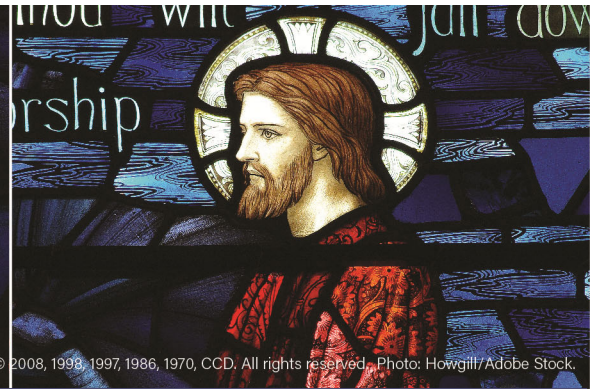


The Spirit drove Jesus
out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert
for forty days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts,
and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

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St. John the Evangelist Church
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503
www.stjohnsaltoona.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com; allinall214@gmail.com

Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net

Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com

Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net

Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com

Diane Ryan - Administrative Assistant - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net

Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com

Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

LECTORS

Sat. Feb. 27 - 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd , NOT FILLED

Sun. Feb. 28 - 8:00 AM - Russell O'Reilly, James Krug

Sun. Feb. 28 - 11:00 AM - Bill Foose, Norma Foose

ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Feb. 27 - 4:00 PM - Keaton Swope,
Ryan Donoughe

Sun. Feb. 28 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Mai Linh Do

Sun. Feb. 28 - 11:00 AM - Evie & Estella Koch

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Feb. 27 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker

Sun. Feb. 28 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Feb. 28 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia
Bloom, Kenneth Gorman

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Feb. 27 - 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Judy Sneath,
Billy Sweet, NOT FILLED

Sun. Feb. 28 - 8:00 AM - Carolyn English, Jane Strasser,
Larry VanSickel, Ed Stoltz

Sun. Feb. 28 - 11:00 AM - Peg Madden, Lou Ann Clark,
Patrick Podoletz, Mary Grace Horton

SACRISTAN

Sat. Feb. 27 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King

Sun. Feb. 28 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Feb. 28 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

SCRIP

Sat. Feb. 27 - 4:00 PM - Becky Merrill, Julie Beiswenger

Sun. Feb. 28 - 8:00 AM - hris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky

Sun. Feb. 28 - 11:00 AM - Marge Rudolph,
Peg Madden

February Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

Violence against women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be
protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



FIRST
SUNDAY OF
LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

A Few Words from the Pastor:

VIRUS SAFETY - All are encouraged to continue wearing masks for the celebration of Mass. The virus still rages in our country. All are also encouraged to “sign in” as you come enter the church, which allows us to do contact tracing. This allows us to connect with those who have attended a Mass where an infected person has been present. We have had to do that once. And always, our church is sanitized after each Mass.

FRIDAY EVENING STATIONS - The Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross is also known as the Way of Sorrows or the *Via Crucis*. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. We pray the stations to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. Stations are scheduled at 7:00 PM weekly on the Fridays of Lent. Please join us.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE - Put quite simply: Abstinence is “doing without” and Fasting is “doing with less.” On the Fridays of Lent Catholics practice abstinence by “doing without” meat. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics are to practice abstinence and fasting. Through the entire Lenten Season, Catholics are encouraged to undertake some sort of personal fasting or abstinence. Examples include giving up sweets, a favorite TV show or not listening to the radio in the car on the way to work. Giving up these things isn't some sort of endurance test, but these acts are done to draw the faithful closer to Christ. For example, a person may give up his favorite TV show, but if he simply turns the television to another channel, the Lenten penance really does not mean as much. Instead, the person should consider devoting the spare time to prayer or perhaps his family. How do you wish to fast or abstain this Lent?

MAKING THE MOST OF LENT - Consider now how you might make the most of this important liturgical season. Stations of the Cross, Daily Mass, use of the Rice Bowls, contribution to our monthly food collection – all these are valuable ways to celebrate the season of Lent!

THE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS! - Throughout the season of Lent, my daily online reflection will consider the dozens of questions which Jesus asks his followers! In the gospels he addresses questions to individuals, to his apostles, and to the crowds. We read the gospels and consider that Jesus is asking each of those questions to you and to me, as individuals!

