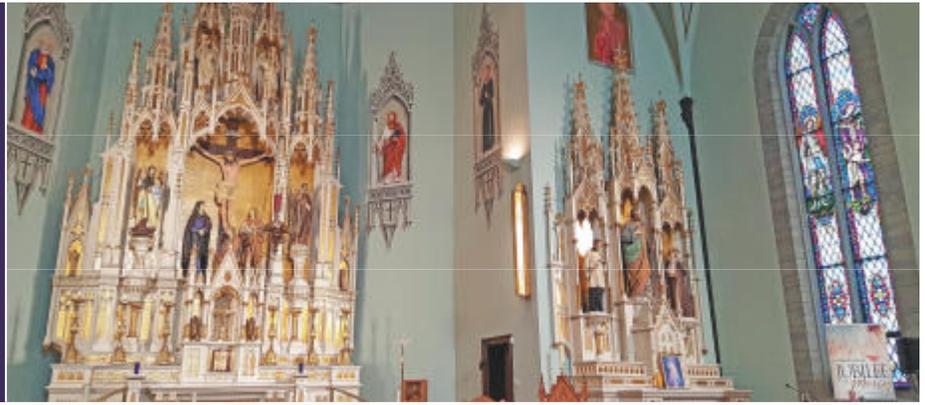


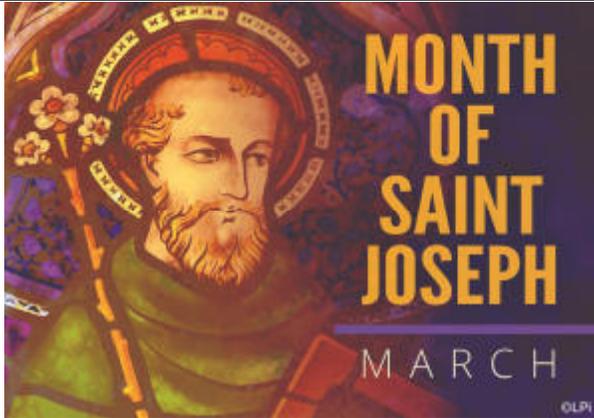
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CATHOLIC CHURCH

Consecrated to the
Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary



MARCH 7, 2021 • THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



March is the Month of St Joseph

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. Joseph was the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a "just man," and the Church has turned to Joseph for his patronage and protection. Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* (*On the Devotion to St. Joseph*) in 1889 explains why we place so much trust in this saint:

"Thus, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men.

Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. And during the whole course of his life, he fulfilled those charges and those duties.

...It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ."

Daily morning prayer to St. Joseph

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, Be with us this day.
You defended the Virgin loving the Child Jesus as your son,
You rescued Him from dangers of death.
Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the blood of Christ.
Guardian of the Holy Family, be with us in our trials,
May your prayers obtain for us the grace to flee error
And wrestle with the powers of corruption,
So that in life we may grow in holiness
and in death rejoice in the Crown of Victory. Amen

Update on Families of Parishes

Reverend David Burgard was appointed Moderator of the *In Solidum* team of priests who, with the other priests of the team, will lead the newly formed Monroe Vicariate Family 2 (St. Anne Parish, Monroe; St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Newport; St. John the Baptist Parish, Monroe; St. Mary Parish, Monroe; St. Michael Parish, Monroe), effective July 1, 2021. Father Burgard currently serves as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Monroe and St. Mary Parish, Monroe.

Penance Services for Children

On March 8th, 18 of our faith formation students will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. And on March 13th, 35 of our MCES students, and others students will could not receive due to COVID-19, will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time in their lives. Do you still remember the day you made the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Kindly remember our children in your prayers, so that they may experience God's everlasting mercy.

The Rite of Scrutiny

Our RCIA members, Carly Lane and her son Benjamin, begin the rite of scrutiny this 3rd Sunday of Lent at 10:30 am Mass. On the 4th Sunday of Lent, the scrutiny will take place at 10:30 am Mass and on 5th Sunday the scrutiny will place at 5 pm Mass. Kindly remember them in your prayers so that they prepare well to receive the sacraments at Easter Vigil Mass.

