your peace.

I’ve allowed these thoughts of anxiety, fear, and worry to take control. I forgot what Your Word says, that there is no fear in love, and that perfect love casts out fear. I forgot that Your love for me is perfect. You love me just as I am, and especially when I am anxious, fearful, and worried. I forgot that love never fails. All of this anxiety, fear, and worry has blocked Your peace that surpasses all understanding.

I choose to surrender this anxiety, fear, and worry to You. Right now, I will just sit and be still in Your presence. I welcome Your loving, healing presence beside me and within me. Fill me with Your peace. Fill me with Your love. Cast out my anxiety, fear, and worry. Whenever anxious, fearful, and worried thoughts return, I will tell them to “be still – hush!” I will focus instead on Your loving, peaceful presence leading me and guiding me. I will remember that You are always with me. So, I will trust You more.

In the name of Your Son, the Prince of Peace, AMEN

4th Sunday of Lent: Year A

[One day Jesus healed a blind person. When some Pharisees closed their eyes to the healing and its meaning, Jesus said to them,] “I came so that the blind should see and those who see should become blind.”

John 9:39

Astronaut Ed Aldrin was involved in the first moon landing. He said that he hoped its technical success would not blind us to its deeper spiritual meaning. His point was this: Seen from the moon, our Earth appears as a tiny spaceship.

That perspective at Earth, says Aldrin, highlights for those with eyes to see that we are one family under God and should start living that way. What tends to keep me from seeing that we are all one family under God? How might I keep myself from being “blinded” by this difficulty?

The Fox said to the Little Prince, ‘Now here’s my secret: it is only with the heart that one can see rightly.’

Mark Link S.J. Action 2000

PLEASE NOTE:

Nearly all of the events that have been scheduled here at IHM have been temporarily suspended.

All Masses have been cancelled until at least April 5.

All Mass Intentions between March 16 and April 5 have been rescheduled.

Fr. Tom will be in the confessional for the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (behind the screen only) Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30pm and on Saturday mornings at 8:30am.

The EUCHARISTIC ADORATION schedule has not changed. Please keep your Holy Hour.

The BLOOD DRIVE will still be held on Monday, March 23 2:30—6:30 in Founders Hall. Please come! Blood supplies are low.

The PARISH OFFICES will remain open during the week, 8:30—4:30.



A big Thank You to Shirley Gassei

For more than 20 years, Shirley has faithfully served the parish as one of the Sunday collection counters. A few times each month, she quietly and humbly volunteered her time to do this, and we are very grateful. She is pictured here with her “thank you” bouquet. Thanks for your many hours Shirley. God bless you!

Hospitalization: If you are hospitalized, please let us know. Please call the office or ask a friend to call for you if necessary.

Communion Calls: If you would like to receive Communion but are unable to get to Mass because of illness or disability, please contact the parish office: 636-398-5270.

Prayer Requests: Brenda Hutchcraft at 636-248-8493 or email brhutchcraft@centurytel.net

Please pray for all the sick & suffering:

Mark Hanna, Phyllis Zerr, Vickie Brink, Sandy Knott, Mike & Pat Ryan, Carol Rabbitt, Fran Bussen, Dave Betlach, Karla Sitzes, Vicky Monroe, Nancy Hollenstein, Walt Reel, Jean Bamert, Amy Robbins, Don Schmidt, Loretta Bruns, Dave Gentry, Betty Heppermann, Kathy Feldewerth, Frank Marquart, Dan Brothers, Cindy White, Janie Roth,

David & Lisa Debold and Ratha Beymer (Dave & Pam DeBold's children and Pam's mother), Dave Asinger (brother-in-law of Larry & Rita Bendel), Bob Holland (friend of Shirley Augustine), Sherri Callahan (daughter of Vickie & Paul Grunz), Fred Brown (son-in-law of Bill & Bernie Pollihan), Leon Burkemper (son of Carol Rabbitt), Doris Eisenbath (mother of Judy Molitor), Loretta Nolan (sister of Kathy Lalonde), Janet Piel (sister of Joni Marren-Slaughter), Loren & Evelyn Brandon (parents of Marty & Peggy Dupree), Audrey Molitor (sister of Flo Joerling), Pat Finan (Fran Bussen's daughter), Jim Raymond (brother of Alan & Marsha Raymond)

The See's Candy money box with Jackie Hackett's name on it was at the Fish Fry on March 13 and is now missing from Founders Hall. Please return it to the church office, no questions asked. Thank you.

