

St. Joseph's Messenger

*A BULLETIN FOR INSPIRING
SCHOOL FAMILIES*

"GROUNDED IN THE TRADITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO FORMING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND SERVICE TO OTHERS."

Notes from Fr. Blake



During the month of March, we continue our Lenten journey. I was edified in seeing so many people at church on Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent. The ashes remind us that we only have so much time here on earth and then we will be judged by God. Therefore, we need to make the most of our time. At Mass, the priest says, **“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”** Or, **“Repent and believe in the Gospel!”** Both these sayings have a similar impact. They call us to conversion. People show up to receive ashes because the ashes help people to focus on what truly matters. Time is fleeting! Growing up, I heard people say, “You kids grow up so fast!” I did not think much of it at the time, but now I realize what they meant. In serving as a priest over the past number of years, I have seen these kids in Catholic schools all of a sudden graduating high school. Is faith in Christ the top priority for your family? Do you do your best to follow Him in His Church? At the beginning of Lent, a lot of us make it clear that faith is our top priority. As Lent carries on, we may become more lax in our practice, but if we remember that we only have so much time here on earth, then we can get back on track in following Jesus.

There are a good number of opportunities to live our faith during the month of March. We are having our annual Lenten penance service at St. Joseph's Church on **Sunday, March 7 at 3 pm**. The students will have an opportunity to go to confession at school, but it would also be great for the kids to see the whole family go to confession. God is merciful! If it has been awhile since you have been to confession, do not be afraid! Make a good, heartfelt confession of your sins, and experience the blessing of being set free. We will have a few priests available to hear confessions, and Eucharistic adoration will take place in the main church. Once again, this will be a great time for you and your family to know God's amazing love.

Friday, March 19 is a big deal. It is the Solemnity of St. Joseph in the Year of St. Joseph. I am moving the daily Mass that day to **5:30 pm**. Though it is Lent, this is a day to celebrate, especially this year. As I have previously written about and presented to the students in their classrooms, St. Joseph shows us that we are called to be humble, hard-working, family-oriented, and faith-filled. The universal Church will honor St. Joseph that day. We should continue to prayerfully turn to St. Joseph, who wants to help us to focus on Christ during this very fleeting journey of Lent, and more significantly, life. Do your best to take advantage of the Lenten opportunities. I look forward to seeing you around.

-Fr. Blake

Feast Days in March

7 - Saints Perpetua and Felicity

17 - St. Patrick

19 - Solemnity of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass at St. Joseph's Church - 5:30 PM

25 - Annunciation of the Lord

28 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Lenten Opportunities

Stations of the Cross

Fridays - 12 PM @ St. Augustine's
6 PM @ St. Joseph's

Lenten Thoughts with Fr. Blake

Thursdays @ 8:30 PM
(March 4, 11, 18, 25) on
Facebook Live

[St. Joseph's Church Facebook Link](#)

*We can think of Lent as a time to eradicate evil or cultivate virtue, a time to pull up weeds or to plant good seeds. Which is better is clear, for the Christian ideal is always positive rather than negative.
- Venerable Fulton J. Sheen*

Lenten Resources for Families

During the season of Lent, we are called to grow closer to Christ by prayer, fasting and giving alms. Here are a few resources that are available to help you and your family in your Lenten journey:

[\(Free\) Download Stations of the Cross for young kids](#)

[Celebrating Reconciliation with Kids](#)

[Printable Lent Calendar for Families](#)

[All Bible in a Year Episodes - Ascension Press Media](#) - podcast for parents

[Catholic Sprouts Podcast](#) - short podcast episodes for families

Catholic Trivia

What is the original meaning of the word LENT?

- A) Prayer
- B) Strength
- C) Family
- D) Spring

March Virtue and Saints

TEMPERANCE- Temperance is “enjoying things in a proper, balanced way”

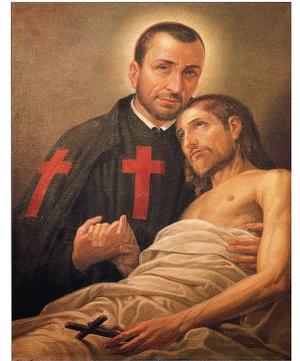


PK-Gr. 2 will study SAINT TERESA OF AVILA (1515-1582, Spain)

St. Teresa of Avila was a young girl from a noble family in Spain. She sometimes had trouble with self-control, and she spent much time socializing and did not spend much time talking with God. As she grew up, she grew closer to God. She became a Carmelite nun who emphasized for the order the importance of the contemplative life. She was a mystic known for her writings, the best known of which is *The Interior Castle*. She received the title of Doctor of the Church for her writings. Her feast day is October 15.

Grades 3-5 will study ST. CAMILLUS de LELLIS (1550-1614, Italy)

St. Camillus de Lellis was a priest who founded the Camillians. When he was a young man, he loved to gamble and fight. As a young man, he served in the military until his regiment was disbanded in 1575. Having gambled away all his possessions, De Lellis took work as a laborer at a Capuchin monastery. Despite his aggressive nature and excessive gambling, the guardian of the friary saw a better side to his nature, and continually tried to bring that out in him. Camillus changed his life and became a priest. He founded a religious order, “Congregation of the Servants of the Sick and Poor” to serve the physical and spiritual needs of those in hospitals. He is considered the patron saint of the sick, hospitals, nurses and physicians. His assistance is also invoked against gambling. His feast day is July 18.



Grade 6 will study VENERABLE MATT TALBOT (1856-1925, Ireland)

Matt Talbot was a small but strong man, who overcame alcoholism with the help of prayer, penance, and the virtue of temperance. Difficult as it was, Talbot maintained his sobriety, and the devotion to his faith grew. He is considered the patron saint of those struggling with alcoholism and addictions. Today there are Matt Talbot Houses throughout the world that treat people with addictions.

A quote of his: *Three things I cannot escape: the eye of God, the voice of conscience, the stroke of death. In company, guard your tongue. In your family, guard your temper. When alone, guard your thoughts.*

Catholic Trivia Answer

D) Spring

The word lent come from the Old English, "lencen," which means spring.