

February 28, 2021 • *Second Sunday of Lent*



# *The Cathedral of* **SAINT JOSEPH**

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

[www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net)



**DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS**

Most Reverend Donald DeGrood, *Bishop*

## LITURGY GUIDE— Second Sunday of Lent

*Welcome to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and thank you for joining us for the celebration of Holy Mass today! Please silence your cell phones and refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Cathedral. Please help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances. Also, please refrain from taking pictures once Mass has begun. You are welcome to take pictures after Mass has concluded.*

### INTROIT

*(At 9:15 & 11AM, the Introit is sung by the choir during the entrance procession.)*

<i>Reminiscere miserationum tuarum, Domine, et misericordiae tuae, quae a saeculo sunt: ne unquam dominantur nobis inimici nostri: libera nos Deus Israel ex omnibus angustiis nostris. (Verse) Ad te, Domine, levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confide, non erubescam.</i>	Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress. (Verse) Unto you, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul; O my God, I trust in you, let me not be put to shame.
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### OPENING HYMN (4PM & 7:30AM) ERHALT UNS HERR The Glory of these Forty Days

The glory of these forty days We celebrate with songs of praise;  
For Christ, by whom all things were made,  
Himself hath fasted and hath prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw The loving God who gave the law;  
And to Elijah, fasting, came The steeds and chariots of flame.

So Daniel trained his mystic sight, Deliver'd from the lion's might;  
And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
The herald of Messiah's name.

Then grant us, Lord, like them to be Full oft in fast and prayer with thee;  
Our spirits strengthen with thy grace,  
And give us joy to see thy face.

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, To thee be ev'ry prayer address;  
Who art in threefold Name adored, From age to age the only Lord.

### 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, *(striking breast three times)* 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.



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."  
When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it.

Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the Lord's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son."

As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Again the Lord's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 116:10, 15-19

*(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)*



Text: Refrain trans., Lectionary for Mass, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL, verses, New American Bible, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine  
Music: Michel Ganneot, © 1984, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.

I trusted, even when I said, "I am sorely afflicted." How precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I, the son of your handmaid; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the name of the Lord. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfill before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

### SECOND READING

Romans 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us, who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please Stand*

*(Sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)*



From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:  
This is my beloved Son, listen to him. **R.**

### GOSPEL

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Please Stand*

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(*bow here*) and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

### OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (9:15AM)

*Meditabor in mandatis tuis, quae  
dilexi valde: et levabo manus meas  
ad mandata tua, quae dilexi.*

I will meditate on your com-  
mandments which I love exceed-  
ingly; I will lift up my hands to-  
wards your commandments  
which I love.

### OFFERTORY HYMN (4PM & 7:30AM)

SWABIA

### 'Tis Good, Lord, To Be Here

'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy glory fills the night;  
Thy face and garments, like the sun, Shine with unborrowed light.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy beauty to behold,  
Where Moses and Elijah stand, Thy messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past! Promise of things to be!  
We hail thy body glorified, And our redemption see.

Before we taste of death, We see thy kingdom come;  
We long to hold the vision bright, And make this hill our home.

'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not remain;  
But since thou bidd'st us leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

### OFFERTORY MOTET (11AM)

Gabriel Fauré  
(1845-1924)

Cantique de Jean Racine  
O divine word above, our hope and consolation, Eternal light of the  
heavens and the earth: our voices greet the morning: Look down, O  
Lord, and hear thy people's prayer!

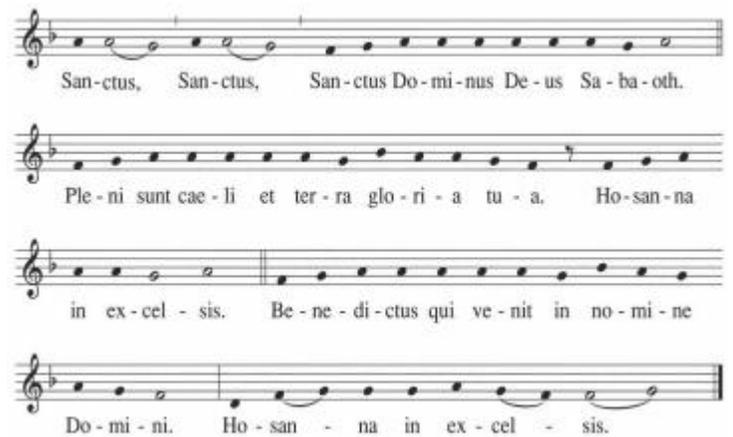
Inspire us, Lord, we pray, With the power of the Spirit, that hell may  
flee before thy mighty word. From slumber waken us, our weary  
souls reviving, that we may never forget thy laws!