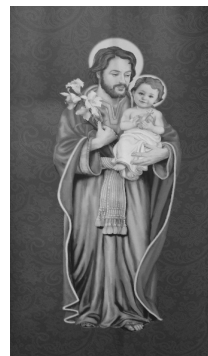
BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENING - All are most welcome to join our evening zoom Bible study. Because of my teaching schedule at St. Vincent's, I have had to move this study to Wednesday evening. We will return to Tuesday in early May. Each week we take a careful look at the readings for the coming Sunday! If you would like to participate, please send us a copy of your email address so that you will get the link for the meeting! We would love to have you!

LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION - Our parish has been exceptionally generous with our Second Sunday food collection. For the Lenten season, let's make every Sunday a food collection Sunday, given the struggles which many families are facing in light of the pandemic and the economic downturn. Given the upcoming closing of the paper mill in Roaring Spring, we will explore ways that we might expand our reach to the 300 families affected by the expected layoffs.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD - We had a very positive response regarding our plans to move ahead with this program of catechesis for our children. We will begin with a focus on children ages 3 to 6. Consulting with us in this endeavor is Gaye Boyer, who for many years has been directing this program at St. Aloysius in Cresson. Gaye will be coming to our Parish Council meeting in March. If you have an interest in learning more as a parent or perhaps a teacher, please contact the parish office. There will be training for the Catechists this summer at St. Thomas More parish in Indiana!

CONFIRMATION THIS SPRING - Because of concerns regarding Covid-19, the bishop has instructed pastors to again schedule Confirmation in their own parish. We have set the date for Wednesday, April 14th, at 7:00 PM. While we might miss the solemnity of having Confirmation in the Cathedral, there is a beautiful simplicity in celebrating in our home parish.

THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH - To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. St. Joseph, pray for us! A banner is displayed in our church, reminding us of his place in our lives as patron of the Church.



FAITH FORMATION NEWS

All students should pick up a Rice Bowl in the Gathering Space this week!

Sunday, February 21: 10th Grade Confirmation combined Session on Scripture, Parables, and Gifts of the Spirit 9:00 AM in the Parish Center followed by Mass at 11:00 AM

Sunday, February 28: 11th Grade Confirmation Session: Morality 9:15 - 10:45 AM in the Parish Center

Sunday, March 7: 10th Grade Confirmation Session: Witness 9:15-10:45 AM in Parish Center

Sunday, March 21: 11th Grade Rite of Sending and Discipleship Retreat

If you have any questions about Faith Formation, please contact Diane Ryan in the parish office at 942-5503 or by emailing stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: Today's readings remind us that "baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*; 1216). In your Lenten Journey, may you re-commit yourself to living as Jesus' disciple and a passionate steward of all God's gifts in the kingdom of God. We should strive to fully participate in this Lenten season by mirroring Jesus, the model steward by whom we are called to imitate. Through our time in the desert, we will confront evil by weeding out the roots of sin in our lives through fasting. May we be sustained and nourished in the desert by prayer. (Stewardship Reflections, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, January 25, 2021) May we also model ourselves after Saint Joseph who was a creative hardworking and courageous child of God. We must strive to be the caretakers of all the sons and daughters who are in need of food, clothing, shelter, security and safety. It is in the Spirit of the Living God that we may build up the Church in the earthly Kingdom of God that is here and now.

February 7, 2021

Envelopes	\$ 4,612.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 251.00
Children's Offering	\$ 6.00
Catholic Education	\$ 25.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 20.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 30.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 70.00
Food Bank Collection	\$ 320.00
Subtotal	\$ 5,334.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,705.00
Total Offertory	\$ 9,039.00

Restore*Repair*Rejoice

Payments/Donations	\$170,116
Pledge Payment Committed	14,573
Total Pledges/Donations	184,689

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are available upon request. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your giving statement.

ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at ginny.reeder@gmail.com to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

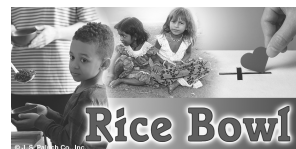
**Aiden • Cari Ann • Amy B. • Scott Brenneman
Dan Burley • Robert Cole • Michelle Cooney
Betty Dennis • Jim DeStefano • Michael DeStefano
Bernadine Farrell • Kathy Felty • Mary Ann Flinn
Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman
Denny Horton • Randy Horton • Alexandra Hudson
Mary Jo Ivory • Amy Langenbacher • Lisa
Sherri Maffettone • Camden Michael • Susie Miller
Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore • Ailani Myers
Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher
Ron Peschock • Connie R. • Mary Rajnish
Allison Recker • Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey
Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph • Bruce Shank
Anne Showalter • Tim Temofonte • Bill Teufel
Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel • Len Whitten
Milan & Family**

When a person recovers, please call the office and have their name removed from the list.