Contributions, March 14/15

General Offertory:	\$7,536.72
Online – General Offertory:	\$2,238.36
TOTAL	\$9,775.08

*"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."
(1 Samuel 16:7)*

How often do we invest our time, talent, and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car, and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent, and treasure here on earth.

We pray ... that we are less concerned about our outward appearance and more concerned with our interior conversion of heart.



Needed at the Pantry

mayonnaise, cold cereal, fruit juice, sugar, jelly, mustard, sloppy joe sauce, gravy packets, canned fruit: pears, peaches, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges, applesauce, canned potatoes, chicken broth, cake & brownie mixes, icing, Bisquick, syrup, saltines, laundry detergent, toilet paper, shampoo, coffee

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Stores take in all kinds of donations to help Neighbors in Need. Get a jump start on spring cleaning by donating your old clothes, kitchen items, books, furniture, and even cars.



The nearest Thrift Store to this location is at Cave Springs, 1069 Regency Parkway. For more information on SVPD's donation guidelines, visit www.svdpstlouis.org.

Diaper Drive

Weekends of March 21-22 through Palm Sunday, April 5th

Drop off during the weekend Masses at your Parish

Sponsored by the **Permanent Deacons** of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in conjunction with the **Respect Life Office**.

Diapers collected will be delivered to those in need in the local area. Please be generous.

✠ Rest in Peace ✠

We offer our prayerful sympathy on the passing of
Sue Ann Jaeger Fry
niece of Bob and Alvina Fry
Peter Gray
son-in-law of Adrienne Collins

May they and all the faithful departed
rest in the eternal peace of Christ.

Readings of the Week

Sun:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/ Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Mon:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
Tue:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
Wed:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11 [8a and 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Thu:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
Fri:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23 [19a]/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

During the weekends of March 21-22 through Palm Sunday, April 5th, the Permanent Deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in conjunction with the Respect Life office, will be collecting diapers for infants, toddlers and adults as part of our fourth annual diocesan-wide Pro-Life service project to assist families in need. We would ask that you please consider placing the purchasing of infant, toddler or adults diapers on your shopping list and drop them off at church during the week. All diapers collected will be donated to assist families in our parish community. For more information, speak to our permanent deacons, Deacon Chris Ast or Deacon Tony Falbo or give the office a call. We would like to stress the need for the larger size diapers, 3's, 4's and 5's.

EWTV CATHOLIC RADIO AM 1460
*Informative Catholic programming
including Daily Mass*

Lenten Offerings at Immaculate Heart of Mary

Eucharistic Adoration

In St. Joseph Chapel beginning 8:30 Monday morning thru Friday at noon

Lenten Reflections

- Free video-based emails delivered daily from Dynamic Catholic. Visit BestLentEver.com.
- Visit our parish library for books and videos to enhance your prayer life.
- Bible Study on the upcoming Sunday readings, every Wednesday in Weber Hall, 9:00am.
- Visit nextlevelcatholicacademy.com and sign up for the Lenten video series "Catholic Mysticism and the Beautiful Life of Grace." It is a free series that promises to take you to a deeper level of the spiritual life.
- Go to LentReflections.com for free daily Lenten reflections from Bishop Robert Barron.
- Check out what is available for free at www.ihm-newmelle.formed.org.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday mornings at 8:30am, Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday evenings 7:00—8:30pm

*We do not know at this time the status of the Holy Week liturgies.
As we receive direction from the Archdiocese we will pass that along to you.*



