

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

MARCH 26, 2021



FROM THE PEN OF THE PASTOR:

He is Risen! Depending on when you get this newsletter, you might be in Holy Week or experiencing the joy of the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. Regardless, hopefully you are experiencing the great joy that comes from our Christian faith. As Pope Francis wrote in the *Joy of the Gospel*, “With Christ joy is constantly born anew.” Christians cannot be sad people. Only those who rely on their own strength will be sad since strength like all things is fleeting. As true Christians we cannot remain in sorrow because our joy comes from God alone especially during Holy Week and the great season of Easter. No matter what the world throws at us, we can always rely on the joy that comes from a life following Jesus even as we carry our respective crosses on our ways toward heaven.

We have many things to be thankful as a pastorate, and as we celebrate new additions to our flock, we look forward joyfully to the first communions and confirmations to come in May as well. Although we are not at full capacity yet, we can rejoice that we are moving closer to that day when we can all fully gather at the altar of the Lord. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for one another as the light from the Eastern dawn allows us to see more clearly how God is calling us to deeper lives of prayer and sacrifice. The more we work on those two aspects of our faith, then our joy can continue to grow and blossom for all the world to see. So, let us draw closer to the Risen Lord this Easter season and continue to do our best in receiving and sharing the great joys of Easter to all that we meet.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley



AN EASTER PRAYER

The veil of darkness

Transformed to the brightest light.

The most dreadful end

Became the most beautiful beginning.

The depths of despair

Fade to reveal hope everlasting.

The curse of death

Defeated by eternal life.

Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter.



POPE'S LETTER ON ST. JOSEPH

ON THE 150th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE PROCLAMATION OF SAINT JOSEPH AS PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter on December 8, 2020, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, proclaiming the year 2021 as the year of St. Joseph, the Worker. Each month of 2021 we will include one of the seven personal reflections of St. Joseph by Pope Francis. Last month we introduced the letter itself; this month we focus on the second fatherly title: A Tender and Loving Father.

A tender and loving father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily “in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour” (*Lk* 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. *Hos* 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: “As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him” (*Ps* 103:13).

In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love, who is good to all, whose “compassion is over all that he has made” (*Ps* 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out “in hope against hope” (*Rom* 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus, Saint Paul could say: “To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness’” (*2 Cor* 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. *Rev* 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy,

especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. *Lk* 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: “This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

Prayer to St. Joseph, the Protector of the Church

Father, you entrusted our Savior to the care of Saint Joseph.

By the help of his prayers may your Church continue to serve its Lord,

Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



Wednesday, April 28, 2021
\$35, includes lunch and Little Office
of St. Joseph booklet

*St. Joseph Day
of Reflection*

REGISTER ONLINE AT
STJOSEPHRETREAT.ORG

SAINT JOSEPH
RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER
A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-INDIANA

BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT

We are excited that the number of parishioners coming back to church for Mass is growing. We have removed some of the ropes on the pews to increase our seating capacity. This will allow you to determine which section you feel comfortable sitting in. Masks are still required to be worn.

We look forward to the day when we have all our parishioners back on the weekends, but until then consider joining us for a weekday Mass and/or livestream weekend Mass from home.

As we receive further direction from Bishop Doherty following Easter on the reduction of restrictions, we will pass those along. Until then, all other restrictions are still in place such as no congregational singing, no missalettes in the pews, no communion cup, etc.

Please do not abandon the protective and preventive measures of masks, distancing and hand washing.

Thank you for all your support!

Let's beat this virus! Continue to wear masks, and socially distance and get vaccinated!



The Holy Family RE is having a Bake Sale Sunday, April 18 following the 11am Mass in the Narthex. The proceeds from the bake sale will help fund flowers, soil, and flower pots to place outside the front of Holy Family and by the outside statue of Mary. Thank You for your support!

"Apart from the cross, there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven."

— St. Rose of Lima



Keep Open!!!

Vacation Bible School: "Heroes of Old"

July 19 - 23 from 6pm - 7:30pm at Holy Family!

See you there!!

HEY, SENIORS

Calling all Holy Family high school seniors. If you are graduating this spring or have a high school graduate please, call or text Christina Christman at (765)733-4026. Thank you!

YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Pope Francis has announced a special Year of the Family for March 19, 2021, to June 26, 2022. The year commemorates the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*The Joy of Love*). The Year of the Family is an initiative of Pope Francis:

- The Year “Amoris Laetitia Family” is **an initiative of Pope Francis**, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within Parishes, Dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.
- **The pandemic experience has highlighted the central role of the family** as the domestic Church and the importance of community ties between families. Such ties make the Church an authentic “family of families” (AL 87).
- The family deserves **a year of celebrations**, so that it can be placed at the center of commitment and care from every pastoral and ecclesial reality.

