



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

February 4, 2024 • The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Can we have Mass offered for Michael Jackson? For anyone?

By Dariusz Dudec



Some time ago, an elderly woman came to the parish priest in Knurów (Poland) and asked for a Mass for Michael Jack-

son. Is that allowed? Are there limits?

The Code of Canon Law puts the matter very simply:

A priest is free to apply the Mass for anyone, living or dead. (*Canon 901*)

The commentaries to this short canon explain what can be prayed for during Mass, and what intentions are not allowed.

It is highly recommended to pray for blessings for the living, which can be clearly specified: for healing, finding a new job, improving family relationships, resolving conflicts, or strength in mourning, for example. We can offer a mass in thanksgiving for gifts received from God.

The most common intention in many places is for the repose of the soul of a dead loved one.

Naturally, it's inappropriate to ask for Masses to be offered for intentions that are incompatible with God's commandments: to harm someone, to break up a relationship, etc. Nor is it proper to request Masses for trivial and mundane matters, such as for money for a new watch.

Nor should it be the case that the intention to be read at the beginning of the Mass is a declaration of political views, ideological indoctrination, or advertising. For example, the intention shouldn't be "For a blessing on such-and-such a company, which sells product

x, which has a store located on Main Street."

What about Michael Jackson?

Some time ago, an elderly woman came to the parish priest in Knurów (Poland) and asked for a Mass for the late musician.

"The priest accepted this intention, and such a Mass will be celebrated. It's all about the goodness and correctness of the intention. So, in this case this elderly woman was not trying to be provocative — something which I also tried to verify. She felt within herself this desire, this need, to pray precisely for Michael Jackson. She requests Masses for the dead very often," said the chancellor of the diocesan curia of Katowice.

It's hard not to agree with the chancellor's opinion. Just because a person is well-known and famous, and perhaps even controversial, does not mean that celebrating a Mass for them ceases to be meaningful or important. Just like any person, a celebrity known by millions may also need prayer. And it's good that there are people who will think of such a straightforward and completely supernatural form of help.

Avoid Scandal and Sensationalism Offering a Mass for a deceased musician is entirely possible. Nonetheless, we could suspect that hearing that intention announced at the beginning of Mass could cause a sensation and someone might take it as a joke. Strong emotions can also be aroused by hearing a Mass intention for certain politicians.

In situations that can be expected to arouse unnecessary emotions and comments, it's better to use the formula "for a special intention" or "for an intention known to God." A person requesting a Mass intention can ask for prayers for the same intention over and over, and there's no need to read it from the pulpit.

By keeping the intention private, we can accomplish the most important thing: prayer during the Eucharist. God and the person who submitted the intention know about it, and it doesn't cause any sensation. It won't be perceived as a statement or a joke.

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Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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FAX

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<http://btsp.org>

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"For this purpose have I come."
— Mark 1:38



Catholic Ministry Appeal

Today's Gospel theme is the opposite of "hesitation": The disciples did not hesitate to ask the Healer for help. Jesus did not hesitate to respond. And even Simon's mother-in-law, after returning from fever, rises to serve him immediately. If Jesus were to walk in the door of our parish right now, he would be on a mission to love someone. If he were to enter your home, as he entered Simon's, he would be on a mission to love you.

Our parish is on Jesus' same mission of love, and we need your help to spread the love Christ entrusted to us. Love acts! When Jesus showed Simon's mother-in-law love, her heart wished to respond with more love. She chose to serve herself. Today, evaluate your ability to give, listen to the prompting of love, and then, do not hesitate... act by giving to our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal!

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

02/04 • Jorel De Guzman Seminarian

02/05 • Isaac Cruz, Seminarian

02/06 • Rev. Steve Dornquast

02/07 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

02/08 • Rev. Emery N. Longanga

02/09 • Rev. Dayan Machado

02/10 • Rev. Kenneth Malley



February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 | 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23 | Mk 1:29-39

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Why me? It could be a flat tire, a lost job or a serious illness. When inconvenient, unpleasant or even downright horrible things happen, it is understandable to wonder why God allows it. I know that is what goes through my head in extreme adversity. God can do all things, so why wouldn't he change "this thing" for me? In the Gospel, we see Jesus curing Simon Peter's mother-in-law of her illness, but many of us don't have our prayers answered like that. Instead, we may relate more to Job in today's first reading when he says life is a "drudgery" and he "shall not see happiness again." The reality is that God's ways are not our ways, so we can't know why some people endure hardship while others receive miracles. But we can change how we respond to those hardships when they arrive. Just as this passage from Job is understood better within the context of the whole book, discrete events in our lives are part of something larger than ourselves. Praying with Scripture, including reading more of Job, can help us understand how God is molding, refining, and yes - always loving us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

