

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

FEBRUARY 26, 2021



FROM THE PEN OF THE PASTOR:

As you read this we are moving swiftly through the weeks of Lent, Spring is drawing nearer, and hopefully we are seeing improvements in the health of our nation and world. The good news is that even if we are not seeing visible signs of all these things, it does not mean there is no growth going on in the world. The world is being transformed each day by our loving and Triune God, and we ourselves are caught up in the recreation of this world even while we might be sleeping. In that we have much in common with St. Joseph whose written interactions in sacred scripture occur while he was sleeping. Perhaps, I should include a nap portion in the Liturgy, but kidding aside, the concept of resting in the Lord cannot be underexaggerated. St. Joseph in his duty of protecting the Holy Family was open to God's will in whatever manner the Spirit might communicate with him.

The life of St. Joseph is a great inspiration I hope for all of us in that a life with Jesus is literally happening around us all the time, even while we might not be fully conscious or awake. There is even a devotion to the Sleeping St. Joseph, and it is a great reminder that we need rest in order to live our spiritual and physical lives: God Himself rested on the seventh day. Hopefully, during this first part of Lent we have been able to rest more easily in the Lord as we eliminate some of the distractions that make up our lives and, in the process, have become more present to how God might be trying to communicate with us. Regardless, let us continue to ask St. Joseph to pray for us all as we journey to the empty tomb.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley

To set the mind
on flesh
is death,
but to set
the mind



Romans 8.6

SEEK, SERVE, SELF-CONTROL

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

--usccb.org

POPE'S LETTER ON ST. JOSEPH

ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter on December 8, 2020, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, proclaiming the year 2021 as the year of St. Joseph, the Worker. Each month of 2021 we will include one of the seven personal reflections of St. Joseph by Pope Francis. Last month we introduced the letter itself; this month we focus on the first fatherly title: A Beloved Father.

"A beloved father"

The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "at the service of the entire plan of salvation".

"St. Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home".

"Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. This is shown by the countless churches dedicated to him worldwide, the numerous religious Institutes, Confraternities and ecclesial groups inspired by his spirituality and bearing his name, and the many traditional expressions of piety in his honour. Innumerable holy men and women were passionately devoted to him. Among them was Teresa of Avila, who chose him as her advocate and intercessor, had frequent recourse to him and received whatever graces she asked of him. Encouraged by her own experience, Teresa persuaded others to cultivate devotion to Joseph.

"Every prayer book contains prayers to Saint Joseph. Special prayers are offered to him each Wednesday and especially during the month of March, which is traditionally dedicated to him.

"Popular trust in Saint Joseph is seen in the expression "Go to Joseph", which evokes the famine in Egypt, when the Egyptians begged Pharaoh for bread. He in turn replied: "Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do" (Gen 41:55). Pharaoh was referring

to Joseph the son of Jacob, who was sold into slavery because of the jealousy of his brothers (cf. Gen 37:11-28) and who – according to the biblical account – subsequently became viceroy of Egypt (cf. Gen 41:41-44).

"As a descendant of David (cf. Mt 1:16-20), from whose stock Jesus was to spring according to the promise made to David by the prophet Nathan (cf. 2 Sam 7), and as the spouse of Mary of Nazareth, Saint Joseph stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments."



Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

So that having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart.

Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me and my loved ones. Amen

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
\$35, includes lunch and Little Office
of St. Joseph booklet

***St. Joseph Day
of Reflection***

REGISTER ONLINE AT
STJOSEPHRETREAT.ORG

SAINT JOSEPH
RETREAT & GOLF COURSE CENTER
A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

THREE LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM ST. JOSEPH

St. Francis of Assisi is often attributed as saying, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." This quote is very fitting for the life of another saint whose actions spoke louder than his words: St. Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus. In fact, St. Joseph does not say one word in the Gospels. Yet he speaks volumes. What can we learn from the life of this holy man?

1. *Silence*

We can communicate through our actions. Many mysteries of our faith cannot even be put into words. Rather they must be experienced, such as the Eucharist.

2. *Trust*

Joseph was a man who placed complete trust in what God was calling him to do. God has called us, and so we place our trust in God and act. What is God calling you to do in your ministry? We may feel like others are judging us, or we may feel uprooted, but like Joseph we place our trust in God and act.

3. *Apprenticeship*

While the Gospels do not state this explicitly, there is a general belief that since Joseph worked as a craftsman, Jesus probably learned this trade from him. The *General Directory of Catechesis* states: "comprehensive [faith] formation includes more than instruction: it is an apprenticeship of the entire Christian life" (67). Can we model and demonstrate discipleship? Catechesis calls us to go beyond teaching doctrine and terminology and demonstrate how fully to embrace a Catholic life.