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on thy congregation now gathered  
here in the sight of thy throne; Receive the hymns they offer to thy  
eternal glory; Renewed by thy gifts may they go forth in peace.

**Celebrant:** Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and  
yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R.** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the  
praise and glory of his name, for our good and the  
good of all his holy Church.

### SANCTUS



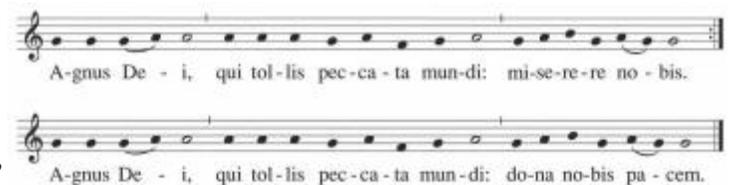
San-ctus, San-ctus, San-ctus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth.  
Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na  
in ex-cel-sis. Be-ne-di-ctus qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne  
Do-mi-ni. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

### AGNUS DEI



A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no-bis.  
A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

## ECCE AGNUS DEI

**Celebrant:** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R.** Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

## RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

*All Catholics who are properly disposed to receive Holy Communion (free of mortal sin) are invited to come forward maintaining the 6-ft. social distance spacing. The reception of Communion is always optional and never a requirement when attending Mass. If you are wearing a mask, it must be pulled down just prior to stepping forward to receive. If you are not properly disposed to receive Communion, or not Catholic, please do not come forward for a blessing at this time. This is simply to minimize contact and maintain recommended social distancing practices. Remember, you always receive a blessing at the conclusion of Mass.*

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4PM & 7:30AM)



## COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 & 11AM)

*Visionem quam vidistis, nemini dixeritis, donec a mortuis resurgat Filius hominis.* Tell no one about the vision you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.

## COMMUNION MEDITATION (11AM)

Ave Verum Corpus

Edward Elgar  
(1867-1934)

*Ave, verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine: vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine: cuius latus perforatum fluxit unda et sanguine: Esto nobis praegustatum, Mortis in examine. O Jesu Dulcis, O Jesu Pie, Jesu filii Mariae, In nobis miserere. Amen.*

Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: Who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of man. From whose pierced side flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste (of Heaven) for us in the trial of death. O sweet, O merciful, Jesus, Jesus, Son of Mary Have mercy on us. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN (4PM, 7:30 & 11AM)

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride. | Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God: All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. | Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small: Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

## CLOSING HYMN (9:15AM)

Ave Regina Caelorum

*Ave, Regina Caelorum, Ave, Domina Angelorum: Salve, radix, salve, porta Ex qua mundo lux est orta: Gaude, Virgo gloriosa, Super omnes speciosa, Vale, o valde decora, Et pro nobis Christum exora.*

Hail, O Queen of Heaven. Hail, O Lady of Angels Hail thou root, hail! thou gate From whom unto the world, a light has arisen: Rejoice, O glorious Virgin, Lovely beyond all others, Farewell, most beautiful maiden, And pray for us to Christ.

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# PARISH NEWS

## Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7pm

Please join us for Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 7pm in the Cathedral. All are invited to attend and take part. Due to the pandemic, we are unfortunately not able to provide a meal beforehand.

## BroomTree Day of Recollection Tuesday, March 9

The next Day of Recollection at BroomTree will be Tuesday, March 9, and it will be directed by Fr. Paul King. Broom Tree Days of Recollection begin at 10 a.m. and include conferences, time for Adoration, Mass, and an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day ends in mid-afternoon. Because lunch is served, we ask that you please register. A prayerful donation is requested. For more information or to register go to [broom-tree.org/](http://broom-tree.org/).

