

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

MAILING ADDRESS: 7409 W. CLEARWATER AVE., KENNEWICK, WA 99336

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OFFICE: 509-735-8558

email: office@holyspiritkennewick.org

website: www.holyspiritkennewick.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

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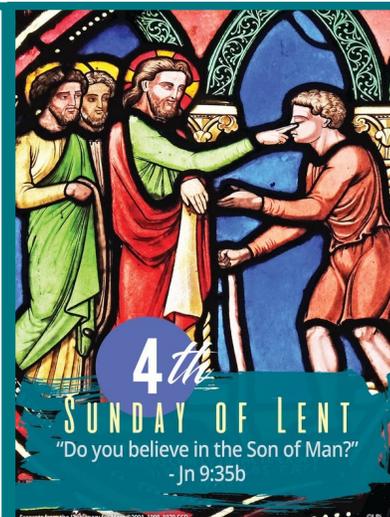
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DEACON MIKE GAULKE

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Parish Staff:

Secretary	Debbie Forgette	735-8558
Bookkeeper	Bianca Medina	735-8558
Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator	Presently Unstaffed	

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade	Karen Gorham	735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge	Danielle May	528-9780
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen	Jennifer Moore	492-6209
	& Joe Bliss	216-402-3118
	email: lifeteenhs@gmail.com	
Confirmation	Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke	551-7626
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults	Joe & Sherry Schroeder	405-2242

Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass	Julianne Barnaby	735-2163
9:30 a.m. Mass	Paula Bachelor	375-9019
5:00 p.m. Mass	Perry Kelly	735-8558
Children's Choir	Presently Unstaffed	735-8558

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers	Trish Feeny	551-0486
Eucharistic Adoration	Liz Friedrich	783-6223
Prayer Line	Adele Ogryzek	627-0201
Altar Server Training	Zack Rinderer	582-2543

Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group	Camille Henneberry	735-4858
Welcoming Committee	Jan Beardemphl	948-3367
PCC Nursery	Wynona Vaz	222-8982
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins	Deacon Eric Shaber & Charlotte Shaber	208-521-7846
Bible Study	Judy Turner	438-7938
Women's Group	Linda Rego	221-1130
Elizabeth Ministry	Catherine Maier	771-2372
Weekend Mass Refreshments	Judy Urrutia	438-5039

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council	Jim Carey	627-0321
Finance Council	Bob Baemmert	531-2085
Stewardship	Lenice & Pat Nagle	582-6893
Evangelization	Rob Privette	438-1222
Voice of the Spirit	Dieter Bohrmann	987-3158
Parish Library	Ann Stevens	396-2723

Charter Organizations:

Catholic Daughters	Linda Garner	627-2748
Knights of Columbus	Peter Dreisbach	205-2377
St. Vincent de Paul	Message Line	591-0632
American Heritage Girls	Erin Leistriz	406-579-1891

Natural Family Planning:

Carol Gaulke	619-5464
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MARCH 15, 2026

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 17: 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.
Thursday: 12:15 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Please visit our Holy Spirit Facebook page to join livestream events:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday at 12:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)



Holy Matrimony

On Being Married at Holy Spirit ...

Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Parish are asked to contact the parish office at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date. The couple and the priest will then meet to begin the Marriage preparation program. (735-8558)

Deaths

What should I do when there is a death in my family? Please call the parish office and speak with the office staff and the pastor before making arrangements with the funeral home, to ensure that the church is available at the desired date and time. (735-8558)

Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2026
Calendar for the Week: (Note: PCC = Parish Community Center)

Sunday, March 15:
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday



Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Confirmation Super Sunday, PCC hall and rooms 3 and 5, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Life Teen Parent meeting, PCC 6/8, 2:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Monday, March 16:
Lenten Weekday

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Lenten Penance Service, Sacred Heart Church, Prosser, 6:30 p.m.

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC room 7, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17:
Lenten Weekday
St. Patrick, Bishop

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Holy Spirit Mommy and Me, PCC nursery, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education, pre-school to fifth grade, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Lenten Penance Service, Christ the King Church, Richland, 6:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, PCC room 9, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18:
Lenten Weekday

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Bible Study, *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom*, PCC rooms 6/8, 10:00 a.m.

Mary Martha Prayer Group, PCC room 5, 1:30 p.m.