--Excerpted from loyolapress.com

"God's delays are mysterious; sorrow is sometimes prolonged for the same reason for which it is sent. God may abstain for the moment from healing, not because Love does not love, but because Love never stops loving, and a greater good is to come from the woe. Heaven's clock is different from ours."

— Fulton J. Sheen

YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Pope Francis has announced a special Year of the Family for March 19, 2021, to June 26, 2022. The year commemorates the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*).

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

*O God our Father,
in Jesus you call all Christian families and
homes to be signs of living faith.
By the light of the Holy Spirit,
lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith,
and by that gift may we grow in our relationship
with Jesus, your Son,
and be confident witnesses to Christian hope
and joy to all we meet.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

CMA PLEDGES UPDATE

Thanks to all our parishioners who have discerned a gift and pledged to our Catholic Ministries Appeal. If you have not yet made a pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please consider pledging to help seminarians, homeless shelters, prison ministries and pro-life programs, plus much more throughout our pastorate and our diocese.

We are at 51% of our pastorate goal with pledges from 28% of our parishioners. However, we still have a long way to go. We have had 103 families pledge so far out of 368. If the remaining 265 families pledged only \$137 each payable by the end of the year, we would reach our pastorate goal. Would you consider your pledge today? Contact the office to make your pledge. Thank you graciously!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR LENT

If you are looking for a Lenten service activity, the Community and Family Services in Hartford City is always looking for help. They get a Walmart truck in every week and are always in need of help unloading. If interested in being part of their team contact Barbara or Mel at 348-0744. This not only is a blessing to others, but when you leave you also feel blessed.

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMEN

The annual Rite of Election for those wishing to join the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil was held on February 28 at the cathedral in Lafayette with Bishop Doherty. Pray for Nathan Booher from St. John's who is making preparations to join in the Catholic faith at Easter.



The Lord's Day Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00pm at St. Mary's, Dunkirk

Sunday Mass 9:00am at St. John's, Hartford City

Sunday Mass 11:00am at Holy Family, Gas City



Passion Driven Stewardship

Is the grateful response of every Christian disciple to share our God given gifts of time, talent and treasure, in a way that passionately sets our hearts on fire and touches the lives of others, as we live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy through Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service.

"It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards a man's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken."

— St. Francis Xavier

"Put aside your hatred and animosity. Take pains to refrain from sharp words. If they escape your lips, do not be ashamed to let your lips produce the remedy, since they have caused the wounds. Pardon one another so that later on you will not remember the injury. The recollection of an injury is itself wrong. It adds to our anger, nurtures our sin and hates what is good. It is a rusty arrow and poison for the soul. It puts all virtue to flight."
— St. Francis of Paola



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

None reported

BIRTHDAYS:

12 Muriel Fettig

16 Karen Shields

30 Patricia Dee

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note with your name, month and day of birth or anniversary. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*. We do not automatically include names due to privacy.



PEOPLE WITH GOOD NEWS

Jakob Aulbach was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford High School for the first semester.

Cora Freiburger was on the A honor roll at Montpelier Elementary for the first semester.

Allyson Henderson was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford Jr. School for the first semester.

Ashley Henderson was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier Elementary.

Madison Henderson was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford Jr. School for the first semester.

Wyatt Marion Homan son of Tiffany & Kyle Homan, received the Sacrament of Baptism.

Abigail Johnson was on the Jay County High School A honor roll for the first semester.

Megan Johnson was on the Dean's List at Ball State University for the fall semester.

Gabe Kitterman was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier Elementary for the first semester.

Gavin Kitterman was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier Elementary for the first semester

Mason Kitterman was on the A honor roll at Blackford Jr. School for the first semester.

Lance Manley was on the A honor roll at Blackford High School for the first semester. Lance was part of the 400 Free Relay Swim Team who set a new school record.

Laurel McVicker was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford High School for the first semester.

Madison Merkel was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford High School for the first semester.

Mason Merkel was on the A honor roll at Blackford High School for the first semester.

Jenna Payne was on the A/B honor roll at Blackford High School for the first semester.

Ammee Uggen was on the A honor roll at Blackford High School for the first semester.

Catalina Velasquez was on the A honor roll at Blackford Jr. School for the first semester.

Juan Velasquez was on the A honor roll at Blackford Jr. School for the first semester.



**"Start by doing what is necessary;
then do what is possible; and
suddenly you are doing the
impossible."**

— St. Francis of Assisi

JOIN US WEEKDAYS

For those who are missing Jesus in the Sacraments by not feeling comfortable to attend weekend Mass, we offer a special invitation to attend a weekday Mass. While dispensation is extended for Sunday obligation, a weekday Mass might be a good alternative. There are a lot less people in attendance, but you can still receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Give it a try, we welcome you back!

