

ST. JOSEPH ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

OVER A CENTURY OF CATHOLIC PRESENCE

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

*Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
"This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

Mark 1:14-15

Rev. Msgr. John B. Gordon - Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Pafnouti Wassef - Parochial Vicar
Rev. Sean G. Winters - In Residence
Deacon Ramon Torres - Hispanic Ministry

Deacon George Kimball - Permanent Deacon
Ms. Joanne McKnight - Principal
Mrs. Marcelle Doherty - Director of Religious Education/Pastoral Assistant
Dr. Thomas Juneau - Director of Music

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday - 5:00 PM, Vigil

**Sunday - 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and a
1:30 PM Spanish Mass**

For those unable to attend Mass a video of the Mass can be viewed on our Parish website.

DAILY MASS

Monday through Friday - 8:00 AM

Thursday - 7:00 PM, Spanish Mass

Friday - 6:30 PM (during Lent)

Saturday - 8:30 AM

Daily Masses are held in the Church.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - Thursdays, from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., in the Church.

CONFESSIONS - Saturday mornings, from 11:00 a.m. until noon, in the Church.

For your safety, all those attending any services in the Church must wear a mask. All social distancing and sanitizing guidelines will be followed.

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

On this First Sunday of Lent may we be reminded of our Lord's temptations by Satan as a closeness to our own moments of allurements and insecurity. Jesus was bombarded with images and possibilities of instant gratification in the rocks becoming bread; awesome display of angels at His beck and call; world wealth and honor beyond measure. All these were disdained because of His love of the Father and His refuge in the Spirit.

May all of us take up this time of Lent as an 'acceptable time' and 'day of salvation' which we heard on Ash Wednesday. Please think of what is changing in the daily approach to prayer, the daily use of time, the daily worry about material things. Please pray for someone who is struggling during this Lent, and remember we have begun this holy time with the sign on our forehead so as to kiss that sign in adoration six weeks from now on Good Friday.

God bless you,
Msgr. John

JOIN US!

LENTEN ENRICHMENT EVENING PRAYER

The first of our Lenten Enrichment Evenings will be held this Sunday, February 21, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Church. Fr. Martin Espinoza will speak on our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fast, and almsgiving.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism (English): The second Saturday of the month at 1:00 PM.

Baptism (Spanish): The first Sunday of the month at 1:30 p.m.

Please arrange for the obligatory preparation session by calling the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: The Holy Eucharist and the Anointing of the Sick are available to the sick and shut-ins upon request.

First Penance, First Eucharist, Confirmation:

Children are expected to receive a Catholic upbringing in their family life, to worship regularly at Sunday Mass, and to receive ongoing Religious Education in the years preceding the reception of these sacraments.

Matrimony: To allow ample time for preparation, please contact the Parish Office at least one year before the intended wedding date.

Holy Orders or Religious Life: If you are considering serving God as a Priest, Deacon or Religious, you may contact your Parish Priest or Deacon; or phone the Office of Vocations at 732-562-2457 for additional information.

MASS SCHEDULE

5:00 PM (Saturday evening Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM

1:30 PM - Spanish Mass

Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM; Saturday: 8:30 AM

Thursday: 7:00 PM - Spanish Mass

St. Peregrine Mass for the Sick

Second Thursday of the month - 7:00 PM

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 11:00 AM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Friday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

MAILING ADDRESS

Parish	School
7 Locust Street	865 Roosevelt Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008	Carteret, NJ 07008

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Parish Office	732-541-8946
Parish Office Fax	732-541-0500
Religious Education	732-969-8767
St. Joseph School	732-541-7111
St. Vincent de Paul Society	732-541-8946 x108

PARISH SERVICES

Parish Registration: New parishioners are welcome. Please call the Parish Office to register. Please notify us if you move.

R.C.I.A.: Adults inquiring about the Catholic Church with a desire to become Catholic are invited to call the Parish Office for information about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Parish Organizations: Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Ministry to the Sick & Elderly, RCIA Team, Food Pantry, Hispanic Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Home School Association, Athletic Association, and Catechetical Instruction.

Sponsorship: To act as a Godparent for Baptism or sponsor for Confirmation, the sponsor must be a baptized Catholic, Confirmed, received Communion, and live a morally good life; if married, done so within Church law. Ordinarily the sponsor must be at least 14 years old.

WEBSITE: www.stjosephparishfamily.com

EMAIL: www.stjosephchurch@sips.net

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading ~ Genesis 9:8-15

Second Reading ~ 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel ~ Mark 1:12-15

Repent, and Believe in the Gospel

Forty days from now we will find ourselves at the foot of the cross. How can we prepare ourselves for this? Jesus' words at the beginning of His ministry are apt: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Let us ask ourselves how we have sinned. Let us feel remorse for those times we have fallen short. Let us resolve to turn back to God and live out the Gospel in our day-to-day lives. Let us find ourselves able to approach the cross forty days from today with profound gratitude for what our Lord has done for us.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday:	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

THANK YOU to all those who have so generously given and continue to give to our Parish, during this difficult time. Your weekly contributions are of great importance in helping us meet our financial obligations. Please continue your donations to our Church, as your means allow, by mailing in your Church Envelopes, dropping them in the Parish Office mail slot, or through Online Giving. To participate in Online Giving, visit our Parish website and click on *Donate Now*.

