



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Eph 5:8-14

Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Jesus said,  
"I came into this  
world for judgment,  
so that those who do  
not see might see, and  
those who do see might  
become blind."

JOHN 9:39

## I See

**D**o we? Do we really see? Do we understand?

There is so much that is simply misunderstood or unnoticed. Little about life is uncomplicated, and even that which is uncomplicated so often slips right by us. This is true about a life lived alone or with others. It is also true about our life with God.

The first reading is an example of this. God will choose one of the sons of Jesse to be king. Will it be the eldest, the rightful heir? If not him, perhaps it will be the brightest one or the most pious. All of these highly valued characteristics would certainly be necessary for one to be an effective king. However, Jesse and his sons did not see in the same way as God. Their youngest brother, the one tending the sheep, would be God's choice. He was the one God wanted, and so David was anointed in the presence of his family.

The Gospel tells another story about seeing. In it, Jesus restores a man's sight. What began as a story about physical blindness and sight then becomes a lesson about seeing and understanding the mystery of God's power as opposed to refusing to see and understand it. No one in the story could claim that the man had not really been blind. Then why did they refuse to acknowledge that God's power had done something marvelous in their presence? But they did refuse. We can, indeed, choose to be blind.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ Does bias make you blind to the gifts of others?
- ★ Do you find it difficult to recognize the power of God as it unfolds before you? Why?

# St. Joseph Catholic Church

204 North Main Street, Leitchfield, KY 42754 www.stjosephch.org  
Office Hours: 8am to 4pm Mon-Fri Office 270-259-3028 Rectory 270-259-3028  
Emergencies 270-863-1596

## Pastoral Staff

**Pastor** - Fr. Tony Bickett ftonyb57@ymail.com

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rhigbee95@gmail.com

**Deacon**-Dale Depoyster 270-765-8754  
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**Office Manager** - Missy Hart 270-259-3028  
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**Music** - Meredythe Lee 270-929-7048

**Homebound**- Joanne Johnson 270-259-7599

**Outreach** - Linda Clark 270-287-3776

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**Prayer Chain** - Betty Miller 270-259-3303  
bettymil@windstream.net

**Laetare Sunday:** Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare means "rejoice" and the Church expresses hope and joy in the middle of our penitential Lenten practices. As we reach this midpoint of our Lenten season let us reflect on the spiritual goals we set at the beginning of the season. How are you fulfilling them?

## Confessions

Wed 4:30 pm  
Sat 3:00 pm

## Pastoral Council

Barbara Allen Edna Duggins  
Jim Cecil Ann Marshall-Secretary  
Jerry Clemons-Chair Chris Nelson  
Kirk Collard Carolyn Thomason- Vice Chair  
Billy Dallas

## Stewardship of Finance

March 8 \$3998.26

**Thank you for your generosity!**

July 1- February 29

Total Income \$240,600

Total Expenses \$224,100

# 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,  
he found him and said, "Do you believe in the  
Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35



# St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

430 St. John Church Rd, Sunfish, KY 42210

Website: [www.stjohnch.org](http://www.stjohnch.org) St. John Thrift Store 270-597-1038

Pastor Fr. Tony Bickett 270-863-1596

## Pastoral Council

Nancy Farmer, Secretary      Joe Durbin  
Barbara Fitzhugh              Shelia Durbin  
James Hughes-Chair          Jim Sims-Vice Chair

## This Week

### Optional Prayer

Sunday 9:00 am Stations/Rosary

Tuesday 5:00 pm Stations/Rosary

**This Week: Let us pray for one another and for the whole world.**

**Mass:** Please note that all Masses (Weekend & Weekday) have been suspended until further notice.

**Mass LIVE Streaming:** We will continue to have Mass LIVE streamed on Sundays at 11:00 am. Only the Deacons will be allowed in church during this time. You can easily view this from our website [stjohnch.org](http://stjohnch.org).

**Sundays at 9:00 am:** We will pray the Stations of the Cross followed by the Rosary.

**Tuesdays at 5:00 pm:** We will pray the Stations followed by the Rosary.

**Other Items:** If someone wants to receive the Sacraments of Confession or the Anointing of the Sick, or has any other spiritual needs please contact Fr. Tony or call St. Joseph at 270-259-3028.

