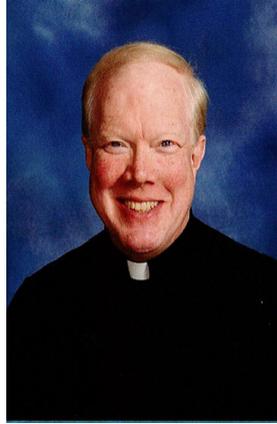

St. Joseph Congregation

Faith on Center

March 2021

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Season of Lent invites us to spend time in silence. However, we live in a world filled with noise and the busyness of life, and find ourselves uncomfortable with quiet, stillness, or even a lull in conversation. Rather than listening to the rhythm of our souls, we are tied to our cell phones, computers and television sets. Americans are a society of achievers and doers, rather than

contemplatives, as outside influences deter us from discovering the sacred within us.

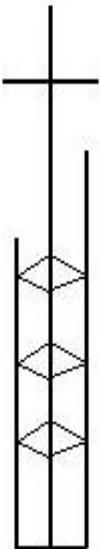
But it need not be that way. We can find silence and solitude in a variety of places each day. In our commute to and from work, in a walk as we enjoy the beauty of nature, or sitting still in a quiet spot in our home. God is everywhere, present in every place and in every moment. Wherever we find solitude and silence, we can enter into a sacred space and pray.

Meister Eckhart said, *"Nothing resembles the language of God so much as does silence."* The Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes says, *"There is a time to be silent, and a time to speak."*

Many people understand that silence can nurture their spiritual journey, yet they are afraid of being along with themselves and what they may discover. However, it is often in times of silence that God speaks to us. As God has said, *"Be still, and know that I am God!"*

The story of the Prophet Elijah reminds us that God is present in holy silence. When Elijah's life is threatened by the evil Queen Jezebel, he tries desperately to hear the voice of God. On Mount Horeb he experiences from the cave he is hiding in, the great wind, then an earthquake, then a fire. But God was not found in them. Then he heard the gentle whisper and God was

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Holy Week Mass Schedule

Holy Thursday, April 1
7:00 pm Mass

Good Friday, April 2
1:30 pm Passion Service
**** Reservations Required ****

Holy Saturday, April 3
11:00 am Blessing of Easter Foods
8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 4
***** 7:00 am, 9:00 am & 11:00 am Mass *****
Reservations Required

*Reservations are required for Good Friday and Easter Sunday Masses.
Please contact the parish office at 414-771-4626.*



In silence, I hear you Lord.

This is our theme for Lent 2021.

Lenten Regulations

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age and are under 59 years of age. Those who are bound to this are to take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if needed to maintain strength according to one's needs but eating between meals is not permitted. Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves for these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated a little differently this year, but with some planning and creativity, students were able to enjoy a very special week at St. Joe's! Along with a virtual book fair, weekly activities included craft projects, meetings with Fr. Dennis and Deacon Michael Lawinger, a virtual flag ceremony and virtual BINGO. We ended the week with ice cream and movies in each classroom and saluted our teachers on Teacher Appreciation Day. The Masked Singer was great fun for the students and our talented teachers! This week was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the many things that make our students, staff and community so special!



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April Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter deadline is March 22nd at 9:00 am. Please email to bargielskib@stjoetosa.com.

present in it. God speaks to us in the quiet. Recall the Christmas Story that, in the silence of the night the Word of God leapt down from heaven.

Many people associate silence and solitude with loneliness, missing out on life, or being disconnected. Father Ron Rolheiser, a theologian and author, writes, *“Silence is a special language that is not in opposition to words. Silence and words need each other. There are things we can only know through silence, just as there are things we can only know through conversation.”*

The Gospels record for us that Jesus went away to places of solitude where he spent the time in prayer. He knew the importance of silence, of listening to his Father, so as to fulfill the mission for which he was sent into the world. Jesus invited his disciples to this same silence as he said, *“Come away to a deserted place by yourselves and rest awhile.”*

Silence and solitude are necessary to developing a healthy spiritual life. During this Season of Lent, a special time of grace for all of us, may we accept the invitation of Jesus, *“Come away to a deserted place by yourselves and rest a while.”* Let us pray together:

Good and loving God, give us the courage to be quiet, to be still, even to be bored, so that we might hear your voice and come to know our purpose in this life, our identity as your children. And please, Lord God, give us the courage we need to turn off the cell phone, the computer and the television so as to hear your voice in the midst of a world filled with noise. Amen.

-Father Dennis