February 14	5:00 p.m.	\$954
	8:00 a.m.	\$408
	10:30 a.m.	\$807
	1:30 p.m.	\$871
	Online Giving	\$307
	By Mail	\$1956
	Total	\$5303 (\$6076 2020)

For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give His life for many. -Mark 10:45

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



Find the courage to proclaim Christ, ... and the unchanging truths which have their foundation in Him. These are the truths that set us free! They are the truths which alone can guarantee respect for the inalienable dignity and rights of each man, woman, and child in our world - including the most defenseless of all human beings, the unborn child in the mother's womb. **-Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**, Homily at Yankee Stadium, April 20, 2008

Pro-life Prayer of Saint John Paul II

Oh Mary, we entrust to you the cause of life. Look down upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born. Grant all who believe in your Son to proclaim the Gospel of Life. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, to bear witness to it resolutely, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and Lover of Life. Amen.

"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under Heaven. . ."

a time to heal... for those in our Parish who are ill and especially for Anthony LaMotta, Charles Alongi, Angelina Virola, Ted Szczesny, Alice Benson, Josie Gibbs

Due to the current pandemic, many of our parishioners have been unable to receive the Eucharist sacramentally for many months. For those unable to attend Mass, we are offering **Drive-up Reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion**, on **Thursdays, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, in the parking lot of St. Joseph School, 865 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret.

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR TROOPS

Heavenly Father, we commend to Your gracious care and keeping all the men and women in our Armed Forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with Your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; and give them courage to face the perils that beset them; and help them to know that nothing can separate them from Your love; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember in your prayers the members of our Armed Services, especially: *Taylor Setar*, daughter of Greg and Terry Setar; *Thomas Rapp*, grandson of Jeanette Miller; *Justin Lurker*, grandson of Helen Lurker; *Robert Michnowicz*, nephew of Helen Lurker; *Justin Molarz*, grandson of Susan Molarz; *Andrew Weaver*, grandson of Joanne Halkovich; *Darren T. Dreboty*, son-in-law of Jacqueline Eak; *James Molnar*, grandson of Alice Benson; *Elizabeth Brito* and *Lisa Marie Brito*, daughters of Ivette Brito; *Raymond Torres*, son of Deacon and Mrs. Ramon Torres; *Laura Roe*, daughter of Louis and Maria Pena.

PRAY AND FAST FOR VOCATIONS

Father in Heaven, You sent us Your only Son to redeem us and to build Your Kingdom on earth. Give us the wisdom and strength we need to follow His call. Grant to the faithful a spirit of generosity, that Church vocations may flourish. Bless our Priests with holiness and courage, that they may lead Your people to Christ. Help all Sisters and Brothers to fulfill their sacred promises and so be effective signs of Your Kingdom. Lord, invite more men and women to Your service. Amen.

LENTEN ENRICHMENT EVENING PRAYER

Each Sunday of Lent, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 21

Fr. Martin Espinoza will speak on our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fast, and almsgiving.

Sunday, February 28

Fr. Tom Lanza will speak on humility.

Sunday, March 7

Fr. William Smith will speak on forgiveness.

Sunday, March 14

Fr. Pafnouti Wassaf will speak on charity.

Sunday, March 21

Msgr. John Gordon will speak on fitting worship.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God... -Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

St. Joseph School Calendar Raffle Winners, to date

Vicky Gonzalez #1175	Melissa Zuber #0354
Jamel Vera #0769	Kathy Distefano #1123
Nicholas/Hillary Scerbo #0785	Joe Bandoni #0806
Frances/Anthony Scerbo #0213	

Catholic School 2021-2022 Tuition Assistance

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen elementary or high school may apply online now through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>. All Online applications must be completed (including all required documentation) by March 31. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Families needing assistance completing the online application or need access to a computer to apply should contact their school.

Don't miss out on your chance to win a LARGE \$CASH\$ Prize!

ENTER OUR PARISH CASH 50/50

1st Prize - 20% of the Proceeds

2nd Prize - 15% of the Proceeds

3rd Prize - 10% of the Proceeds

4th Prize - 5% of the Proceeds



Raffle Drawing

Each Family is invited to take a book of 5 tickets at \$20 each to buy or sell in support of this important fundraiser. Tickets can be purchased after the weekend Masses or at the Parish Office. Buy/sell your book of Raffle tickets and place your returns in the collection basket or the Parish Office mail slot.

LENTEN OFFERINGS. . .