When we are tempted to feel like Job is a good time to embrace the age-old practice of "offering it [suffering] up." As a child, my parents explained that offering it up meant I was telling God I would happily suffer in exchange for it helping someone else. What does this really mean? Everything stems from our being united to Christ in our baptism and being participants in his priestly, prophetic and royal office. We offer ourselves, our whole being, including our worship, praise, joy, gratitude, bodies and even sufferings to God as sacrifice. So, to "offer it [suffering] up" is a powerful way of taking a bad situation and allowing it to be used for something good; to give our inconvenience, pain and grief to the Lord and ask him to unite it to Christ's suffering for the good of others. It is a redemptive act, a form of love-in-action. St. Paul is a great example of someone who suffered gladly, and in today's second reading he shares that "to the weak [he] became weak, to win over the weak."

PRAY Offering up our sufferings and difficulties is a way to participate in the redemptive work of Christ. It is a simple way to pray and can keep our focus on God throughout the day. There isn't any one specific prayer for doing this. Instead, when something unpleasant or painful happens, take a moment to acknowledge it and give it to the Lord. It can be as simple as saying, "Lord, I am happy to endure this for the benefit of others." You may want to insert a specific intention or offer it for the souls in purgatory. It's not always easy - especially when your suffering is great - but give it a try this week.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Journeying Through Grief

“Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache.”

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support “group” or you would prefer “one on one” support, please call Rachel between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 3, Memorial of Saint Ansgar, Bishop, and Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr

8:00 a.m. Kay Gendreau (dec.)

Saturday, February 3, Vigil for Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 p.m. Viola Romani (dec.)

Sunday, February 4, The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Fr. Charles “Brum” Donohue (dec.)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. The Robert T. Smith Family (dec.)

Monday, February 5, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
8:00 a.m. Carole Huff (dec.)

Tuesday, February 6, Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
8:00 a.m. Eileen Lugano (dec.)

Wednesday, February 7, Weekday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations
Joe Ciminera (liv.)

Thursday, February 8, Memorial of Saint Jerome Emiliani, Priest, and Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
8:00 a.m. Rae Covey (dec.)

Friday, February 9, Weekday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Merrill Leavens (dec.)

Saturday, February 10, Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin
8:00 a.m. Thomas Locricchio (dec.)

Saturday, February 10, Vigil for Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:00 p.m. The Comeau and LaRosa Families (dec.)

Sunday, February 11, The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 a.m. Dick McManus (dec.)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. John Gray (dec.)

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Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage

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Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

1600 54th Ave

St. Petersburg, FL 33712

"Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes"

First Apparition 1858

Saturday, February 10, 2024

"Holy Mass 8:00 AM in the Church"

"Virtual Pilgrimage 9:00 AM in Parish Hall"

A Free Will Offering will be collected

For Information, please contact:

Parish Office: 727 867 3663

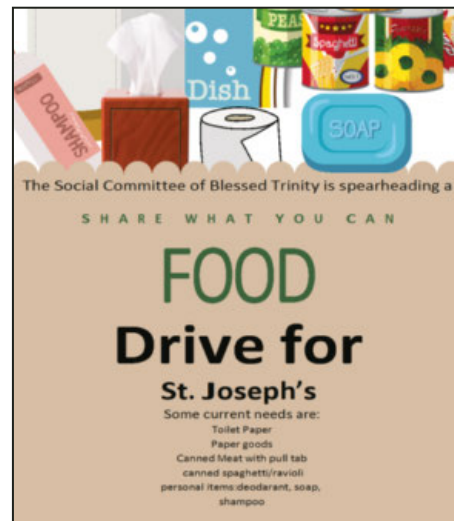
*** Lourdes Water**

*** Grotto Rock**

*** Prayer Petitions to Lourdes**



Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality
North American Volunteers
www.LourdesVolunteers.org



Thank you!