Lenten Soup Supper, PCC Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Amazing Grace Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 19:
Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Vincent de Paul, PCC 7, 10:00 a.m.

Mass in the church at 12:15 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC room 7, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 20:
Lenten Weekday

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in the vestibule. Concludes with *Prayers for Priestly Vocations* and *Prayers for Peace* at 5:00 p.m. and the *Rite of Benediction* at 5:15 p.m. in the church.

Stations of the Cross, 5:30 p.m.

Lenten Penance Service, St. Frances Cabrini, Benton City, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 21:
Lenten Weekday

Catholic Daughters, PCC 5, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

Life Teen Chili Feed and Bingo Night Fundraiser, PCC hall, following Mass.

Sunday, March 22:
Fifth Sunday of Lent



Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

First Communion Retreat, PCC hall and rooms 5 and 7 and church, 1:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES 2026

Monday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.	Sacred Heart Church	1905 Highland Drive, Prosser
Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m.	Christ the King	1111 Stevens Drive, Richland
Friday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.	St. Frances Cabrini	1000 Horne Drive, Benton City
Thursday, March 26, 6:30 p.m.	St. Joseph Church	520 S. Garfield Street, Kennewick



CRS RICE BOWL

Feeding Dreams in Timor-Leste

By participating in CRS Rice Bowl, we're helping young people in Timor-Leste find opportunities and support to fulfill their dreams of becoming leaders in their communities. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-4 to read about Adriana's dream of becoming a doctor in this week's Story of Hope.

Eating a simple meal during Lent helps us reflect on the hunger that many people face worldwide. This Lent, try Batar Da'An, a satisfying stew made of squash, beans and corn beloved in Timor-Leste. Find the recipe at crsricebowl.org/recipes/batar-daan-timor-leste. Then make a Lenten donation to help ensure all the members of our global family have access to enough nutritious food.

Find CRS rice bowls and donation envelopes in the vestibule below the CRS poster.

Pope Leo XIV mourns the late Lebanese priest, Fr. Pierre El-Rahi, who was killed amid the conflict in the Middle East, expressing his closeness to the Lebanese people and inviting Christians to pray for the many innocent victims of war. "Let us continue to pray for peace in Iran and throughout the Middle East, especially for the many civilian victims, including many innocent children. May our prayer be a comfort for those who suffer and a seed of hope for the future."

Read more at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>.

A Note From the St. Serra Club of Tri Cities

"Brothers and sisters, you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." (Ephesians 5:8-9)
Teach others to live as children of the light as priests, permanent deacons, brothers, monks or nuns.



Blessed palms from prior years may be placed in the green box on the table in the vestibule. We will collect them through Wednesday, April 1.

Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Easter morning, there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** on the field next to the Parish Community Center. All children 10 and under are invited to participate and should meet on the field after Mass. We'll get started at 10:00 a.m. If you forget your basket, bags will be available. Parents can enjoy coffee and cookies as well. Hoping to see you there!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FRIDAYS DURING LENT



Lent is a time to grow in your relationship with Jesus, who is truly present—body, blood, soul and divinity—in the Blessed Sacrament. Spend time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday, April 3) in the vestibule from 9:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., when Benediction is celebrated in the church.



Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 5:30 p.m. each Friday during Lent (except on Good Friday, April 3rd at 3:00 p.m.).



Join us for **Soup Suppers** on Wednesdays during Lent, in the PCC hall at 6:00 p.m., through March 25th. Rolls will be provided, and you are welcome to bring bread, crackers, or saltines to share at your table.

Please contact Suzanne Heaston at 509-987-2779 or heaston76@msn.com if you are able to bring a soup in a crockpot on any given Wednesday. A few more soups are needed most Wednesdays throughout Lent.



Save the date for the **Annual Chrism Mass** on **Tuesday, March 24**, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima. During the Mass, the Sacred Oils are consecrated and blessed for use in the celebration of the sacraments in our local parishes, and our priests renew their promise to serve the people of the Diocese of Yakima.

Please pray for our clergy, that they may remain faithful to their promises of ordination.



**AMERICAN
HERITAGE GIRLS**
FAITH | SERVICE | FUN



American Heritage Girls Troop WA3121 will be in the vestibule after all Masses next weekend to sell Bèquet Caramels. One bite and you'll understand why customers call these caramels *the best they've ever tasted*. Assorted sizes and flavors available just in time for your Easter baskets! Fifty percent of the candy sale price supports our troop members in their troop activities.

