



# Alleluia

## The Community of St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross Church

St. Joseph Cathedral 212 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215 | 614-224-1295

Holy Cross Church 204 S. Fifth Street, Columbus, OH 43215 | 614-224-3416

[www.sjchcc.org](http://www.sjchcc.org)

*“The tomb of Christ, who is living, The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;  
bright angels attesting, The shroud and napkin resting.  
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you.”*

*-Victimae paschali laudes*

## 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

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### 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: APRIL

#### FOR THE ROLE OF WOMEN

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### HOLY CROSS CHURCH

##### Sunday, April 14

9:00 a.m. Soul of Albina Pimenovna Rudakova

#### ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

##### Sunday, April 14

10:30 a.m. Soul of Michael Elton

12:30 p.m. The People of St. Joseph Cathedral and  
Holy Cross Church

5:15 p.m. Soul of Chester Lones

#### ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

##### Monday, April 15

12:05 p.m. Soul of Ruth Frances McGarry

##### Tuesday, April 16

12:05 p.m. Intention of Patty Cooley

##### Wednesday, April 17

12:05 p.m. Intention of Kayeigh Parker Loveland

##### Thursday, April 18

12:05 p.m. Soul of James Powers

##### Friday, April 19

12:05 p.m. Darlene Thomas

#### HOLY CROSS CHURCH

##### Saturday, April 20

11:30 a.m. Intention of the Priest

### WEEKLY READINGS

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024

##### THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48*

##### Monday, April 15, 2024

*Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29*

##### Tuesday, April 16, 2024

*Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35*

##### Wednesday, April 17, 2024

*Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40*

##### Thursday, April 18, 2024

*Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51*

##### Friday, April 19, 2024

*Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59*

##### Saturday, April 20, 2024

*Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69*

THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ APRIL 14				
	HCC 9:00 a.m.	SJC 10:30 a.m.	SJC 12:30 p.m.	SJC 5:15 p.m.
MC				
Altar Servers	John Feher	Bonnie Maupin	Antonio Tomasi	Trevor Foley
		Dan Jurgens	Nate Foley	Ed Hueckel
		Zachary Smith		
Lector – One	Kelly Wagoner	Steve Brechter	Marilyn Tomasi	Linda Ruth
Lector – Two		Josie Gonot	Deborah Duffy	Thom Gall
Eucharistic Minister		Nico Franano		
Hospitality/Ushers	Ann Seren	Steve Horner	Lisa Ernst	Gordian Igwilo
	Denise Harris	Evelina Horner	Kevin Ernst	Robert Schoenfeld
		Pam Jurgens	Kathleen Tourgeman	
		Elvis Niangoran		
		Claire Viviano		

**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](mailto:hswiger@columbuscatholic.org)  
 Joint Office for Inner-city Needs (J.O.I.N.) ~ 614-241-2530

**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC**

Office of Compline – 9:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the Month. The next one is May 5, 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](http://www.columbuscatholic.org).

**LOW-GLUTEN\* HOSTS** will be served at **All Masses**. Worshipers 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 & HOLY CROSS CHURCH**

**PLEASE KEEP THESE PARISHIONERS IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Tim Acton, John Ankrom, Ed Chong, Barbara Cicua, Christopher Clark, Dorothy Deems, Larry Edwards, Theresa Elliott, Peter Garrett's Mother, 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 James Worley.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**(CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

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

**SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

**(CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

Please email Mandy at [weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org](mailto:weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org)

**NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION**

**FOR THE CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS**

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 website, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

**FUNERAL MINISTRY (CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

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 (CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS)**

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

# PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

## 11 DAYS: NOVEMBER 5 - 15, 2024

*Including a 3-day cruise to the Greek Isles & Turkey*

ATHENS  
CORINTH  
MYKONOS  
EPHESUS  
PATMOS  
SANTORINI  
DELPHI  
KALAMBAKA  
THESSALONIKI

HOSTED BY  
**VERY REVEREND JAN C. SULLIVAN**  
AND  
**FATHER CRAIG EILERMAN**



**\$4299 FROM COLUMBUS**

(Air/land tour price is \$3799 plus \$520 gov't taxes/airline surcharges)



*Featuring: Roundtrip air from Columbus, first/select class hotels, 3 day Greek Isles cruise, breakfast & dinner daily on land portion, all meals plus one shore excursion and select drinks with dinner on cruise, entrance fees, comprehensive sightseeing and much more!!*