Have a blessed Sunday. God bless you! Stay Safe.
Fr. Kishore Babu Battu SAC



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WHY DO WE DO THAT?

What's the difference between priests and brothers, friars, etc.?

The distinctions, titles, and categories used for priests and the male members of religious communities can be confusing, especially since the categories can sometimes be intertwined as a man can be both a priest and a monk, or a brother and a friar. So, to help to piece the puzzle together, it's important to begin by noting some basic distinctions:

The distinction between priests (who are ordained for sacramental ministry) and brothers (who are non-ordained members of religious communities and who are committed to lives of prayer and service).

Priests: A priest is a man who has been ordained for sacramental ministry and these fall into two categories: A) Diocesan (or Secular) Priests can either be attached to a diocese and who serve under a bishop. Their ministry is usually oriented toward pastoral service. B) Religious Priests are members of religious communities (like the Franciscans, Jesuits, Salvatorians, or Carmelites) and their lives are guided by the special mission and charism of their community. While both kinds of priest practice sacramental ministry, their spirituality and how they live out their priesthood can be very different.

Brothers: Brothers are non-ordained members of religious communities (such as those mentioned above) who live lives committed to prayer and service. Religious priests and brothers serve together in their communities and their ministries include much more than the care of parishes.

Monks, Friars, and Canons: These are broad categories that include religious priests and brothers, and each of these is connected to specific ways of life and spiritualities.

Parents Just Don't Understand

Anybody remember the old rap song by the Fresh Prince, aka Will Smith, "Parents Just Don't Understand?" As we grow up, it is sometimes a struggle for us to imagine that our parents understand us. It can seem impossible that Mom and Dad remember the stress of exam week or peer pressure. We never saw them as children; we never saw their disappointed faces when they weren't invited to a party, or their dashed hopes at a bad test grade. We never saw them homesick their first week of college or nervous to ask their crush to Homecoming.

We're often the same way about God. We gripe about what He asks of us. "He doesn't understand sin — he's all-good," we think. "He doesn't understand temptation — He is perfect."

In Scripture, God can be very much a father, telling us what we can and cannot do. And yet, in His divine genius, He is sometimes simply a man at a well, asking for a drink.

For me, it turns out I didn't need to tell my parents anything about what I was going through as a kid — they knew already. What I needed was for them to tell me what to do, and how to do it.

Similarly, we don't need to tell God about human nature. We need God to tell us about His nature. He's good enough to ask us for a drink, to enter into our humanity. But we have to remember, for our own sakes, to have the humility to ask Him for something, too — the water that will quench our eternal thirst.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



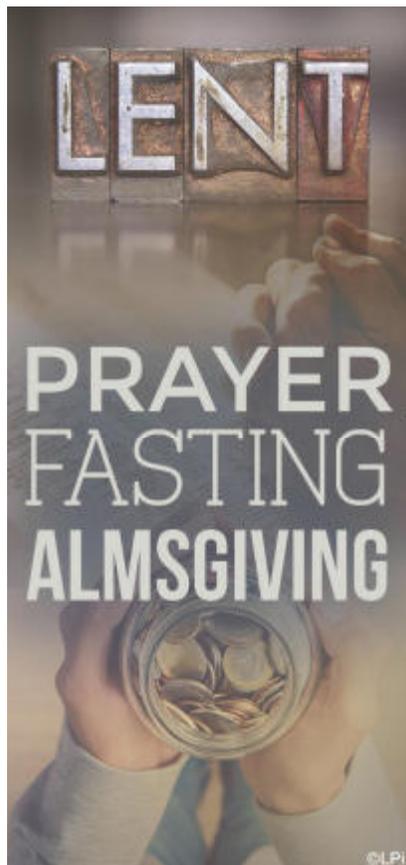
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FRIDAY
During Lent

Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament
will following morning
Mass for one hour.

Confession
available from
6 - 6:45 pm.

Stations of the
Cross
begin at 7 pm.

Please spend time
with our Lord and
join us in prayer.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Many prefer a "create as you go" approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a "you can't tell me what to do" attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other's space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of "anything goes" and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on "relativism island" where only a possible suggestion to "love and do not harm" may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus' display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life's preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.