Life Teen Camp Fundraiser

CHILI FEED/BINGO NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST



Reminder for Bingo Night next Saturday evening! We will begin serving chili in the PCC hall right after the 4:00 p.m. Mass.



Bingo starts at 6:00 p.m., and Bingo cards will be available for purchase for \$1 each throughout the evening.



A dessert auction will be part of the fun, too.

Thanks to your amazing support, **this event has sold out**, and we are not able to sell tickets at the door. If you would like to make a donation to this fundraiser, please call Jennifer Moore at 509-492-6209.

LENTEN RETREAT ON FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH—MARCH 19, 2026

Did you know that St. Joseph, whose feast day is March 19, is the patron saint of our diocese? As we mark the 75th anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Yakima, we will honor our patron saint with a special Lenten retreat led by priests from Mount Angel Seminary, followed by Mass, and a celebration. The retreat begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 at St. Paul Cathedral in Yakima.



This is a beautiful opportunity to grow in faith during Lent, to honor St. Joseph, and to celebrate 75 years as a diocesan family. Come for the retreat, stay for Mass at 7:00 p.m., and don't miss the celebration which follows!

St. Joseph Church Youth Group Presents

PRE-EASTER YOUTH RETREAT



Attention all teens in grades 7 - 12! Don't miss out on a weekend of faith, fun, and friendship happening on Palm Sunday weekend. This is your chance to connect with others and strengthen your faith.

The goal of *SENT* is to call and equip teens for the mission of evangelization. This weekend retreat will include prayer, talks, worship, and community-building. Speakers will include Bishop Joseph Tyson, Fr. José Herrera, and Fr. Michael Kelly. Worship and music with Daniel Oberreuter and Luis F. Luna.

Friday, March 27: Opening Youth Mass – 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Saturday, March 28: Retreat activities – 8:00 AM to 8:30 PM

Sunday, March 29: Retreat activities & Closing Mass at 3:30 PM

Donation of \$60 includes meals and a shirt. For more information contact Fr. José Herrera at 509-585-3820, or Nancy T. at 509-267-0061 or nancy.stjoseph@gmail.com.



Scan the QR code to register by Saturday, March 21.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative

Monday	March 16	Hank Ogryzek
Tuesday	March 17, 9:00 a.m.	John Patrick McCabe RIP
Wednesday	March 18	Susie Nemzek
Thursday	March 19, 12:15 p.m.	Steve Johnson
Friday	March 20	Kim Nguyen
Saturday	March 21, 4:00 p.m.	Paul Stein RIP
Sunday	March 22, 5:00 p.m.	Suda Rego RIP

The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain, please call Adele Ogryzek at 627-0201.

To have your need added to the list which is published in the bulletin once each month, please call the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP: The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and he willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to the Lord's message, spending their time and energy trying to disprove the healing miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

February 8: \$21,968.00 Recorded givers: 107

Thanks for your giving of time, talent, and treasure.

For online giving, visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy7409270>

Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7411 W. Clearwater Ave., Ste. E, Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or bill-payer from your bank), please call the parish office so we can discontinue your envelope mailings with our printing service. Thank you.

Holy Spirit Parish Stewardship



Did you know that the Parish of the Holy Spirit is a tithing parish? We are; and so are a few other parishes in the Diocese of Yakima. What this means is, we offer 10% of our Sunday income each month to assist worthy charitable causes—both locally and worldwide. The members of the Parish Council advise Fr. Michael regarding the charitable organizations that we choose to help, and these vary from month to month.

Thanks to your generosity to our Sunday collections, we are assisting the following organizations with financial help: **St. Joseph Catholic School, Grace Clinic, Hope Medical, PREPARES, our St. Vincent de Paul Conference, FOCUS** (assisting Jeremiah Nguyen and Jackie Gazewood in their lay missionary work with university students), **Soul Soup, Cross Catholic Outreach, Tunnels to Towers, St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School, Night Strike, Mercy Ships, SIGN Fracture Care, and Gift of Giving Sight.**



Our **Holy Spirit St. Vincent de Paul Conference** meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in PCC room 7. If you are seeking a way to serve the poor, please be our guest at one of our meetings or contact the parish office at 735-8558.

Emmanuel Bailly was the first President of the original St. Vincent de Paul Conference, founded on April 23, 1883, in Paris, France.