Mondays 10am at St. John's

Wednesdays 12noon at St. John's

Thursdays 5:30pm at St. Mary's

Fridays 9am at Holy Family

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

Check us out at: www.stmaryjohn.org. Weekly bulletins, this newsletter, daily Mass with Bishop Barron, the Catholic Moment, daily readings and prayers, and much more can be found on this website.

Your Sunday offering as well as all special collection envelopes are available on the website as well. Contact Diana if you are having trouble accessing this site.

MONTHLY CHALLENGE BY K OF C

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

A leper came to him [and kneeling down] begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. (Gospel for Feb. 14, Mk 1:40-42)

What profound faith this leper possessed. He knew beyond a doubt that Christ could heal him and make him clean. The leper's humble cooperation with the healing grace of Christ allowed him to be cured. Do we recognize our own need to be healed? Do we approach Christ in the sacrament of confession with similar faith, saying to the Divine Physician, "If you wish, you can make me clean"? May we continually return to Christ on our knees, aware of our sins, so as to be made clean again through his mercy.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to make a comprehensive examination of conscience at the end of each day and make at least one good and humble confession.

Questions for Reflection:

The effects of the terrible disease of leprosy were impossible to ignore, but are there times when you forget the seriousness and horror of sin? Do you examine your conscience regularly, so that you might humbly know of your need to be made clean again? Do you seek to avoid those things which lead to sin, or are you careless or prideful when it comes to occasions of sin?

--KofC.org

If you feel you have been a victim of sexual misconduct by a cleric, contact Victim Assistance Minister, Doris May, at 765-464-4988 or report the incident at <https://dol-in.org/reporting-an-incident>.



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MARCH—ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 9:00 am Reader & Announcements: Vince Cimino; with Lisa Rinker on March 28

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MARCH—ST. MARY'S

Mar. 6: Reader: Laverne Watson **Greeter:** Dean & Loretta Wilson **Counter:** Dan Watson

Mar. 13: Reader: Dan Watson **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counter:** Danette Hamilton

Mar. 20: Reader: Ted Kolodka **Greeter:** Jane Crouch **Counter:** Jane Crouch

Mar. 27: Reader: Laverne Watson & Dan Watson **Greeter:** Dean & Loretta Wilson **Counter:** Dan Watson

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MARCH—HOLY FAMILY

Sunday 11:00 am Reader: Lisa Baker; with Tina Poston on March 28. **Commentator:** LaVerne Coulter **Ushers:** Sue Barkdull & Ann Bone

7 pm, Friday, April 9 to
3 pm, Sunday, April 11, 2021
\$170

*Men's Silent
Retreat*

REGISTER ONLINE AT
STJOSEPHRETREAT.ORG

SAINT JOSEPH
RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER
A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-INDIANA

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

**O Holy Spirit,
Spirit of wisdom and love, impart Your
knowledge, understanding, and counsel to the
young, that they may know the vocation wherein
they might best serve God. Give them courage
and strength to follow God's holy will.
Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their
resolution, fashion their minds, conquer their
hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they
might labor in God's holy service. Amen.**

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST?

Priests are listed by deanery as a group according to the Pastorate assignments. If you take a Pastorate group, one each day, there will be each day of the month filled. This way we can join together with united hearts in prayer not only for the individual priest, but for his whole Pastorate team, the parish(es) for which he(they) are assigned, and therefore our Diocese as a whole by month's end. Let us unite as one Catholic faith with one another, for one another and for the greater good of our Church and faith family by praying for these priests.

West Deanery

Dominicans, St. Thomas Aquinas, West Lafayette
Fr. Michael Bower, St. Bernard, Crawfordsville
Fr. Mark Walter, Blessed Sacrament, West Lafayette
Fr. Joshua Bennett, St. Augustine, Rensselaer, Sacred Heart, Remington, Sts. Peter and Paul, Goodland
Fr. David Rasner, St. Francis Xavier, Attica, St. Joseph, Covington
Fr. Michael McKinney, St. Augusta, Lake Village, St. Cecilia, Demotte, Sorrowful Mother, Wheatfield
Fr. Richard Weisenberger & Fr. Peter Vanderkolk, St. Joseph Kentland, St. John the Baptist, Earl Park, St. Mary, Dunington, Sacred Heart, Fowler, St. Patrick, Oxford, St. Charles, Otterbein
Fr. Dale Ehrman, Fr. Dennis Faker, Fr. Dennis O'Keefe, Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Ann, Lafayette
Fr. Andrew Dudzinski, Fr. Matthew Kalu, Fr. Daniel Shine, Fr. William Summerlin, St. Boniface & St. Lawrence, Lafayette

