

Diocese of Columbus
**The Community of
Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church**
“Growing the Catholic Faith in the Heart of Columbus”



SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

**THE MOTHER CHURCH
OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS**

212 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 224-1295
Fax: (614) 224-1176
www.sjchcc.org
www.cathedralmusic.org

**ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND
HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS**
OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE
CATHEDRAL

Monday-Thursday – 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Friday – 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday & major holidays

CATHEDRAL LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday – 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:15 p.m.
Monday-Friday – 12:05 p.m.

Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and Holidays:
Will be listed in the bulletin, as they occur

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday & Thursday – 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Sunday – 9:15-10:00 a.m.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
WITH CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

**THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
COLUMBUS**

204 South Fifth Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.sjchcc.org

LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sunday – 9:00 a.m.
Saturday – 11:30 a.m.
followed by Adoration and Confessions



SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH

- + Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus
- + Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus
- + Most Reverend James A. Griffin
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

PRIESTS

- Reverend JCP Sullivan
Cathedral Rector
- Reverend Michael Hinterschied
Parochial Vicar

HOLY CROSS/CATHEDRAL STAFF

- Mr. Michael P. Agriesti**
Business Manager - Holy Cross/St. Joseph Cathedral;
magriesti@columbuscatholic.org
- Ms. Carol Stollenwerk**
Admin. Asst. - Holy Cross/St. Joseph Cathedral;
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- Ms. Bobbie Meyers**
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- Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald**
Director of Music & Organist - St. Joseph Cathedral &
Holy Cross; Diocesan Director of Music
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- Ms. Amanda Gillespie**
Wedding Coordinator
Holy Cross/St. Joseph Cathedral;
weddings@sjchcc.org
- Mr. Michael Pirik**
Operations - Holy Cross/St. Joseph Cathedral
mpirik@columbuscatholic.org

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Masses are scheduled by calling the Parish Office. Contact Cathedral office at 614-224-1295.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS: FEBRUARY For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

MASS INTENTIONS

Holy Cross

Sunday, February 11

9:00 a.m. Intention of the Priest

Cathedral

Sunday, February 11

10:30 a.m. The people of St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church

12:30 p.m. Soul of John Howell

5:15 p.m. Intention of Halina Oleszczek

Cathedral:

Monday, February 12

12:05 p.m. Betty Lou Brandow Berg

Tuesday, February 13

12:05 p.m. Soul of Jerzy Grelic

Wednesday, February 14

12:05 p.m. Soul of Katherine Vanderburg

5:15 p.m. Intention of the Priest

Thursday, February 15

12:05 p.m. Intention of Ingrid Sotak

Friday, February 16

12:05 p.m. Soul of John Wasko

Holy Cross:

Saturday, February 17

11:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Cullinan Family

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday, February 11, 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1;

Mark 1:40-45

Monday, February 12, 2024

James 1:1-11; Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

James 1:12-18; Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 ~ ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25

Friday, February 16, 2024

Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday, February 17, 2024

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

| THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ FEBRUARY 11 | | | | |
| | 9:00 a.m. HCC | 10:30 a.m. SJC | 12:30 p.m. SJC | 5:15 p.m. SJC |
| Altar Servers | John Feher | Dan Jurgens | Laura Battocletti | Trevor Foley |
| | | Lisa Emrich | Antonio Tomasi | Nate Foley |
| | | Ed Hueckel | JP Pacis | |
| | | Bonnie Maupin | | |
| Lector - One | Kelly Wagoner | Sharon Reichard | Lisa Ernst | Josie Gonot |
| Lector - Two | | Fritz Harding | Marilyn Tomasi | Donna Lent |
| Eucharistic Minister | Ronda Kelly Claire Miller | Steve Brechter | Thom Gall | |
| Hospitality/Ushers | Ann Seren | Steve Horner | David Battocletti | Gordian Igwilo |
| | Denise Harris | Evelina Horner | Kathleen Tourgeman | Robert Schoenfeld |
| | | Sandy Stover | Kevin Ernst | Linda Ruth |
| | | Pam Jurgens | | Deborah Duffy |

OUTREACH TO HELPING THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

Twice-Daily Food Distribution at Saint Joseph Cathedral ~ (614) 224-1295

Saint Lawrence Haven, on the grounds of Holy Cross Church ~ Heather Swiger at hswiger@columbuscatholic.org

Joint Office for Inner-city Needs (J.O.I.N.) ~ (614) 241-2530

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC

Cathedral Concert Series ~ JOSHUA STAFFORD, ORGANIST, Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Office of Compline ~ 9:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the Month. The next one is March 3, 2024.

