



St. Joseph Parish Community

722 High Street Aurora, Illinois 60505 630-844-3780

www.saintjosephaurora.org

*TO BE A VISIBLE SIGN OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE AMONG US
IN THE WORLD, BY LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE
OF GOD'S LOVE IN MINISTRY AND SERVICE +*

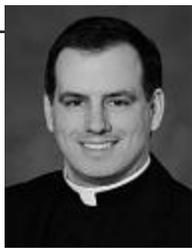
St. Joseph-Pray for us



**Feast of
St. Joseph
Friday,
March 19**

**Join us for
Mass and
Parish
Consecration
to St. Joseph
at 6:00PM**

March 14, 2021 4th Sunday of Lent



From our Pastor

This Friday at 6:00pm is our Mass for the feast of St. Joseph. I invite you all to join me in celebrating our patron. Many of you have joined in the 33 day consecration to St. Joseph and I have done so as well. It has gone amazingly well for me. I am keeping up with the daily prayers and reflections. One of my struggles is doing the same thing in the same way, day after day. Usually by day 4 of a no-

vena I have missed a day and by day six another and then I get discouraged and give it up.

Remembering and being faithful daily is difficult for me and for a lot of people. I was caught by the psalm response at Tuesday's Mass "Remember your mercy Lord." Did the psalmist think that God had trouble with His memory? Or that the Eternal One would forget or lose track?

I think this sentiment rather reflects on the human worry and forgetfulness rather than God needing a reminder. I am worried either that God will be like me, or that in my forgetfulness I will lose perspective on God's mercy.

Remember your Mercy Lord...

I want to trust, but I'm not fully reliable.

I want your mercy, but I'm not always generous with it.

You haven't acted yet and I've still got a big problem. Did you hear me?

Remember your Mercy Lord.

So it is we who need to be reminded. That is one reason for us to reflect on the Scriptures: "Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you." (Deut 32)

God's timing is not ours. So we can think that God doesn't hear or doesn't care when we feel the weight of the world and God doesn't act immediately. The story of the Scriptures is one of God working powerfully, but it is the story unfolding over centuries. The Jews were oppressed in Egypt for many years before God called Moses to set the people free. The Temple was destroyed and abandoned for 50 years before it was rebuilt. In the meantime, in the time of waiting, we see the people in the Scriptures lamenting that God isn't acting NOW!

The Psalms are full of lamenting that God seems to have forgotten us.

"I say to God, my rock: 'Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?'" Psalm 42

"Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself!

Do not reject us forever! Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?" -Psalm 44

Jesus on the cross quotes from Psalm 22: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest."

Yet the Psalms also recognize that God is actually faithful to His promises and reliable. Psalm 22 begins in agonizing over God's silence in my time of trial, but it ends in triumph as God saves!

"From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

The poor will eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord will praise him

They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!"

Coming back to Joseph. The life of Joseph is a lot of daily ordinariness punctuated by God working with power. Even though he had dreams and miracles around Jesus' birth, most of life was that of a laborer going to work. He was a husband and father who never got to see the fulfillment of Jesus' ministry. After the dreams stopped, the miracles ended, and the visitors went home, he had to reliably and generously carry out his calling. Joseph is a saint not because of the miracles happening around him, but because he was faithful in remembering the Mercy of God!

In God's Love,

Fr. Matthew

LENT 2021

Daily Mass

Monday-Friday, 7:00AM

Tuesdays, 7:00PM

Adoration and Benediction

Wednesdays, 1:00PM-7:00PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays-2:30PM and 7:00PM

Confessions

Wednesdays-7:30AM-8:00AM

Saturdays 4:00PM-4:50PM

Sundays 8:00AM-8:50AM

Prayer Service & Rosary

Tuesdays at 12:00PM in Church

Consecration to St. Joseph-

Now through March 19,

Celebrated on the Feast of St. Joseph, Mass at 6:00PM

Parish Mission-March 21, 22 and 23 in church-6:30PM

Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry! Fr. Matthew will speak on these timeless themes from Padre Pio

Be Reconciled Confession Day-March 24, 7:30AM-9:00AM

and 12:00PM-8:00PM

Bishop David Malloy has issued a letter providing direction on receiving the newly approved vaccine for COVID-19 produced by the Johnson and Johnson company.

