

January 28, 2024 • The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



*The Cathedral of*  
**SAINT JOSEPH**

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

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

*If today you hear  
His Voice,*

*Harden Not  
your Hearts.* Psalm 95

Photo by Eric Lingen

DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

Most Reverend Donald E. DeGrood, *Bishop*

LITURGY GUIDE – January 28, 2024  
The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 - (9:15 AND 11:00 AM THE INTROIT IS SUNG BY THE CHOIR)**

*Laetaetur cor quaerentium  
Dominum: quaerite Dominum, et  
confirmamini: quaerite faciem eius  
semper. (Verse) Confitemini  
Domino, et invocate nomen eius:  
annuntiate inter gentes opera eius.*

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. (Verse) Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; declare his deeds among the gentiles.

**OPENING HYMN  
659**

**THAXTED  
O God, Beyond All Praising**

**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**

**DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20**

Moses spoke to all the people, saying:  
"A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you from among your own kin; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the LORD, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the LORD, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.'  
And the LORD said to me,  
"This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die."

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

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

**(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**

**1 Corinthians 7:32-35**

Brothers and sisters:  
I should like you to be free of anxieties. An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord.

**GLORIA**

But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided.

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit.

A married woman, on the other hand, is anxious about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

I am telling you this for your own benefit, not to impose a restraint upon you, but for the sake of propriety and adherence to the Lord without distraction.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please Stand*

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



Music: A. Gregory Murray, OSB, © 1958, The Grail, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen. **R**

#### GOSPEL

**Mark 1:21-28**

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.

The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!"

The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.

All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

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

524

DIX

For the Beauty of the Earth

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

*Bonum est confiteri Domino, et psallere nomini tuo, Altissime.*

It is good to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing in honor of your name, O Most High.

#### OFFERTORY MOTET (11:00AM)

*Jubilate* in B flat

C.V. Stanford  
(1852 - 1924)

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be ye sure that the Lord he is God: It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

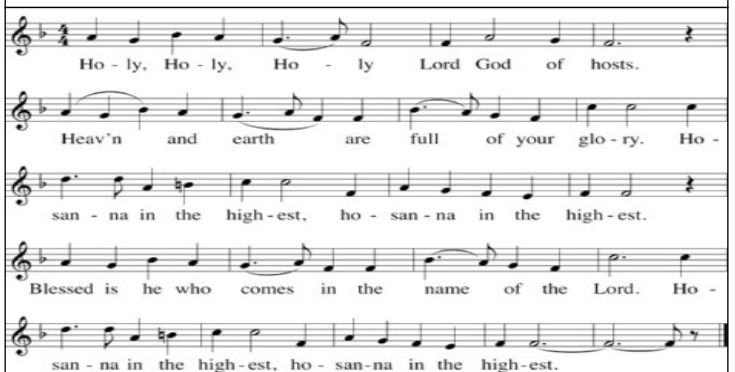
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth from generation to generation, his truth endureth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

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

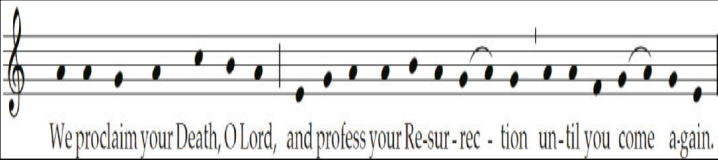
**R.** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

#### SANCTUS



Text: ICEL, © 2010  
Music: A Community Mass, Richard Proffitt, © 1971, 1977, 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION



## AGNUS DEI



## 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.**

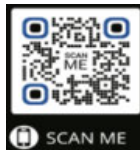
## CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS



This week is National Catholic Schools Week!

The week's theme — "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." — focuses on the core of Catholic education. As a parish, we support our school through prayer and resources, and the school, in turn, collaborates with families to develop our children into future model leaders and citizens. The theme also highlights key elements of Catholic education: academic excellence, leadership and dedication to service. These elements are what set Catholic schools apart from other educational options. I invite you all to pray for our students as we celebrate them this week. Our parish families who are not enrolled in Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools have the opportunity to enroll early on February 22nd.

**NOW is the Time!** Our open houses are right around the corner. Meet our Teachers! View our Programs! Explore our Schools! Scan the QR code for dates and more information!



