

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

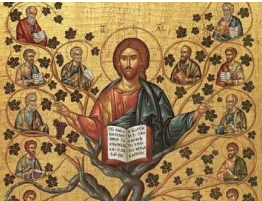
Saint Mary of Mercy, Saint Martin of Tours and Saint Stephen Parishes

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First Sunday in Lent February 21, 2021

Confessions, Masses, Mass Intentions, Holy Rosaries, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Monday, February 22	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
Tuesday, February 23	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	+Kinkade Olson
Wednesday, February 24	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
	9:00 a.m.	Saint Stephen, Bridgewater	+John Leitheiser (Father John S. Rader)
	6:30 p.m.	Saint Mary, Alexandria	Our Holy Rosary
Thursday, February 25	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
Friday, February 26	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
Saturday, February 27	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
	4:00—4:40 p.m.	Saint Martin, Emery	Confessions
	5:00 p.m.	Saint Martin, Emery	For the People of the Parishes
Sunday, February 28	7:30 a.m.	Carmelite Monastery	Special Intention
	9:00—9:40 a.m.	Saint Mary, Alexandria	Confessions
	10:00 a.m.	Saint Mary, Alexandria	+Dylan Mentele
	3:15 p.m.	Carmelite Monastery	The Most Holy Rosary and The Benediction



J.M.J. Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Suffering Christ, “This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” Lent is here, and now all the Graces from Christ are available. Let us cooperate with Him.

*Please pray for: +Marilyn Burnham, +James Sitter, +Sydney Sutherland, +Vincent Jackson, +Anthony George Spader, Donna Squires, Dennis Maiers, Kathy Engerbrecht, Molly Ann George, COVID-19 patients, Father William A. Osborn and Father Dana R.

Christensen.

*May the Soul of MARILYN BURNHAM rest in peace. We offer to the Burnhams our deepest condolences and our petitions to the Most Blessed Trinity and to the Most Holy Family.

*The Catholic Family Sharing Appeal for 2021 is underway. May God reward you for your generosity!

*The use of masks during Mass is recommended as a safety measure for oneself and for those who are nearby.

“What is Your Question?”

By Father Ben Miriam

Q. Is there a way in our lives in which we can understand the temptations that Jesus experienced?

A. Venerable Fulton Sheen (+1979) offered an excellent analysis. **The First Temptation** parallels the first stage of a man’s life—his youth. The portion of the brain responsible for suppressing impulses does not fully mature until the mid-twenties. The difference between a twenty-year-old and a thirty-year-old is not just ten years’ experience. If cognitive reasoning skills are underdeveloped, temptations involving the flesh or physical gratification are more difficult to resist; think of a baby or small child. It is in our youth that we must learn that our passions are not necessarily wrong, but “eating bread” without God will harm us, meaning that we should reject passions outside of God’s will, even if we must go “hungry.” **The Second Temptation** involves pride and egotism. And so it goes for the second stage of a man’s life. We wish to make a name for ourselves. Power and prestige set in to tempt a man to the point of narcissism. If we were somewhat successful at resisting the temptations of the flesh in our youth, Satan may say to us, “Very well, if you really trust God do something heroic. Be amazing! Make a name for yourself!” **The Third Temptation** corresponds to the autumn of our lives in which we are drawn to possessions and the security of worldly things. We are not so comfortable with John 21:18, “. . . when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and

someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” We may have avoided the traps of the flesh in youth and the snares of pride in middle age, but it’s hard to let go completely and be “led where we do not want to go.” Excessive hoarding of earthly goods and money as economic security gives the illusion of control. This preoccupation will distract us from our treasure in Heaven and this happens at the worst time possible, the very end of our lives. Few believe in the devil today, and that must be just fine by him. I’d imagine he is happy to hear the news of his death. If God is existence itself and calls Himself, “**I Am Who Am,**” then the devil is the father of lies and must be quite happy to remain in hiding and call himself, “**I am who am NOT.**”

	Saint Martin of Tours, Emery	Saint Mary of Mercy, Alexandria
	Saturday, February 27th, 5:00 p.m.	Sunday, February 28th, 10:00 a.m.
Lector	Dan	Marlene
Sacristans	Jack and Teresa	Joe
Altar Servers	Quinton and Landon	Cadence and Radek
Musician	Bonnie	Sandy
Most Holy Rosary	Jeff	Gary and Sharon
Money Counters	Darin	Peggy and Pam

Offerings for February 13th and 14th: Saint Martin of Tours—\$1,208.00; Saint Mary of Mercy—\$2,650.00
 Ash Wednesday: Saint Martin of Tours—\$ 110.00; Saint Mary of Mercy—\$55.00; Saint Stephen—\$100.00

The next meeting of the Saint Stephen Christian Mothers: Tuesday, February 23rd after the Most Holy Rosary.

From the Knights of Columbus:

1. Baby Bottle Boomerang Fundraiser—Mother Teresa Endowment Fund . . . Collect your spare change in the baby bottle at the front of the Church and then return it as soon as possible so that it may be reused.

The Mother Teresa Endowment Fund, established by the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls and Catholic Family Services, provides financial assistance to pregnant women from East River South Dakota who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy and/or considering abortion because of limited financial resources. Individuals seeking assistance with a pregnancy may obtain applications through Catholic Family Services. A committee reviews the applications and appropriates funds as available and according to need. The Mother Teresa Fund provides the financial bridge to assist with costs that are not covered by other community resources. **Our Lady of Fatima Council will contribute all proceeds to this fund. Thank you.**

2. Breakfast—After the 10:00 a.m. Mass in Alexandria on Sunday, February 28th: The Knights will be preparing a Hearty Breakfast Burrito filled with sausage, bacon, eggs, cheese and hash browns. We will prepare some with peppers and some without depending on your taste for peppers. We will also have salsa available on the side. If you wish to dine in at the hall, coffee and juice will be available. If you are not yet ready to dine in, then you can easily take it to go and they reheat nicely. A free-will offering will be accepted.

3. Raffle—The winner of the raffle for the .50 Caliber Black Powder gun will finally be pulled from the hat during the Breakfast as this is our first social event since COVID hit last year.

From Nicole Fuhrer, Catholic Family Sharing Appeal: Participating in the C.F.S.A. is an opportunity to practice being good stewards of the gifts that God has given to you. The Office of Evangelization and Discipleship covers a broad range of activity for all ages throughout the year, including: D Camps, *Lumen Christi*, NET Team, Respect Life, Marriage and Family Life and the S.D. Catholic Conference. Thank you for your prayerful support of these ministries through C.F.S.A.!

This Friday, February 26th is a day of abstinence (no meat) for those 14 years and older.

**The Stations of the Cross on this Friday, February 26th:
 5:30 p.m. in Alexandria; 6:30 p.m. in Bridgewater; 7:30 p.m. in Emery**