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St. Frances
OF ROME

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FEAST DAY MARCH 9

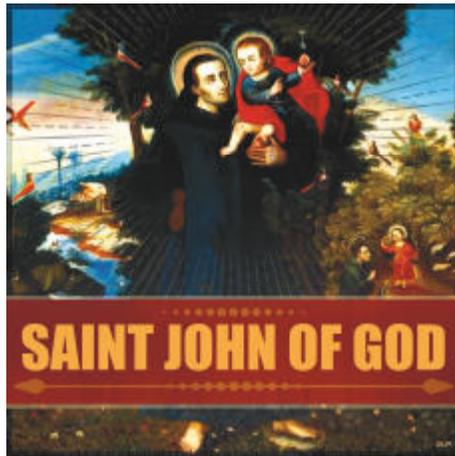
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Saint John of God's Story

Having given up active Christian belief while a soldier, John was 40 before the depth of his sinfulness began to dawn on him. He decided to give the rest of his life to God's service, and headed at once for Africa where he hoped to free captive Christians and, possibly, be martyred.



FEAST DAY MARCH 8

He was soon advised that his desire for martyrdom was not spiritually well based, and returned to Spain and the relatively prosaic activity of a religious goods store. Yet he was still not settled. Moved initially by a sermon of Saint John of Avila, he one day engaged in a public beating of himself, begging mercy and wildly repenting for his past life.

Committed to a mental hospital for these actions, John was visited by Saint John, who advised him to be more actively involved in tending to the needs of others rather than in enduring personal hardships. John gained peace of heart, and shortly after left the hospital to begin work among the poor.

He established a house where he wisely tended to the needs of the sick poor, at first doing his own begging. But, excited by the saint's great work and inspired by his devotion, many people began to back him up with money and provisions. Among them were the archbishop and marquis of Tarifa.

Behind John's outward acts of total concern and love for Christ's sick poor was a deep interior prayer life which was reflected in his spirit of humility. These qualities attracted helpers who, 20 years after John's death, formed the Brothers Hospitallers, now a worldwide religious order.

John became ill after 10 years of service, but tried to disguise his ill health. He began to put the hospital's administrative work into order and appointed a leader for his helpers. He died under the care of a spiritual friend and admirer, Lady Ana Ossorio.

Reflection

The utter humility of John of God, which led to a totally selfless dedication to others, is most impressive. Here is a man who realized his nothingness in the face of God. The Lord blessed him with the gifts of prudence, patience, courage, enthusiasm, and the ability to influence and inspire others. He saw that in his early life he had turned away from the Lord, and, moved to receive his mercy, John began his new commitment to love others in openness to God's love.

Saint John of God is the Patron Saint of the Sick, Booksellers, Firefighters, Heart Patients, Hospitals, Nurses, Printers.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-john-of-god>

LIVE THE LITURGY

With our world in such constant turmoil and conflict, it makes such good sense to return to the simple directives given in the Ten Commandments. God's unassuming guidelines provide the perfect recipe for ordering our relationships with God, others, and even ourselves. But yet, we are so quick to glance beyond them and even remove them from public view because we foolishly believe we can create something better. Arrogance runs far deeper in the members of our society than we can ever imagine. Lent is a perfect time to call ourselves back to our foundations and the basic relationships that comprise our lives. It is also a time to remember that Jesus is the true sign of God's presence. Everything he says and does, including his suffering and death, is a sign of the God who sent him. The anger we witness when Jesus exhorts those in the temple to stop making his Father's house a marketplace can equally be seen in his anger and frustration over humanity's constant mission to turn God's creation into a secular world. We have a lot of work to do for sure.

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3D SUNDAY OF LENT



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OPEN HOUSE

for new & prospective families!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2021 Open House is for new families only.

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Visit www.mcesmonroe.com to sign up for a time or call 734-241-3923 and speak with our enrollment manager, Julie White!

Hear from our teachers & administration about what **MCES has to offer**, preview **curriculum** & view the **three campuses!**

**6:00 -
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By Appointment Only

- Face masks & social distancing required.
- A brief COVID screening will be conducted for each person entering the campuses.

Visit mcesmonroe.com
to sign up or for more information.