St. Paul Library / Lighthouse CD Resources

(Note: With close to 4000 items, the **Parish Library** is located in the **Grand Hall** past the restrooms. It is open during the week-normal business hours-and works on an honor system. Items from the **Lighthouse CD rack** are located and available in the **Narthex**

From the Lighthouse Catholic CD Rack: Narthex

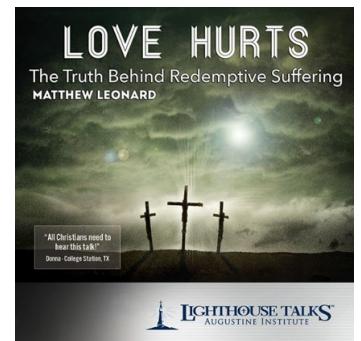
In this presentation, Matthew Leonard focuses on the new idea of love proclaimed by Christ and how it gives meaning to human suffering, penance, and ultimately death. Sounds a bit dark, doesn't it? But it's not! By looking at these issues we'll discover the secret to how we can "Rejoice in the Lord always" just like St. Paul, no matter what happens.

This talk on both love and suffering was excellent. It provided spiritual food for thought and was very inspiring.

Andrew-MO

This CD teaches this most difficult mystery with a perfect balance, and bold conviction.

Dominic- Dearborn Heights, MI



JESUS AND THE JEWISH ROOTS OF THE EUCHARIST



Dr. Brant Pitre

"The best historical explanation of the Eucharist I've ever heard!"
John Macchia

LIGHTHOUSE TALKS
AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Dr. Brant Pitre uses the Hebrew Scriptures and Jewish tradition to frame the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper, and to provide a fresh look at the heart of Catholic practice — the Eucharist. By taking us back to the Jewish roots of our faith, Dr. Pitre gives us a powerful lens through which to see anew the bread of the presence, the manna, the Last Supper, and ultimately the meaning of the Eucharist.

Brilliant!! Very clearly shows the foreshadowing of the Eucharist in the Old Testament.

Helene - Peachtree City, GA

Dr. Pitre helps us to think like a first century Jew to better understand the most Holy Eucharist!

This CD is very insightful and practical... a must-have for the serious Catholic!

Joshua - Covina, CA

Pope's Intentions for March: Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.



BLOOD DRIVE

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Monday, March 23

2:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Founders Hall

#8 West Highway D

To schedule an appointment,
call The Blood Center at 866.448.3253
or go to www.bloodcenter.org

Use sponsor code 9118 to schedule online

**CHANGE
THE WORLD
BE THE KIND TYPE**



www.bloodcenter.org



The Blood Drive at IHM is still on!

**Monday, March 23 in Founders Hall
2:30—6:30pm**

Nationally, and here in our region, the blood supply is being adversely impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19. In some places, elective surgery is already being cancelled for blood availability. The pandemic is having a significant impact on participation in blood drives.

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 is unclear, but no matter what happens, **we must come through for the patients and hospitals that depend on our Blood Center.** Dr. Louis Katz, M.D. Chief Medical Officer of the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, notes that, “Blood drives and donor centers are probably one of the safest places you can go right now because staff and donors are required to be healthy. Blood drives are not mass gatherings and do not put people at greater risk for transmitting or contracting COVID-19.”

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, influenza, and other viral infections, we join the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in recommending the following common-sense measures:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and avoid hand to face contact, a primary mechanism of transmission;
- Clean work surfaces in accordance with established infection control procedures;
- Avoid close contact (within about 6 feet) with those who are ill;
- Self-quarantine after caring for someone who is sick;
- Stay home when experiencing symptoms of illness; and
- Use good cough etiquette; cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.

We would emphasize COVID-19 presents no known risk to the safety of the nation's blood supply, only the adequacy of the supply at this time. Individuals are not at risk of contracting COVID-19 from donating blood. We are concerned, however, that misinformation and fear could negatively impact our ability to support the patients whose lives depend on blood (i.e. if donors refrain from blood donation over fear of contracting the virus).