**FOR A BROCHURE WITH FULL DETAILS, CONTACT OR DETACH & MAIL TO:**

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish  
Attn: Michael Morris  
144 N. 5th Street  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
Tel: (740) 453-3301 (office)  
(740) 704-5231 (cell)  
Email: [morrismw55@hotmail.com](mailto:morrismw55@hotmail.com)  
**OR CONTACT:**  
Amy Morris: (740) 704-9055  
Email: [ahmslp@gmail.com](mailto:ahmslp@gmail.com)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAWAS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INC.**

## Our Faith in Jesus Makes Us the Salt and Light of the World

FR. NNAMDI MONEME, OMV



*“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”*

A student of mine asked me a question recently: “How can we sinners bring the saving Gospel to a world like ours that has become deaf to the Gospel and refuses to make use of right reasoning?” I could sense the near-hopeless tone in his question. He was feeling small and inadequate in the daunting task of living and proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in a world that has grown obstinate, indifferent, and even intolerant of the demands of the Gospel.

St. Paul knew very well that feeling of being inadequate in his ministry. He was accused of lacking the necessary wisdom, skills, and rhetoric of other elitist preachers. He confessed his fears and weaknesses as he proclaimed the Gospel to them, “I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom...I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling.”

But he never lost his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” In the face of such personal inadequacies and criticism from the Corinthians, he held on tenaciously to his faith in Jesus because this faith is the very power of God in his life, “I came to you with a demonstration of Spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God” (1Cor 2:1-5).

No matter how inadequate we may feel in the face of challenges and our own poverty as Jesus’ disciples, we must never lose our faith in Jesus Christ because this faith is God’s most powerful gift to us. Remember that “Christ dwells in our hearts through faith.” (Eph 3:17) Thus our faith in Him has the power to prevail over our inadequacies and whatever this world may throw at us as His disciples. St. John affirms it in these words, “This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith.” (1Jn 5:4) Believing in the crucified and risen Christ, we experience within us the same power that raised Him from the dead. Nothing in this world can prevail over the power that is ours from faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

When Jesus asks us to be the “salt of the earth,” and the “light of the world,” He is not asking us to be or do something without the gift of faith in Him. Without a living faith in Him, we cannot be the salt of the earth or the light of the world. He who has come to “cast fire upon this earth” (Lk 12:49) intends to do so in and through our faith-filled hearts. He is the one who instills joyful hope in us because He has “overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). He is the only salt and light of this world, living and acting within us when we are living in faith.

Without faith in Jesus Christ, we cannot be transformed by Him and we cannot transform our world. We will instead be corrupted and “evangelized” by the spirit of this world. Without this faith in Him, we cannot love and serve God all the time, but we will begin to look for something for ourselves in return. We also cannot do good to others all the time because our selfishness will dominate us. Without faith in Jesus Christ, we cannot overcome the many challenges and struggles that are in this world. Without a deep faith in Him, we cannot appreciate the role of pain and suffering in the mission of the Church to bring souls to Him. When faith in Him is lacking, we cannot appreciate the value of the human soul redeemed by His blood. Lastly, we cannot bring others to know and love God when our faith in Him is lacking.

Jesus has a double invitation for us in *Mt 5:13-16*. Firstly, when He asked us not to lose our saltiness, He was asking us not to lose our faith in Him for any reason. He asks us to hold on to the gift of faith we have received in baptism even in the face of personal suffering, sin, weakness, failures, temptations, persecutions, rejection, losses, etc.

Secondly, when He asked that “our light shine before others so that they may see our good works and glorify our heavenly Father,” He was asking us to make use of our faith well for the glory of God and the good of others. Jesus is calling us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world by not losing our faith in Him but using that faith well. We become tasteless salt and useless lamps when our faith in Him dwindles.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the spirit of the world is a very strong, aggressive, and pernicious spirit. We have no chance to bring the fullness of the Gospel to this world and be faithful to it too without cultivating a deep faith in Christ. The many scandals and heterodox teaching in the Church, and the abandoning of the faith by many, are painful reminders of what happens when we try to engage this world without being grounded in our faith in Jesus Christ.