OFFICES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

For Diocesan offices, please call (614) 228-2457 during regular business hours or visit www.columbuscatholic.org.

LOW-GLUTEN* HOSTS will be served at **All Masses**. Worshippers can receive low-gluten Holy Communion from the center aisle (please identify yourself to the Celebrant.) *Contains less than 0.01% gluten content and meets the standard set by the Holy See and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Please Keep These Parishioners in Your Prayers

Tim Acton, John Ankrom, Ed Chong, Barbara Cicua, Christopher Clark, Dorothy Deems, Sherri Dembinski, Larry Edwards, Robert & Peggy Halley, Edith Ingram, Dr. Lianna Goetz, Brittany Grinder, Kim Haring, Ruth Harper, Chris and Anna Katanyuta, Denise Lager, Teresa Mallon, Colleen Olson, Kathy Perkins, Marie Naseman, Maria Paras, Linda Pauley, The Pemberton Family, Maribeth Riepenhoff, John Ryan, Susan Bateman Severs, David Simmons, Sarah Stollenwerk, Sandra Valencia, and Dora Zweydorff

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

+ **Please Remember In Your Prayers** our home-bound parishioners, and those who are ill: Theresa Elliott, Peter Garrett's Mother and James Worley.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Please contact Carol at the Cathedral, 614-224-1295.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Please email Mandy at weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org.

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

For Holy Cross & The Cathedral

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Columbus! We are glad that you are here and invite you to become part of our parish family to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament, and also to become involved in one or more of our parish ministries. To become a registered member, you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, visit our web site, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

FUNERAL MINISTRY (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

For parishioners who have died, the family should contact the rector at St. Joseph Cathedral at (614) 224-1295 before meeting with the funeral director.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Those wishing Holy Communion in the Home due to illness, confinement or visits to a hospital or nursing center, please call 614-224-1295.

Lessons From the Leper

MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO, PH.D.



Many Catholics are confused about suffering. Some writers extol its surpassing value. But does that mean that we should look for suffering? Or, if suffering should come our way, that it would be unspiritual to seek relief from it?

Jesus & the Leper

The story of Jesus and the leper in Mark 1:40-45 provides us with a case study on the subject. In biblical times, “leprosy” encompassed many different skin diseases. We don’t know what kind of leprosy the man had, exactly. It could have been Hansen’s disease, which is what we call leprosy today. In that case, he would not have been in a lot of physical pain, since this disease takes away one’s ability to feel much of anything in many parts of the body.

Leprosy & Pain

This, in fact is one of the problems with the disease. Pain actually is actually designed to be a gift from God — it tells us that there is something wrong so we can attend to it before it gets worse. Without this unpleasant sensation we might be tempted, for example, to ignore an infection or continue to put stress on an overworked muscle that desperately needs a rest. The consequence can be permanent damage to the organ in question, and this is why lepers are often horribly disfigured, with missing digits and extremities. This hideous appearance causes the leper further suffering.

But regardless of what kind of leprosy the man had, there is yet another kind of suffering experienced by all lepers in ancient Israel. Leviticus 13 tells us that, to protect others from infection, lepers had to isolate themselves from the rest of society, living outside city limits, obliged to warn all who approached them that they were “unclean.”

Mercy Relieves Suffering

So, the leper asked Jesus to rid him of his despicable disease, with all its ugly consequences. Jesus promptly healed him. He did this not to prove he was a prophet, the Messiah, indeed, the Son of God. In fact, he gave the man strict orders not to broadcast the news of the miracle. Jesus healed him, instead, out of compassion. It was a work of mercy, which is love’s response to suffering. Notice Jesus did not scold him for wanting to be relieved of the suffering associated with this dreadful disease. He had the power to free him from it and so He did.

So, there are at least two lessons here — it’s OK to seek relief from suffering and, should we encounter it in others, we must do all we can to relieve it.

