

ST. JOSAPHAT PARISH

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UNITY EVENT - MARCH 19

Each year we host our annual Unity Gala, a wonderful evening for us to come together as a parish to eat, dance, have fun and fundraise. The proceeds from our Unity Gala and other fundraisers account for 20% of the budget. As you have probably guessed, due to COVID, we will not be able to have our Unity Gala at a venue like we have in the past.

This year we will be hosting a virtual Unity Event over Zoom on **Friday, March 19th from 8–9pm**. Although it will be a virtual gathering, we still have the opportunity to celebrate together and have fun while raising money for our parish.

We will have a professional mixologist teaching us how to make some fun adult beverages. We will draw the Golden Raffle Ticket. There will be a few auction items to bid on. And Mrs. Mullens and I will say a few words and make a few toasts to celebrate with all of you and to thank everyone for their continued support of our parish.

In order to help us meet our goal of raising \$170,000 for our budget, I am asking that everyone who has purchased tickets or sponsorships in the past to please prayerfully consider making that same commitment again this year, or perhaps even increasing their donation, if you are able to do so. Our sponsorships and ticket sales go a long way in helping us to meet our fundraising goal.

If you are new to the parish or have never been to a Unity Gala before, please consider joining us this year. You can do so from the comfort of your own home! The Unity Event is a way for you to meet other parishioners or reconnect with ones you may have not seen in a while. And best of all, you'll be supporting the financial needs



of our parish and helping us to continue our mission of bringing people into an encounter with Jesus Christ.

For more information on the Unity Event and how to purchase tickets or sponsorships, please visit our parish website: www.stjosaphatparish.org



We will also be giving out our annual Unity Award of \$10,000 to a Catholic organization in the Chicago area that serves the needs of others. We know a lot of these organizations have been on the front lines of helping people during the COVID pandemic and need financial support to continue their work. We like to focus our attention on the smaller organizations where our \$10,000 award can have an enormous impact. Stay tuned for our announcement of this year's Unity Award winner! We will present their award at the 10 am Mass on Sunday, March 14th.

God Bless,

Fr. Francis

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT February 28, 2021

First Reading Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18

Responsorial Psalms 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19

**I will walk before the Lord,
in the land of the living.**

Second Reading Romans 8:31b–34

Gospel Mark 9:2–10

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

1ST: Gn 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 2ND: Rom 8:31b–34 GOSPEL: Mk 9:2–10

To me, the readings this Sunday are all about the most primal sense of faith. I think the 1st Reading in particular defines blind devotion and selflessness. Can you say you believe in anything as much as Abraham believed in the Word of the Lord? Abraham is a critical symbol in our faith. He shows us that there is no love greater than the love for our God.

I can't say I have any idea what was going through Abraham's mind as he made this three-day journey in obedience to God. Imagine taking your son to be sacrificed, knowing you were going to be the one to kill him, yet trusting God the entire time to fulfil his promise that you would be a great nation through Isaac.

Have you ever been tested this much? The test for Abraham was whether he trusted God and believed in his word, or if his love for Isaac outweighed his duty to God. In modern day terms, we probably will not be called upon to sacrifice our children, but I imagine we are tested in other ways. Have we been a patient mother/father, husband/wife, son/daughter? Have we been an honest and loyal friend? Have we put the feelings of others before our own? Do we listen? Do we forgive easily or is it begrudgingly and half-heartedly?

What is there in our lives that we put before God—the thing we have to do, see, watch, read or buy before we have our quiet time? What about our family, do we put them before God? Or our possessions, our car, our home,

our job, our clothes, our finances? How much value do we put on the “stuff” over our relationships, especially our relationship with God? Does our work take priority in our life? Do we sacrifice the feelings of others so that we or our children can feel special? Would we rather read a book or have drinks with friends or watch our favorite Netflix/Bravo series than spend time in prayer, reflection or service? Do we retreat into our work or hobbies or drinking to avoid things we should be doing or conflicts we should be facing?

If there are things hidden deep in our hearts that draw us further away from God instead of closer to him, we need to be like Abraham. We need to let go of whatever inhibits us from having a relationship with God. This is not an easy task on many levels, but we can try to work on this every day.

Our world is filled with things and stuff that distract us. But if we can stop to think about what is truly important—becoming disciples that bring joy and goodness to the world—we will find the Holy Spirit is at work, changing us from within, removing the meaningless stuff that feeds our selfish desires, replacing it with a love for God and all the goodness God brings.