**Mass Live:** You can watch the live streaming of the 11:00 am Sunday Mass from St. Joseph at anytime by simply going to our parish website at [stjohnch.org](http://stjohnch.org).

**Church Contributions:** We still have bills to pay, so I ask that you please mail your contributions or give through our online giving program as found on our parish website [stjohnch.org](http://stjohnch.org). Our Parish address is 430 St. John Church Road, Sunfish, KY 42210.

## Stewardship of Finance

March 15 \$438

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**An Act of Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## BIRTHDAYS

Rita Maston	3/22
Beverly Rorke	3/22
Kevin Hayes	3/24

## ANNIVERSARIES

Frankie & Jason Miller	3/22
Tom & Sherry Pohlman	3/24
Dwayne & Barbara Fitzhugh	3/26

**St. John Prayer List:** Shirley Bush, Joe & Joan Childress, Jack Coop, Judy Dombrowski, Susan Drury, **Martha Durbin**, Catherine Duvall, Doug Farmer, Ken Farris, Laura Hamilton, Deacon Bob Higbee, Betty Jennings, Joe Lonsbery, **Rosemary Kenney**, Vickie Ranburger, Kathryn Sowders, Jim Vessels, Chris Wolfe, For our Military & their families

## St. John's Thrift Store & Food Pantry

301 N Main St., Brownsville, KY 42210

Store Open: Mon - Fri - 9 am - 2:30 pm

270-597-1038 Sat - 9 am - 1:00 pm

Pantry Open: Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am - 2 pm



**Mass:** Please note that all Masses (Weekend & Weekday) have been suspended until further notice.

**Mass LIVE Streaming:** We will continue to have Mass LIVE streamed on Sundays at 11:00 am. Only the Deacons will be allowed in church during this time. You can easily view this from our website [stjosephch.org](http://stjosephch.org).

**Church Open:** Church will be opened every day of the week (Sunday—Saturday) from 6:00 am—6:00 pm.

**Weekly Devotions: Monday—Friday**

7:30 am Morning Prayer

12:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Stations of the Cross

**Other Items:** If someone wants to receive the Sacraments of Confession or the Anointing of the Sick, or has any other spiritual needs please contact Fr. Tony or call St. Joseph at 270-259-3028.



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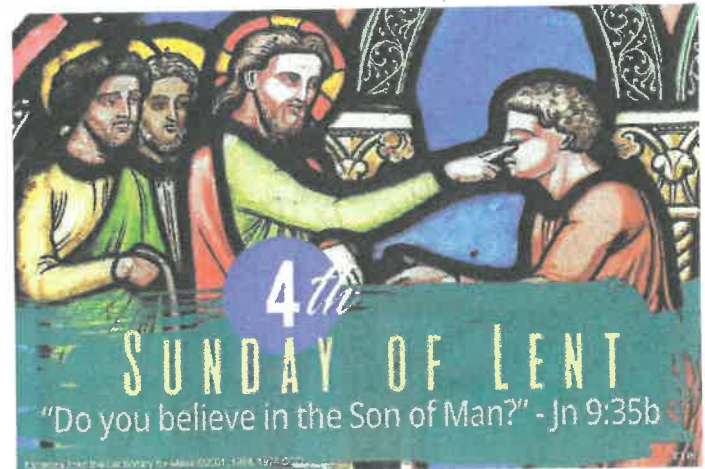
**The Church:** Catholics do not hold the Church to be merely a human organization, simply a coming together of like-minded people, a community of purely worldly provenance and purpose. Rather, the Church is like a sacrament of Jesus and, as such, shares in the very being, life, and energy of Christ.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Alexis Schmidt	3/22
Angela Watson	3/22
Eva Kemp	3/23
Kenneth Minton	3/23
Lamont Miller	3/25
Nellie Stevenson	3/25
Morgan Kannepel	3/26
Amelia Thompson	3/26
Michelle Davis	3/27

**ANNIVERSARY**

Arturo & Tracy Garcia	3/26
Kirk & Keycia Collard	3/27
Craig & Adrienne Logsdon	3/28



You are invited to be a part of the Matthew 9 Mission by choosing a day once a month to pray the Rosary for vocations to priesthood.