Suffering as a Discipline

But there is more. Jesus took away one source of suffering but imposed another. The former leper was understandably thrilled at his change of fortune and passionately wanted to tell everyone about it. Jesus commanded him to restrain his passion and be quiet. This by the way, was for the good of others — to make it possible for Jesus to move freely through the towns of Galilee preaching the gospel and revealing His identity in His own way and according to His own timetable.

But the leper would not accept the discipline imposed upon him by the Son of God, and the result was that from that point on it was Jesus, instead of the leper, who had to stay out in the wilderness, away from the towns.

Joining Our Suffering to His

We need not go looking for suffering. It will inevitably find us. Generally, we should seek relief from many forms of suffering, such as physical illness. But as long as we find suffering to be our traveling companion, we should bear it with as much joy and faith as possible in the name of the Lord, who suffered for us, joining our suffering to His for the redemption of the world. This is what St. Paul says — whatever we do, and whatever we have to endure, we must do for the glory of God and the salvation of all (I Corinthians 10:31-33).

image: Gebhard Fugel [Public domain], [via Wikimedia Commons](#)

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**A GOOD
and
GROWING NEED**

It costs **\$55,000** per year to educate and form a seminarian.  **COLUMBUS CATHOLIC VOCATIONS**

The Diocese of Columbus has a **GOOD AND GROWING NEED** by virtue of **16 ADDITIONAL** young men interested in the priesthood. A contribution from you today will support this immediate need to fund future priests throughout our Diocese.



Our Little Temptations Can Become A Huge Cross

TRAVIS LEE JONES



On the very long list of things, I don't give up for Lent every year, Guinness holds a special spot. It's not that I'm out every weekend picking up a six pack of its creamy goodness. In fact, if ever I drink a six pack in twelve months that's a big year for me. I just don't want to be denied if the mood strikes when I have a few extra bucks in my pocket. I like to leave my options open.

As Ash Wednesday was rolling up on me faster than usual this year, I scrambled about trying to find the perfect gift to give up this year. God's good gift of Guinness remained on the long list of things I didn't give up again, but I did go with chocolate this time. I just wasn't in the mood this year to give up something I'm really drawn to and I decided to take the easy way out. The spiritual snob in me gave way to the spiritual sloth in me and I went with the chocolate cliché as I settled in for the Ash Wednesday service and a very long Lent.

As the faithful streamed from the pews and shuffled down the aisles during the service I stood back and considered my options. There's nothing worse than getting the Rorschach test reject blotted on your forehead so I watched to see who was doing good work. I could swear I saw one lady was standing back after blessing each congregant and taking the time to inspect her work in the light. There was a couple of times I think that if she could've washed her ashy work off with Holy water and started over, she would have. I dutifully made my way into her line and humbly thought about my death as she went to work on me. And then I pulled out my phone to find if I got what I was aiming for. I felt pretty good about the shape of the cross I got so I hit send on the phone and texted the picture to my wife. Finally got the cross I've been wanting. It's gonna be a good lent.

Things were all fine and dandy until I skipped into the grocery store the next day and realized I was surrounded by Snickers, Hershey's Kisses, Reese's peanut butter cups and those Cadbury Eggs, the kind with the creamy center. Man, oh man I love those things. I never realized how much chocolate I eat at this time of year. I live with me every day and I don't even know myself that well. The easy cross I had picked out to carry was beginning to dig into my shoulder.

A little light of Grace flashed into my eyes and lit up my mind, as I longed to grab a three pack of those cream filled eggs. I don't even know how weak I am or understand how much Grace I've been given daily by God. To be able to say thank you God is Grace in itself. Where I am weak, He is strong and I've foolishly assumed His strength was mine even in the littlest temptations.

I'm struggling this year. Sundays can't get here quick enough now. Not only for God's Good gift of the Eucharist and the Grace I get from Him but because I really like peanut butter cups a bunch too apparently. It's such a little trouble but it is my trouble just as your troubles are yours. Troubles big or small, deep or wide, God knows us better than we know ourselves and He's carrying us along even when we think we know all the options and have made the right choices and that's why we're doing so good. It only took me giving up something silly to find out how weak I really am and see a little clearer how much He's given up for me.