ONE TO ENTER THE CHURCH AT EASTER VIGIL

Following the completion of many months of instruction, learning, prayer and formation, Nathan Booher will join our Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for Nathan and all those across the globe, who through this moment united by the Holy Spirit, will receive the Sacraments of Initiation.



March 23, April 20, May 11, June 15
July 20, Aug. 10, or Sept. 14,
\$20, includes lunch

*Get Away
for a Day*

REGISTER ONLINE AT
STJOSEPHRETREAT.ORG

SAINT JOSEPH
RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER
A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE IN INDIANA

CMA PLEDGES INCHING CLOSER TO GOAL

Thanks to all our parishioners who have discerned a gift and pledged to our Catholic Ministries Appeal. Remember, this is the replacement of Fruitful Harvest and the Seminarian annual collection combined into one. If you have not yet made a pledge to the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please consider pledging to help seminarians, homeless shelters, prison ministries and pro-life programs, plus much more throughout our pastorate and our diocese. We are now at 55% of our pastorate goal with \$44,584 in pledges towards a goal of \$80,974 from only 29% of our pastorate families pledged so far. It's never too late to make your pledge or donation today. Contact the office or pick up a pledge packet at any of our church entrances. Thank you graciously for helping us with this campaign!



Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when **"all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened"**. (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church.

Jesus promised that **"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."**(Diary 699)

We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and the additional Plenary Indulgence on this great Feast of Mercy "Divine Mercy Sunday". We want you to benefit fully from these promises, and we also want you to notify all of your family and friends about them too and urge them to return to the practice of their faith!

There will be prayer cards and small posters of the Image of The Divine Mercy available at each of our churches for anyone who wishes to take one for prayer and veneration. **"The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the cross. ...Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."** (Diary 299)

Our Lord said **"When you go to confession, to this fountain of My mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul..."**

It is required of all Catholics to confess their serious sins at least once every year. If you haven't yet met this obligation then take advantage of this outstanding opportunity. Those who have already confessed their sins should make room for others.

The Church allows for one to go to Confession for up to about 20 days, before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.

--www.DivineMercySunday.com



Earth Day, April 22, 2021, marks the 51st anniversary of the first Earth Day, and the theme this year is **Restore Our Earth**, a theme that is in perfect harmony with our Catholic faith.

COVID-19 has left the entire world reeling, and our ability to restore our faith in God and our planet goes hand in hand. It is a core value of all faith traditions but particularly the Catholic faith that we are all stewards of our environment and that both caring for the health of our communities and the responsibility to protect the most vulnerable is part of our faith.

In the words of Pope Francis, "Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another" (Laudato Si' 42). So too must the health of our planet.

Join over 1 billion participants around the world and take action on April 22nd.

TOGETHER, WE WILL RESTORE OUR EARTH.

- Clean up around your neighborhood whether it be your yard, your block, or your county road.
- Recycle. Many products come in recyclable packaging.
- Support green energy.
- Plant a tree.
- Avoid single use disposable containers.
- Support organic initiatives

Many other options are available at www.earthday.org.

The Lord's Day Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00pm at St. Mary's, Dunkirk

Sunday Mass 9:00am at St. John's, Hartford City

Sunday Mass 11:00am at Holy Family, Gas City

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

Pope Francis has asked our parishes to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, this collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday

"Only in Christ can men and women find answers to the ultimate questions that trouble them. Only in Christ can they fully understand their dignity as persons created and loved by God."
— Pope St. John Paul II

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

5 Gary & Bernadette Elkins

10 Ryan & Megan Trissel

23 Jacob & Diana Holsten

BIRTHDAYS:

2 Kathleen Inman

12 Genevieve Trissel

22 Bethany Elkins

30 Max Uggen

30 Will Uggen

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note with your name, month and day of birth or anniversary. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*. We do not automatically include names due to privacy.

PEOPLE WITH GOOD NEWS

Cora Freiburger was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier Elementary for the third quarter.

Gabe Kitterman was on the A/B honor roll at Montpelier Elementary for the third quarter.

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MONTHLY CHALLENGE BY K OF C

MARCH CHALLENGE by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." (Gospel for March 28, Mk 14:22-24)

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the gift of himself in the Eucharist, our essential spiritual food and drink, which gives us the life of Christ. We live at a time when many Catholics do not believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist — the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ under the appearances of bread and wine. May we never forget the true nature of the Eucharist nor lose our desire to receive Christ in the sacrament of the altar.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to spend 10 additional minutes each Sunday before Mass preparing to receive the Eucharist and 10 minutes after Mass in thanksgiving for this gift. Second, I challenge you to assist your brothers and sisters in the Faith in Action Sacramental Gifts program to help your fellow parishioners understand the great gifts of the sacraments.