**Are You Registered to Receive
Holy Spirit's Periodic
FLOCKNOTES?**



**Let us keep in touch with you
via email and text!**

Mass times, weather cancellations,
ministry updates, special events, reminders,
& more delivered to your phone and/or
your email account.

TO SIGN UP, TEXT
WEGOTSPIRIT
to 84576

_____ or _____

SIGN UP ONLINE AT:
parishoftheholyspiritke1.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help.
There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates
may apply. View privacy policy & conditions at flocknote.com/txt.



Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth.

EPHESIANS 5:8B-9

Born Free

MIGUEL DULICK

Today's gospel, the healing of the man born blind, is a terrific story that includes many details. Notice that Jesus, who has his own agenda, "so that the works of God might be made visible through him," does not even wait for the man to ask to be healed. But the man is a willing subject, allowing mud and saliva to be smeared on his eyes, agreeing to go to Siloam and wash. And, he's a quick learner. At first, all he knows is "the man called Jesus" healed him. Soon, however, he's calling Jesus "a prophet." Then, as a "division" ("schism" in the original) opens among the authorities and even in his own family, he defends Jesus' divine calling when the Pharisees mock Jesus as a "sinner." Finally, expelled from the synagogue, the man finds Jesus waiting for him with the ultimate revelation: he sees before him the Son of Man, "and he worshiped him."

Now, maybe we weren't born blind, but I venture to say a lot of us are short-sighted. Do I "see the works of God"? Starting from "the man called Jesus," do I keep going forward in faith, defending Jesus when he is mocked by people, to a deeper, fuller reality than even my own family may not understand? All the way to adoration, worship, a total handing over of my whole self to the Son of Man? Or, as Thomas would later say, when his own eyes were opened, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). ●



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

This week, I will pray for my eyes to be opened to something important for me to see.



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

A Community to Celebrate



TOGETHER, WE RAISED
\$95,000
 FOR OUR SCHOOL.



On February 7, our St. Joseph family and friends gathered for *Art & Wine: Glitz & Giving*. What we witnessed was something truly special.

Yes, we celebrated art.

Yes, we raised important funds.

But more than that, we experienced the strength of a community that has been standing together since 1964.

In every conversation, every volunteer hour, every sponsorship, and every paddle raised, we saw the heart of St. Joseph.

Your generosity fuels our mission.

Your commitment sustains our legacy.

Your faith in this school ensures it will serve students for generations to come.

St. Joseph has weathered seasons, grown stronger, and remained rooted in what matters most — faith, family, and formation.

Thank you for believing in our school.
 Thank you for investing in our future.
 Thank you for being part of something bigger than one event.
 We are proud of where we've been.
 And we are even more excited about where we are going.

THANK YOU TO *our Sponsors*



**DRS IVAN & RINAH
 GUEVARA**



**PAPA & NANA
 HESTER**



SAVE THE DATE
We can't wait to gather next year!
 Saturday, February 6th, 2027

Sincerely,
 St. Joseph School and The Art & Wine Committee



St. Joseph Montessori Preschool

Flower Sale



12" Hanging Basket
\$42

Flower presale
(for our Preschool)
available from March
1st - March 20th.



15" Patio Planter
\$52

Please visit www.stjoesfundraisers.com or scan the QR code to place your order.

Use the link or QR code below, or come by the school office to place your order by March 20th.



Pickup Days: May 7th & 8th at Dillon Hall

JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY!



Missed the 3/20 presale date? We will have a limited amount of extra flowers available for purchase during pickup - first come first served, while supplies last.



ST. JOSEPH LEGACY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefitting St. Joseph Catholic School

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 4-Person Best Ball Scramble
- Hole-in-One Contest
- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- 50/50 Raffle & More
- Dinner, Tournament Prizes & Raffles

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
\$600 - TEAM OF FOUR
Limited to 30 Teams



FIRST PLACE TEAM
WINS \$1,000



SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Zintel Creek Golf Club
2pm Shotgun Start



www.sjske.org/golf-tournament



One Minute Meditations

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Born in Mayorga, Spain, in 1538, St. Turibius studied law at the University of Salamanca. Known for his prudence and integrity as a judge, St. Turibius was nominated by King Philip II to be archbishop of Peru. After witnessing the need of the faithful in Lima, St. Turibius agreed and was ordained. He spent his office reforming the Peruvian diocese of corruption, founded schools, seminaries, and hospitals, and worked to protect the rights of the natives.