Since that night, when I went down the aisle and grabbed what I thought was the perfect small cross, my prayer has been; *"Heavenly Father, please give me the Grace, strength, desire and will to overcome my troubles, especially the ones I scoff at."*



Photo by [Diana Vargas](#) on [Unsplash](#)

THIS ARTICLE IS MADE AVAILABLE COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC EXCHANGE

Spring CLEAN UP

It's getting close to Spring and that means time for the Catholic Cemeteries of Columbus Spring Clean-Up! Families wishing to retain any personal keepsakes should gather them by March 1, 2024, when Cemetery field staff will begin clean up around graves and mausoleums. If you have questions, please contact our cemetery offices.



CATHOLIC
CEMETERIES
of Columbus

St. Joseph Cemetery
Lockbourne, Ohio
(614) 491-2751

Resurrection Cemetery
Lewis Center, Ohio
(614) 888-1805

Holy Cross Cemetery
Pataskala, Ohio
(740) 927-4442

Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Columbus, Ohio
(614) 491-2751

Ash Wednesday Gives Us a Bridge to Easter

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS



Dust and ashes are distinguishing marks of Lent's opening days. It is no accident that the Ash Wednesday service is one of the most popular Lenten observances, even for non-Catholics. Even for the nominally religious, ashes on the forehead contain a certain symbolic appeal, speaking not only of our origins but of our end. For, as ashes are placed upon our heads, we hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

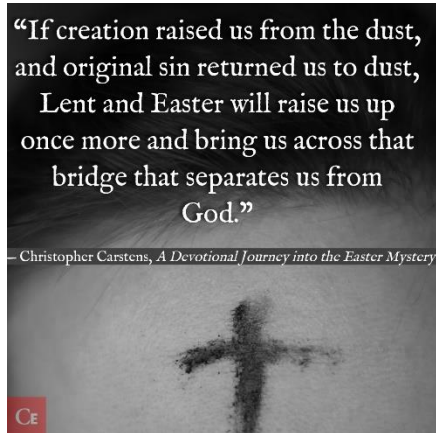
But Ash Wednesday is only the first step. As we go deeper into Lent, the liturgy further sharpens this focus on our ultimate destination. On the Sunday following Ash Wednesday, the First Reading presents the creation account, which takes us even further back to our dusty roots in the Garden of Eden. Here we read how "the Lord God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Gen. 2:7). We were made from dust, and with the Fall we descend back into dust. We are reminded of this fact of life (and death) in the Ash Wednesday blessing over the ashes, when we "acknowledge we are but ashes and shall return to dust."

But the ashes do more than recall our own fall: they should remind us that our transgression has turned the entire cosmos to chaos. We have brought down not just ourselves but all of creation with us. Not long after Adam and Eve's creation, "out of the ground the Lord God made grow every tree that was delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden" (Gen. 2:9). But with Adam's sin (the name *Adam* means "earth" or "ground"), all of the ground is cursed (Gen. 3:17), as well as the vegetation that comes from it. It is fitting, then, that Ash Wednesday's ashes are "made from the olive branches or branches of other trees that were blessed the previous year." Earth's trees and plants that were once alive are themselves reduced to dust, as an anticipation of our own death.

So, Ash Wednesday and Lent, especially its early weeks, remind us (can we forget?) that we humans (*human*, like *Adam*, means "earthly") are given life from the ground by God's will, but that we shall return to the ground by the free choice of our will. Thus far, not a happy story. But at least there is nowhere to go but up!

But listen to the first words on the Church's Lenten lips. The entrance antiphon for Ash Wednesday declares, "You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to

repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God” (Wis. 11:24, 25, 26). True, we have reduced ourselves to dust, but this is not where the story ends (how sad for those who believe it is!).



God’s mercy, as Lent’s first proclamation says, overlooks the chasm of our sins and restores us to life. As the psalmist puts it: “He raises the needy from the *dust*, lifts the poor from the *ash* heap, Seats them with princes, the princes of the people” (Ps. 113:7-8). If creation raised us from the dust, and original sin returned us to dust, Lent and Easter will raise us up once more and bring us across that bridge that separates us from God.

But passing over has never been an easy task. Moses found the work exhausting (“If this is the way you will deal with me,” he complained to God, “then please do me the favor of killing me at once, so that I need no longer face my distress!” [Num. 11:15]). Joshua, who led the people into the promised land after Moses’ death, also knew the difficulty involved in passing over.

