

March 12, 2023 • *The Third Sunday of Lent*



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

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

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



*Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the Well*  
(Guercino - 1640)

DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood, *Bishop*

## LITURGY GUIDE - March 12, 2023

### The Third 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. Help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances.**

**Please, do not take pictures during the Mass celebration. You are welcome to take pictures after Mass.**

### INTROIT - (At 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE INTROIT SUNG BY THE CHOIR)

*Oculi mei semper ad Dominum,  
quia ipse evellet de laqueo pedes  
meos: respice in me et miserere mei,  
quoniam unicus et pauper sum ego.  
(Verse) Ad te Domine levavi  
animam meam: Deus meus, in te  
confido, non erubescam.*

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor. (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.

### OPENING HYMN (4:00 AM & 7:30 AM) 620

GRAEFENBERG  
Lord Jesus, As We Turn from Sin

### 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

Exodus 17:3-7

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? a little more and they will stone me!"

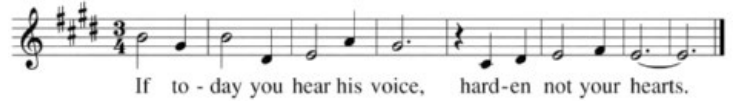
The LORD answered Moses, "Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink."

This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD in our midst or not?"

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

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



Text: Refrain trans., *Liturgical for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; verses, *New American Bible*, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine  
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come into his presence, giving thanks; let us hail him with a song of praise. **R**

O come; let us bow and bend low. Let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R**

O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your forebears put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work." **R**

### SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

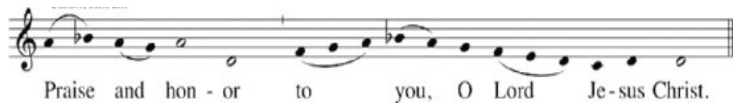
Brothers and sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please Stand*

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



Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. **R**

### GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"

—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink, you would have



asked him and he would have given you living water.”  
The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?”

Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.”

The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.”

Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.”

The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.”

The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.”

Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.”

At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, “What are you looking for?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?” They went out of the town and came to him.

Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.”

But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” So the disciples said to one another, “Could someone have brought him something to eat?”

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘In four months the harvest will be here?’ I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work.”

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told

me everything I have done.”

When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days.

Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”

## 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 HYMN *(4 PM & 7:30 AM)*  
572

KINGSFOLD  
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

## OFFERTORY ANTIPHON *(9:15 AM)*

*Justitiae Domini rectae,  
laetificantes corda, et dulci ora  
super mel et favum: nam et servus  
tuus sustodiet ea.*

The ordinances of the Lord  
are right, bringing joy to all  
hearts, sweeter than honey or  
the honeycomb. Therefore  
your servant will observe  
them.

**OFFERTORY MOTET (11:00 AM)** Anton Bruckner  
*Os Justi (Psalm 37:31-32)* (1824-1896)

*Os justi meditabitur sapientiam: et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.* The mouth of the just man utters wisdom: and his tongue tells forth what is just.  
*Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius: et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.* The law of his God is in his heart; his steps shall be saved from stumbling.

### 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.

### HOLY COMMUNION

**All Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with arms crossed over the chest to signal their desire to receive a blessing.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4:00 PM)

For a - ny - one who drinks it, says the Lord, the wa - ter I shall  
give will be - come in him a spring wel - ling up to e - ter - nal life.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 AM & 11:00 AM)

*Qui biberit aquam, quam ego do, dicit Dominus Samaritanae, fiet in eo fons aquae salientis in vitam aeternam.* For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

### COMMUNION MEDITATION (11:00 AM)

O Savior of the World John Goss (1800-1880)

O Savior of the World, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

### HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

593

SWEET SACRAMENT  
Jesus, My Lord, My God, My All

### CLOSING HYMN

680

INNSBRUCK  
O Sacred Heart All Holy

### CLOSING HYMN (9:15 AM)

443

Ave Regina Caelorum

### Recessional (11:00 AM)

*Adoramus Te*

G.P. da Palestrina  
(1525-1594)

*Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi: quia per sanctam crucem tuam redemisti mundum.*

We adore thee, O Christ, and we bless thee: because by thy holy cross thou hast redeemed the world.