**Are you a Teacher? We are now Hiring:**  
 We have multiple teacher positions open! Scan the QR code or view them here >> [www.ogknights.tedk12.com/hire](http://www.ogknights.tedk12.com/hire)

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4PM)



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

*Illumina faciem tuam super servum tuum, et salvum me fac in tua Misericordia: Domine, non confundar quoniam invocavi te.*

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

## COMMUNION HYMN 622

SLANE  
 Lord of All Hopefulness

## COMMUNION MEDITATION (11:00AM) G.P. DA PALESTRINA (1525 - 1594)

*Sicut cervus desiderat ad fonts aquarum, ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.*

As the deer longs for running streams, so longs my soul for you, O God.

## CLOSING HYMN 641

NUN DANKET  
 Now Thank We All Our God

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Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 In Joyful Service

**Presentation Sisters Catholic School Scholarship Applications** - We will be awarding 40 - K-12 \$750 tuition assistance scholarships and 3 - \$1500 high school tuition scholarships for the 2024-2025 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 15, 2024. You can visit [www.presentationisters.org](http://www.presentationisters.org) to print application forms. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Schaffer at 605-229-8417 or [jschaffer@presentationisters.org](mailto:jschaffer@presentationisters.org).



**St. Joseph Academy** is a Catholic hybrid classical school opening in the Fall of 2024 on the St. Joseph Cathedral campus for grades preK-8. For more information, employment opportunities, or to apply, visit us online at [stjosephclassicalacademy.org](http://stjosephclassicalacademy.org). Come and See! Information sessions will be held in the Cathedral Parish Hall on Thursday, **February 1st** and Tuesday, **February 13th at 6:30pm**. We would love to see you there!

# COMMUNITY NEWS

**Held Grief Series** - presented by the Lourdes Center. This 8-week Grief Series will begin **Tuesday, February 6, 2024** from 6:00pm-8:00pm. The series will blend education and faith surrounding the loss of a loved one through death. Each session will allow for small group discussion according to your particular loss (loss of a child, spouse, parent/sibling). Registration is required. Free will donations accepted. Call The Lourdes Center at [605-988-3775](tel:605-988-3775) to register.

**2024 Summer D-Camp** - is a transformative experience designed to help teens deepen their prayer life, grow in their understanding of who God is, and meet other teens who are engaged in their faith from throughout the Diocese. Four days at Broom Tree with Lumen Christi missionaries. **\$275 early bird pricing ends January 31st!** Get all the dates and more info at [sfcatholic.org/youth](http://sfcatholic.org/youth).

**Seminary Visit 2024** - Discerning your vocation? Trust in Him enough to take the next step. Young men (16-25 years old) are welcome to join a visit to **St. John Vianney Seminary, February 15-17 in St. Paul, MN.** For details email Father Klein [frtonyklein@sfcatholic.org](mailto:frtonyklein@sfcatholic.org) or call Emma at [605-988-3772](tel:605-988-3772).

**Last Collar Standing** - will be February 4 at 4 p.m. Pick a priest to root for and help him win advantages! Go to: [www.sfcatholic.org/lcs](http://www.sfcatholic.org/lcs) or Text **LASTCOLLAR** to 84576 to stay up to date and to be involved in the voting.

**Pilgrimage Trip to Ireland** - Join Fr. David Krogman and Deacon John Devlin on a pilgrimage to Ireland! The trip is **October 7-17, 2024**. Cost for the trip is \$3999/person. Deadline to register is May 1, 2024. For more information please contact Fr. David Krogman [605-361-1600](tel:605-361-1600) or [betty@stmichaelsfsd.org](mailto:betty@stmichaelsfsd.org).

**Director of Development** - The Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota is seeking an experienced and qualified individual to fill the senior-level leadership position of **Director of Development**. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in major gifts, along with a proven track record in capital campaigns. For information contact Tony Menke at [tmenke@ccfsd.org](mailto:tmenke@ccfsd.org).

**Camp Sydney** - The Lourdes Center will be offering a Grief Camp for youth and their families at Broom Tree Retreat Center, beginning at 6:00 p.m. June 21, 2024 until 11:00 a.m. June 23, 2024. This two-day camp will include fun activities, discussion and support. The Grief Camp is offered free of charge. Register at [www.thelourdescenter.com](http://www.thelourdescenter.com). For more information call: The Lourdes Center at [605-988-3775](tel:605-988-3775).

