

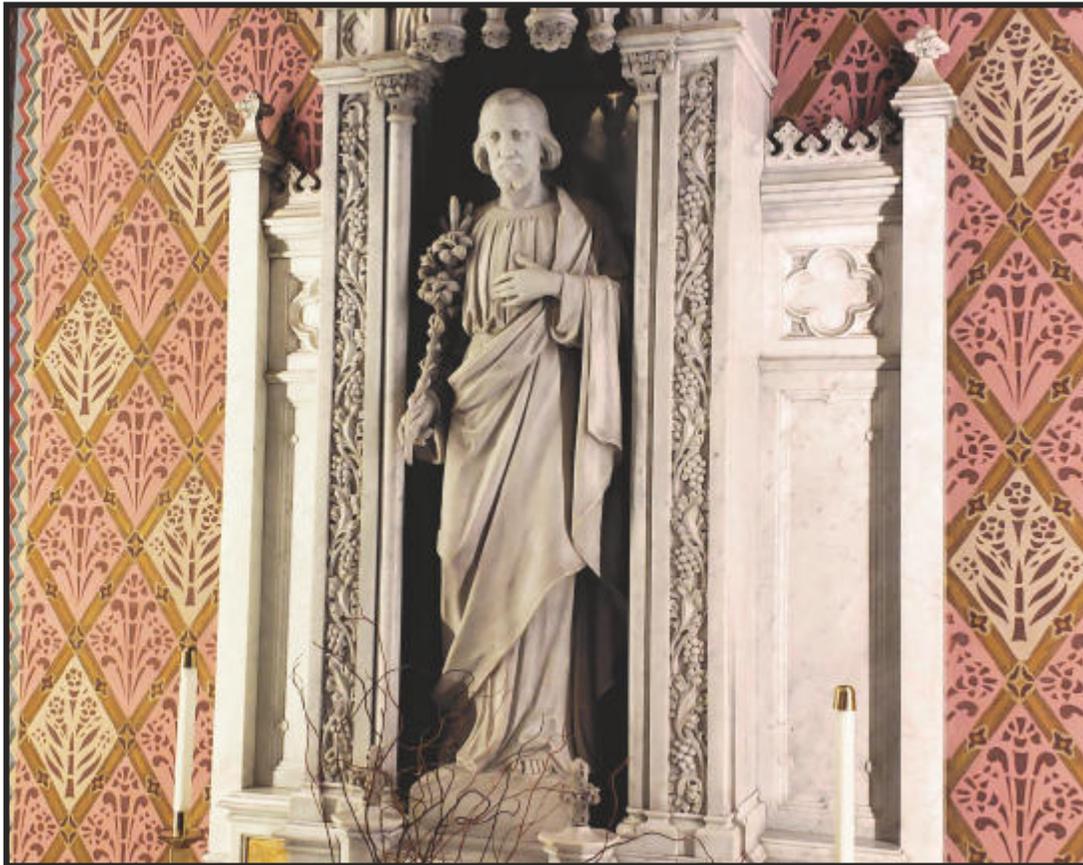


SAINT MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

MARCH 14, 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Friday, March 19 is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary. In this special year dedicated by Pope Francis to St. Joseph, consider coming to a presentation by Fr. O'Toole this Saturday (March 20) in church at 10:00 a.m. He will use the Holy Father's apostolic letter, "With a Father's Heart," as the basis of a reflection on how the saint can be a model for virtue in our lives.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 4:30 p.m. & Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Monday thru Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Holy Days and holidays as published in Sunday Bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 15

6:30 a.m. The Casey Family +

Tuesday, March 16

6:30 a.m. Kathleen O'Toole +

Wednesday, March 17

6:30 a.m. Rosemary Rivituso +

Thursday, March 18

6:30 a.m. Ray & Marie Austermann +

Friday, March 19

6:30 a.m. James Brake

Saturday, March 20

4:30 p.m. James Gormley +

Sunday, March 21

8:00 a.m. People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. Bill Groth +

To mark a special occasion or to remember a beloved family member or friend, living or deceased, with a Mass intention please call the Parish Office at 314-776-0363. The bishops of Missouri ask the faithful to make a \$10 offering for each Mass if they are able.