Questions for Reflection:

Do you examine your conscience before receiving holy Communion and go to confession first, if necessary? Do you show reverence for Christ in the Eucharist in such a way that you witness to the Real Presence to your family and fellow parishioners? During the consecration, are you attentive to the mystery taking place at the altar?

--KofC.org



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL—ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 9:00 am Reader & Announcements: Claire Aulbach
Greeters: Anna Cimino & Barb Houseman

Good Friday 3:00 pm Readers: Susan Lannoy & Claire Aulbach

Easter Vigil 8:30 pm Readers: Susan Lannoy & Vince Cimino

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL—ST. MARY'S

April 4: Reader: Ted Kolodka **Greeter:** Dean & Loretta Wilson **Counter:** Dan Watson

April 10: Reader: Laverne Watson **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counter:** Jane Crouch

April 17: Reader: Dan Watson **Greeter:** Jane Crouch **Counter:** Dan Watson

April 24: Reader: Ted Kolodka **Greeter:** Dean & Loretta Wilson **Counter:** Danette Hamilton

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR APRIL—HOLY FAMILY

Sunday 11:00 am Reader: Judy Moore
Commentator: Cathy Griffin **Ushers:** Kris & Lisa Kendall

"I urge you with all the strength of my soul to approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible. Feed on this Bread of the Angels from which you will draw the strength to fight inner struggles."

— Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

**St. Mary, Holy Family and
St. John the Evangelist Parishes**
A Pastorate of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348
PASTOR - Rev. Kevin Hurley
Dunkirk: 765.768.1283 Gas City: 765.674.2605
Hartford City: 765.348.3889 stmaryjohn@att.net

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Lord's Day Liturgy

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm at St. Mary's

SUNDAY: 9:00 am at St. John's

11:00 am at Holy Family

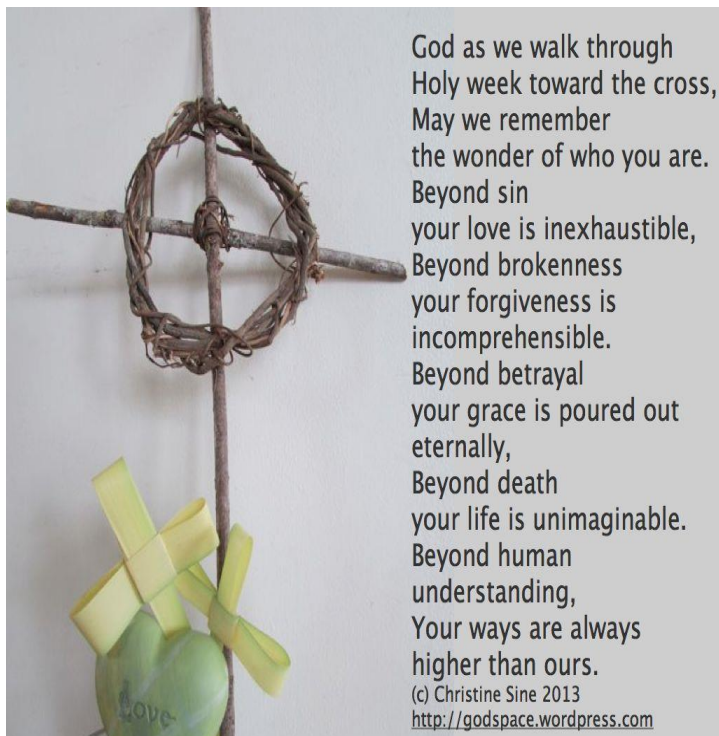
- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: April 16, 2021

Editor: Diana Holsten



- ❖ Palm Sunday: Regular weekend schedule
- ❖ Tuesday: Chrism Mass live streamed from Lafayette
- ❖ Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:30pm at Holy Family
- ❖ Good Friday: Passion of the Lord 3:00 pm at St. John's
- ❖ Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil 8:30pm at St. John's
- ❖ Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service 8:00am at St. Mary's 9:30am at St. John's 11:00am at Holy Family



God as we walk through Holy week toward the cross, May we remember the wonder of who you are. Beyond sin your love is inexhaustible, Beyond brokenness your forgiveness is incomprehensible. Beyond betrayal your grace is poured out eternally, Beyond death your life is unimaginable. Beyond human understanding, Your ways are always higher than ours.

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<http://godspace.wordpress.com>