Recall how he and Caleb encouraged the frightened people to enter the Promised Land: “If the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us in to this land and give it to us, a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD! You need not be afraid of the people of the land, for they are but food for us!” (Num. 14:8–9). Similarly, both Elijah and Ruth passed over to new life only by great effort and toil.

Consider the anguished pleas of Elisha before Elijah, and Orpah and Ruth before Naomi, prior to their respective Passovers (see 2 Kings 2; Ruth 1). Anyone who has ever prayed the Stations of the Cross knows, too, that the same exertions (and more!) accompanied Jesus’ Passover (perhaps this is why both Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus at His Transfiguration — to give Him encouragement). The same challenge, too, opens before us in Lent.

Conclusion

The Church likens the Lenten season to climbing “the Holy Mountain of Easter,” (*Paschalis Sollemnitatis*, no. 6). On the far side of the paschal bridge, from the vantage point of the Easter victory, the Church looks back on Christ’s (and our) work and calls it a “stupendous combat,” * where death and life fought a bitter battle. It’s a battle worth fighting, and a battle we can win.

But part of our success sees the goal, the end, the purpose: the Paschal Mystery, where we work with Jesus to span heaven and earth. And unless there is a bridge in our sights on Ash Wednesday, our journey through Lent risks ending where we began: right here in the fallen and dusty world of sin. It is a good thing we have a captain, coworkers, and tools necessary to win to victory.



* Editor’s note: “Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous.” From the Easter Sequence, *Victimae Paschali laudes*, sung before the Gospel acclamation on Easter Sunday and (as an option) throughout the Easter Octave. See *Lectionary for Mass* (New Jersey: Catholic Book Publishing, 1998), vol. 1, 357.

This article is adapted from a chapter in Christopher Carsten’s latest book, *A Devotional Journey into the Easter Mystery | How Prayerful Participation in the Paschal Mystery Brings Life, Joy, and Happiness*. It is available as an ebook or paperback from [Sophia Institute Press](#).

Photo by [Ahna Ziegler](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family.

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism." +POPE BENEDICT XVI

Monday, February 12 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:11-13 The Pharisees came forward and began to argue with Jesus, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. He sighed from the depth of his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." Then he left them, got into the boat again, and went off to the other shore.

Meditation: The people of Jesus' time expected that the coming of the Messiah would be accompanied by extraordinary signs and wonders. The religious leaders tested Jesus to see if he had a genuine sign from heaven to back his Messianic claims. False messiahs in the past had made extraordinary claims to attract their followers, such as claiming that they could cleave the Jordan River in two or cause the walls of Jerusalem to fall. Jesus knew the hearts of those who came to test him. They were more interested in seeing signs and supernatural phenomena than they were in hearing the word of God. Simeon had prophesied at Jesus' birth that he was "destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that inner thoughts of many will be revealed" (ref. Luke 2:34-35). Jesus gave them no sign except himself and the ultimate proof of his divinity when he rose from the dead.

Prayer: Show gracious favor, O Lord, we pray, to the works of penance we have begun, that we may have strength to accomplish with sincerity the bodily observances we undertake. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Never forget that the Lord reveals himself and makes his presence known to us in many ways – in his word and in the "breaking of the bread" in the Eucharist, in his church – the body of Christ, in his creation, and even in the everyday circumstances of our lives. If we seek the Lord, we will surely find him. And we can be confident that he will give us whatever we need to understand and carry out his will. Most of all, the Lord assures us of his daily presence and the promise that he will never leave us. Saint Theresa of Avila's prayer book contained a bookmark in which she wrote: "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; All things pass: God never changes. Patience achieves all it strives for. Whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices." Think about that for a moment, then ask yourself: Is God enough for you?

Tuesday, February 13 ~ Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 8:14-21 The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. Jesus enjoined them, "Watch out, guard against the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." They concluded among themselves that it was because they had no bread. When he became aware of this he said to them, "Why do you conclude that it is because you have no bread? Do you not yet understand or comprehend? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and not see, ears and not hear? And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many wicker baskets full of fragments you picked up?" They answered him, "Twelve." "When I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many full baskets of fragments did you pick up?" They answered him, "Seven." He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

Meditation: The apostles set off in their boat across the Sea of Galilee only to discover that they forgot to bring enough food for their journey. What were they to do miles away from land and any place where they could buy food and supplies? They were anxious of course, and this was right after Jesus had performed the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes where the disciples fed more than four thousand people (ref. Mark 8:1-9). Jesus knew the trouble in his disciples' hearts even before they could speak. Jesus dealt with their anxiety by first warning them to not fear what can harm the body rather than what can destroy the very heart and soul of their being.