The time to donate is now. Blood shortages are occurring now in the U.S. as a side effect of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). We are working to prevent shortages locally. We are monitoring credible health agencies for updates on COVID-19 and are responding accordingly.

What's Your Catholic Catechism IQ?

1. The homily in particular must avoid the literary genre of funeral _____ and illumine the mystery of Christian death in the light of the risen Christ.
a. canonization b. parable
c. story d. eulogy
2. In the funeral Mass the Church asks that this child would be _____ of his sins and their consequences, and to be admitted to the fullness of the kingdom.
a. ashamed b. purified
c. negligent d. not held accountable
3. As children of God, partakers of the Divine Nature, Christians are called to lead henceforth a life worthy of the _____ of Christ.
a. approval b. respect
c. pastors d. gospel
4. Christ's disciples are invited to live in the sight of the Father to "become perfect as your heavenly Father is _____."
a. merciful b. heavenly
c. almighty d. perfect
5. Christians strive to be imitators of God who walk in love conforming their thoughts, words and _____ to the mind of Christ.
a. school b. actions
c. college d. home
6. Having become temples of the Holy Spirit, Christians are called to be _____.
a. solid b. saints
c. outspoken d. golden
7. The Holy Spirit prompts them to act so as to bear the _____ of the Spirit by charity in action.
a. calling b. fruit
c. drive d. feeling
8. There are two ways the way of Christ leads to life; a contrary way leads to _____.
a. off the road b. the wrong path
c. the road less traveled d. destruction, death
9. Catechesis has to reveal in all clarity the joy and the _____ of the way of Christ.
a. faith b. hope
c. demands d. love
10. The first and last point of reference of this catechesis will always be Jesus Christ Himself, who is the way, and the truth, and the _____.
a. gift b. call
c. life d. star

Kairos Prison Ministry

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food...
in prison, and you visited me."*

Ever wonder how **YOU** could answer Jesus? Well, here's a chance to do so! . In April, Bob Brossette will be joining forty other men from several different Christian denominations across the region (Catholics, Methodist, Anglican, etc.) to bring the message of Jesus Christ to the residents of the Menard State Prison, a maximum security prison in Chester, IL.

How Can You Help?

Prayers... This is a powerful tool in bringing the light of Jesus to the residents of Menard. Just **pray** for the Kairos Team and the residents that will be participating in the April Retreat (April 23-26, 2020). Or if you are interested in being on our Prayer Chain, let me know and I'll send you the sign up list once its available

Make Cookies... Home-made cookies are an important "Kairos Inside" tradition—tangible examples of the depth of God's love, poured out by His family. To ensure a "bottomless bowl", each team member is asked to provide **25 DOZEN cookies**.

Due to prison requirements, cookies **MUST** be made according to a few simple guidelines (for example: no fruit, no nuts, no icing, no sprinkles.) If you are interested in baking some cookies, **contact me, rabylt6174@att.net or 636-312-4554** for recipes and packaging guidelines, or for cookie pick-up. All cookies must be ready by **Friday, April 17**.

Consider making a contribution...to help defray the cost of this ministry as it costs about \$6,500 to put on each Kairos Weekend Retreat inside the prison. Your tax-deductible donation of any amount will help bring the light of Christ's love into this very dark place. Make checks payable to 'KPMI' and send to Bob Brossette, PO Box 1413, Marthasville, Mo. 63357

Thank you...for all your prayers and support!

Livestream daily Mass from the Cathedral

<http://cathedralstl.org/live/>

Livestream daily Mass from

Bishop Robert Barron

www.wordonfire.org/daily-Mass

Heart of the Nation Sunday Mass

KPLR ch. 11 (CW) at 8:30am

and KTVI channel 2.2 (antenna TV) at 9:00am

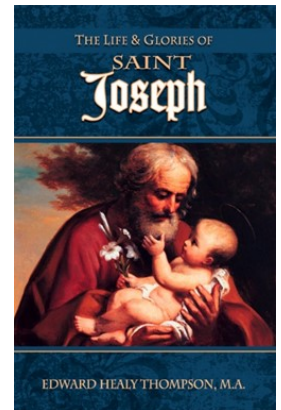
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|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. eulogy 1688 | 6. saints 1695 | 7. fruit 1695 | 8. destruction, death 1696 | 9. demands 1697 | 10. ofe 1691 |
| 2. purified 1689 | | | | | |
| 3. gospel 1692 | | | | | |
| 4. perfect 1693 | | | | | |
| 5. actions 1694 | | | | | |