The letter is included as an insert in this week's bulletin or can be viewed on the diocesan website at: rockforddiocese.org

The letter is available in English and Spanish.

Join us for our Parish Mission...

Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry!

March 21, 22 and 23

6:00PM nightly in church

Presented by Father Matthew McMorro

Fr. Matthew will speak on these timeless themes from Padre Pio in light of the anxieties and fears of the past year.



ROCKFORD DIOCESE

International Appeal March 13-14

This weekend we have an occasion to help those in need, and assist victims of war, oppression and disaster.

Please bring the international appeal envelope to Mass or donate online at www.rockforddiocese.org/donate

Thank you for your generous gift



Eucharistic Adoration Wednesday, March 17 in church from 1:00PM-7:00PM

"Do not, therefore, regard the Bread and the Wine as simply that; for they are, according to the Master's declaration, the Body and Blood of Christ. Even the senses suggest to you the other, let faith make you firm."

St. Cyril Of Jerusalem (315 to 386)

Doctor Of The Church and Bishop of Jerusalem

We invite you to stop by and spend some time with God.



Pope Francis @Pontifex March 10

The response to war is not another war.

The response to weapons is not other weapons. The response is fraternity. This is the challenge not only for Iraq. It is the challenge for many regions in conflict and, ultimately, for the entire world.



Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Iraq

The pope's four-day trip was intended to nurture ties with Shiite Muslims and encourage a Christian population decimated by years of strife. Pope Francis visited six cities throughout the country. In twenty years of conflict in the country, the Christian community has fallen from about 1.5 million to less than 300,000.



Photo by Ashwin Vaswani

Day 1- "I come as a pilgrim of peace." Francis recalled to Iraq's leaders the "age-old presence of Christians in this land, which traces back to nearly the beginning of the faith," and suggested that their protection and engagement in the country's future were indicators of the health of Iraq's democracy.

Day 2- Pope Francis met Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, one of the leading spiritual authorities in Shia Islam, and toured the ruins of the ancient city of Ur, traditionally held to be the birthplace of Abraham. There he met with representatives of the three Abrahamic religions-Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

"This blessed place brings us back to our origins," Francis said, surrounded by Christians, Muslims and members of Iraq's many minorities. "We seem to have returned home."

Day 3- Amid the ruins of Mosul, Pope Francis prayed, "Teach us to realize that you have entrusted to us your plan of love, peace and reconciliation, and charged us to carry it out in our time, in the brief span of our earthly lives."

Day 4- Returning to Rome from Baghdad- "Charity, love and fraternity are the way forward. Sometimes you have to take risks to take steps forward. These are risks that you take in prayer and in dialogue, in seeking advice and in reflection. They are not (based on) whims."



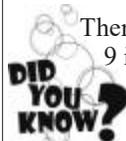
If you would like to dedicate one or more of the Easter flowers used in the sanctuary (in memory of or honor of someone), please return the yellow form found on the tables in the narthex with the suggested donation of \$10 per lily by Monday, March 29th.

Forms may be returned through the collection basket, in the mail or dropped off at the parish office.

Memoriams, honorees & donors will be acknowledged in the Easter bulletin.



May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you
in the palm of His hand.



There are 7 St. Joseph Parishes in the Rockford Diocese, 9 in the Belleville Diocese, 13 in the Peoria Diocese, 5 in the Springfield Diocese, 10 in the Joliet Diocese and 9 in the archdiocese of Chicago.



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PEASE SIGN UP or RENEW TODAY-THANK YOU



March 6 and 7

Envelopes.....128

Sunday Envelopes....\$9,861.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Be Reconciled Confession Day

March 24

7:30AM-9:00AM

and

12:00PM-8:00PM

"In failing to confess, Lord, I would only hide You from myself, not myself from You." St. Augustine



Pray the Rosary

•Please pray the Rosary with us in church during our Prayer Service on Tuesdays at Noon

•Our intention this week is, like Pope Francis, we present ourselves as "pilgrims of peace".

God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others.

People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at.