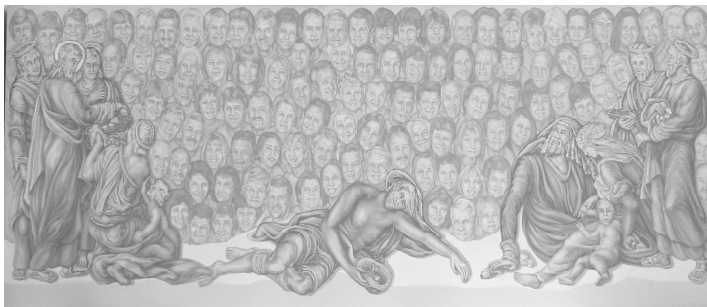
CARD MINISTRY: Please continue sending cards to those on our prayer list. Anyone is welcome to send a card, even if you have not previously signed up. The names are in the bulletin and most addresses are in the directory, but please call Ginny (695-7671) or the office (942-5503) to verify the address. Receiving a card in these winter months would certainly be nice, especially for someone who cannot go out and is stuck inside.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are observed each Friday of Lent at 7:00 PM. Mark your calendar, and make a mental note to join us and walk in the steps of Jesus this Lent.

OPERATION RICE BOWL: Jesus told us that whatever we did for one of these least brothers of his we did for him. Reflect on the challenge of global hunger—it is a reality for millions of our sisters and brothers. What will you do to support the hungry in our community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL (Mark 1:12-15) Jesus went into the desert to put his life in perspective. This lent, take a fresh look at a difficult relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that person does, not just the negatives. Try to understand why their behaviors 'bug' you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without attacking them? Make Lent a time to MEND and FORGIVE! *Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.*



THE MULTIPLICATION OF THE LOAVES AND FISH: When Allen Capriotti started this mural, he decided to use the faces of parishioners, so he scanned photos from the parish directories he had, scaled the photos and made a drawing on tracing paper. He completed 700 drawings and used about 200 of them in the mural. He has now decided to gift parishioners with the tracings that were not used in the mural. There is a box in the Gathering Space with these tracings, signed by Allen, and attached to the original photo from the directory. You are welcome to take your photo and drawing. Please check your name off of the master list beside the box, along with the names of any others you take. If you are a relative, friend or neighbor and can help us by delivering or sending them their drawing, please do so. Hopefully we can get these drawings to all of the people on the list. If you are not currently attending Mass and would like to know if we have a drawing of you or a family member, please contact Deborah Johnson at dj219@msn.com or in the Parish Office - 814-942-5503.



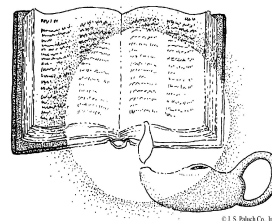
TAKEOUT FISH LUNCH/DINNERS:

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament: Drive-thru fish lunch every Friday, except Good Friday, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM includes fish, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, and a sandwich roll. Cost: \$9

St. Therese of the Child Jesus: Curbside takeout only, phone or curbside orders Fridays 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (or until sold out) – Cost: \$10

St. Patrick: Every Friday through Apr. 2nd - 4 PM to ? Drive-thru with choice of baked or fried fish, or fried shrimp; coleslaw, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes, and roll Cost: \$10.

Utter Uns Almrausch Schuhplatter's German Dance Group 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM or until sold out, February 19th until April 2nd, 2021 at the Utter Uns Club on Van Buren Avenue and 14th Street; Dinners include your choice of baked or fried haddock fish, baked macaroni and cheese or scalloped potatoes, stewed tomatoes, cole slaw, roll and butter. You do not have to be a member of the Utter Uns to attend. Dinners will be available for take out; limited seating is available due to Covid-19 limitations. Cost: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10.