Let us turn to Mary at these challenging times. Didn't she also feel so small in the face of her challenging vocation when she asked, “How can this be since I have no relations with a man?” But she believed and held on to the words of the angel assuring her of the power of faith in Jesus, “With God, all things are possible.” (Lk 1:26-38) She believed then and she never lost her faith in Jesus Christ or in His mission. On the contrary, she continued to grow in this faith till the dark moments of Calvary and beyond. May she help us too to hold on to our faith at this time.

Let us also receive the Eucharist regularly. No matter the challenges we are facing to live and spread the Gospel today, Jesus, the “author and perfecter of our faith,” (Heb 12:2) comes to abide in us and renew our faith by His power in each Eucharist. Let us never lose this most powerful gift of faith but use it well so that He can make us effective and hopeful salt of the earth and light of the world.

*Glory to Jesus! Honor to Mary!*

*Photo by [Mateus Campos Felipe](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

THIS ARTICLE IS MADE AVAILABLE COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC EXCHANGE

# The Joy of Giving Gifts to Others on My Birthday

CONSTANCE T. HULL



My birthday usually falls during Lent or on Good Friday, but this year it fell during the Octave of Easter. Our culture can put a lot of pressure on birthdays, especially when people are younger. Entire movies and books have been written about birthdays. Families throw extravagant parties, much like Bilbo Baggins in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring*. I have found, however, that my birthday is much more enjoyable when I seek to serve and minister to others, rather than focus on what I receive. I learned the joyful tradition of giving gifts away by intentionally ministering to others on my birthday.

The hobbit practice of giving away gifts on birthdays is discussed in *The Fellowship of the Ring* during the preparations for Bilbo's 111th birthday. Tolkien says:

"Hobbits give presents to other people on their own birthdays. Not very expensive ones, as a rule, and not so lavishly as on this occasion; but it was not a bad system. Actually, in Hobbiton and Bywater every day in the year was somebody's birthday, so that hobbits in those parts had a fair chance of at least one present at least once a week. But they never got tired of them. On this occasion the presents were unusually good."

As I get older, I find that I need or want less and less. When my birthday comes around, I often have a very hard time figuring out what I'd like as a gift. I usually tell my husband I'd like a bunch of tulips. We got a golden retriever puppy last month and I decided she would be my gift this year.

A few years ago, I decided to make a point of serving in ministry in some way on my birthday. One year, instead of a birthday dinner for me, we took dinner to homeless families staying at our parish. This year, I took Holy Communion to the sick who are in the hospital. There is no greater gift than Our Lord's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. Hobbit gifts were not particularly expensive, but I had the great privilege of the taking the *greatest* of gifts to those who are suffering. Our Lord is particularly close to these afflicted souls.

Turning away from ourselves to serve others—even when the day is a celebration of the gift of our own lives—is a tremendous gift in itself. It takes the pressure off of finding the perfect gift, party, or meal. In fact, it takes the focus away from self and places it onto others, which means there are no expectations other than to give. This gets in the way of self-pity or disappointment when things do not go our way.

For many people, not getting exactly what they want or the party they desire can create animosity or anger towards others. While we should celebrate birthdays, we should do so with humility and charity and without the expectations that it will be everything we hoped for. There are no material gifts that can ultimately fulfill us. Only the Lord can fulfill us.

When we seek to give to others, we are allowing the Lord to fulfill us on the day we celebrate the gift of life He has given to each one of us. Our lives are meant to be lives of service towards others. We are called to give our lives away. The gift of our lives is meant to be shared with others, especially those who are suffering. This is the ultimate celebration of our birthdays.

Since my birthday is usually on Good Friday or the penitential season of Lent, it seemed fitting to take Our Risen and Glorified Lord to those who are undergoing crucifixion through illness in order to remind them that the Resurrection comes. It was an opportunity to proclaim the Good News to those who have fallen away from Him. The

first two people I visited were brand new moms who have fallen away from their Catholic upbringing. They went through the crucifixion of labor and delivery and were now basking in the joy of new life in their babies.

The first mom had been away for a while. I could not give her Holy Communion, but the Lord used this opportunity to meet her in that moment and invite her back to Himself. I was able to share with her all of the family activities we have at our parish and the mom's group. I invited her to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I was then able to pray over her. When I finished, she was in tears. The Lord called her by name as He called to St. Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection. I was able to bring the gift of His invitation to her.