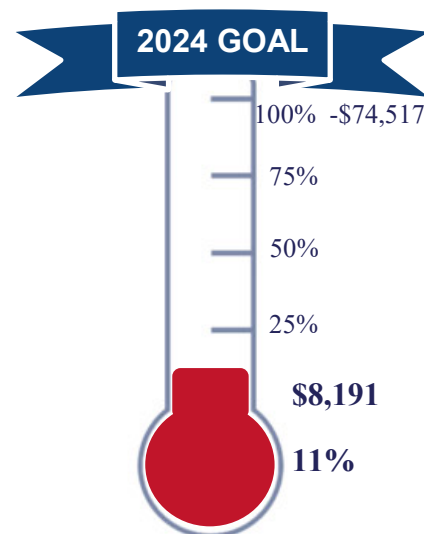


Our final result for the Catholic Ministry Appeal for 2023 was \$66,862, which was 90% of our goal.

Many thanks to all who contributed. We had 37% participation from our parishioners, which is considered very good in the diocese.

Our goal for 2024 is \$74,517, which is just slightly higher than for 2023. With a few more people contributing, that goal is within reach!

Thank you for your prayerful giving!



I would like a Tax Statement for 2023

_____ For my Church donations
_____ For donations to St. Vincent de Paul

My Name is : _____

Address and Zip Code: _____

Phone # _____

*Please fill out and return to the parish office
or drop in the offertory basket.*

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 4 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, February 5 6:30 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer group	CYH
Tuesday, February 6 10:00-11:30 am 7:00 pm	Scripture Class K.O.C. Meeting	CYH PH
Wednesday, February 7 8:30 am 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Church open all day for prayer Rosary Eucharistic Adoration Benediction	CH CH CH CH
Thursday, February 8 4:00-5:00 pm 6:00 pm	SVDP Meeting Adult Choir Rehearsal	CYH-1 MR
Saturday, February 10 9:00 am	Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage	PH
Sunday, February 11 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, February 12 6:30 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, February 13 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday No Eucharistic Adoration today 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 7:00 pm	Masses	CH
Thursday, February 15 6:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal	MR
Friday, February 16 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Stations of the Cross K.O.C. Fish Fry	CH PH
Saturday, February 17 10:00 am	Eucharistic Revival	PH
Sunday, February 18 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH
Monday, February 19 6:30 pm	"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group	CYH
Tuesday, February 20 10:00-11:30 am	Scripture Class	CYH
Wednesday, February 21 8:30 am 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Church open all day for prayer Rosary Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation Benediction	CH CH CH CH
Thursday February 22 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	SVDP Meeting Adult Choir Rehearsal	CYH-1 MR
Friday, February 23 8:30 am 5:00 pm	Stations of the Cross K.O.C Fish Fry	CH PH
Sunday, February 25 9:00 and 10:30 am	Coffee and Donuts	PH

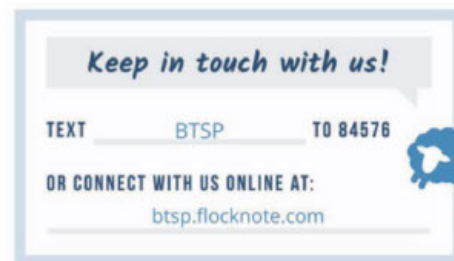
PH= Parish Hall, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church, CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1

"Life in the Spirit" Prayer Group

Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in
Courtyard Hall.

All are welcome!

For more information please call
727-867-3663.



Social Group

The Blessed Trinity Social Group is meeting regularly now. Please join us at the Kahwa coffee shop @ 400 45th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 after the 8:00 am Mass on the Last Friday of each Month. Bring your ideas!

Please note our next meeting will be Friday, February 23.