— Erin Bretts, Coordinator of RE and Youth Ministry



UNITY EVENT - MARCH 19

SPONSORSHIP DRIVE

Going on now! Please consider Sponsoring the event to help us close the 20% gap of needed funds. Purchase Sponsorships, raffle tickets, mixology kits, or sponsor a teacher at <https://stjosaphat.ejoinme.org/unity>



WINE FOR THE CELLAR!

We need your help to stock the UNITY Event Live Auction item, the “Instant Wine Cellar!” From March 5-11, we



are teaming up with VIN Chicago and for any purchase you make on vinchicago.com, St. Josaphat will receive 10% back!

How to purchase: Stock up on your own favorites, and enter “St. Josaphat Personal” in the notes and checkout, and then we’ll get 10% back.

Then pick a bottle valued at \$25 or more and checkout separately and put “St Josaphat Instant Cellar” in the notes. Don’t have time to shop online? Just Venmo \$25 to @SJSVin and we’ll buy it for you!



FEBRUARY 28, 2021

MASS INTENTIONS

Fr. Francis is praying his daily Mass for us and these intentions this week:

MONDAY	Parishioners of St. Josaphat
TUESDAY	Living and Deceased Mothers and Fathers
WEDNESDAY	Eugene Giudice
FRIDAY	† Purgatorial Society
SATURDAY	† Kevin Warnke
SUNDAY	† Bob Kotecki

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Rose F., Mary Louise Koehl,
Leroy Merrill, Suzanne Scott

REST IN PEACE

Patrick T. Gorman
(parishioner Laura Anderson's father)

Joseph O'Keefe (parishioner
Hope Zelmer's grandfather)

IGNATIAN PRAYER

Every Tuesday during Lent, register for your spot in church for a prayer service at 7 pm, followed by a Holy Hour of Adoration. This week, Fr. Francis will lead us in a form of scriptural meditation.

WANT TECH EXPERIENCE?

We are looking for 2 adults (18+) who **love tech** and are **interested in video production**. Hours are 9:30–11:15 am on Sundays, plus additional events. This is a paid position, and you will be trained. Please send an email to Grace@stjosaphatparish.org with your credentials and contact information.

THIS WEEK

Mon.	3/1	8:00 am	School Mass (Church)
		7:00 pm	Parish Pastoral Council (Zoom)
Tues.	3/2	8:00 am	School Mass (Church)
		10:00 am	Faith Sharing: Breaking Open the Word (Zoom)
		6:00 pm	Religious Education (Google Classroom)
		7:00 pm	Lenten Prayer Service: Ignatian Prayer* (Church)
		7:30 pm	Holy Hour of Prayer, Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation* (Church)
Wed.	3/3	8:00 am	School Mass, Watch Live on Facebook
		7:00 pm	Faith Sharing: The Book of Matthew (Zoom)
Thu.	3/4	6:30 pm	Alpha (Zoom)
Fri.	3/5	8:00 am	Mass* (Church)
Sat.	3/6	9:00 am	Alpha (Zoom)
		5:00 pm	Mass* (Church)
Sun.	3/7	10:00 am	Family Mass: 6th Grade* (Church) or Watch Live on Facebook
		11:30 am	RCIA (Zoom)

*Reservations required

This weekend's Special Collection is for **Aid for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**. If you donate through Give Central, you can also specify an amount for this cause by selecting this "Event" (fund) or **text EUROPE to 312.625.5666**. Thank you for your generosity.

WHO'S NEW IN THE PEW?

We warmly welcome new parishioner Meg Shannon. You will receive our Welcome Kit in the mail. New to the neighborhood? Please register through our website at www.stjosaphatparish.org.



We're most in need of bottled water

NEXT WEEKEND!

PRE-ORDER DINE AROUND

Stan's Donuts and Coffee

Sunday, **March 7**, 9:30–11:30 am

Preorder online at <https://foodtruck.pub/?id=5461> and then pick up your fresh donuts at St. Josaphat. We will receive a portion of the sales!

SUNDAY OFFERING

We apologize that our numbers are still from November! We're continuing to work on accurate budget information. **Stay tuned!**

FISCAL YEAR 2021 THROUGH END OF NOVEMBER 2020

Budget.....	\$240,291.00
Actuals.....	\$231,900.78
Deficit	(-8,390.22)

DIRECTORY

PARISH STAFF

Phone.....	773.327.8955
Pastor	Rev. Francis Bitterman frfrancis@stjosaphatparish.org
Pastoral Associate/ Dir. Evangelization...Mrs. Mary Jane Sullivan	maryjane@stjosaphatparish.org
Deacon	Dcn. Pat Casey 312.316.7515, pcasey@sidley.com

More on our website: Welcome > Directory

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