The second mom wasn't ready to return to church or prayer, but I was able to meet her where she was and chat with her. I know her family, so we were able to share memories and she at least knew that a sister in Christ came to visit her. We never know what seeds the Lord will sprout in souls in His time. All we can do is throw out as many seeds as possible.

I went to visit multiple other patients who are practicing Catholics. I brought them His True Food and True Drink in their agonies. One patient was in immense pain, but he knew the Lord was the only One who could heal him. I stayed to visit with him and his daughter for a while. The visit came with a gift I never expected when he looked at me and asked me how many children I have. I told him: "I have one here and five with Our Lord." He said: "You have a powerful cohort interceding for you." Tears welled up in my eyes at this reminder and his understanding. Giving myself away in service to this gentleman resulted in an unexpected gift for myself.

Later in the morning, I stood silently next to a sedated patient in intensive care and prayed for him while carrying Our Lord's Real Presence with me. He may not know that Our Lord and I were there until the next life, but it was an immense honor to quietly pray for him. He was alone with no family present. I may end up being the only person who prays for him, which is why it is important that I stopped to pray with him. My husband and I often see patients with no visitors when we minister at the hospital or visit friends who are in-patients.

I could very easily have made yesterday about myself. I spent much of my life doing just that. However, I have found more joy and an abundance of gifts ever since I started giving gifts to others on my birthday through service. Hobbits give one another small gifts, but I am able to silently carry the Lord of the universe in a pyx in my pocket to give to His beloved sick. He is there when I step on the elevator with others and I silently pray for them to encounter Him. He is there healing, loving, and strengthening as I go from patient to patient. He is able to give Himself to these souls because I said yes to His invitation to serve others rather than focus on myself.

How would our world be transformed if we as Catholics intentionally chose to serve and give gifts to others on our birthday? Each day, new people would be blessed—much like the hobbits and their gifts—and brought back to Christ by our self-donation. What if one person each day encountered the Lord and either returned to the Church or converted because we chose to give spiritual gifts to others on our birthdays? How many homeless would be fed? How many afflicted souls would be ministered to? How many souls would be saved? I am convinced that it is much better to be like a hobbit and give gifts away on our birthday.

THIS ARTICLE IS MADE AVAILABLE COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC EXCHANGE





# SAVE THE DATE

## NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION



**JUNE 28-30 2024**



DIOCESE of  
**COLUMBUS**



- FRIDAY JUNE 28:** Youth Gathering and Eucharistic Worship at St. Charles Preparatory Convocation Center
- SATURDAY JUNE 29:** Holy Mass with Bishop Fernandes at St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville
- SUNDAY JUNE 30:** Holy Mass with Bishop Fernandes at St. Joseph Cathedral, followed by a Eucharistic Procession

**columbuscatholic.org**

# 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 April is dedicated to the Holy Spirit.*

***“Christians must lean on the Cross of Christ just as travelers lean on a staff when they begin a long journey. They must have the Passion of Christ deeply embedded in their minds and hearts, because only from it can they derive peace, grace, and truth.”***

**+ SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA**

### Monday, April 15 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 6:22-29** After Jesus had fed the five thousand men, his disciples saw him walking on the sea.] The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with his disciples in the boat, but only his disciples had left. Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered them and said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.” So they said to him, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.”

**Meditation:** What do you hunger most for in life? Is it health, wealth, power, titles, fame, love, truth, life? Jesus addressed this issue with those who sought him after the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. Were they simply hungry for things which satisfy the body or for that which satisfies the heart and soul? Jesus echoes the question posed in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah: “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy” (Isaiah 55:2)? There are two kinds of hunger -- physical and spiritual. Only God can satisfy the spiritual hunger in our heart and soul -- the hunger for truth, for life, and for love. Jesus also spoke about the works of God and what we must do to be doing the works of God, namely to believe in God's Son whom he has sent into the world.

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, putting off our old self with all its ways, we may live as Christ did, for through the healing paschal remedies you have conformed us to his nature. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Jesus offers a new relationship with God which issues in a new kind of life – in fact the only *real* life. It is a life of love and service, and the forgiveness of others which corresponds to God's mercy and kindness; a life of holiness and purity which corresponds to God's holiness; and a life of submission and trust which corresponds to the wisdom of God. This is the work which Jesus directs us to and enables us to perform in the power of the Holy Spirit. Do you hunger for the bread which comes down from heaven and thirst for the words of everlasting life? Find this hunger, and fulfill it with Christ!

