

# saint John fisher chapel

UNIVERSITY PARISH

July 18, 2021 ● The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## A Kean Perspective: "Building Up Others & Ourselves Too"

There is a huge difference between how Jeremiah describes "pastoring the sheep" versus the way Jesus "pastored" the apostles and cared for the multitudes who were "like sheep without a shepherd." In Jeremiah's time, the religious leaders had what I like to identify as a symbiotic relationship rather than a loving relationship. In other words, the leaders needed the multitudes for their livelihood rather than serving them as part of their vocations. Certainly the priests of that day provided for the basic spiritual needs of the people. However, they also held as a high priority their own needs, using the temple taxes and people's resources to maintain their respective lifestyles. They sought what was most convenient, and their goal became the highest level of comfort for themselves and for their people. A pastor is meant to be more than that.

Jesus is the master teacher to his apostles, but he is also their brother. Of course, Jesus is the much wiser and talented older brother who can have the role of a parent from time to time. Today we see Jesus doing that for the apostles and disciples who were coming back from their ministerial experiences. They were like children on Christmas morning. They were gushing a bit, and Jesus wanted to give them some time to integrate the whole experience of having gone to minister to the people with signs and wonders. They saw people's hearts and minds come alive, and they in turn found exhilaration in that process. That is a much better relationship for the shepherd and the sheep. So, they went off to have some private time, but ministry and the needs of the multitude intervened.

Jesus shepherded the shepherds because he knew that His time was short and that He would pass on the ministry to them. They needed to be ready for their future ministerial posts, but the path to get



there could still be a joyous one. This past week at St. Joseph Parish, we had our youth program called "Project People." It is where our young people, mostly teenagers, along with the support staff, who are mostly young adults, go off to do ministry. They were split into various teams who were assigned to help households or specific locations with cleaning or small building projects. It was a time filled with joy. When they gathered back from their various tasks, there was much laughing, sharing, and healthy rejoicing. The path to serve the Lord does not have to be a dreary one. Like the apostles and disciples, when your faith comes alive, it builds you up, too – but you also must never forget the sheep. To be a follower of Christ is to love the flock and to know when to put their needs above your own.

The dynamic that Jesus established for the formation of His disciples is what we try to foster at both St. John Fisher and St. Joseph with the various programs designed to enkindle in our young people the joy of the Gospel. To be a disciple of Christ means that we build up the people of God. We build up the community in real ways and, at the same time, we build ourselves up in the joy that comes from serving. May you have a blessed week.

—Fr. Jim Kean

# ST. JOHN FISHER CHAPEL UNIVERSITY PARISH

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## MASS TIMES

**Tuesday:** 12:15pm Mass  
**Wednesday:** 12:15pm Mass  
**Thursday:** 7:15pm Mass  
**Friday:** 12:15pm Mass  
**Saturday:** 8:30am Mass  
**Sunday:** 10am & 6pm Mass

## CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesday, 1:05-1:50pm (Drive-thru)  
Thursday, 6pm in Church  
Saturday, 9am in Church

## PRAYER & DEVOTIONS

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

1pm every Tuesday | 6pm every Thursday

### **Parish Rosary**

8am every Saturday

## PARISH CONTACTS

### **Administrator/Pastor:**

Fr. Jim Kean, [jkean13@stjoelo.org](mailto:jkean13@stjoelo.org)

### **Associate Pastor:**

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## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

*17th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading:** 2Kings 4:42-44

**Psalms:** 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 4:1-6

**Gospel:** John 6:1-15

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SUN | July 18 at 10am - Michael Bruno Selvaraj  
at 6pm - Frank, Mary & Kurt Leto

TUE | July 20 at 12:15pm - Andy Nguyen

WED | July 21 at 12:15pm - John Kha Nguyen

THU | July 22 at 7:15pm - Kevin Nguyen

FRI | July 23 at 12:15pm - Virginia Sherry

SAT | July 24 at 9am - Linda Adam

Lake Orion Catholic Young Adults

**GINJA**

**NINJA**

SUNDAY, JULY 25 | 6-10 PM  
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, LAKE ORION

Mass 6pm @ Outdoor Chapel (by the pond)  
Ninja Warrior Course 7pm @ Football Field

Ages - 21-29 | More info in the Facebook Event!