Prayer for all who suffer the effects of hate.	Fast from judging others.	Make a donation to our St. Vincent de Paul Society.
Prayer	Fasting	Almsgiving

2021 PLANT THE SEED CALENDAR WINNERS

Sunday (\$100) Mar 7.....#612.....Mikaela Messick
Monday (\$50) Mar 8.....#29.....Shelly Does
Tuesday (\$50) Mar 9.....#1704.....Luxies
Wednesday (\$50) Mar 10.....#440.....M/M Jack Rausher
Thursday (\$50) Mar 11.....#400.....Larry Gartman
Friday, (\$50) Mar 12.....#1265.....Richard Newell
Saturday, (\$100) Mar 13.....#963.....Howard Kayzar

MANNA NOTES-

-Orders due by 9:00AM Wednesdays via email. Indicate where you will pick up. Check only-no cash
-Pick up is Thursday evenings from 6:00PM-6:30 PM
-Please Note: No MANNA on April 1st, Holy Thursday
-Questions? Contact Judy Fuller 630-542-4645 or email her at stjoceauroramanna@gmail.com

PARISH INFORMATION

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Rev. Matthew J. McMorrow, S.T.L., Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Willhite, In Residence
Deacon Bruce Watermann, S.F.A.
Sandy Bohr, Business Manager

Parish Office 630-844-3780 Fax 630-844-1338
Monday through Friday-8:00AM to 4:00PM

Religious Education Office 630-844-3780 x243
Pam Moore, Coordinator of Religious Education

MASSES-See right column of this page

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION English & Spanish
Wednesday 7:30AM to 8:00AM
Saturday 4:00PM-4:50PM
Sunday 8:00AM-8:50AM

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS:

Please contact the parish office for information

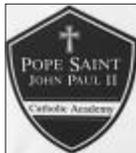
Website: www.saintjosephaurora.org

Email: stjoe722@sbcglobal.net

Facebook: [@stjosephaurora](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephaurora)

Pope St John Paul II Catholic Academy

Sr. Ann Brummel, OP, Head of School abrummel@jp2aurora.org
Heather Baer, Asst Principal North: hbaer@jp2aurora.org
Phone 630-844-3781 Fax 630-844-3656
Website: jp2aurora.org Facebook: [@PSJPIIAurora](https://www.facebook.com/PSJPIIAurora)



Pope St. John Paul II Catholic Academy

is now accepting registration
for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

Visit our website, jp2aurora.org,
or call our North Campus, at 630-844-3781 to begin
the application process.

ENDS TODAY-Tiny Saints Online Fundraiser from February 1-28, 2021

Tiny Saints® sells colorful and vibrant charms, rosaries, plushies,
board books and lanyards, all themed around the saints.
Visit www.tinysaints.com, select Pope St John Paul II Academy
from the dropdown menu and 25% of every order will go directly
to our school.

Butterbraid Frozen Pastry Dough Fundraiser-now thru Mar12

For all the latest information:

Check out our Facebook page: [@PSJPIIAurora](https://www.facebook.com/PSJPIIAurora)



Aurora Central Catholic Super Saturday Night "Silver Lining"

Online silent auction April 29-May 1. Early Bird Registration Raffle-sign up by March 15 for a chance to win a gift card-there is no cost to register. Register online at bit.ly/3p9nZ07 or on your mobile, text G1538 to 63665 to receive a sign up link. Questions? 630-907-0095 or auroracentral.com



Perfect Contrition-Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving Sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessionis, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452)

Perfect contrition means a sorrow for sin out of love for God. It does not mean being "perfectly sorry." Perfect contrition is sorrow for sin out of love for God and His goodness, whereas imperfect contrition (while still a gift of God) is sorrow for sin due to a fear of hell, judgment and punishment. CCC 1452-1453) Catechism of the Catholic Church

"Your accumulated offenses do not surpass the multitude of God's mercies: your wounds do not surpass the great Physician's skill." St. Cyril of Jerusalem

No reservations are required MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, March 15

7:00AM Live stream-LeRoy & Margaret Richmond by Barb Hines

TUESDAY, March 16

7:00AM Live stream-Mario Corral by Renteria Family

7:00PM Live stream-People of St. Joseph

WEDNESDAY, March 17, St. Patrick, Bishop

7:00AM Live stream-Mary Oberman by Mary Streit

THURSDAY, March 18, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

7:00AM Live stream-Edwin "Oy" Aister by Bob & Anne Weber

8:10AM-School Mass-Jane Peters by the Family

FRIDAY, March 19, St. Joseph,

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00AM Live stream-Melvin Kramer by Alice Kramer