Prayer: Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: One might wonder why Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod? To the Jewish person leaven was a sign of evil. It was a piece of dough left-over from a previous baking. In due course it fermented and this fermented dough became leaven. Fermentation was associated with decomposing rot. Jesus warned his disciples to avoid the evil influence of the Pharisees and of Herod who sought their own counsels rather than the will of God. As the apostles continued to worry about their lack of bread, Jesus reminded them of his miraculous provision of bread in the feeding of the four thousand. He then upbraided them for their lack of trust in God. "Do you still not understand?" It's easy to get preoccupied with the problems and needs of the present moment and to forget the most important reality of all – God's abiding presence with us and his abundant provision for our lives as well. Thus when you pray, do you pray with joyful confidence, "Father, give us this day our daily bread?"

Wednesday, February 14 ~ The Beginning of the Season of Lent Ash Wednesday ~ A Day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

Meditation: One might ask why Jesus singled out prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for his disciples. The Jews considered these three as the cardinal works of the religious life. These were seen as the key signs of a pious person, the three great pillars on which the good life was based. Jesus pointed to the heart of the matter. Why do you pray, fast, and give alms? To draw attention to yourself so that others may notice and think highly of you? Or to give glory to God? The Lord warns his disciples of self-seeking glory – the preoccupation with looking good and seeking praise from others. True piety is something more than feeling good or looking holy. True piety is loving devotion to God. It is an attitude of awe, reverence, worship and obedience. It is a gift and working of the Holy Spirit that enables us to devote our lives to God with a holy desire to please him in all things (Isaiah 11:1-2). The forty days of Lent is the annual retreat of the people of God in imitation of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. Forty is a significant number in the scriptures. Moses went to the mountain to seek the face of God for forty days in prayer and fasting. The people of Israel were in the wilderness for forty years in preparation for their entry into the promised land. Elijah fasted for forty days as he journeyed in the wilderness to the mountain of God. We are called to journey with the Lord in this special season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and penitence as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter. The Lord gives us spiritual food and supernatural strength to seek his face and to prepare ourselves for spiritual combat and testing. We, too, must follow in the way of the cross in order to share in the victory of Christ's death and resurrection.



As we begin this holy season of testing and preparation, let's ask the Lord for a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit that we may grow in faith, hope, and love and embrace his will more fully in our lives.

Prayer: Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: God wants to set our hearts ablaze with the fire of his Holy Spirit that we may share in his holiness and radiate the joy of the gospel to those around us. St. Augustine tells us that there are two kinds of people and two kinds of love: "One is holy, the other is selfish. One is subject to God; the other endeavors to equal Him." We are what we love. God wants to free our hearts from all that would keep us captive to selfishness and sin. "Rend your hearts and not your garments" says the prophet Joel (Joel 2:12). Use this Season of Lent to the fullest – embrace the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ and His Holy Catholic Church. Undergo a conversion of mind and heart. Conform your will to God's; don't ask God to conform his will to yours, as so many foolishly try to do. With the help of the Holy Spirit, become humble, transform your minds and hearts to be lead in God's way of truth and holiness.

Thursday, February 15 ~ The Thursday After Ash Wednesday

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:22-25 Jesus said to his disciples: "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"

Meditation: Quite simply, the cross of Jesus Christ leads to freedom and victory over sin and death. We then need to ask ourselves: "What is the cross which Christ commands me to take up each day as his disciple?" When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. The way of the cross involves sacrifice, the sacrifice of laying down my life each and every day for Jesus' sake. What makes such sacrifice possible and "sweet" is the love of God poured out for us in the blood of Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle reminds us that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5). We can never outdo God in giving, no matter how abundant we try. He always gives us more than we can expect or imagine. Are you ready to lose all for Christ in order to gain all with Christ?