4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## Liturgical Roles



February 3/4

**First Saturday - February 3**  
**9:00 am Lector - Darlene Tentinger**

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Jessie Schmidt, Jon Schmidt  
 7:30 am Sandy Fitzgibbons, Carl Eisenberg  
 9:15 am Abigale Bauer, Brandon Schmit, Jeff Heron  
 11:00 am Mary Enderson, Susan Albers,  
 Nancy Ann Kadinger  
 4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

### Lectors

4:00 pm Julie Cleary, Shawn Cleary  
 7:30 am Michael Fitzgibbons  
 9:15 am Robert Binstock, Emily Young  
 11:00 am Matthew Enderson, Bob Lux  
 4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

### Altar Servers

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers  
 7:30 am Need Servers  
 9:15 am Asher Hunt, Jacoben Schmidt, Jonathan Billion  
 11:00 am Quintin Rasmussen, Isaac Stanek, Joseph Tran  
 4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

### Mini-Bus Driver

4:00 pm Dennis Hance  
**Dow Rummel** Barbara & John Lockwood  
**Good Sam** Kathy Ellenbecker

### Readings for the week of January 28, 2024

**Sunday:** Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/  
 1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28  
**Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
 Mk 5:1-20  
**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/  
 Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43  
**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6  
**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a,  
 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13  
**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/  
 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/  
 Mk 6:30-34  
**Next Sunday:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see 3a)/  
 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Ruth & Wyatt Bordewyk**, 500 Club's fourth winners for January 2024. They have received a check for **\$95**. Anyone interested in joining will find applications at the front entrance (Duluth Ave) doors of the Cathedral. Applications must be received by **January 29** to be in the **February 2024** drawings.

For information call the Parish Office: [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390).

## Mass Intentions

- Mon. Jan. 29•** *Weekday*  
12:00 pm † Paula Siemonsma
- Tues Jan. 30•** *Weekday*  
12:00 pm Sue Sommervold
- Wed. Jan. 31•** *St. John Bosco, Priest*  
12:00 pm Don Nguyen
- Thu. Feb. 01** *Weekday*  
12:00 pm Theodore Lux
- Fri. Feb. 02•** *Presentation of the Lord - First Friday*  
12:00 pm † Dan Beacom
- Sat. Feb. 03•** *St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr*  
*& St. Ansgar, Bishop - First Saturday*  
9:00 am † Brenda Frankman  
4:00 pm † Eugene Phelps
- Sun. Feb. 04•** *Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
7:30 am Ginny Guido  
9:15 am Tara & Tanner Thoms  
11:00 am † Ray Lux  
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.) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 2.) Eucharistic Revival
- 3.) For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
- 4.) Parish Mission
- 5.) Charl Wendt

## Cathedral Events Calendar

**Sunday, January 28—Tuesday, January 30**

**6:30 pm - Parish Mission in Cathedral Nave**  
(Adoration & Presentation)

**Monday, January 29**

**6:30 pm - Parish Mission in Cathedral Nave**  
(Adoration & Presentation)

**Tuesday, January 30**

**9:00 am - Quilters Group - Cathedral School**

**10:00 am - Women's Group - Cathedral School**

**6:30 pm - Parish Mission in Cathedral Nave**  
(Adoration, Presentation & Reconciliation)

**Wednesday, January 31 -**

**6:45 pm - RCIA - Parish Hall**

**Thursday, February 1 –**

**6:30 pm - St. Joseph Academy**

Informational meeting - Parish Hall

**7:00 pm - Adoration & Reconciliation – Chapel**

**Friday, February 2 - First Friday of the Month**

**11:00 am - Adoration before noon Mass (No Rosary)**

**12:00 pm - Candlemas procession before Mass**

**Saturday, February 3 - First Saturday of the Month**

**9:00 am - Blessing of Throats & First Saturday Mass**

**12:00 & 3:00 pm - Reconciliation in the Cathedral Nave**

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Starting This Sunday - Parish Eucharistic Revival Mission, January 28-30, 6:30 pm each night in the Cathedral Nave.** Our guest speaker will be Sr. Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, OP of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. Each night begins with Adoration at 6:15 pm and Sister's presentations starting at 6:30 pm on Adoration and Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. **Learn how to spend prayerful personal time with Jesus.**