Lent is about love

Lent can feel discouraging. After all, we give up things we like and focus on suffering. Yet, in Holy Week, for which Lent is the preparation, we see God’s response to us in our sins. He meets us in our mess. He returns our rejection with freely offered love, our selfishness with radical self-gift, and our suffering with unfathomable mercy. We give up things for Lent because Love gave Himself up for us.

“[Our Lord] is thinking about you and not only about you but about every hair of your head: this is an article of faith and you must not have the slightest doubt about it... you have no cause to doubt that he is looking upon you with love...” — St. Francis de Sales, *Selected Letters*

Create space for grace

Lent is not just a season of temporary sacrifice, but a call to lasting conversion. Consider choosing disciplines that reshape daily habits and create space for grace. Here are five meaningful ways to begin redirecting your path:

Practice trust. “Which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?” (Matthew 6:27). Concern is human, but persistent worry bears little fruit. When anxiety rises, turn it into prayer, “Jesus, I trust You, I place this moment and its outcome in Your hands.” Trust grows through repetition.

Refocus your heart. Lasting fulfillment does not come from appearance or possessions, but from knowing God and resting in His love. Keep a daily record of blessings received. Review it often.

Create quiet. St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God is the friend of silence.” Silence begins by turning off what

competes for attention. Place screens in another room. Silence notifications. Turn to God in the silence.

Give rather than acquire. Learn to distinguish between wants and needs. Limiting spending to what is truly necessary challenges the habit of

“Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.”
St. Augustine

seeking comfort or status in possessions. When we forgo nonessential purchases and redirect those resources to others, we cultivate detachment, strengthen generosity, and put our security in God.

Choose mercy. Resentment binds the heart; forgiveness frees it. On the Cross, Christ chose mercy. This Lent, choose the same path toward healing and peace.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics practice prayer, penance, and almsgiving during Lent?

Prayer, penance, and almsgiving are grounded in the prophets’ call to genuine conversion. Joel urges the people to return to God with their whole hearts, not merely with outward gestures. Isaiah makes clear that the fast God desires feeds the hungry and shelters the poor, linking worship with justice. Jesus deepens this teaching in

Matthew 6. He assumes His followers will pray, fast, and give alms, but warns against practicing them for recognition.

When done in secret, these disciplines purify motives, reshape desire, and free us from attachment to possessions and approval. Properly embraced, they train the heart to seek lasting treasure in God rather than passing reward.

The right time is now

When is the right time to proclaim the Gospel, live the faith with greater intention, and renew our commitment to God’s plan? During a January Angelus address, Pope Leo said, “God is at work at all times; every moment is ‘God’s time.’” The call to discipleship is not reserved for a future time when life feels more settled. It is meant for us today.

God works in uncertain moments. The Gospels show that Jesus did not wait for favorable conditions. Matthew records that His public ministry began after John the Baptist’s arrest, a moment marked by instability and threat. Rather than withdraw, Jesus proclaimed, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17). What seemed like a setback became the starting point of His mission. If we postpone

necessary change until circumstances improve, we may never act. Every moment, even a difficult one, can become the moment of conversion because God is always at work.

God draws close. Jesus also chose an unexpected location. He began not in Jerusalem, the religious center, but in Galilee, a region known for cultural and religious diversity. His mission made clear that God’s grace is not confined to a single place or people. As Pope Leo explained, the Gospel reveals a God who draws near to all. No environment is beyond His presence. In our own lives, this means that God’s invitation unfolds in ordinary settings. He calls us to deeper friendship, lasting conversion, and faithful witness wherever we are.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 26:14-27:66, God turns suffering into glory

In this passage, we read Matthew’s account of the Passion, which begins with Judas agreeing to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and continues through the preparations for the Last Supper. At that meal, Jesus institutes the Eucharist, giving His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to His disciples. The contrast is striking. While Judas pursues his own self-interest, Jesus gives Himself in total self-offering.

In Gethsemane, the contrast deepens. As Jesus endures profound anguish, He asks His closest companions to remain with Him in prayer. They fall asleep. Soon after, Judas arrives with an armed

crowd and identifies Jesus with a kiss. Jesus is then bound, falsely accused, mocked, and beaten. By the next day, He is scourged, condemned, crucified, and laid in the tomb.