## FINANCE UPDATE

### OFFERTORY REPORT

Lori Rafferty

Our Offertory is the primary source of funds for our day-to-day operations. The average weekly collection should be \$5,000 in order to meet our budgeted expenses.

#### For the week ending July 11, 2021:

Envelopes: \$2,159

Electronic: \$2,439

**Total: \$4,598**

#### For Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

YTD Offertory Budgeted: \$10,181

YTD Offertory Collected: \$8,999

**Over/(Short) from Budget: (\$1,182)**



## A BIGGER BOAT

Fr. John Carlin

Another important aspect of examining our conscience is making sure our conscience is properly formed. This begins in the home, the domestic church, in which parents are the first teachers of their children, both in the Faith and in morality. It is the responsibility of every mother and father to teach their children right from wrong and, while it is true that we are all born with an innate sense of this (the law written on our hearts), every parent affects, for good or ill, how their child interprets the still, small voice of their conscience. As we grow up, other people also affect how we interpret our conscience — friends, other family members, mentors, even storybook characters (incidentally, that is why it is so important to have good, moral stories so that, even if a child never sees a knight or a dragon, he/she can still recognize what makes the knight good and the dragon bad). Who we surround ourselves with will affect our moral decision-making and, vice versa, our fidelity to our conscience will affect who we surround ourselves with. They support each other.

On some level, everybody knows that stealing is wrong. But if we grow up with a father who is a thief or hang out in a gang of friends where stealing is acceptable or expected, we would grow up thinking stealing was okay. In our hearts, we would still feel it was wrong but because

everyone else does it, we begin to doubt our conscience and suppress it so it doesn't bother us as much. The same thing can be said of an addiction or a habitual sin. We don't want to give in, but as the temptations get stronger and no one supports the voice of our conscience with their own voice or action, it becomes easier to give in and keep suppressing our conscience. There is a wonderful image of this reality in the Chronicles of Narnia (speaking of storybooks) when Uncle Andrew travels to Narnia for the first time and hears the animals speaking. He cannot accept it. He cannot believe it and so he covers his ears and tries as hard as he can to make himself think it's just his imagination. He tries so hard that he makes himself deaf. Not that there was anything wrong with his ears — he had just so convinced himself that the voices of the animals weren't real that he didn't hear them anymore. He didn't hear anything anymore. This is an image of suppressing one's conscience, convincing ourselves it's not there, until it's hard to know right from wrong or even hear God's voice anymore.

But there is always hope. No matter how much we may suppress our conscience, we can never destroy it. Sin does darken the mind and weaken the will so that it is harder to know the truth and harder to choose the good. The more we lie or steal or cheat, the easier it becomes; however, it is also true that the more we practice virtue and follow our conscience, the easier it becomes to choose the good. We are never completely without the light of Christ.

As much as other people help to form our conscience, some moral questions are still challenging and it is important to seek some guidance to know what is right. Some questions are just unique to an age, like cloning or IVF. Christ didn't have to answer those questions because the technology didn't exist 2000 years ago. But He still gave us the same moral principles to guide us and know His will, no matter the question. Other questions are challenging because either choice has pros and cons. Questions about war, capital punishment, beginning or end of life's questions... it can get messy. We know it is wrong to kill, but what about self-defense? If I kill someone while trying to preserve my life, that is moral: I don't want to kill anybody but only protect the gift of life God entrusted to me. What if I kill in defense of my property? That is immoral, because the good of someone's life is more sacred than anything I own. What about martyrs? Did they do something wrong by not protecting the gift of their life? Of course not. In fact, it is the moral witness of the martyrs that helps us to see the immeasurable value of our faith — even greater than our own lives. It is important then to study Catholic moral teaching, to seek the counsel of wise people who can help us to understand these difficult questions and recognize the goods involved, so that we can make informed moral choices following our conscience and drawing near to God.

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