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The Catholic Daughters  
Annual Potato Bake and Bingo -  
Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 pm at Holy Spirit  
Tickets are \$10  
Please RSVP by March 19  
Pat at 605-334-2370 or: [Oct4046@aol.com](mailto:Oct4046@aol.com)  
Everyone Welcome!

### **A Night for all Knights**

**Extravaganza 2023** will be held on Saturday April 1, 2023 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Please join us for a night of fun and fundraising, to benefit all eight Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools. To register, to purchase tickets, bid on silent auction items, purchase raffle tickets or to make a donation, please visit [allknights2023.givesmart.com](http://allknights2023.givesmart.com) or text [AllKnights2023](https://www.76278.com) to **76278**.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

**Harmony South Dakota** - Please join Harmony for their Spring Concert on Saturday, **March 18, 2023 at 10:30 am**, in the Cathedral School Gym. **Harmony** is a free after-school music program for children in Sioux Falls that teaches social transformation through music. To learn more go to: <https://www.harmonysouthdakota.org>

## **Sacred Art Series - The University of Sioux Falls**



**Concert Chorale with David DeHoogh-Kliewer, Director, will be performing at Cathedral of St. Joseph - Saturday, March 18 - 7:30 pm. Free Admission**

### **Save the Date:**

#### **Chrism Mass - March 23, 2023 at 11:00 am**

Bishop DeGroot will consecrate the Sacred Chrism and bless the anointing oils concelebrating with the priests of our diocese at **St. Joseph Cathedral**. The priests will also renew their priestly vows at this Mass. **The Chrism Mass is open to the public** to attend. Just a reminder that the **Mass is celebrated at 11:00 am** on that day instead of our regular noon Mass.

### **4th Annual Aquinas Lecture**

**St. Joseph Cathedral - March 21, 2023 7:00 pm**

Mount Marty University and St. Joseph Cathedral are hosting the 4th Annual Aquinas Lecture featuring **George Weigel** to explore the vital legacy of Vatican Council II. Program begins at 7 PM on Tuesday, March 21st at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Sioux Falls.

The event is free and open to the public.

**EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CATHOLIC EDUCATION!**  
 Opportunities available with **TUITION ASSISTANCE & SCHOLARSHIPS**  
 Application Period: **FEBRUARY 9 - APRIL 1**  
[www.ogknights.org](http://www.ogknights.org)



**APPLY TODAY!**  
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*Working together for Catholic education... today and for the future!*

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



## Liturgical Roles



**Daily Mass Reader -**  
12:00 pm As Scheduled

### **March 18/19**

#### **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

4:00 pm Carolee Weber, Mark Weber  
 7:30 am Gerald Frisbie Sharon Frisbie  
 9:15 am John Moneke, Bonnie Poppenga, Don Rahn  
 11:00 am Susan Albers, Mary & Matthew Enderson  
 4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

#### **Lectors**

4:00 pm Mary Gayle Rogers, Denise Rotert  
 7:30 am Steve Mogle  
 9:15 am John Moneke, Bette Theobald  
 11:00 am Mary Enderson, Matthew Enderson  
 4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

#### **Altar Servers**

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers  
 7:30 am James Mogle, Thomas Mogle  
 9:15 am John Paul Beaner, Charles & Nathaniel Myers, Leo Rutten  
 11:00 am Nicholas & Andrew Simon, Megan & Will Ulin  
 4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

#### **Mini-Bus Driver**

4:00 pm Jim Leyse  
**Dow Rummel** Michelle Gullickson  
**Good Sam** Chris Lent

### **Readings for the week of March 12, 2023**

**Sunday:** Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42  
**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30  
**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35  
**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19  
**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23  
**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34  
**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14  
**Next Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Will Washenberger** is Cathedral 500 Club's second winner for March 2023. He has received a check for \$93. Anyone interested in joining will find applications at the front entrance (Duluth Ave) of the Cathedral. Cost is \$5/month. Applications must be received by March 27 to be in the April 2023 drawings. Call the Parish Office at **605-336-7390** for details.