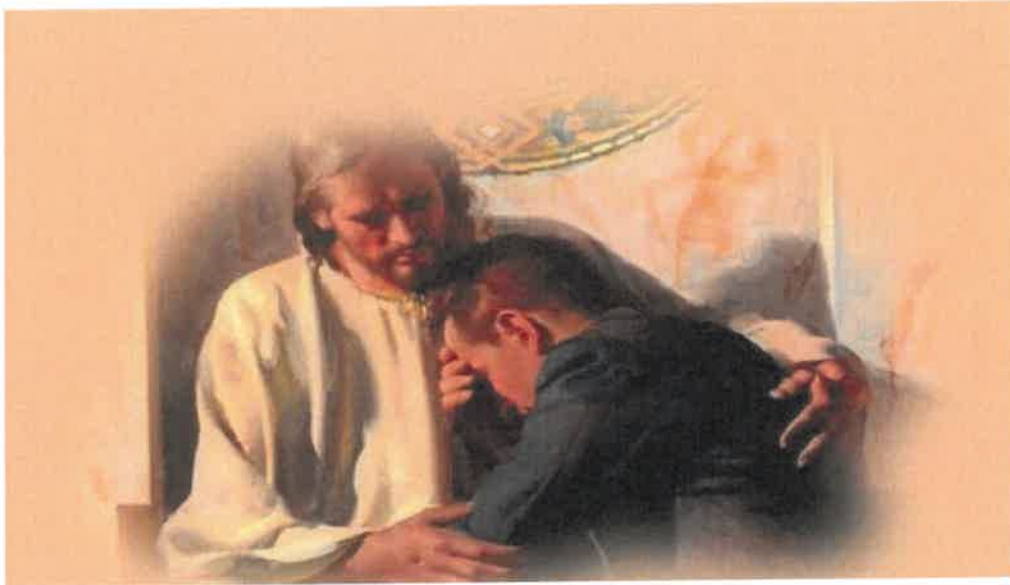
All are welcome!

FULL TIME COOK POSITION

The Missionaries of Africa Retirement Home in St. Petersburg (located near the Cathedral of St. Jude) has an immediate opening for a full-time cook. The hours are Monday - Friday 10:30 am - 6:30 pm, cooking for 8 retired priests. Health, dental, vision and pension benefits apply after a three-month probation period. If you, or someone you know, is interested in this position, please send your resume to: star30@verizon.net

Please contact Denise Starkey at 813-215-9535, with questions.

Eucharistic Revival: Session 2



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“WHATEVER HAPPENED TO CONFESSION?”

Saturday February 17th

10am-1pm

Parish Hall

BROWN BAG your Lunch – we’ll provide beverage

To include:

Just how narrow is the “Narrow Gate”?

Do all good people go to Heaven?

Re-discovering the Sacrament of Confession

Please call the Parish Office @ 727-867-3663 to Sign-up

Walk-ins are welcome!



Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
Office of the Pastor

TO: Blessed Trinity Parish Community
DATE: January 31, 2024
FROM: Fr. Wayne C. Genereux, Pastor
SUBJECT: Death of Deacon Lionel Roberts

It is with deep sadness that I announce the death of Deacon Lionel Roberts. Deacon passed away at 3:00 a.m. this morning.

Deacon Lionel is well known throughout the Diocese as well as the city of St. Petersburg, and our faith community. The Roberts' family have been parishioners at Blessed Trinity for over 40 years.

He was a very humble man, and was always willing to serve when called upon. He was a gentle giant in our midst. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and our parish community.

Please keep Merlene and the Roberts family in your thoughts and prayers.

Visitation will be on Sunday, Feb. 11th from 5-7 PM at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church. The funeral will take place on Monday, Feb. 12th at 10:30 AM at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church.

Messages of condolence may be sent to:

Mrs. Merlene Roberts & Family
2697 66th Ter S
St. Petersburg, FL 33712-5611

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Blessed Trinity, for the "Renewal of the Interior of the Church/Restoring the Sacred."

Eternal rest grant unto Lionel, oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God
rest in peace.

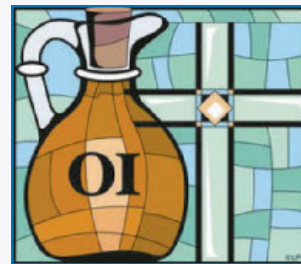
Kind personal regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joyce Pennington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Arnold, Barbara
Austreng, Dick
Barr, Bill
Becker, Mary
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Christ, Kathryn
Cisek, Marilyn
Comeau, Teresa
Coston, Robert
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
DiStefano, Judy
Feltes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Gawlik, Frank
Gawlik, Sofia
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette

Huff, Walt
Irvin, John
Joyal, Christina
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Klima, Sue
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Matthews, Daniel
Mays, Susan
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Oliphant, Sean
Parmigiani, Valerie
Powers, Jim

Preeper, Helen
Riley, Marie
Roberts,
Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



Questions about Medicare, Affordable Care Act, Medicaid. Call, email or visit my website for more information!

Rebecca Haugland
727-326-2452

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