

ST. JOSAPHAT PARISH

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ST. FRANCIS - PET BLESSING, OCTOBER 3

We will have our annual Pet Blessing in honor of St. Francis on **Sunday, October 3, at 11:15 am in Fr. Grassi Community Park**, located behind the Church. All pets are welcome! Please invite your friends and neighbors with pets to join us as well.



Why do we bless our pets in honor of St. Francis? **St. Francis** was known for his love and service to the poor. And he was also known for his love for God's creation. His famous **Canticle of Creatures**

is a prayer of praise to God for the beauty and wonder of creation. Francis saw everything and everyone as his brother and sister. He believed that we were all brought into being by an act of God's love. And so, we join St. Francis in giving thanks for the beauty of creation by asking God's blessing upon the animals that we care for and that give us comfort and happiness through their presence in our lives.

This blessing also has its roots in scripture as well. The beginning of the Book of Genesis describes God's work of creation. First God created the universe: the stars, the sun and the moon, etc. And then he created the birds of the air, the fish in the sea and all creatures that dwell on the earth, and all living things. Finally, the story of creation concludes with the pinnacle of God's creation: humankind. He created us male and female in his own image. And he gives us dominion over all of creation.

Caring for the beauty of God's creation by making proper use of our natural resources and caring for all living creatures is a responsibility given to us by God. **Pope Francis** speaks very beautifully about this in his encyclical *Laudato Si* - "*The Care of Our Common Home*." He stresses that, "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience" (#217). Pope Francis goes on to address the importance of working together to respond

to the global climate crisis that is impacting our world, especially the poor and most vulnerable who are affected by drought and severe weather. His encyclical has given world leaders and Christians everywhere a lot to think about in terms of how we live in society and care for our world. I would encourage everyone to take the time to read it.



Our pet blessing in honor of St. Francis is not just a cute tradition we do for our kids. It is something filled with spiritual meaning for all of us. It is meant to be a reminder of the moral and spiritual obligation we have to care for God's creation. And it should remind us that our pets are a reflection of God's presence in our lives. Our blessing, therefore, is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for the beauty of his creation and to recommit ourselves to being the good stewards of creation God calls us to be.

Like St. Francis, we need to see all of creation and everyone and everything in it as our brother and sister and to really live that out in our daily lives.

Fr. Francis

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME September 26, 2021

First Reading Numbers 11:25–29

Responsorial Psalm 19:8, 10, 12–13, 14

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

Second Reading James 5:1–6

Gospel Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092621.cfm>

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

1ST: Nm 11:25–29 2ND: Jas 5:1–6 GOSPEL: Mk 9:38–43, 45, 47–48

I am truly dismayed by the number of occasions in which people are rebuffed by those in the Catholic Church. I know of one example where a parish refused to let a child enroll in First Communion preparation because the child's parents had not been married in a Catholic ceremony. I hear multiple stories where parents seek to have their children baptized in a Catholic Church, but cannot find one that will agree to do so because one of the parents is not Catholic. Lest you think that these rejections occurred in some ultra conservative rural diocese, each actually recently occurred in parishes within our own Archdiocese of Chicago (fortunately, not at St. Josaphat!).

Sometimes we treat Catholicism as an exclusive club that requires special permission to enter. We may look upon other Christian denominations (not to mention Judaism and Islam) that do not participate in Holy Communion as somehow inferior in their religious practices or spirituality. Today's readings completely debunk that attitude of exclusivity. In the First Reading from the Book of Numbers, Joshua complains to Moses that two of the 70 Jewish elders who were not present at the meeting during which God bestowed His spirit upon them, nonetheless were prophesizing in the Jewish camp. Joshua wants Moses to tell those two elders to stop, as they were not specifically appointed (unlike them) to prophesize. Similarly, in today's Gospel from Mark, John complains to Jesus that some unnamed person was driving out

demons in Jesus' name, and he was not an Apostle! Because John and the other disciples were unable to prevent the person from doing so, they implored Jesus to stop that person from trampling on the disciples' turf.