## Catholic Family Services 21st Annual Gift of Hope event Lighting the Path to Hope and Healing, April 10

Saturday, April 10 – 8:30 p.m.

Join us for a NEW Gift of Hope Event to benefit Catholic Family Services! A candlelight celebration will be held on Saturday April 10th on the steps of the Cathedral of St. Joseph to unite us all in Lighting the Path to Hope and Healing. Proceeds made from the sale of our Gift of Hope Commemorative Candles will benefit the Gift of Hope Endowment Fund. Order your commemorative candle online at [ccfesd.org](http://ccfesd.org), email us at [events@ccfesd.org](mailto:events@ccfesd.org) or call our office at 605-988-3765.

## Attn: Altar Servers & Liturgical ministers

Please check in the sacristy before Mass if you are able even if it is not your weekend, just to make sure we have enough people. Thank you for all you do for Cathedral parish!

### **SCAM REMINDER!**

Some of you have received false emails or even text messages from people impersonating Fr. Morgan asking for money. These people create false email addresses that look like Fr. Morgan's real email address. **Please do not respond to it! It is a phishing hoax.** Fr. Morgan will never ask for any financial assistance for the parish by email or text message.

## College students & recent high school grads:

### Spend your summer as a Lumen Christi missionary

If you are a college student looking for a fulfilling summer job, pray about becoming a Lumen Christi missionary for the summer of 2021. Find all the info at [www.sfcatholic.org/youth/lumen-christi/](http://www.sfcatholic.org/youth/lumen-christi/)

## Thank you for initial response to CFSA!

Thank you to everyone who has already turned in their CFSA pledge cards! We have had a great initial response. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as you are able and help us keep this excellent momentum going. If you did not receive a pledge packet in the mail, or if you need a new form, please contact Heidi in the parish office. (336-7390 or [hsolem@sfcatholic.org](mailto:hsolem@sfcatholic.org)).

## Liturgical Roles

### Daily Mass Reader—

#### March 3-6

6:45 am Betty Barto-Smith  
12:00 pm As Scheduled



#### March 6/7

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Mark & Carolee Weber  
7:30 am Carl Eisenberg, Barbara Lockwood  
9:15 am Brandon & Hannah Schmit, Jeff Heron  
11:00 am Tom Stombaugh, Susan Albers, J. Miranda  
4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

### Readers

4:00 pm Shawn & Julie Cleary  
7:30 am Kym Osterberg  
9:15 am Emily Young, Bob Binstock  
11:00 am Max Boyum, Darlene Tentinger  
4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

### Altar Servers

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers  
7:30 am Dominic Rieff  
9:15 am Andrew & Nick Simon, John Paul Beaner  
11:00 am Dominic Ostermann, Karl Benz  
4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

**Dow Rummel** — Michelle Gullickson

**Good Sam Center** — No EM service until further Notice.

**Cathedral Bus** — The Cathedral bus will remain suspended indefinitely at this time.

## Readings for the week of February 28, 2021

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9-18/Ps 116:10, 15-19/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8-11, 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tues: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-21/  
Mt: 21:33-46

Sat: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-4, 9-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 19:8-11 or 95:1-2, 6-9/1 Cor 1:22-25 or Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 2:13-25 or 4:5-42

## CONGRATULATIONS

### The 500 Club

The fourth winner of the 500 Club for February 2021 is Mary Fritz. She will receive \$99 and we gave Father \$430 for the Church. At the present time, we have 172 members. If you'd like to join, applications are available in the Parish Office. Our hope is to have 200 members so the weekly winner will receive \$115 and Father will receive \$500 for the church. It's only \$5/month to join. Any applications received by March 1 will be eligible for the March 2021 drawings. For more information, call Verlyn Curley at 334-2305.