Prayer: Prompt our actions with your inspiration, we pray, O Lord, and further them with your constant help, that all we do may always begin from you and by you be brought to completion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: We need to ask ourselves: "What will I give to God in exchange for freedom and eternal life?" In thinking about this question, are you ready to part with anything that might keep you from following him and his perfect plan for your life? Jesus poses these questions to challenge our assumptions about what is most profitable and worthwhile in life. In every decision of life we are making ourselves a certain kind of person. It is possible that some can gain all the things they set their heart on, only to wake up suddenly and discover that they missed the most important things of all. A true disciple is ready to give up all that he or she has in exchange for happiness and life with God. The life which God offers is abundant, everlasting life. And the joy which God places in our hearts no sadness or loss can diminish.

Friday, February 16 ~ The Friday After Ash Wednesday

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14-15 The disciples of John approached Jesus and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast much, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."

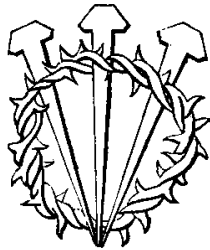
Meditation: What kind of fasting is pleasing to God? Fasting can be done for a variety of reasons – to gain freedom from some bad habit, addiction, or vice, to share in the suffering of those who go without, or to grow in our hunger for God and for the things of heaven. Basil the Great wrote: "Take heed that you do not make fasting to consist only in abstinence from meats. True fasting is to refrain from vice. Shred to pieces all your unjust contracts. Pardon your neighbors. Forgive them their trespasses." Do you hunger for more of God and for his holiness and for the abundant life he has to offer you?

Prayer: Show gracious favor, O Lord, we pray, to the works of penance we have begun, that we may have strength to accomplish with sincerity the bodily observances we undertake. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: We must remember that hungering for God and fasting for his kingdom go hand in hand. When asked why he and his disciples did not fast Jesus used the vivid picture of a wedding celebration. In Jesus' time the newly wed celebrated their honeymoon at home for a whole week with all the guests! This was a time of great feasting and celebrating. Jesus points to himself as the bridegroom and his disciples as the bridegroom's friends. He alludes to the fact that God takes delight in his people as a groom delights in his bride (Isaiah 62:5). To be in God's presence is pure delight and happiness. But Jesus also reminds his followers that there is a time for fasting and for humbling oneself in preparation for the coming of God's kingdom and for the return of the Messianic King. The Lord's disciples must also bear the cross of affliction and purification. For the disciple there is both a time for rejoicing in the Lord's presence and celebrating his goodness and a time for seeking the Lord with humility, fasting, and mourning for sin. If we hunger for the Lord, he will not disappoint us. His grace draws us to his throne of mercy and favor. Do you seek the Lord with confident trust and allow his Holy Spirit to transform your life with his power and grace? If not, perhaps this is an area for you to work on during this Season of Lent

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2024



AS WE BEGIN THE SEASON OF LENT ~ A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

God, our heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this Holy Season of Lent.

By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing.

By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will.

Teach me to find new life through penance.

Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love.

God of compassion and mercy, bring me back to You.

Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works in serving others.

*May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love,
and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.*

*Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life
and make me one with You in thought, word and action.*

Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to living the Gospel of Christ.

Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness and faults.

Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Eucharist during Mass.

*Father, our source of all life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand;
let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy,
for left to myself I struggle to do Your Will.*

*Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin
to the new life of grace.*

Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom.

I pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,

Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER: FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE ATONEMENT

~ TAKING PLACE IN THE CATHEDRAL PARISH ~

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 IS ASH WEDNESDAY. Mass times will be at 12:05 p.m. (with the Bishop as the Celebrant) and 5:15 p.m. at the Cathedral. The Community of St. Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church will sponsor the first day of the 40 days of Adoration, on February 14. Adoration will take place at the Cathedral from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS – Following the 12:05 p.m. Mass on Fridays we will have the Stations of the Cross.

Sunday, March 17, 2024, 3:00 p.m. This special liturgy will feature improvisations on each Station featuring Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald, organist.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: St. Joseph Cathedral happily announces the coming nuptials of Genevieve Harding and Christian Bray on March 23, 2024. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their wedding.

WE INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF THE BEAUTIFUL LITURGIES AT HOLY CROSS & ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL. Consider joining the Liturgical Ministry Volunteers as altar servers, lectors, and hospitality ministers. Please fill out a form in the sacristy or email the form to JP at sjcmministriescheduler@gmail.com.