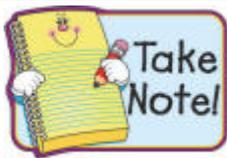
MONTHLY GIVING REPORT

January 2021

Total General Fund Contributions:	\$50,025.28
General Fund Budget Goal:	\$44,370.00
Amount Over/(Under) Budget:	\$5,655.28
Number of Sundays:	4

FY21 YTD (July '20 - February '21)

Total General Fund Contributions:	\$455,381.01
General Fund Budget Goal:	\$388,230.00
Amount Over (Under) Budget:	\$67,151.01



Due to Palm Sunday and Easter Holiday's the schedule for submitting bulletin articles as follows:

Weekend of March 28 bulletin articles are due Thursday, March 18 by 2pm.

Weekend of April 4 bulletin articles are due Thursday, March 25 by 2pm.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH AN INVITATION TO VIRTUE

This Saturday, March 20, Fr. O'Toole will lead a reflection on Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Patris Corde* – "With a Father's Heart." This beautiful letter, which inaugurated the Year of St. Joseph, offers many insights to this quiet yet strong servant of God. Fr. O'Toole will share some history on the impact St. Joseph has had on the Church, especially in our Archdiocese, and highlight the noble virtues we should imitate of Jesus' foster father. The hour-long presentation begins at 10:00 a.m. in church and is open to all. Mask and social distancing required.

CALL FOR SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS

It's time to nominate three candidates for outgoing members. The three-year terms begin in June. Due to the current board's membership, nominees must be registered parishioners.

School board members serve together as the "eyes and ears" of the school community. Mission-focused, Board members advise pastor and principal on policy, budget, and planning. If you have questions, or would like to submit a nomination, email schoolboard@stmargaretstl.org or contact Mary Lisa Penilla, (314) 322-3228. Please include: nominee's name, contact information, and grades of children (if applicable), subject line: NOMINATION. Deadline: April 2, 2021.

USHERS NEEDED AT MASSES

As the weather improves and progress is made against the pandemic, we are seeing larger assemblies at Mass. It is wonderful for more of our community to be able to gather for the Eucharist. But larger numbers also require additional vigilance and assistance so that we can maintain the excellent safety standards to which we're committed.

We are regrouping with our experienced ushers, but we also would benefit from additional volunteers. If you would be willing to serve at church, or work on the organization of the ministry group, please email Peter Hesel at phesed@stmargaretstl.org.



BY FR. MATT O'TOOLE

Sometimes I assign pop music songs to the moods I experience or the period of events that are happening in my life. 1982's hit "I Know There's Something Going On" recorded by ABBA artist Frida has been the theme song of late for me. (You know it! Sing it with me!) I sense an unfolding development, a movement steadily evolving. It's not just in me. I think it's being shared by all of us. It's a collective sense that we're in a positive motion. There's something going on, and I have to say, "I like it!"

This is most evident in the turn of the corner we are making with the coronavirus pandemic. While the situation is still serious and thousands continue to contract COVID, we cannot help but feel excitement that the number of cases in our country is declining and more and more people each day are receiving the vaccine. There is a noticeable change in the morale of those who have been vaccinated. They feel fortified. They express more confidence about being out in public and mingling with others. There is relief. Some have even said they cried when they got their shot. The virus is still a seriously dangerous threat, and we all must remain vigilant about how we socialize and work. We're far from being out of the woods. Still, the proverbial light at the end of this long pandemic tunnel is getting brighter each day.



Certainly, the weather is another big contributor to this sensation. What's going on in nature is being experienced by all of us: the arrival of spring. This is, in fact, what our liturgical season of Lent means. It takes its name from an Old English word *lencten*, which means a "lengthening," as in the amount of daylight that is expanding with each day. We sprung forward one hour this weekend, so now we'll have sunshine later in the day. The warmer weather and a return of vibrant colors to the landscape adds to this notion that "there's something going on." It affects positively the attitudes of many people, giving us a renewed sense of life and hope.