**Candlemas Feb. 2, 2024** - This First Friday, February 2nd is also **Candlemas "The Presentation of the Lord."** In celebration we will start Adoration at 11:00 am followed at 12:00 pm with a candlelight procession from the Narthex into the Cathedral for noon Mass. We will have candles for the procession but you may bring your own candles to be blessed for your home use throughout the year. Please join us in the celebration of Jesus' Presentation in the Temple when Simeon proclaimed Jesus as **"The Light to All Nations."**

**St. Blaise Throat Blessing** - First Saturday, February 3 is the **Feast Day of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr.** There will be blessing of throats at the 9:00 am Mass.

**Town Hall Meeting** - Thank you to all who participated in our Town Hall Meeting this week. We had a lot of great suggestions and input from a variety of sectors. It was great to see new faces as well as long time parishioners. This is exactly what we need to move forward with the Set Ablaze Pastoral Planning set forth by Bishop DeGroot. Please continue to pray for all of the pastorates as we navigate the changes for vibrant parishes.

### Welcome New Members!

Thank you for choosing St. Joseph Cathedral to be your Faith Family.

**Madyson Muller**

If you are a visitor to Cathedral and are considering joining our parish or would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, please call the office at **605-336-7390**.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of


**Ameteselasie Meybetot**

**Achok Ngor Deng**

and consolation for their families who mourn for them.

May they and all of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS JANUARY 20 / 21

	Envelopes	\$ 8,633.81
	Online/EFT	\$ 8,587.31
	<u>Visitors/Loose Cash</u>	\$ 3,321.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,542.79</b>

**Scan the QR code to be directed to our Giving Page**

If you donate online or do not wish to have contribution envelopes sent to you, please let us know.

***Thank you for your Support and Prayers!***

## CATHEDRAL INFORMATION

**Parish Office:** [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

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

**Office Hours:** 9:00am-4pm M-Th & 9:00am-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

**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](tel: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 preparation, contact the parish office.

**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](tel:605-338-3376)

## CLERGY REFLECTION

Every avid baseball fan mired in the middle of winter will tell you the words they look most forward to hearing are **“pitchers and catchers report”**!!! These four little words signal the beginning of spring training for all major league baseball teams.

Looking at the calendar, I noticed that pitchers and catchers report on Ash Wednesday and spring training parallels the season of Lent almost perfectly with the regular season starting for most teams during Holy Week. However, these two seasons parallel each other in many ways beyond dates on the calendar.

During spring training, players work on their conditioning and diet, their baseball skill mechanics and possibly a new pitch to their pitching arsenal or a new approach to hitting. Spring training is also a time for the manager, coaches and players to bond so they can support each other through the ups and downs of the long-grueling season.

Lent is a time for us to discipline ourselves in ways that need more attention. Maybe it is our spiritual conditioning, a new approach to prayer, time spent reflecting on Sacred Scripture, more regular reception of the sacraments or correction of “bad” habits. Maybe it is a time to bond more closely with our parish family. A baseball player focuses on the upcoming season. As Christians let us focus on preparing for eternity.

Spring training is a time of great purpose, focus and wise use of time. No matter how good a player is, they need the guidance and assistance of coaches, trainers and the support of their teammates in order to maintain, or improve, their ability to perform in ways that will help the team.

Likewise, Lent is a time for us to focus more intently on our spiritual life and our relationship with Jesus Christ. We can't complete a successful “season” on earth without a disciplined prayer life, regular reception of the sacraments and the realization, and acceptance, that without Jesus we can do nothing.

Lent is still a few weeks away but our Responsorial Psalm today reminded me that it will be here soon. From Psalm 95 we prayed; **“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts”**. This refrain will be used throughout the Lenten season. It is a great reminder that God is reaching out to us to give us all we need to be the best person, and Christian, we can possibly be. A season of preparation approaches. Let us not harden our hearts to God's call but use the time to improve our spiritual conditioning and deepen our relationship with God.

*Deacon Bill Radio*



***To the Infant of Prague:  
Rule over me dear Jesus and do with  
me and mine according to your Holy  
Will for I know in Your Divine  
Wisdom and love You will arrange  
everything for the Best.***

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