Catholic IQ Answers

NAR-ANON SUPPORT GROUP: Weekly meetings on Saturdays, 10:00 am in the Trailer at IHM. This group is for Family and Friend of Addicts. For questions, please call Ann at 314-578-4737.

PSR Corner

The Month of March is Traditionally-Devotionally dedicated to St. Joseph. March 19th is the Feast of St. Joseph. Let's entrust a special, seemingly impossible petition to St. Joseph this month. Why not? If he could be entrusted with the two holiest people who ever walked the earth, then you know he can carry any burden we might ask him to intercede for. St. Teresa of Avila wrote, "It seems that to other saints our Lord has given power to help us in only one kind of necessity; but this glorious saint, I know by my own experience, assists us in all kinds of necessities....I only request, for the love of God, that whoever will not believe me will test the truth of what I say, for he will see by experience how great a blessing it is to recommend oneself to this glorious Patriarch and to be devout to him." The Lord worked thousands of miracles of healing through St. Andre Bessette. St. Andre would always attribute such wonders through the workings of the intercession of St. Joseph. Let's seek the help of the Foster-Father of our Lord, the patron of the Universal Church.



St. Joseph and the Bible

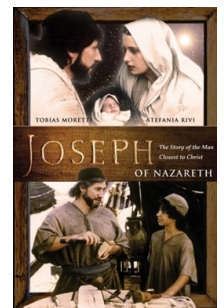
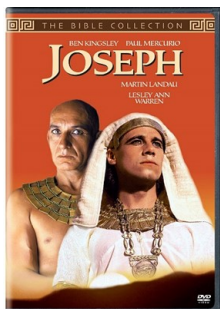
With the month of March dedicated to St. Joseph, here is something to consider about St. Joseph and the Bible which is interesting. Key persons, places, things, events foretold in the Old Testament are often both fulfilled and magnified by key persons, places, things and events in the New Testament. This is called typology. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states,

CCC 128-129 The Church, as early as apostolic times, and then constantly in her Tradition, has illuminated the unity of the divine plan in the two Testaments through typology, which discerns in God's works of the Old Covenant prefigurations of what he accomplished in the fullness of time in the person of his incarnate Son. ... As an old saying put it, the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New.

One can posit that if such and such person was considered great, powerful, influential in the Old Testament, then imagine what must be his or her fulfillment in the new. Think of all the characters that were "types" of Christ, preparing for the God-man to come to earth. It is clear that the Spirit prepares us for a typological understanding when it comes to St. Joseph as there are no recorded words of Joseph in the New Testament. The only thing we know for sure that he did say was the name of Jesus, as he was entrusted with naming the Lord as directed. The hidden beauty comes when one ponders the greatness of the patriarch Joseph in the Old Testament. Have you ever thought of the parallels? Take a look at the parallels below from the Ignatius Study Bible Commentary on Matthew's Gospel and use your imagination to consider the humble greatness of St. Joseph.

Matthew's portrait of Joseph also recalls the Old Testament patriarch Joseph.

- (1) Both share the same name (Matthew 1:18; Genesis 30:24);
- (2) both have fathers named Jacob (Matthew 1:16; Genesis 30:19-24);
 - (3) God spoke to both of them through dreams (Matthew 1:20-21; 2:13, 19-20, 22; Genesis 37:5-11);
 - (4) both were righteous and chaste (1:19; Gen 39:7-18);
- (5) both would save their families by bringing them to Egypt (Matthew 2:13; Genesis 45:16-20) to safeguard the Bread of Life.