Pray for:

Rebecca Alexander
Theresa Balk
Javier Barrios
James Barron
Monica Beeson
Carolyn Bellino
Florence Bialy
Lynda Billock
Philip Bloom
Addie Bressler
AJ Bressler
Marlene Campbell
Thomas Carpenter
Fr Daniel Complo
Kathy DeFigueiredo
Bill Dempsey

Craig Dominiak
Jeffrey Eagle
Rita Getchey
Veronica Greenawalt
Marion Hass
Kate Herr-Maletich
Tricia Hummel
Rose Kavanagh
Edna Kinsey
Lois Knegendorf
Alice LaPrad
Donna Leask
Madeline Lemerand
Dorothy Louwsma
Stella Mannausa
Diane Mennell
Albina Motyka
June Neph

Pat Orr
Kenny Pardo
Leigh Ann Parrack
Donna Perez
Zayden Perry
Mary Ray
Parker Reau
Mary Ann Soleau
Betty Steffes
Wilbur Stotz
Janelle Thursrud
Donna Torres
Bob Vajcner
Alex Vanisacker
Alice Villarreal
Linda Wallace
Arlene Walsh
Cody Wood
Mary Zubkoff

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY:

Major Matthew Aubry
Brett Bennett
Tracy (Scobel) Bennett
Pvt. Adrien Boudreault
Major Zachery Briscoe
CWO3 Ricky Brown
Cpt. Kyle Burkardt, DDS
Cpt. Patrick Burkardt, DDS
1st Sgt. Robert C. Cebina
LCPL Chase E. Collingsworth
Spc. Skylar Cooper
SMS. Wayne Fetty
Cpl. Jacob Luthy
Sgt. Michael Makela

Staff Sgt. Angelo Marino
Staff Sgt. Emily Marino
Airman 2 Drew McLaughlin
Sgt. William McGowan
S. Sgt. Jill (Hoffman) Miles
AB Tannar Osborne
Major Tim Payment
Alan Scobel
Major Marcus Sitterly
Gregory Smith
M/Sgt. Marian Olmsted Smith
Spc. Travis Weber
Cpt. Brian Worley, USMC
LCPL Justin Zukowski

Readings for the Week of March 7, 2021

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/
Jn 2:13-25 or 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 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/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 [8]/Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

WEEK AT A GLANCE MARCH 8 - 15

MONDAY, MARCH 8

St. John of God, Religious
Mass 8:15 am - church
Holy Hour 9 am - church

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

St. Frances of Rome, Religious
Michael's Men Meeting 7 pm - SMCC chapel

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Leadership Meeting 6 pm - Archangel room

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Mass 8:15 am - church
Eucharistic Adoration 9 - 10 am - church
Confessions 6 - 6:45 pm - church
Stations of the Cross 7 pm - church

SATURDAY, MARCH 13

Top Hat Collection

Confessions 3:30 pm - church
Mass 5 pm - church

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Top Hat Collection

Fourth Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins
Mass 8:30 am - church
Mass 10:30 am - church



VOTIVE LIGHTS FOR MARCH

Sanctuary Light: Richard Hurley Sr
St. Mary: Mary Sue Terrasi
St. Joseph: Daniel Opaczecwski

LITURGY SCHEDULE MARCH 8 - 14

DAY & TIME	INTENTIONS
Monday 8:15 am	✠ Dorothy Bezeau ✠ David Skinner
Friday 8:15 am	✠ Maria Vitale ✠ Sam Cusumano
Saturday 3:30 pm 5:00 pm	Confessions ✠ Rosario Giarmo ✠ Joe Perna
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	✠ Bill & Jennie Bacarella ✠ Wanda Bieszki ✠ The People of St Michael



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 Leslee Smith, Faith Formation Director 734-241-6097

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Mr. Kyle Kubik, Executive Principal 734-241-6335
 kubik@monroecatholicschools.com

St. Joseph Cemetery 734-241-1411
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Bulletin email:
 bulletin_staff@yahoo.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

In today's Gospel Jesus is asked "What sign can you show us?" Every day we can see signs of how God has visited us in the blessings of our lives. Let us be a sign of God's love by being a blessing to others.

Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can be a sign of God's love to the suffering and poor.

TOP HAT COLLECTION is next weekend. We thank you for your generous support!



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