Moses sternly rebukes Joshua: "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all!" Likewise, Jesus sternly rebukes John: "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us." We need to take this lesson to heart. God works in mysterious ways through others. Who are we to decide that a person who is performing good works and bringing people to Jesus is not truly being guided by God? As a parish, we need to continue to be welcoming to others, especially those who are not of the Catholic faith. We need to be constantly on our guard against exclusivism. As our common goal is to evangelize, we cannot achieve that goal if we continue to focus our attention inward, instead of outward. So please continue to be welcoming and invite others to experience Jesus. Personally inviting them to experience Alpha would be a good start.

— Deacon Pat Casey



A CHURCH TO COME HOME TO

OUR CHILDREN NEED TEACHERS!

Are you willing to teach the Catholic faith to children one night a week? Join our team of catechists! Not only will you help in the faith formation of our parish children, but you will find your own faith enriched as well. We are in great need of volunteers, so please contact erin@stjosaphatparish.org if you can help.

ENRICH YOUR FAITH LIFE

Enjoy a video and great conversation about life and faith topics at Alpha. In-person on Mondays, online on Thursdays, both at 7 pm.



STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE

Reconnect with your spouse in the Marriage Course. Tuesdays on Zoom, starting October 19. **Sign up on our website today!**

LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH!

Have you been coming to mass for a while but you are not Catholic? We invite you to take a closer look into the Catholic Faith. Our parish will begin a process called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) in October and we would love to have you join us! Email maryjane@stjosaphatparish.org



MASS INTENTIONS

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

- MONDAY** Living and Deceased Mothers and Fathers
- TUESDAY** Parishioners of St. Josaphat
- WEDNESDAY** †Raymond Bacci
- FRIDAY** †Purgatorial Society
- SATURDAY** †Maryann Wong
- SUNDAY** 8 am: †Judy Opie
10 am: Mary Gilbooy 85th Birthday

THIS WEEK

- Weekday Masses, 8:00 am Monday, Tuesday, Friday (*Church*)
- Mon. 9/27 12:30 pm Happy Birthday, Fr. Francis!
Hands of Mercy (*Zoom*)
- Tues. 9/28 10:00 am Faith Sharing: Breaking Open the Word (*Zoom*)
6:00 pm Religious Education (*School*)
7:00 pm Holy Hour of Prayer (*Church*)
- Thu. 9/30 7:00 pm Alpha (*Zoom*)
- Sat. 10/2 10:00 am Lector/EM Training (*Church*)
5:00 pm Mass, Fr. Francis (*Church*)
- Sun. 10/3 8:00 am Mass, Fr. Chris (*Church*)
10:00 am Mass, Fr. Francis (*Church & Livestream*)
11:00 am Youth Group (*Potter Library*)
11:15 am Baptism: Cassian Mann (*Church*)
11:15 am Pet Blessing (*Community Park*)

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS

WELCOMED IN BAPTISM

Joseph Marlow, child of James Boccarossa and Stephanie Murphy

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Natalie Casey, Jeff Gallo, Fr. Dominic Grassi, Theresa & Leonard Hester, Rita Kerins, Mary Louise Koehl, Brian Leahy, Laverne Toomey, Don Zimmer

REST IN PEACE

Walker Corky Stanzy

NEXT

Baptismal Prep Mon. 10/11 7:00 pm (*Church*)
Sign up online.

2021 ANNUAL PARISH GOLF OUTING

Join us for the Parish Golf Outing at Harborside International on Friday, **October, 8**. Shotgun start at Noon. Sign up on our website (Community & Events > Parish Golf Outing) for golf, dinner and/or to sponsor a hole!



SUNDAY OFFERING

In order to give you a better understanding of our financials, we are publishing year-to-date Sunday Giving numbers.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 YEAR END REPORT

Budget..... \$652,105.00
Actuals..... \$688,505.82
Difference..... \$36,400.82



We're most in need of men's white t-shirts size L and XL, and men's white socks.

LOOKING FOR A PARISH?

We warmly welcome new parishioners. If you are new to the neighborhood and have not yet registered, please register through our website at www.stjosaphatparish.org.

BOY SCOUTS

Hiking, camping and much more!

1st–5th Graders,
Cub Scout Pack 3889.
Register by September 30. Questions:
pack3889@gmail.com



6th–12th Graders,
Boy Scout Troop 889.
Questions: brian_hosking@hotmail.com



DIRECTORY

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