Central Deanery

Fr. Christopher Shocklee, Fr. Timothy Alkire, Fr. Samuel Futral, St. Patrick & St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo

Fr. Paul Cochran, Fr. Daniel Duff, St. Mary, Frankfort, St. Joseph, Lebanon
Fr. Andrew DeKeyser, Fr. Jeffrey Martin, St. Francis Solano, Francesville, St. Joseph, Pulaski, St. Peter, Winamac, St. Joseph, Rochester, St. Ann, Kewanna, St. Anne, Monterey
Fr. Travis Stephens, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Zionsville
Fr. Richard Doerr, Fr. James DeOreo, Fr. Daniel Gartland, Fr. Joseph Vargese, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carmel
Fr. Brian Dudzinski, Fr. Kevin Haines, Fr. Michael McKinley, St. Maria, Goretti, Westfield
Fr. Adam Mauman, Fr. Gustavo Lopez, Fr. Kyle Meterer, All Saints, Logansport, St. Charles Borromeo, Peru
Fr. Anthony Rowland, Fr. Joshua Bennett, Fr. Brian Doerr, Msgr. Robert Sell, Fr. David Newton, St. Elizabeth Seton, Carmel
Fr. Christopher Miller, Fr. Alejandro Paternoster, Our Lady of the Lakes, Monticello, St. Joseph, Reynolds, St. Joseph, Delphi

East Deanery

Fr. Sean Pogue, Sacred Heart, Cicero
Fr. Clayton Thompson, Fr. Michael Block, Fr. John Nguyen, Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville
Fr. Matthew Arbuckle, Fr. Cole Daily, Fr. Derek Aaron, Holy Spirit & St. John Vianney, Fishers
Fr. Thomas Haan, Fr. Sean Aaron, St. Louis De Montfort, Fishers
Fr. Eric Underwood, Fr. Christian DeCarlo, Fr. Coady Owens, St. Mary, St. Lawrence & St. Francis of Assisi, Muncie
Fr. Thomas Metzger, Fr. David Hellmann, Fr. Martin Sandhage, St. Ambrose, & St. Mary, Anderson, St. Mary, Alexandria
Fr. Dennis Goth, St. John the Baptist, Tipton, St. Joseph, Elwood
Fr. Ted Rothrock, St. Paul, Marion
Fr. Peter Logsdon, Fr. Paul Hudson, Holy Trinity, Trinity, Immaculate Conception, Portland, St. Mary, Union City, St. Joseph, Winchester
Fr. Kevin Hurley, Holy Family, Gas City, St. John the Evangelist, Hartford City, St. Mary, Dunkirk

Diocesan Offices

Bishop Timothy Doherty, Fr. Ted Dudzinski, Fr. Dominic Petan, Fr. Derek Aaron, Chancery
Fr. David Rasner, Fr. Timothy Alkire, Fr. Samuel Kalu, Fr. Stephen Duquaine, Tribunal
Fr. David Buckles, Fr. Paul Graf, Fr. David Huemmer, St. Elizabeth Hospital & St. Joseph Retreat Center

**St. Mary, Holy Family and
St. John the Evangelist Parishes**
A Pastorate of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348
PASTOR - Rev. Kevin Hurley
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Hartford City: 765.348.3889 stmaryjohn@att.net

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Return Service Requested

Lord's Day Liturgy
SATURDAY: 5:00 pm at St. Mary's
SUNDAY: 9:00 am at St. John's
11:00 am at Holy Family
- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Mar. 19, 2021

Editor: Diana Holsten



SECOND CHANCES

People often don't look forward to Lent. Childhood memories of giving up candy or sitting through weekly Stations of the Cross come immediately to mind. Words like "sacrifice," "discipline," and "self-denial" are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth.

Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, or do-over, to "return to God with our whole heart."

Make the season of Lent a meaningful time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for yourselves, your loved ones, and your communities. Invite family members to share their thoughts, hopes, and desires for Lent. Decide to support one another in whatever you choose to do. As you journey through this annual second chance, remember that each step brings you closer to the welcoming arms of our loving God.

--excerpted from loyolapress.com

Here are three tips to deepen your relationship with God during the 40 days of Lent:

- 1) Participate in the sacraments.
- 2) Help those in need around you.
- 3) Sacrifice something that's hard for you.



Walk with Jesus through his Passion each Friday at 6pm with Stations of the Cross. See bulletin schedule for church location.