## Mass Intentions

**Mon, March 1** • *Lenten Weekday*

**No 6:45am Mass — Mass @ Monastery @ 7:30am**

12:00 pm Wade Babcock

**Tues, March 2** • *Lenten Weekday*

**No 6:45am Mass — Mass @ Monastery @ 7:30am**

12:00 pm Anita Babcock

**Wed, March 3** • *Lenten Weekday*

6:45 am † Jane Fernandes

12:00 pm Amanda Zurface

**Thurs, March 4** • *Lenten Weekday*

6:45 am † Bailey Lauret

12:00 pm † Marcella Effertz

**Fri, March 5** • *Lenten Weekday*

6:45 am Fr. Brian Eckrich

12:00 pm † Elizabeth Dickes

**Sat, March 6** • *Lenten Weekday*

9:00 am Carmelite Sisters

**Sat, March 6** • *Mass of Anticipation*

4:00 pm Bishop's Intentions

**Sun, March 7** • *Third Sunday of Lent*

7:30 am † Lois Anderson

9:15 am Donald Walter

11:00 am Megan Ulin

4:00 pm Pro Populo

## Sanctuary Candles

***The five sanctuary candles will not be used until Mass resumes in the Sacred Heart Chapel.***

The light of a candle is a powerful symbol for us. It signifies God's presence and beckons us to remain present with him. Christ tells us, "I have come to the world as its light, to keep anyone who believes in me from remaining in the dark" Jn 12:46

## Cathedral Events Calendar

**Sunday, February 28**

Cathedral Confirmation during 11am Mass

No Family Program

**Friday, March 5**

Stations of the Cross, 7pm

## FAITH FORMATION

**No Family Program this Sunday, Feb. 28**

Please pray for our Cathedral Confirmation students who will be receiving the sacrament during the 11am Mass this Sunday!

**Registration open for Going Deeper Retreat April 9-11**

Registrations are open for the 'Spiritus' Going Deeper Retreat April 9-11 at the Abbey of the Hills. Geared toward teens wishing to delve deeper into their faith, this retreat is primarily charismatic with emphasis on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Find all the info at [www.sfcatholic.org/youth](http://www.sfcatholic.org/youth).

**Register your middle or high school student for D-Camp**

D-Camp (Discipleship Camp) is our Diocesan summer youth camp. Junior High and High School youth come together for four days of faith and fun (High School: July 11-14, 2021 Middle School: July 15-18, 2021). During the day you will hear talks to help you grow in your faith and meet lots of new friends! Early-bird registration discount ends February 1st. For more information and to register, visit [sfcatholic.org/youth/d-camp/](http://sfcatholic.org/youth/d-camp/)

**Presentation Sisters Catholic School**

**Scholarship Applications**

In keeping with the Presentation Sisters belief and commitment to Catholic education, we are pleased to announce that we will once again be accepting applications for Presentation Sisters Catholic School Scholarships. We will be awarding 40 - K-12 \$750 tuition assistance scholarships and three \$1500 high school tuition scholarships for the 2021-22 school year. Catholic School principals and priests in the Sioux Falls Diocese have received the application forms for the upcoming school year. We invite any interested student to complete the application process. Submission deadline is Friday, March 12, 2021. You can visit [www.presentationisters.org](http://www.presentationisters.org) to print application forms. For more info, contact Jane Schaffer at [jschaffer@presentationisters.org](mailto:jschaffer@presentationisters.org) or 605-229-8417.

**Vocations Camp June 3-5 at Abbey of the Hills**

The 5th Annual Vocations Camp for men 12-16 years old will be Thursday, June 3, thru Saturday, June 5, at Abbey of the Hills near Marvin, So. Dak. Men going into 7th grade or just leaving their sophomore year are welcome. The vocations events director for the Diocese of Sioux Falls, Fr. Shaun Haggerty, and several seminarians will be leading the camp at Abbey of the Hills. There will be the incense of the daily Mass and smoke of campfires, tugging on the daily rosary and tug of war, Eucharistic processions and hiking, confession and kayaking, vocation talks and many games. The camp is a rare chance for young men to begin considering their vocation from God by hanging out with priests and seminarians. We will arrive Thursday, June 3, at 10 am and depart Saturday, June 5, at 2 pm. Campers will form into small groups with a seminarian as their leader. Campers will be staying in the Abbey of the Hills lodging, sleeping two campers to a room. Special food can be provided for allergies. Cost is \$200 and scholarships are available. Only 28 spots per camp. Registration deadline is May 25. For more info visit [jpiivocationscamp2021.splashthat.com](http://jpiivocationscamp2021.splashthat.com).

