

# St. Joseph's Messenger

*A BULLETIN FOR INSPIRING  
SCHOOL FAMILIES*

## *Notes from Fr. Seth*

Lent has begun. We received our ashes on Ash Wednesday where we also abstained from meat and fasted (2 small meals with one 1 normal size meal, and no eating in between meals). We had our first meatless Friday. Hopefully, we've decided what sacrifices we will make during Lent as well as how we might increase our prayer. Consider praying the Stations of the Cross during Lent.

The Stations of the Cross are a tradition of the Church which traces back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century – once Christianity became legal in the Roman empire – with pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem to walk the path of Jesus beginning with his being condemned to death at the home of Pontius Pilate all the way to the site of the Lord's crucifixion and burial.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century there began to be prayer books with Stations of the Cross that had depictions of each station as well as prayers to go along with them so that most anyone could have a devotion to the passion and death of Jesus without making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Stations of the Cross began to be erected in many churches all over the

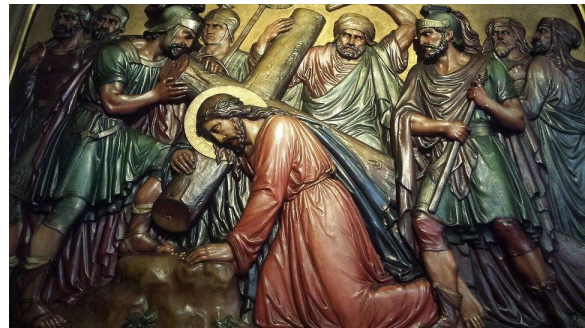
*"GROUNDED IN THE TRADITION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL IS A COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO FORMING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND SERVICE TO OTHERS."*

world. Pope Benedict the XIV in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century exhorted all churches throughout the world to have Stations of the Cross in their parishes.

You can obtain a plenary indulgence by praying the Stations of the Cross. In our April Messenger, I will explain more fully the definition of an indulgence in our church.

The Stations of the Cross is a great devotion that you can do on your own, with your family, or with our parishes. I hope you can take advantage of the many opportunities for them this Lent. They are held on **Fridays at 6:00** at St. Joseph's Church and on **Sundays at 5:00** at St Augustine's Church. A soup supper is held following the Stations.

God Bless, Fr. Seth





# Saint of the Week

## St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

First Century  
Solemnity—March 19

The spouse of Mary the mother of Jesus and the legal father of Jesus according to Jewish law, Joseph is a model of humility and obedience to God's will. He followed God's instructions, given by angels in dreams, and took the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife, protected her and Jesus at the child's birth in Bethlehem through the family's sojourn in Egypt, and provided for them as a carpenter in

Nazareth. This feast, which was celebrated locally as early as the ninth century, became a universal feast in the fifteenth century, when it was placed on the liturgical calendar. Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church in 1870; he is also the patron saint of carpenters, the dying, and workers.



*Being a guardian is the distinctive trait of Joseph: Being the guardian is his great mission . . . We look to Joseph as the model educator, who watches over and accompanies Jesus as he grows 'in wisdom, age and grace,' as the Gospel says. He was not Jesus' father; the father of Jesus was God, but he was a father to Jesus, he was a father to Jesus in order to help him grow. And how did he help him grow? In wisdom, age and grace.*

### Feast Days in March

- 7 - Sts. Perpetua and Felicity
- 17 - St. Patrick
- 19 - St. Joseph

**Special Mass to honor our patron saint!**

- 25 - Annunciation of the Lord

**Stations of the Cross**  
 Fridays - 6 PM @ St. Joseph's  
 Sundays - 5 PM @ St. Augustine's  
 \*\*Soup supper following both times!\*\*

### How is My Lent Going?

<b>Am I <i>praying</i> ?</b>	Do I make time daily for prayer? (Even 5 minutes!) Have I started a new routine of daily prayers or devotions, like the Rosary?
<b>Am I <i>fasting</i> ?</b>	Am I following the Church's teaching on fasting from meat on Fridays? Are there any other sacrifices that I could make on Fridays (or in other areas of my life)?
<b>Am I <i>giving alms</i> ?</b>	Is there anything that I could donate to someone who needs it more than myself? Do we have any extra money this month that we could use to support a charitable cause?

### Lenten Resources

- Check out [www.bustedhalo.com](http://www.bustedhalo.com) for many great articles and Lenten ideas!
- [www.bestlentever.com](http://www.bestlentever.com) - A great site to sign up for daily reflections and videos
- [www.catholicallyear.com](http://www.catholicallyear.com) - Find all sorts of ideas to help bring the Lenten season into your home
- [www.praymoreretreat.org](http://www.praymoreretreat.org) - A self-paced study guide, delivered to your inbox!

### Upcoming Dates for Family and Faith

#### Thursday, March 26 -

**THEOLOGY ON TAP** with Deacon Steve  
 A Deacon's Vocation Story:  
 A Journey from Highway Patrol to Catholic Deacon  
 Madden's Dutchroom  
 6-8 PM (social time @ 6, talk @ 7)

#### Wednesday Evenings for All!

4:45 - 6:50 Dinner  
 5:30 - Mass  
 6:00 - Reconciliation  
 7:00 - Gr. 6-10 Faith Formation,  
 Adult Group "Catholicism 101"  
 Young Adult Group "Live Your Faith"

#### Saturday, March 21

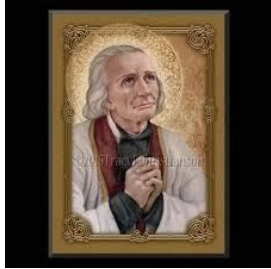
#### BIBLE STORY TIME

The Story of Jesus' Baptism, craft stations and a snack  
 St. Joseph's Social Hall, 9-10 AM

## *Virtues in Practice - Saints for March*

Each month, ALL St. Joseph's School students will learn about the "virtue of the month" and read in their classrooms about saints that exemplify this particular virtue. Although the virtue will be the same for each class, the saints will be different among some grade levels.

March Virtue: **MERCY** Mercy is caring for those who suffer.



**SAINT JOHN VIANNEY** (1786-1859 France). St. John Vianney was a priest who wanted to share God's mercy with people who had turned away from God. He went to the homes of people in his parish when they were sick, he spent many hours praying to Jesus in Adoration, and listened to the confessions of people all day and night who came from everywhere just to meet with him in Confession. He is the patron saint of parish priests. His feast day is August 4.



**SAINT FAUSTINA** (1905-1938 Poland) St. Faustina belonged to the order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She was always mindful of how others suffered and wanted to help them. On February 22, 1931, God appeared to her in a vision and asked her to paint Him as he appeared to her and include the motto: "**Jesus, I Trust in You**". He asked her to proclaim the message of His mercy- Divine mercy- to the whole world, which she faithfully did throughout her life. Her feast day is October 5.



**ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA** (Also known as Mother Teresa, 1910-1997)

St. Teresa dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor in imitation of the mercy of Jesus. She founded an order known as the Missionaries of Charity who attended the needs of the most abandoned and neglected in the city of Calcutta, India. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work. Her feast day is September 5.

### Definitions:

**FAITH** is believing in God and all He has revealed.

A **VIRTUE** is a good habit that leads us toward God.

*Lent comes providentially to reawaken us,  
to shake us from our lethargy.  
-Pope Francis*