Through these events, Matthew highlights Jesus’ trust in the Father and His commitment to the Father’s will. The Passion is not a sign of divine abandonment. It reveals the depth of God’s mercy. In Christ’s willing sacrifice, suffering becomes the means of redemption, grace is poured out, and death itself is conquered. Holy Week shows that God can transform even the darkest hour into the path to glory.

Feasts & Celebrations

March 1 – St. David of Wales (c. 601). St. David is the patron saint of Wales. He was born into Welsh nobility, but instead chose to become a priest. He was later consecrated a bishop. He is best known for founding an ascetic monastery, and ridding the area of the Pelagian heresy, which states that we must earn our salvation. He was known for his inspiring preaching, penitential life, and kindness to the poor.

March 4 – St. Casimir of Poland (1483). Born to King Casimir IV of Poland, St. Casimir became known for his piety and integrity at a young age. When

the prince was older and his father sent him to conquer Hungary, Casimir assessed the odds against winning the war and turned back out of concern for his troops. He resolved never to be involved in war again. He died of illness when he was twenty-five.

March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary (1st Century). Jesus’ earthly father and husband to the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph is a model of fatherhood and a protector of families.

March 29 – Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion (1st Century). On Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, we recall Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted by crowds waving palms and cheering. This Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Q & A Does repeated failure & change how God loves me?

It can be discouraging to struggle with the same sins repeatedly. The pattern may feel discouraging. Yet discouragement should never become despair. The central truth of the Christian life is that when repentance is sincere and there is a real desire to improve, God always receives us. As Pope Francis said, “He does not tire in forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness.” His mercy does not diminish with repetition.

At times, God may permit ongoing struggles to deepen our humility. Repeated weakness can protect us from spiritual pride, which blinds us to our faults and keeps us from seeking grace. Humility, however, recognizes imperfection without losing trust. A humble person is not shocked by failure but returns to God with greater dependence.

If you feel anxious about Confession, whether for a new sin or a familiar one, remember the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He waits, watches, and runs to meet his child. This is how God receives us. In every sincere confession, we encounter not frustration, but mercy renewed.

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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

Dear Padre,

I am left-handed. Why doesn't the church allow the sign of the cross to be made left-handed?

A Catholic who is unable to make the sign of the cross with the right hand is certainly permitted to do so with the left. There is no rule against it. When Pope Saint John Paul II injured his right arm, he used his left hand to impart his blessing.

The sign of the cross is a sacramental, one of the symbols that identifies you as a Roman Catholic. Just like all such symbolic gestures, there is an expected uniformity. To use a secular example, at a University of Texas football game, fans of the Longhorns give the “hook-‘em horns” sign. You wouldn't give the “thumbs-up” sign instead. It would be confusing.

It's true that at one time, the left hand was associated with evil. Jesus sends the goats to sit at his left and the sheep to his right. (See Matthew 25:33.) And, throughout the Scriptures, we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of God. (See Mark 16:19.) The word “sinister” is from the Latin *sinister*, meaning “left.”

Left-handedness is no longer associated with evil. If you wish to make the sign of the cross with your left hand, you may. But do consider why you are doing it. Most left-handed people have no trouble using their right hand for many simple tasks. If your purpose is a bit rebellious, maybe realize that signifying unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ is more important. ●



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MARCO JACOBILICI EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Dear brothers and sisters, let us trustfully bring our ailments before Jesus, and also those of our loved ones; let us bring the pain of those who feel lost and without a way out. Let us cry out for them too, and we will be certain that the Lord will hear us.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, JUNE 11, 2025

Monday

MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17–21

Jn 4:43–54

Tuesday

MARCH 17

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1–9, 12

Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday

MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8–15

Jn 5:17–30

Thursday

MARCH 19

St. Joseph, Spouse

of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4–5a,

12–14a, 16

Rom 4:13, 16–18,

22

Mt 1:16, 18–21,

24a or Lk 2:41–

51a

Friday

MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12–22

Jn 7:1–2, 10,

25–30

Saturday

MARCH 21

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18–20

Jn 7:40–53

Sunday

MARCH 22

Fifth Sunday

of Lent

Ez 37:12–14

Rom 8:8–11

Jn 11:1–45 or

11:3–7, 17, 20–27,

33b–45



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