## CATHEDRAL INFORMATION

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**Parish Office:** 605-336-7390

**Parish Office Email:** cathedral@sfcatholic.org

**Office Hours:** 8:30am-5pm M-Th, 8:30am-3pm Friday

**Cathedral Church Hours:**

8am-5pm Monday-Saturday

7am-Noon & 3:30-5:00 Sunday

**Weekend Mass Schedule**

Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:00am,  
& 4:00pm (St. J. Bakhita)

**Weekday Masses**

Wednesday - Friday 6:45am

& Monday - Friday 12 Noon

Saturday 9:00am in Cathedral

**Confessions**

Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 12 Noon & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral  
(Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

**Adoration**

Thursdays 7pm-8pm

First Friday of the month at 11am  
in Cathedral

**Self Guided Tours**

1:00pm Monday-Friday (except Holy Days)

**Parish Staff**

**Rector,** Very Rev. James P. Morgan

**Parochial Vicar,** Rev. Brian Eckrich

**Deacon,** William Radio

**Deacon,** Tim Dickes (Prison Ministry)

**Administrative Assistant,** Laura Haatvedt

**Director of Operations & Finance,** Heidi Solem

**Director of Liturgical Music,** Dr. Jared Ostermann

**Director of Faith Formation,** Abigail Budan

**Counseling Services**

**Catholic Family Services** Counseling 988-3775

**Retrouvaille** Help for hurting marriages 988-3755

**Birthingright** 977-4781

**Sacraments**

**Baptism** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11AM Mass. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation meeting. To schedule preparation, contact the parish office.

**Matrimony** Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact parish office. All others, contact the pastor of your home church. For wedding information, go to [www.stjosephcathedral.net](http://www.stjosephcathedral.net), under Sacraments.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Please call the parish office to request the Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery, or in case of serious illness.

**Catholic Burial**—St. Michael's Cemetery, (605) 338-3376

## CLERGY REFLECTION

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Have you ever been tested by God to a point that you have thought: ***This is too much?*** The great test of Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice would definitely fall into that category. God makes it very clear to Abraham what he is asking of him when he says, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love and offer him as a holocaust." God was not talking about Ishmael, Abraham's first son whose mother was Hagar, but Isaac whom God promised would be born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age.

I have always struggled with this tremendous test that Abraham was put through. For I too am a father of my only son whom I love very much so when I put myself in Abraham's sandals, I cannot comprehend the emotions that he must have felt and the thought process he went through. It has caused me to reflect deeply on how Abraham was able to be obedient to God to the point of raising the knife above his son, ready to take his life. Our faith may not be tested by God to the extent that Abraham experienced but we are all tested regularly and to varying degrees as we go about our normal daily lives. What do we do when we are faced with a test of our faith? How do we respond? At times it can be difficult to discern God's will for our lives which leaves us confused and unsure of what to do. Let Abraham, our father in faith, be our guide.

There are reasons that I believe are essential for Abraham's success in his test. First, Abraham has complete confidence that he is hearing the voice of God. Abraham was in relationship with God and he knew His voice. There was absolutely no doubt in his mind and heart that it was God who was speaking to him. We too must cultivate a relationship with God that leaves us secure with His will for our lives and mindful of His voice. Second, Abraham had already experienced God's miraculous hand at work in his life as he brought him to the land of Canaan and then the miracle of Isaac's birth. Abraham had experienced God's Divine Providence in magnificent ways which lead him to trust in God in all things, no matter what the personal cost. When we are left wanting and confused after trying to reason through our problems or decisions, remember how God has answered past prayers and brought you through difficult times in the past.

I realize that all of this most often is easier said than done. But I encourage you this Lent to give God a chance to show His love for you by trusting Him no matter what the cost, and then ... watch for the miracles.

*Deacon Tim Dickes*

## WEEKLY OFFERING

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	Envelopes	\$	8,404.00
<b>Feb. 21st</b>	Online/EFT	\$	4,863.00
	Visitors/Loose Cash	\$	725.14
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