## Mass Intentions

- Mon. Mar. 13•** *Lenten Weekday*  
12:00 pm      † Fr. William Osborn
- Tue. Mar. 14•** *Lenten Weekday*  
12:00 pm      Rosie Platz
- Wed. Mar. 15•** *Lenten Weekday*  
12:00 pm      Dominican Sisters of Mary,  
Mother of the Eucharist
- Thu. Mar. 16•** *Lenten Weekday*  
12:00 am      † Warren Vick
- Fri. Mar. 17•** *St. Patrick, Bishop*  
12:00 pm      † Irene Rotert
- Sat. Mar. 18•** *St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop &  
Doctor of the Church*  
4:00 pm      † Thomas Bruce
- Sun. Mar. 19•** *Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
7:30 am      Kenneth Holzemer  
9:15 am      Julie Cleary  
11:00 am      † Kermit Sletten  
4:00 pm      Pro Populo

## Sanctuary Candles

This week the five sanctuary candles in the Sacred Heart Chapel have been requested for the following intentions:

- 1.) James Plorde
- 2.) Joseph Plorde
- 3.) Marvin & Joyce Langel Family
- 4.) Jim & JoAnn Plorde Family
- 5.) John & Diane McCann Family

## Cathedral Events Calendar

**Monday, March 13 -**

6:30 pm - Young Adults

**Tuesday, March 14 -**

10:00 am - Women's Group

7:00 pm - Knights of Columbus

**Wednesday, March 15 -**

6:45 pm - RCIA

**Thursday, March 16 -**

7:00 pm - Adoration and Reconciliation in Chapel

**Friday, March 17 -**

6:00 pm - Lenten Soup Supper - Parish Hall

7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 18 -**

12:00 pm and 3:00 pm - Reconciliation in the Cathedral

4:00 pm - USF Singing at the 4:00 pm Mass

7:00 pm - USF Concert, Sacred Arts Series

**Sunday, March 19 -**

1:30 pm - Confirmations - St. John Paul II, St. Therese  
& St. Paul (White)

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations Cathedral Confirmandi** - May the Holy Spirit be upon you in all that you do and may you bring others to the Faith that you have received.

**Thank You!** - A big thank you to **Katheryn Sweere**, and **Bill & Judy Stanton!** They have served the parish faithfully as 7:30 a.m. Mass ushers for many years! We are grateful for their service and stewardship to the Cathedral parish they love so dearly! Though we may see them helping out from time to time, they have turned their duties over to **Terry & Denise Ferrie, Dan & Gayle Spielman**, and **John Galbavy**. We thank these parishioners for volunteering as our new 7:30 a.m. Mass ushers. We are blessed for your service to our parish!! Thank you!  
**Also...**a big thank you! To the **"Men of Cathedral"** who Fr. Morgan called upon to help with Snow Removal from the Cathedral Steps from the Ash Wednesday Storm. Your work is greatly appreciated.

### **CFSA Update:**

With 141 responses we have now reached just over **52%** of our CFSA goal! Thank you for your very prompt and generous responses in supporting the many important ministries throughout our Diocese! We would like to see 100% participation from our parish, **financially or prayerfully**, so please turn in your pledge cards at the office, in the collection or online (QR code below). If you have not received a card, please call us at 605-336-7390. As a reminder, any funds collected over our goal of \$126,500 will remain with our parish. Thank you!



**Stations of the Cross** during Lent and the **Lenten Soup Suppers** are back at Cathedral! Please join the parish for fellowship this **Friday, March 17 at 6 pm** for a Soup Supper prepared by the parish followed by **Stations of the Cross at 7:00**. Free will offerings accepted.



The Cathedral Parish is serving breakfast at **The Banquet** Downtown on **Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**. We still have openings for the serving shift (6:30am-8:30am). Everyone is welcome!

Donations made to 'Cathedral' (note 'Banquet' in the memo) to help with meal costs may be dropped in the collection or given online on our Giving Page (**QR code** below) Volunteers may contact Sandy Lown at [jlown@sio.midco.net](mailto:jlown@sio.midco.net) (605-359-8416) or Chris Lent at [clentsd@gmail.com](mailto:clentsd@gmail.com). Thank you!