**First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths.

— Psalm 25:4

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, February 21 – 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00 AM - Mass for *Andrew Dancha* requested by Frank & Nancy Mincin
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

Monday, February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

6:00 PM - Mass for *Jeniffer Tokar* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe

Tuesday, February 23 – Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Diane Long* requested by Dee Schmerbeck & Family

Wednesday, February 24 – Lenten Weekday

5:30 PM - Confessions
6:00 PM - Mass for *Helen Fornwalt* requested by Rob, Gayle & Rob Jr. Fordbaugh

Thursday, February 25 – Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Regina Feryok* requested by The Budd Family

Friday, February 26 – Lenten Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dolores Schellenbarger* requested by Sister-in-law Mary Ann
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 27 - Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Lent

3:00 PM - Confessions
4:00 PM - Mass for *Pam Jones* requested by Arise Group

Sunday, February 28 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*
11:00 AM - Mass for *Ilene & Gene O'Neill* requested by Mike O'Neill
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

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FIRST LENT

SUNDAY OF
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

BAPTISM

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

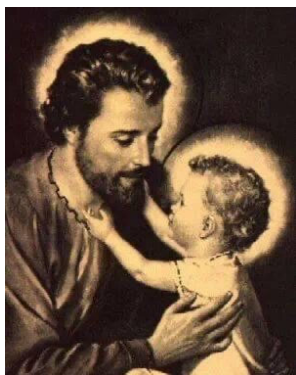
A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15



PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

The decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary made on December 8, 2020, announcing the decision of Pope Francis to celebrate this special Year of Saint Joseph in honor of the Guardian of the Redeemer through December 21, 2021 stated:

“the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the Heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.” (*Church Grants Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph*, Adapted from the Vatican News article, December 8, 2020, Vatican City.)

THEOLOGY OF INDULGENCE

A traditional aspect of any Jubilee Year is the granting of the Jubilee indulgence. Although, not a Jubilee Year, the Special Year of Saint Joseph has been decreed as a special year in which the faithful can be granted a Plenary Indulgence. By definition, an indulgence is linked to jubilee themes of release, reconciliation and forgiveness of sins.

The very first Holy Year in 1300 possessed a serious penitential character where the faithful made pilgrimage and made a full confession of sins. The jubilee year indulgence was understood by Christians as the Old Testament Jewish traditions of the themes of release, forgiveness, and reconciliation. They were focused on the great redemption won by Christ and now available to all for the remission of sins. Over the centuries the great indulgence of the jubilee year developed and included pilgrimage, penance, confession of sins, and receiving Communion.

This pardon of sin, first of all, comes through the Church as a gift from God, through the power to forgive sins granted by Jesus Himself (Matthew 16:19; 18:18; John 20:22-23). This sacramental power of forgiveness of sins is present in the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit and a gift of God for release, forgiveness, and healing.

Once sin has been forgiven or pardoned, there is still a rupture or a disorderedness in the human person's relationship with God. A deep interior renewal of the person is still needed. This deep journey of conversion is a process that continues throughout the Christian life; recognition of sin, contrition, repentance, forgiveness, and ongoing personal renewal and healing. An indulgence is meant to re-order one's relationship with God and also to repair the defects of the disorder. ("Indulgences and the Jubilee Year 2000" - Aurelie A. Hagstrom, NCCB Subcommittee) An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. Indulgences may be applied to the living and the dead. [*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Number 1471. (Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Constitution, "Indulgentiarum Doctrina.")]

Conditions for the Plenary Indulgence for the Year of Saint Joseph

The usual conditions to receive a plenary indulgence:

1. Celebrate Sacramental Confession (going to Confession within 20 days *before* or within 20 days *after* the indulgence is sought). A person should be of the spirit that is sincerely and willfully detached from any sin, mortal and venial.
2. Receive Holy Communion while participating fully, actively, and consciously at Mass.
3. Pray for Pope's needs and intentions: The Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Holy See made provision that persons who are currently unable to go to Mass or confession because of public health restrictions may defer reception of those two sacraments until they are able to do so. Those who are sick, suffering, or homebound may also receive the plenary indulgence as much as they are able and by offering their sorrows and sufferings to God through Saint Joseph, consoler of the sick and patron saint for receiving a good death.

Special opportunities indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary for the Plenary Indulgence:

- ❖ Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer or participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph
- ❖ Perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, inspired by the life and example of Saint Joseph
- ❖ Pray the rosary together as a family, or an engaged or married couple, modeling the virtues of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- ❖ Dedicate with confidence their daily work to the protection of Saint Joseph the Worker, including the efforts of those who are unemployed, underemployed, or seeking more dignified work
- ❖ Devoutly recite the Litany of Saint Joseph or another suitable prayer in each liturgical tradition (*Akathistos* to St. Joseph, Byzantine), especially for the intentions of persecuted Catholics in the Church and around the world, and for all the relief of all Christians who suffer persecution in the world
- ❖ Devoutly recite another approved prayer to Saint Joseph on various feasts of Saint Joseph: March 19 (his solemnity), May 1 (St. Joseph the Worker), or St. Joseph Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition), or on the 19th day of each month, or each Wednesday, traditionally dedicated to honor his memory with pious devotions

Making a pilgrimage to a local designated site to satisfy the normal conditions is encouraged.