My ministry as a priest has been privileged to experience firsthand this hopeful direction we are taking. Presiding at the scrutinies of our RCIA catechumens and candidates, I see them inching closer to full reception into the Church with a little nervous excitement. I've been giving tours of our Cathedral Basilica to our seventh graders preparing for Confirmation. I enjoy the opportunity of sharing with them the rich heritage of our Catholic faith laid out in the splendor of that sacred space. Engaged couples have also been a source of mounting enthusiasm for me. Each time we meet for marriage preparation I delight in the youthful giggling that comes with their thoughts of living as husband and wife. And this being Lent, I've been hearing lots of Confessions – here at St. Margaret and helping out at other parishes with their Penance services. I am particularly moved when talking with our older students, the ones I remember coming years before for their First Reconciliation. I notice how more mature they are becoming in recognizing their faults and expressing their desire to improve themselves. Even in the difficult things there is to be found grace-filled progress. There's a desire by so many to move closer to holiness. The sacraments and rituals of our faith help make this possible. It's the green bud of life breaking through the dormancy we have been under.

I know there's something *good* going on.

Rev. Matthew O'Toole

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Gathering Hymn

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I ask Blessed Mary—ever virgin—all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Lord, have mercy. / Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. / Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. / Lord, have mercy.

First Reading

2nd Chronicles 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy.

Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power.

All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah:

"Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing:

"Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 137

PFH

Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

Gospel Acclamation

PFH

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ. (Lord Jesus Christ).

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
So that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

Gospel

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.

Preparation of the Gifts

Open My Eyes

Jesse Manibusen

Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

And the first shall be last, and our eyes are opened, and we'll hear like never before.
And we'll speak in new ways, and we'll see God's face in places we've never known.

I live within you, deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you, rest now in me.

Mass Setting

Mass for Christian Unity, Jan Vermulst

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; ... grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

I Receive the Living God

Don Clément Jacob, OSB

I receive the Living God, and my heart is full of joy,
I receive the Living God, and my heart is full of joy.

Closing Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson

I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.
God sent the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

REFRAIN In Him, there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God, I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path and show me the way to the Father. *REFRAIN*

GROWING IN FAITH



BY RUTH PERA
COORDINATOR OF
FAITH FORMATION

Things are not always what they seem....The Second Scrutiny.

We are going through a series of rites right now with our RCIA candidates - rites which are part of the final steps of their preparation to join our faith community either initially, through Baptism, or fully, in Confirmation and the Eucharist.

And so last Saturday, this Sunday, and next Sunday have a special set of readings to go alongside this questioning that they are in.

And yet, while these readings are chosen especially with our candidates and catechumens in mind, really, these questions prod and poke at us to look deeper at what we see around and within ourselves. What is really there?

The temptation to see things as they appear, and not as they truly are, is always there. We are reminded of this in Elijah's search through Jesse's sons for the one God had chosen as Israel's next king. But the Gospel reading this week really just turns the old adage right on its head. Jesus, who does good, in the name of God, while seemingly breaking age-old rules of what is holy...what exactly are we to make of that? The Pharisees found it completely confounding - the looks of it were deceiving to them. *It looked like someone healing a sinner on a Sabbath doing something forbidden (work - using something messy, I might add). Why would God respond to the request of such a person? Only the blind man could see Jesus clearly for who he truly is and was: a man from God. My favorite is the blind man's "how do you not see this?" moment with the Pharisees (found in the long version of the Gospel):*



"This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything."

This Lent, we are challenged to look past the appearances of our lives and into our hearts. What is really there? God already knows. And He already sees *all of it - the good, and the mess. The moment we are ready, He will show us what is really there. Even more, He will help us take on the work to move the mess out of the way so that we can truly see Him.*

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - JOHN 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.



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