## WEEKLY OFFERING MARCH 4/5



Envelopes	\$	14,695.11
Online/EFT	\$	7,661.17
Visitors/Loose Cash	\$	4,379.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>26,736.08</b>

Scan QR code to be directed to our Giving Page  
*Thank you for your Support and Prayers!*

## CATHEDRAL INFORMATION

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

**Parish Office Email: [cathedral@sfcatholic.org](mailto: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. Josephine Bakhita Community)

**Weekday Masses**

Monday - Friday 12pm (Noon)

**Confessions**

Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 12 Noon & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral

(In the Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

**Adoration**

Thursdays 7pm-8pm (In the Chapel during Confessions)

First Friday of the month at 11am in the Cathedral

**Self Guided Tours**

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

**Guided Tours-By appointment 605-336-7390**

**Parish Staff**

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

**Parochial Vicar**, Rev. Pasquale Armando Francesco

**Deacon**, William Radio

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

**Administrative Assistant**, Mary Anne Lux

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

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

**Director-Faith Formation & Social Media**, Abigail Carter

**Tour Docent/Guide**, Susan Albers

**Wedding Coordinator**, Mary Enderson

**Counseling Services**

**The Lourdes Center** (Formerly Catholic Family Services)

Counseling and Grief Programs **605-988-3775**

**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 a meeting for preparation contact the parish office at **605-336-7390**.

**Matrimony** Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact the 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 this Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery or in case of serious illness.

**Catholic Cemetery - St. Michael's Cemetery 605-338-3376**

## CLERGY REFLECTIONS

Recently, I read a review of a book that attempts to identify the type of “fruit” that Adam & Eve ate from the tree in the Garden of Eden. The author posits an interesting argument: Why is it that we accept that the fruit was an apple? Nowhere does it say in scripture that the fruit picked from the Tree of Good & Evil was an apple. Just to be sure, I checked all my Catholic bibles. Genesis chapter 3 is the story of “The Fall.” Perusing the New American Bible, the Revised Standard Version, the Jerusalem Bible (and the New Jerusalem Bible), the Douay-Rheims Version, and last but not least, the St. Jerome Biblical Commentary, the author seems to be correct (FYI – the number of printed English translations and paraphrases of the Bible, whether complete or not, is about 900). In *Temptation Transformed: The Story of How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple*, the author Azzan Yadin-Israel, a professor of Jewish studies at Rutgers, notes that even the original Hebrew of Genesis never claimed that the fruit was an apple. So how did the apple get a bad rap in the first place? Mr. Yadin-Israel pins the blame on art. Down through the centuries, art has depicted the fruit as red and round. It makes sense. Red is a bright color that on canvas surely draws the attention of the eye. However, there are other types of fruit better fit to portray the fruit of Original Sin. The grape, for example, has clear connections to the sins of drunkenness and debauchery. The fig, another fruit with rich scriptural allusions is an even better candidate. Jesus curses a fig tree near the Temple in Jerusalem. Perhaps he was alluding to THE FRUIT, and THE TREE that had led to the downfall of Adam & Eve? In the Roman catacombs, most of the trees painted on the frescoes are fig trees. In the 4<sup>th</sup> century, St. John Chrysostom portrayed the fruit as a pomegranate. The depiction of Pomegranates as the fruit of The Fall would be prominent into the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (see our chapel mural with the broken pomegranate lying at the foot of Christ’s throne). By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, however, the apple became the fruit of choice. Confusion over Latin translations of the words “apple” and “evil” may prove why. The word for “evil” (*malum* in Latin) helped shape the idea that the fruit Adam & Eve digested was an “apple” (also *malum* in Latin). I look forward to reading this book. For our purposes, we look beyond the botanical symbols, realizing the “fruit” Adam & Eve ingested was a particular “knowledge” or “consciousness,” that allowed evil to have its way. For us, then, it reinforces the purpose of Lent: To repent of the “bad fruit,” the evil that can sometimes dominate our lives, and lead us away from the truth, beauty and goodness of God.

*Fr. James Morgan*



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