6:00PM-People of St. Joseph Parish

SATURDAY, March 20

5:00PM Live stream-Carolyn Clemen by Sue Thill

SUNDAY, March 21, 5th Sunday of Lent

9:00AM Live stream-Chuck Handell by Greg Handell

SANCTUARY CANDLE MEMORIAL

The week of March 14 the sanctuary candle is burning in memory Katie Woodward requested by the Family

Readings for the week of March 14, 2021

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/
Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

Monday: 1s 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/
Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/
Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Rosary HS Candlelight Ball, March 27, 4pm-10pm, Join us from home at 7PM or at Rosary for cocktail hour at our Sip & See Event. Paddle Raise will be benefiting our upcoming Liven 'R' Library project. Visit rosaryhs.com for all the details.

Placement Exams

ACC-at home. Email mlivingston@auroracentral.com to register your student or call 630-907-0095.

Marmion-In-Person March 27 9AM with parent Q&A. Contact Admissions at 630-897-6936 ext. 227 for additional information.

Rosary-Contact at 630-896-0831 or visit rosaryhs.com

Act of Spiritual Communion

is a beautiful and praiseworthy tradition to recite an act of spiritual communion when one is unable, for whatever reason, to receive Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.
Saint Alphonsus Ligouri.



Who is Saint Joseph?



Saint Joseph served Jesus with great unselfishness. Without any regard to self-interest, but not without sacrifices. In Saint Joseph or Lord saw the tender love of God, love far deeper and more powerful than any natural father's love could be.

A tender and loving father.

Saint Joseph was faced with much danger from Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus. A dream came to Joseph to protect the child Jesus from harm. Hence the flight to Egypt. From St. Joseph we learn to care and accept responsibility with faith and hope.

A courageous father.

Saint Joseph did not toil for himself, but he seemed to be an instrument intended for the benefit of others. God comforted Saint Joseph in a prophetic dream. He removed every doubt from Saint Joseph's mind and encouraged him to take to himself Mary for his wife. God freed Saint Joseph from worry. In his role as head of his family, Saint Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents, in accordance with God's command. Jesus learned at the school of St. Joseph to do the will of the Father.

An obedient father.

Saint Joseph is venerated as the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the legal father of Jesus and the head of the Holy Family. His union with Mary is the closest that can exist, a union of heart with heart, a union of purest and holiest of love. We should love and honor Saint Joseph, who Jesus and his mother love so tenderly.

Through his intercession we can obtain the grace to love Jesus and Mary with some of that tenderness and devotedness with which he loved them. Saint Joseph is not only a powerful and great saint in the kingdom of God, but a benefactor of the whole of Christendom and mankind. Saint Joseph deserves our veneration, love and gratitude.

**Pax et Bonum,
Deacon Bruce**

We have noticed how Joseph, to avoid idleness and procure an honorable livelihood, practiced a trade. He had a trade which he was called to do, manual labor. He was an artisan, a carpenter. The arts were respected as useful to society; a good artificer was preferred to the richest merchant. During the time of Saint Joseph every father was bound by law to make his children learn some trade, in order that they might not take to some dishonest practice or become a burden to others. Let us admire, then the profound humility of Saint Joseph, who although he came from royal blood, preferred the humble and laborious occupation of a carpenter to any other profession more noble and agreeable.

A working father.

Saint Joseph was the earthly shadow of his father in heaven. Being a father entails living and teaching God's commandments not only by words, but by example. Saint Joseph found happiness not only in self-sacrifice, but in self-gift. His silence many times gained trust! Saint Joseph put the words of the Gospel into practice.

A father in the shadows.

**Saint Joseph,
model and patron of the
Universal Church,
pray for us.**

**Our Lady of the
Immaculate Conception,
patroness of the
Diocese of Rockford,
pray for us.**

As foster-father of Jesus, Joseph stands in close relation to the Son of God, the fountain of all holiness. In the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "Saint Joseph placed himself at the service of the entire plan of salvation."

Our beloved father.



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