### Tuesday, April 16 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 6:30-35** The crowd said to Jesus: “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*” So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” So they said to Jesus, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

**Meditation:** Do you have a true and genuine hunger for the bread of life? The Jewish people had always regarded the manna in the wilderness as the bread of God (Psalm 78:24, Exodus 16:15). There was a strong Rabbinic belief that when the Messiah came he would give manna from heaven. This was the supreme work of Moses. Now the Jewish leaders were demanding that Jesus produce manna from heaven as proof to his claim to be the Messiah. Jesus responds by telling them that it was not Moses who gave the manna, but God. And the manna given to Moses and the people was not the real bread from heaven, but only a symbol of the bread to come. Jesus then makes the claim which only God can make: I am the bread of life. The bread which Jesus offers is none else than the very life of God. This is the one true bread which can truly satisfy the hunger in our hearts. So the question becomes for each of us: Do you hunger for God and for the food which produces everlasting life?

**Prayer:** O God, who open wide the gates of the heavenly Kingdom to those reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, pour out on your servants an increase of the grace you have bestowed, that, having been purged of all sins, they may lack nothing that in your kindness you have promised. 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:** Have you tasted the bread of life? Have you come to Jesus? Or are you trying to cram other things in your life, instead of the only thing that will give you meaning, direction – life itself?! So what do you have to do to receive this great treasure – this “pearl of great price” we hear in scripture – this living bread? You have to sell all you have; your desires to go your own way instead of God’s way; your desire to have power or fame. You have to put everything else behind God and seek Him and his righteousness first and all else will be given to you. This is never easy, and it will cost you a great deal. But what you get in return will be worth the price. So, seize this opportunity. Taste the bread that Jesus offers. Saint Augustine wrote a prayer to express his gratitude to God for giving us the bread of life: *You are great, Lord, and highly to be praised; great is your power and your wisdom is immeasurable. Man, a little piece of your creation, desires to praise you, a human being bearing mortality with him, carrying with him the witness of his sin and the witness that you resist the proud. Nevertheless, to praise you is the desire of man, a little piece of your creation. You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. Amen.*

### Wednesday, April 17 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 6:35-40** Jesus said to the crowds, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen me, you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day.”

**Meditation:** For us to understand who Jesus is, we need to understand why he called himself the “bread of life.” The Jews understood that God promised them manna from heaven to sustain them on their journey to the promised land. Bread is the very staple of life. We could not live without food for very long. Bread sustains us. But what, then, is life? Jesus clearly meant something more than mere physical existence. The life Jesus refers to is connected with God, the author of life. Real life is a relationship with the living God – a relationship based on trust, love and obedience. This is what Jesus makes possible for us -- a loving relationship with the God who created us for love with Him. Apart from Jesus no one can enter that kind of life and relationship.

**Prayer:** Be present to your family, O Lord, we pray, and graciously ensure those you have endowed with the grace of faith an eternal share in the Resurrection of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Ask yourself: are you satisfied with mere physical existence, or do you hunger for real life? Jesus makes three claims here. First he offers himself as spiritual food which produces the very life of God within us. Second, he promises unbroken friendship and freedom from the fear of being forsaken or cut off from God. Third, he offers us the hope of sharing in his resurrection. Those who accept Jesus as Lord and Savior will be raised up to immortal life with Jesus when he comes again on the last day. Remember, our earthly journey is just that – a journey. And where our journey leads us is up to us as to whom we follow – is it Christ our shepherd and guide? Or is it someone or something else? Jesus leads us to eternal life, everything else leads to a dead end – literally! Knowing this, why would anyone choose to follow anyone or anything but Christ on our earthly journey?