CATHEDRAL BIBLE STUDY: Cathedral Bible Study meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. There is interest in having a daytime Bible Study as well. If you are interested in joining either session, please contact Carol at 614-224-1295 or at cathedral@sjchcc.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH COFFEE MAKING AND SETTING UP FOR FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS. Please Contact Ed Hueckel at Emmett2381@yahoo.com.

IN, AROUND AND NEAR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

JOINT ORGANIZATION FOR INNER-CITY NEEDS, JOIN, is an agency of the Diocese's Catholic Charities Office, located at 578 E. Main Street in downtown Columbus. Sharing God's love and word through the assistance provided to our brothers and sisters is our daily aspiration. Because of the generosity, throughout our Diocese, JOIN is able to help our neighbors with their essential needs such as food, personal care, household items and diapers. We can also assist with more complicated issues such as prescriptions, utilities, birth certificates and transportation. The Ash Wednesday collection of your church and others, is instrumental in our mission to serve our neighbors with these various needs and more. All donations go directly to improve the quality of life for those we serve. It is a modest but significant way to begin Lent, for you and the community. On behalf of all of us here at JOIN, and from the neighbors we serve, thank you for all you do through your ministries that serve our brothers and sisters. You are always welcome to visit JOIN or feel free to call or email me, Lisa Keita, director of JOIN, any time at 614-241-2530 or lkeita@columbuscatholic.org. God bless you with His grace and Peace!

**THE FUTURE OF OUR FAITH:**

As retirement nears, there are opportunities to make broader plans for assets that have been carefully accumulated over a lifetime. A planned gift is an intention that can be made when you are updating insurance beneficiaries; when you are meeting with your lawyer to update your will; or when you are meeting with your financial planner about your IRA. No gift is too small to make a meaningful, lasting impact on St. Joseph Cathedral. For more information on how you can incorporate St. Joseph Cathedral into your estate planning and leave a legacy that will be felt forever, please contact Campbell Smith at 614-443-8893 or csmith@catholic-foundation.org.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, which will be held Saturday, February 17, 2024. Get registered TODAY at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com/

St. Padre Pio Relic at the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference: The glove of St. Padre Pio will be displayed for veneration at the upcoming Columbus Catholic Women's Conference in February. Scan the QR code to register for the conference.



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COME AND SEE WEEKEND AT THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM: The Pontifical College Josephinum, in Columbus, Ohio, has scheduled a "Come and See" Live-in weekend for March 7-10, 2024. The weekend has been set aside to allow young men (high school juniors, seniors, and college-age students) to visit the seminary for a few days. Live-in participants will experience seminary prayer life, classes, communal worship, and interaction with current seminarians, faculty and staff. Live-in weekends include introductory presentations on discernment, student life, and the college seminary formation program.

The weekend begins with arrival at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, and concludes with departure at noon on Sunday, March 10. All meals and recreation are included. There is no charge to participate. For more information, contact the Vocations Office, 614-221-5565, or email vocations@columbuscatholic.org or contact your parish priest.

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If your Offertory is not made electronically, please use your parish Offertory envelope to thoughtfully, prayerfully choose your gift. In addition, filling out an envelope or electronic statement helps us keep track of who is actively registered at our parish.

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL
Updated February 5, 2024
2023 Appeal Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Goal established by the Diocese | \$ 42,645.24 |
| TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE | \$ 65,079.00 |
| EXCEEDS DIOCESAN GOAL BY | \$ 22,433.76 |

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH
Updated February 5, 2024
2023 Appeal Report

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Goal established by the Diocese | \$ 21,018.43 |
| Enhanced Goal | \$ 26,018.43 |
| TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE | \$ 22,168.43 |
| EXCEEDS DIOCESAN GOAL BY | \$ 1,150.00 |

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.

OFFERTORY FOR SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL – FEBRUARY 4

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Credit Card/EFT | \$ 3,747.17 |
| Mail-in | \$ 250.00 |
| Collection | \$ 2,108.01 |
| 8% Diocese | (488.42) |
| TOTAL | \$ 5,616.76 |

POOR BOX \$ 381.00

OFFERTORY FOR HOLY CROSS – FEBRUARY 4

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Offertory | \$2,033.75 |
| Mail-in | \$ 790.00 |
| Credit Card | \$ 320.00 |
| Repair /mail-in | \$ 770.00 |
| 8% Diocese | (\$313.10) |
| Net to Parish | \$ 3,600.65 |

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