The local designated pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will be:

Saint Joseph Church, Bellwood
Saint Joseph Church, Renovo
Saint Joseph the Worker Church, Williamsburg
Saint Joseph Mission Church at Hart's Sleeping Place, Carrolltown

Schedules for prayer at the Churches as well as additional prayer opportunities will be published by the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, March 19, 2021.



SAINT JOSEPH PRAYERS

Daily Devotional Prayer of Pope Francis

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,
whose power makes the impossible possible,
come to my aid in these times of anguish and
difficulty. Take under your protection the serious
and troubling situations that I commend to you,
that they may have a happy outcome.

My beloved father, all my trust is in you.
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and
since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,
show me that your goodness is as great as your
power. Amen.

Prayer to the Sleeping Saint Joseph and Ancient Novena Prayer

Oh St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so
strong, so prompt before the throne of God.
I place in you all my interest and desires.
Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful
intercessions and obtain for me from your Divine
Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ,
our Lord.

So that having engaged here below your heavenly
power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage
to the most loving Fathers. Oh St. Joseph, I never
weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in
your arms; I dare not approach while he reposes
near your heart.

Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for
me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my
dying breath,

St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me
and my loved ones. Amen.



From the Conclusion of the Apostolic Letter
Patris Corde

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.

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church
may constantly watch over the unfolding of the
mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings
you entrusted to his faithful care.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Joseph the Worker

O God, Creator of all things,
who laid down for the human race the law of
work, graciously grant that by the example of
Saint Joseph and under his patronage, we may
complete the works you set us to do and attain
the rewards you promise.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them in
practicing the virtues of family life and in the
bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy on us	Lord, have mercy on us,
Christ, have mercy on us.	Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us,	Lord, have mercy.
God our Father in heaven,	have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the World,	have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit,	have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God	have mercy on us.
Holy Mary,	pray for us.
Saint Joseph,	pray for us.
Noble son of the House of David,	pray for us.
Light of patriarchs,	pray for us.
Husband of the Mother of God,	pray for us.
Guardian of the Virgin,	pray for us.
Foster father of the Son of God,	pray for us.
Faithful guardian of Christ,	pray for us.
Head of the Holy Family,	pray for us.
Joseph, chaste and just,	pray for us.
Joseph, prudent and brave,	pray for us.
Joseph, obedient and loyal,	pray for us.
Pattern of Patience,	pray for us.
Lover of poverty,	pray for us.
Model of workers,	pray for us.
Example to parents,	pray for us.
Guardian of virgins,	pray for us.
Pillar of family life,	pray for us.
Comfort of the troubled,	pray for us.
Hope of the sick,	pray for us.
Patron of the dying,	pray for us.
Terror of evil spirits,	pray for us.
Protector of the Church,	pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	have mercy on us.

God made him master of his household, And put him in charge of all that he owned.

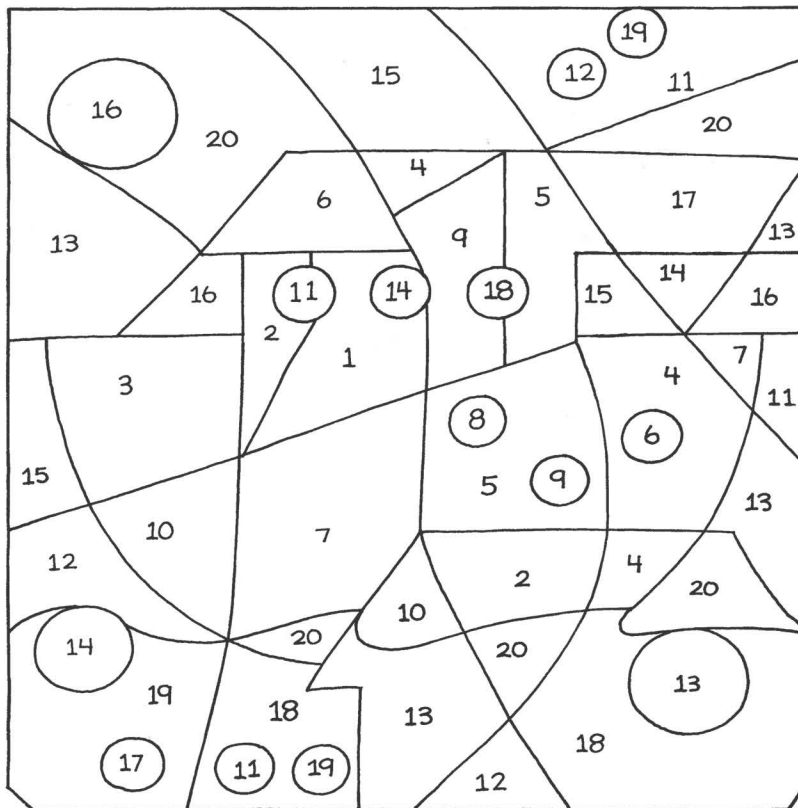
Let us pray.