Lenten Spirituality Group - All women are invited to join beginning on Sunday, **February 21**, on Zoom. The Group will meet each Sunday of Lent, at 2:30 p.m. For additional details or to join, please contact Cristina D'Averso-Collins, at cdaverso@diometuchen.org

Lenten Meditation Group - The group will meet on Zoom each Tuesday, beginning on **February 23**, at 7:00 p.m. Visit www.diometuchen.org/evangelization for more information or to register.

Living Lent After Ash Wednesday - Join Rev. Timothy Christy, Vicar General of the Diocese of Metuchen, for a talk and reflection on Thursday, **February 25**, at 7:30 p.m., on Zoom. Visit www.diometuchen.org/evangelization to register.

Donate To Our Food Pantry Online

With tens of millions of Americans currently unemployed due to the pandemic, it's no surprise that many families are facing shortfalls when it comes to purchasing food. With your support, our Food Pantry is able to feed several families in our community each month. To help them with the increase in the number of families in need of food, and a decrease in available resources, you can now donate to our Food Pantry online. To donate, visit our website www.stjosephparishfamily.com and click on the Food Pantry button. Your support is greatly appreciated!



The Annual Drive to support our Diocesan newspaper, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT is underway. Any amount you contribute will help *The Catholic Spirit* continue its ministry to bring you the *Good News*. Donations envelopes are included in your Church envelope packet, or you can mail your donation directly to *The Catholic Spirit*, PO Box 191, Metuchen, NJ 08840-0191.

Mass Intentions



SATURDAY	February 20
5:00 PM	Margaret Milevoi
SUNDAY	February 21
8:00 AM	James Failace
10:30 AM	Parishioners of St. Joseph Church
1:30 PM	Emicdio Robles
MONDAY	February 22
8:00 AM	Gambrotta Family
TUESDAY	February 23
8:00 AM	Schmidlien Family
WEDNESDAY	February 24
8:00 AM	Grecco Family
THURSDAY	February 25
8:00 AM	Tetiuzzi Family
11:30 AM	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
7:00 PM	Souls in purgatory - Spanish Mass
FRIDAY	February 26
8:00 AM	Vocations to Consecrated Life
11:30 AM	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
6:30 PM	Parishioners of St Joseph Church
7:15 PM	<i>Spanish Stations of the Cross</i>
SATURDAY	February 27
8:30 AM	The Innocent Unborn
5:00 PM	Students, Faculty, and Staff of St. Joseph School and PREP
SUNDAY	February 28
8:00 AM	Parishioners of St. Joseph Church
10:30 AM	Thomas Stiglic
1:30 PM	Joseph Castillo

CANDLE INTENTION ~ FEBRUARY 21-27

The **Pieta Lamp** burns in loving memory of **Henry Kolodziecki**; requested by Anthony Russo.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: St. Polycarp

Friday: Abstinence

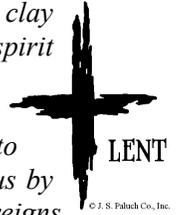
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Church

It's amazing how a simple act of committing to even a short time of regular Adoration can make such a huge difference in your life. You can carry that moment of being in His presence with you long after you've left the Church. His grace sustains you in every moment, especially in moments of temptation. Temptation becomes easier to resist when you're spending more time in Adoration.

LENTEN PRAYER

Lord our God, You formed man from the clay of the earth and breathed into him the spirit of life, but he turned from Your face and sinned. In this time of repentance we call out for Your mercy. Bring us back to You and to the life Your Son won for us by His death on the cross, for He lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.



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During LENT. . .

Mass will be celebrated in the Church *Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m.; Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Spanish; Friday evening at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday at 8:30 a.m.*

Eucharistic Adoration - *Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., closing with Benediction.*

Stations of the Cross - *Fridays at 11:30 a.m. in English and at 7:15 p.m. in Spanish.*

LENTEN OBLIGATIONS

The following days of fast and abstinence are to be observed by all Catholics of the Diocese who enjoy the blessings of good health:

- 1. The days of fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*
- 2. All other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.*
- 3. From the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the celebration of the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday, the Easter fast should be observed so that, with uplifted and welcoming hearts, we may be ready to celebrate the joys of the Resurrection. This ancient tradition, intimately connected with the Rites of Holy Week and the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is encouraged, especially in those places baptizing catechumens at the Easter Vigil.*

The obligation to fast applies only to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59. To fast in the Catholic tradition means to limit oneself to one full meal during the day so as to experience hunger. The obligation of abstinence affects all Catholics who have reached the age of 14. Abstinence in the Catholic tradition means to abstain from meat. The obligation of fast and abstinence, as a whole, is a serious obligation. While failure to observe any penitential day in itself may not be considered serious, the failure to observe any penitential days at all, or a substantial number of them without good cause, would be considered a grave matter. Those unable to abstain for a valid reason on any given Friday of Lent are asked to perform some other penitential act, or to abstain on another day.

A special **THANK YOU** to the *Knights of Columbus Father Carey Council, No. 1280*, sponsors of our 2021 Parish Calendar.