## Thursday, April 18 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 6:44-51** Jesus said to the crowds: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God.* Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

**Meditation:** God offers us, his people, abundant life. But we can miss it. What is the bread of life which Jesus offers? It is first of all the life of God himself -- life which sustains us not only now in this age but also in the age to come. The Rabbis said that the generation in the wilderness have no part in the life to come. In the Book of Numbers it is recorded that the people who refused to brave the dangers of the Promised Land were condemned to wander in the wilderness until they died. The Rabbis believed that the father who missed the promised land also missed the life to come. When Jesus offers us real life he brings us into a new relationship with God, a relationship of trust, love, and obedience. And he offers us real life which last forever, a life of love, fellowship, communion, and union with the One who made us in love to be with him forever. To refuse Jesus is to refuse eternal life, unending life with the Heavenly Father. To accept Jesus as the bread of heaven is not only life and spiritual nourishment for this world but glory in the world to come. Do you truly accept Jesus as the bread of life?

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, let us feel your compassion more readily during these days when, by your gift, we have known it more fully, so that those you have freed from the darkness of error may cling more firmly to the teachings of your truth. 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:** Saint Bonaventure wrote this prayer to Jesus, the bread of life: "Grant that my soul may hunger after Thee, the bread of angels, the refreshment of holy souls, our daily and super substantial bread, having all sweetness and savor and every delight of taste; let my heart ever hunger after and feed upon Thee, upon whom the angels desire to look, and may my inmost soul be filled with the sweetness of Thy savor; may it ever thirst after Thee, the fountain of life, the fountain of wisdom and knowledge, the fountain of eternal light, the torrent of pleasure, the richness of the house of God. May it ever compass Thee, seek Thee, find Thee, run to Thee, attain Thee, meditate upon Thee, speak of Thee, and do all things to the praise and glory of Thy name, with humility and discretion, with love and delight, with ease and affection, and with perseverance unto the end."

## Friday, April 19 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 6:52-59** The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his Flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink his Blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my Flesh is true food, and my Blood is true drink. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." These things he said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

**Meditation:** Why did Jesus offer himself as "food and drink"? The Jews were scandalized and the disciples were divided when Jesus said "unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you." What a hard saying, unless you understand who Jesus is and why he calls himself the bread of life. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, when Jesus said the blessing, broke and distributed the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, prefigured the superabundance of the unique bread of the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper. The Gospel of John has no account of the Last Supper meal (just the foot washing ceremony and Jesus' farewell discourse). Instead, John quotes extensively from Jesus' teaching on the bread of life. In the Old Covenant bread and wine were offered in sacrifice as a sign of grateful acknowledgment to their Creator. Melchizedek's offering of bread and wine, who was both priest and king (Genesis 14:18), prefigured the offering made by Jesus, our high priest and king. The remembrance of the manna in the wilderness recalled to Israel that it lives by the bread of the Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3). When at the Last Supper Jesus described his blood "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28), he was explaining his coming crucifixion as a sacrifice for sins. His death on the cross

fulfilled the sacrifice of the paschal lamb. That is why John the Baptist called him the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Jesus made himself an offering and sacrifice, a gift that was truly pleasing to the Father. He "offered himself without blemish to God" (Hebrews 9:14) and "gave himself as a sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2).

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who have come to know the grace of the Lord's Resurrection, may, through the love of the Spirit, ourselves rise to newness of life. 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:** Jesus chose the time of Passover to fulfill what he had announced at Capernaum – giving his disciples his body and his blood. Jesus' passing over to his Father by his death and resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Last Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the church in the glory of God's kingdom. When the Lord Jesus commands his disciples to eat his flesh and drink his blood, he invites us to take his life into the very center of our being. That life which he offers is the very life of God himself. Do you hunger for the bread of life?

### Saturday, April 20 ~ Third Week in the Season of Easter

**Holy Gospel: John 6:60-69** Many of the disciples of Jesus who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer walked with him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

**Meditation:** Jesus stated that he is the bread of heaven, the very life of God given to us as spiritual food to sustain us on our journey to the promised land of heaven. Jesus did not leave any middle ground for his hearers. They must either accept his word as divine or reject it as the claim of an imposter. Even the apostles admitted that this was a "hard saying." This expression meant that it was not just hard to understand, but hard to accept. Jesus pressed the issue with his beloved disciples because he wanted to test their faith and loyalty. Jesus promised his disciples nothing less than the full blessing of eternal life and union with God. Jesus assures his disciples that it is his heavenly Father who invites and who gives the grace to follow even in the "hard sayings." Jesus knew that some would not only reject him and his word, but would do so with hatred and violence, even betraying him to his enemies.