**St. Joseph Prayer List:** Matt Alvey, Margaret Beckner, Pat Boone, Jill Bradley, Glenn Braun, Melissa Willis Cilwok, Carlos Clemons, Anna Critchelow, Juanita Drake, Beverly Eck, Steve Fey, Carol Gatto, Joyce Green, Linda Handzus, Deacon Bob Higbee, Ken Farris, Jane Johnston, Patricia Lindsey, Amy Logsdon, Joseph Lyons, GERALD Dean Mattingly, Bill Meredith, David Pawley, Janette Pierce, Mandy Egan Pierce, Winnett Powell, Wanda Rickling, Steve Robertson, Veronica Robertson, Aaron Shull, Betty Stone



**Let Us Pray:** For those who are suffering in the current outbreak of sickness that they might be healed, and for the happy repose of all who have died from this sickness in recent weeks. For scientists, health professionals, public officials, and all who are serving the common good in this difficult and uncertain time, that they will be filled with wisdom and understanding. That in times of illness our merciful and loving Father will strengthen our faith and trust in his goodness and divine providence. That our compassionate Father would touch all affected by the current outbreak with healing and peace. We pray to the Lord.

**4th Sunday of Lent:** God looks into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

**Daily Mass Online:** There are several websites that offer daily Mass. One of them is found at: [www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/) or [www.watchthemass.com/](http://www.watchthemass.com/)

#### **Reach out!**

1. Call, email or network with your parents, grandparents, relatives, and any friends who may feel isolated, living alone, or who may be susceptible to the Coronavirus to provide a kind word, to see what help they need, or to provide your love and support in these challenging days.
2. Offer to get groceries or other necessities for those who cannot go out.
3. Check on friends who live alone to see if they need anything.

**High School Scholarship info:** High school Scholarships have been mailed out. If you have not received a packet, please call Ann Marshall 270-287-1095. Seniors names we have so far are: Leann Dao, Alexis Hart, Jacob Hart, Maddie Hazelwood, Lydia Mudd, Ethan Pierce, Gracie Nelson, Curtis Paul Schmidt



We will still be having Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, April 3. If you cannot come at your regular time please call Judy Warren 259-6265 or 899-0488 or Fr. Tony.

We now have 30 minutes times available.

#### **The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord**

This Wednesday, March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. For Catholics, the theological importance of the Annunciation is its marking of the beginning of the fulfillment of God's promises and preparations (CCC 484). Mary's assent to the angel's announcement was the beginning of Christ's Incarnation; God's coming into the world a fully human, born as we are born, with a grace-filled human mother. We remember each year that it was the beginning of Christ's coming for our salvation. It may not always be the easiest thing to do, but Mary shows us that we must listen to and do God's will. Let us follow her example this Lent.

**The Way of the Cross:** The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. This devotion was a way for Christians to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus. The Stations can be prayed at any time or in any place. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.

## Sunday, Mar 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT; SECOND SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

### Clarity at last

Darkness and light are biblical themes that invite us to take an internal sight exam. How clearly do we see? Like the man in today's gospel, we're all born blind into a world grown accustomed to the blurred vision of habitual sin. We view most decisions in terms of what's in it for us. It's difficult and challenging to climb up to a higher point of view to ask: What will serve the common good? Today, we pray that our Elect will have the grace to seek and attain that higher ground. And might we too ask for the same?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31). *"What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?"*

## Monday, Mar 23, 2020

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

### Step down to your calling

God must have a great sense of irony. Imagine the head of an important court suddenly being summoned to pastor a far-off land filled with people who speak unknown languages. Such was the destiny of Turibius of Mogrovejo, summoned from his post as chief inquisitor in Granada, Spain to pastor the Lima archdiocese, which included the indigenous Andean communities of 16th-century colonial Peru. Turibius went with the flow admirably, traversing his vast archdiocese three times on foot, alone, ministering to all along his route. He defended those who suffered the greatest injustice under the colonial rule he himself represented. Downward mobility is a pattern in saints' biographies. Time to evaluate your priorities?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (244). *"He and his whole household came to believe."*

## Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Be a voice for the voiceless

Saint Oscar Romero, the archbishop of San Salvador who spoke out against grave social injustice in El Salvador, was assassinated by his opponents while celebrating Mass on this day in 1980, and it is commemorated by the United Nations as International Day for the Right to the Truth. Today is an opportunity for you to honor the memory of human rights victims, pay tribute to those who struggle to protect those rights for all, remember the important work of Romero, and commit yourself to his values of speaking truth to power, even when it costs you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). *"Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you."*

## Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

### Say yes to God

The Annunciation is a beautiful feast that celebrates Mary's "yes" to God during her encounter with the angel Gabriel. Mary doesn't rattle off a quick response but rather pauses and ponders, wondering what this might mean. Her response is a choice not simply to give birth to a child, but to fully embrace her identity and her calling as an intimate companion with God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." It is as if Mary is saying, "Look! My

life is fully in God! Everything about who I am is for and with God!" During this day of Annunciation, reflect on your daily "yesses." How do these reflect your own identity and life in God?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545). *"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'"*

## Thursday, Mar 26, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Reflect in your heart

Imagine taking a walk with the Lord today. As you walk along, he suddenly stops and looks at you with a question in his eyes. He hesitates, but then goes ahead and asks: "Do you have the love of God in your heart?" You might respond: "I am doing my best to be patient, to think of others first, to be kind and generous. It is Lent after all." Jesus persists: "But do you have the love of God in your heart?" Take five minutes today and consider that question. Be at peace with whatever thoughts come to mind. Then allow the insights you gain to set the rest of the day's course.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). *"It is simply that I know you and you do not have the love of God in your hearts."*

## Friday, Mar 27, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### What price would you pay?

Today's gospel has an aura of doom about it, with Jesus getting a clear message that authorities would like to kill him. The church teaches that "Jesus went up to Jerusalem voluntarily, knowing well that there he would die a violent death because of the opposition of sinners," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it (569). How far are you willing to go to "do the right thing"? Contemplate today the sacrifices you have made and what you would be willing to do to be true to your beliefs.

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). *"Some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, 'Is he not the one they are trying to kill?'"*

## Saturday, Mar 28, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### The plot thickens

Next weekend we observe Palm Sunday, ushering in a dramatic week that includes the tragedy of Our Lord's suffering and death. The gospels describe for us the suspicion and plotting that will lead to his Crucifixion. Among the religious leaders, only Nicodemus gives Jesus the benefit of the doubt and tries to argue his case. This is the same Nicodemus who has already visited Jesus under cover of night to discuss his teachings and who provides the burial spices after Jesus is crucified. How can you be Nicodemus in situations where others are subject to suspicion and suffering?

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (249). *"I, like a trusting lamb led to slaughter, had not realized that they were hatching plots against me."*

*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time*



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# Dear Padre,

## Why does the Church honor St. Joseph?

**S**aint Joseph was chosen by the Lord to be the spouse of Mary and a guardian of the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ. The little we know about Joseph is taken from the Gospels. In the Book of Matthew, we learn that Mary is betrothed to Joseph, “a righteous man” (Matthew 1:19). When Joseph learns



that Mary is already with child, he decides to dismiss her quietly so as not to disgrace her publicly. But an angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream and tells him not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife and informs him that she will bear the child of the Holy Spirit, the one who will come to save people from their sins. Joseph obeys the angel without question.

Joseph heeds God’s call once again when instructed by an angel of the Lord to flee Bethlehem to escape the murderous Herod. Matthew tells us: “Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt” (Matthew 2:14).

It is this faithfulness, this steadfast and complete trust in God, that makes Joseph such a wonderful example for us, and for this, the Church honors him.

—Fr. Paul Coury, CSSR

[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

## Calendar

**Monday**  
MARCH 23  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 65:17–21  
Jn 4:43–54

**Tuesday**  
MARCH 24  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Ez 47:1–9, 12  
Jn 5:1–16

**Wednesday**  
MARCH 25  
*The Annunciation of the Lord*  
Is 7:10–14; 8:10  
Heb 10:4–10  
Lk 1:26–38

**Thursday**  
MARCH 26  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Ex 32:7–14  
Jn 5:31–47

**Friday**  
MARCH 27  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Wis 2:1a, 12–22  
Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

**Saturday**  
MARCH 28  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 11:18–20  
Jn 7:40–53

**Sunday**  
MARCH 29  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
Ez 37:12–14  
Rom 8:8–11  
Jn 11:1–45 or  
Jn 11:3–7, 17,  
20–27, 33b–45



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? ...And those of us who do have a home, a roof over our heads, would also do well to ask: Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live?*

—MEETING WITH THE HOMELESS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015