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Prayer for Forgiveness and Healing

Lord Jesus Christ, You want not just soul salvation but whole salvation. You want us to live in happiness and freedom and be fully alive in all areas of our life. I want to invite You into all areas of my life, so I ask today to help clear away all obstacles of unforgiveness that hinder me in ways known and unknown, especially as I seek healing for _____. I know that Your grace and power is available to give me strength to forgive as well as to heal. I ask for that grace now.

Father, I first want to be free from any feelings of resentment, bitterness, anger and unforgiveness that I may have toward You... for the times I thought You could have or should have done more to prevent or change a situation, suffering or trial in my life, whether it was a death or divorce, a particular sickness, hardship or financial difficulty, a deep humiliation or shame, a physical handicap or weakness, a lack of support or encouragement, a non-ideal family situation. Forgive me for any bitterness that is unresolved. Lead me in thanksgiving and praise and trust.

Lord, I want to free myself of all of my sins, faults, and failings. Show me what I may need to bring to You in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that has gravely offended Your love. For all that is truly bad in myself or all that I think is bad, help me also to forgive myself. For any and all of my idolatry, putting the pursuit of pleasure, power, prestige or other persons as primary in my life. For talking Your name in vain, rejecting to offer worship or show fitting gratitude to You or to parents, for any and all sins of the tongue gossip, detraction and lying. For any and all impurity, lust, self-centeredness, use of others as objects, abuse and gluttonous use of things, for lack of contentment in my own life through envy of others in theirs – I am truly sorry and ask for Your forgiveness. Help me as well to cast off the idea that I have to be perfect in order to be loved and valued and to stop being my own worst enemy. In the Holy Spirit, grant me peace of soul _____. Thank you Lord for Your grace at this moment.

I forgive my FATHER for any negativity

and unlove he may have extended to me throughout my life, knowingly or unknowingly. For any and all abuses, unkind acts, hurts, and deprivations I do forgive him today. For any way that I did not receive a full, satisfying father's example and blessing I forgive him today. I release him from bondage and make peace with him today. I forgive my MOTHER for any negativity and unlove she may have extended to me throughout my life, knowingly or unknowingly. For any abuse of any sort I do forgive her today. For any way that she did not provide a deep, full, satisfying mother's example and blessing I do forgive her today. I release her from bondage and make peace with her today. As I do not know the full extent of the influences that shaped my father and mother's strengths or weaknesses, in whatever way they have hurt me, I extend mercy as I too ask it to be extended to me.

I forgive my SIBLINGS for any negativity and unlove they may have extended to me throughout my life, knowingly or unknowingly. My God, I forgive my IN-LAWS – mother, father, son or daughter in-law, sister and brother in-law and other relatives by marriage. For any lack of love, words of criticism, thoughts, actions, or omissions which injure and cause pain, I do forgive them. Please help me to forgive any relatives who brought trials, confusion or turned one person against the other. I forgive all my family members, ANCESTORS AND RELATIVES for any negative actions that affect my life in the freedom of a child of God. I release them from bondage and make peace with them today, in Jesus' name.

Lord, I forgive my SPOUSE for any lack of love, affection, consideration, support, attention, communication, for faults, failings, weaknesses, and any other actions or words that have gravely affected me in a negative way. I forgive myself for any and all ways that I myself have fallen short in being a good and loving spouse.

Jesus, I forgive my CHILDREN for any lack of respect, obedience, love, attention, support, warmth, understanding; for rejection of You, the Church or an

active practice of the faith. Draw them close to You. I forgive them and I forgive myself for any and all ways that in fear or failing, I have not been an effective witness to Your truth and Your love.

I forgive all those in whom I placed my trust, past or present, for any negative, abusive words or actions, bad example or influence that may have stunted Your gifts from developing in me. Lord, I forgive all these people who have hurt me in any way – friends, acquaintances, co-workers, doctors, lawyers, police officers, hospital workers, contractors, employers, clergy and members of the Church, whether leaders or fellow parishioners. For anything they did to me unjustly, I truly forgive them. Forgive me as well for anything I have done in thought, word or deed that may have unjustly detracted from the person and character of all these individuals as well.