O God, who in your expressible providence were pleased to choose
Saint Joseph as spouse of the most holy Mother of your Son,
grant, we pray, that we, who revere him as our protector on earth,
may be worthy of his heavenly intercession.
Through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

God's Word for Children

God protected Noah and his family during the terrible flood.
To see where they lived, follow the directions.

1. Color all spaces with numbers 1–10 brown.
2. Color all spaces with numbers 11–20 blue.



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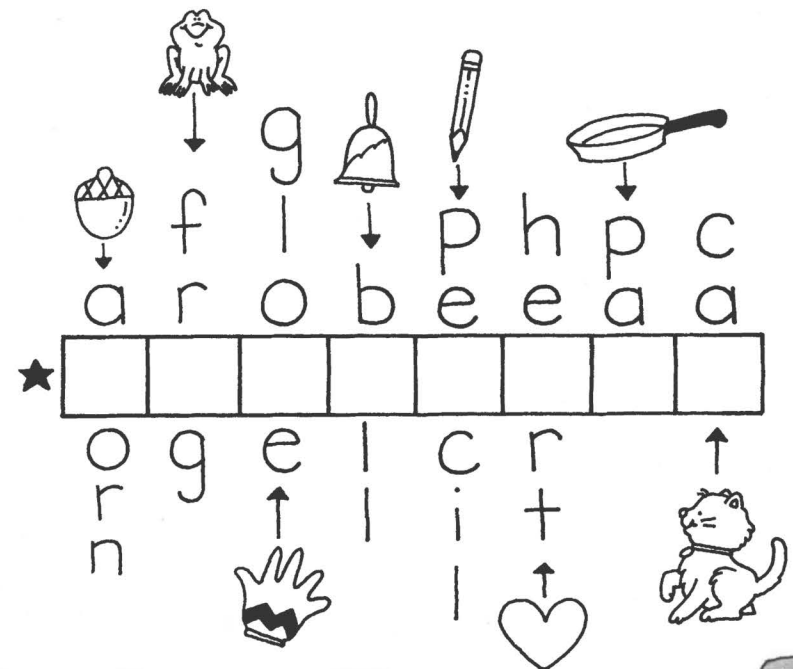
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First Sunday of Lent

God told Noah that the whole earth would never be flooded again.
God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that agreement.
You can read the story in your Bible at Genesis 9:8–15.

To find what God called this promise,
finish writing the names of the pictures shown.

Then start at the star and read across
to see what the boxes spell.



I set my bow in the clouds ... as a sign of the covenant.

Genesis 9 : 13



THOSE WHO KEEP YOUR CONVENANT

At every Sunday liturgy, throughout the year as well as during Lent, we hear four passages from scripture. We sit and listen to the first reading from the Old Testament and the second reading, usually from one of the Letters. We stand to hear the reading from the Gospel. Between the first and second readings we pray one of the psalms. We usually sing the psalm but sometime we recite it. The beautiful words of the psalms remind us of God's love. This week's psalm response is:

*Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.*

(Psalm 25:10)

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. Both parties promise to do certain things in order to keep the agreement. The covenant mentioned in this psalm is between God and God's people. You are one of the people of this covenant. The prophet Jeremiah said that God would write the covenant upon our hearts so that we will never forget it (Jeremiah 31:33).

On one side of this heart, think of what God has promised us. On the other side, think of ways that we can keep our part of the covenant. How can we be God's people? These examples will help you get started.



*If you sing the psalm at Mass today, listen carefully to the melody of the response.
Try to remember it and sing it during the week.*



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