**Prayer:** O God, who in the font of Baptism have made new those who believe in you, keep safe those reborn in Christ, that, defeating every onslaught of error, they may faithfully preserve the grace of your blessing. 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:** It was through the gift of faith that Peter came to understand that Jesus was the true Messiah, the Holy One of God. He believed in the words which Jesus spoke, because he accepted Jesus as the Son of God and savior of the world. Faith is a personal response to God's revelation of himself to us. Faith is the key to understanding and experiencing God's action and work in our personal lives. Do you believe, as Peter did, that Jesus can change your life because he has the words of everlasting life? Ask the Lord to increase your faith that you may grow in your relationship with him and in the knowledge of his love for you.

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.

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## TAKING PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY OF ST. JOSEPH AND HOLY CROSS

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE:** St. Joseph Cathedral & Holy Cross happily announces the coming nuptials of Leksi Murnieks & Dylan Van Tassell on April 27, 2024 and Renee Landis & Matt DiCesare on May 18, 2024 at the Cathedral. Mary Merkle & Patrick Bouchard on May 25, 2024 at Holy Cross. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their weddings.

**LITTLE LARRY SANDWICH MAKING AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH**  
On April 21st after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, we will be making sandwiches for St. Lawrence Haven. Join us!

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH COFFEE MAKING AND SETTING UP FOR FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS.** Please Contact Ed Hueckel at [Emmett2381@yahoo.com](mailto:Emmett2381@yahoo.com).

**WE INVITE YOU TO BE PART OF THE BEAUTIFUL LITURGIES AT ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH.** 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 [sjcmistryscheduler@gmail.com](mailto:sjcmistryscheduler@gmail.com).

**CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS BIBLE STUDY:** The Bible Study meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral in the Undercroft. 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@sjhcc.org](mailto:cathedral@sjhcc.org).

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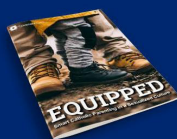
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**TOUR DAY AT THE JOSEPHINUM** – The Pontifical College Josephinum welcomes you to its annual Tour Day on Saturday, April 27, from Noon-3:00 p.m. Learn about the fascinating history and unique mission of the only pontifical seminary outside of Italy as you explore the Josephinum's grounds, main administration building, and Saint Turibius Chapel. Tours will highlight many beautiful characteristics of this historic 1931 structure, including extensive woodwork, stained glass windows, terrazzo floors, intricate brickwork, and sacred art. Register online at [apps.pcj.edu/tourday2024](http://apps.pcj.edu/tourday2024).

**CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON** – Friday, May 3, 2024 – Speaker, Fr. Steven Beseau. Join us at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a Luncheon featuring a talk by Fr. Steven Beseau, President/Rector of the Josephinum on the Status of the Josephinum. The May Luncheon is sponsored by Jim Flaherty. If you are interested in sponsoring a Luncheon, contact Pat Foley at [foley513@gmail.com](mailto:foley513@gmail.com). Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Fr. Beseau's presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! Our final Luncheon before the summer break is Friday, June 7, 2024, featuring Patrick Madrid, who will give a talk entitled, "Ten Recent Discoveries That Point to the Existence of God." Mark your calendar now so you don't miss it!



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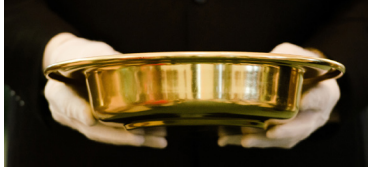
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**SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL**  
Updated April 8, 2024  
2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 42,645.24
<b>TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$ 66,143.14</b>
Exceeds Diocesan Goal by	\$ 23,497.90

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

**OFFERTORY FOR SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL – APRIL 7**

Credit Card/EFT	\$ 5,010.34
Mail-in	\$ 1,110.00
Collection	\$ 2,745.75
8% Diocese	(709.29)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,156.80</b>
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**HOLY CROSS CHURCH**  
Updated April 8, 2024  
2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 21,018.43
Enhanced Goal	\$ 26,018.43
<b>TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$ 27,168.43</b>
<b>EXCEEDS ENHANCED GOAL BY</b>	<b>\$ 1,150.00</b>

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

**OFFERTORY FOR HOLY CROSS – APRIL 7**

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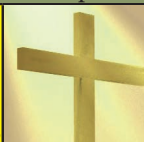


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