I forgive every member of SOCIETY who has hurt me in any way; those who have hurt me by criminal action or who have harmed my family. I forgive all in public life who have passed laws opposing values of all that is good and true. I forgive all the unfair, anonymous sources of pain and annoyance in my life. Lord Jesus, I pray for all enemies, public and personal. Help me in the future to bless more, to love more, to make my enemies list my prayer list. I especially pray for the grace of forgiveness for that one person in life who has hurt me the most, the one who is hardest to forgive _____. Lord, give them what they need in Your mercy and love. Bless them and change me.

Thank You, Heavenly Father, that I have lifted up the weight and burden of so much unforgiveness. Wash these wounds, these persons, these relationships in the Precious Blood of the Lord Jesus whose Body was broken and pierced to restore love and mercy in order to bring holiness and wholeness. Let Your Holy Spirit fill me with light and let every dark area of my mind be enlightened. In Jesus' Holy Name, I pray. AMEN.

PANDEMIC GRATITUDE?!

"Pandemic Gratitude?" It seems like an odd thing to say during these times. What are we supposed to be grateful for - supply shortages, long lines, widespread cancellations, fear, uncertainty, panic?

While these reactions are very understandable, let's take a step back and look at this through our Lenten lenses. While the COVID-19 virus is causing one pandemic, how about Lent causing a pandemic of a different kind, one of gratitude and action. Each Lent we are called to **Pray, Fast and Give Alms**. We are grateful for the opportunity to focus on the gifts we have been given, reflect on how to use these gifts responsibly for the furthering of God's kingdom here on earth, and then act. So, firstly, for what can we show gratitude?

We are grateful and PRAY for...

- Government leaders who have taken bold actions to keep us safe.
- The technology that allows us to stay informed and connected - even when we are encouraged to maintain social distance.
- Medical science and the researchers who are working around the clock to find a cure.
- Medical personnel, doctors, nurses and first responders who are on the front lines risking their own health to care for those who are affected.
- School administrators and teachers who are working to continue the education of our youth as seamlessly as possible.
- Custodial, maintenance and cleaning staff who work endless hours to disinfect and sanitize our buildings.
- The Pope, Bishops and all our Clergy who continue to provide for our spiritual nourishment.
- All those who are actively placing the common good ahead of personal gain.
- The return to health of all those affected, their caretakers, medical providers and those working for a cure.

While we can pray and be grateful for all of those who are working to ensure our health and safety, it is natural to feel overwhelmed and, perhaps, that there is nothing we can do to help. But, in reality, there are many ways to use our gifts given to us by our generous God to come to the aid of others.

Continuing our Lenten journey, we can FAST from...

- Selfishness by purchasing more than we really need so that others can have what they need.
- The panic and anxiety that surrounds us and remain calm and responsible.
- Negative thoughts and trust in the Lord's love and strength for us to move forward following the advice of our local leadership.
- Self-centered actions fueled by fear and turn ourselves outward to contribute to community awareness and solutions.

And finally, we can practice GIVING ALMS and performing acts of charity to...

- Assist our neighbors, especially the elderly and most vulnerable, by shopping for them and taking care of their errands when they cannot.
- Remember to wash our hands for at least twenty seconds. Instead of singing, why not pray The Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary? *That will be a bit longer than twenty seconds, but a few more moments of prayer won't hurt!*
- Be mindful that while many of us cannot attend Mass at this time, we can still save and mail our offertory gift to our parish or bring it with us when we are able to return, to continue the mission of our Church.
- Stay home if we don't feel well or if we are instructed to do so.

Do you recognize something here? Aren't these all things we are called to do anyway as responsible members of society? Yes, there is fear and uncertainty, but it is also a time to focus on the scriptural mandate to **"Be Not Afraid."** For in these times, and all times, we know and trust in God's Word, **"the light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."** (Jn 1:5) It is a time to use our gifts responsibly to face not only this, but all the challenges in our lives.