

Third Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021



PASTOR'S PEN



Dear People of God,

I hope and pray that all is well with you and your loved ones as we travel in this holy season of Lent!

As I have been listening to our folks talk about their stones for our Faith Garden, I have been inspired by the prayer filled discernment that has been so evident. Whether it be individuals or ministries, youth or seniors, singles or families, our community has been active in their Lenten journey. Our stones will certainly tell a story of how God has worked in us during the pandemic.

Since many have completed this part of our journey, questions are being raised about how to turn the vision into reality. Like me, you may be wondering how to paint a rock. (Until recently, I never even considered the concept!)

As always, Google can be a starting point in doing our homework. There is an overabundance of websites, instructional videos, and helpful hints in cyberspace. Yet, if we want our Faith Garden to last the test of time, the stones must be properly prepared.

Our Christian Formation Office, after research and prayers, now offers us guidance and assistance. Our CRE, Erica Taylor, has produced another wonderful video to help us in our journey of faith during the pandemic. Please make sure to take the time to benefit from this gift to our community.

Finally, I encourage all members of our parish family to share with others the good news of our Faith Garden. This is the faith filled

heritage that our community has lived since its founding! We are indeed blessed to be part of it!

May God continue to bless us in our Lenten journey as a family of faith!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS AT 7pm

Live-streamed

Stations of the Cross will take place on Fridays during Lent at 7 pm in the Church. Come join the parish community as we reflect on Jesus' passion and suffering as His immense love for each one of us. (Stations at St. Dennis Fridays at 5 pm.)

FRIDAYS IN LENT

Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Roman Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. ~USCCB

RECONCILIATION



Saturdays - 2:30 to 3:30 pm

Sundays - following 10:30 am Mass on
March 7, 14, 21 & 28

**HAS IT BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME SINCE YOU
WENT TO CONFESSION?**

JUST GO!

Always remember that Fr. Jim will help you through this Great Sacrament of Mercy. Don't stay away because you forget the "how to". Examine your conscience and bring your desire to be forgiven!

Come renew & strengthen your soul!

Visit <https://saintpolycarp.org/reconciliation-refresher/>

DAILY MASS

Morning Mass Tuesday – Friday at 8:30 am.

Welcome back, Fr. Mast!

LET US PRAY



Saturday, March 6 4 pm Vincent Ucciferri - Healing Intention	First Saturday -Janet Anderson
Sunday, March 7 10:30 Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality	3rd Sunday of Lent
Monday, March 8 NO MASS	St. John of God
Tuesday, March 9 8:30 am Carole Smith	St. Frances of Rome - Mike & Diane Dellinger
Wednesday, March 10 8:30 am Praxedes Lim	- Delia Lim
Thursday, March 11 8:30 am Mary Carey Taubert	- Ed Taubert
Friday, March 12 8:30 am Larry Thompson - Deacon Frank & Debbie Weber	
Saturday, March 13 4 pm Parishioners	
Sunday, March 14 10:30 Bruce Johnston	4th Sunday of Lent - Rev. Paul Mast

Bread & Wine for the Eucharist are given in prayer for an increase in religious vocations.

Our Sanctuary Lamp In Church burns in prayer for those affected by the recent winter storms.

We Pray for Our Sick and Those in Need of our Prayers

To have someone's name added to the Bulletin for prayers, please email submission@saintpolycarp.org or call the office and leave a message. Names will remain on the prayer list for six weeks unless other arrangements have been requested.

Carol Donahue, Bishop Malooly, Mark Kennedy, Ben Walters, Angel Street, Bill Stuart, Sue Orlando, Violet Farkas, Richard Razzano, Michelle Dean, Austin & Dylan Dean, Theresa Devine, Kenny Bullins, Deirdre Moor, Linda Blow, Deacon Charlie Robinson, Mariann Pierson, and all those suffering from Covid-19.

We Pray for our Deceased

Marie Theresa Bergstrom

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord
And let the perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

*All Live Stream
from St. Polycarp
can be viewed at*

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StPolycarpSmyrnaDE>
or visit www.saintpolycarp.org
and click on the picture of the altar.

Prayer Chain – To request prayers or to be part of our Prayer Chain, contact Laverne at laverne427@icloud.com or (302) 653 – 8064

Rosary by Telephone: Join us Tuesday mornings at 10am as the Brother Vincent Columbiettes lead us in praying the rosary. Contact Jill at (302)653-3836 or jill_mercer@yahoo.com for more information.

Flame of Love Rosary By Telephone: Join us weekly on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. to pray the Flame of Love Rosary. Email Roxanne at roxsemb@gmail.com or leave a message or text (302)242-6484 for details.

Connected in Christ: Join us on Zoom every Friday at 11:00 am to discuss various topics of faith. Contact Peggy at peggyo52@aol.com for information and links to the sessions.

LITURGY

BLESSINGS

The **Blessing of All Prayer Groups** will take place this weekend, March 6th and 7th at both the 4:00 pm Mass and the 10:30 am Mass.

The **Blessing of Altar Servers and Sacristans** will take place the weekend of March 13th and 14th at both the 4:00 pm Mass and the 10:30 am Mass.

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

St. Polycarp Parish will celebrate the **Year of St. Joseph** with a special prayer during Mass on his Feast Day, Friday, March 19 and during our two weekend Masses on Saturday, March 20th at 4 pm and Sunday, March 21st at 10:30 am.

The prayer will be recited during the “meditation” after the distribution of Holy Communion. **Year of St. Joseph Prayer Cards** will be available in the pews, so that those who attend these masses can participate in the prayer during meditation. You will also be able to take the prayer cards home with you as a “small gift” from the parish. For those who will be watching Mass from home, the prayer can be found below:

A Daily Prayer to 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.*

A DEACON'S THOUGHTS

Year of St. Joseph: Joseph, Foster-Father of Jesus

"The angel said: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he is the one who will save his people from their sins."

(Mt 1: 20-21)

From the moment of the angel's appearance, Joseph would accept Mary, his betrothed and with child, unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. The nobility of Joseph's heart is such that what he learned by faith and the law, he expressed in love & charity.

When you think about the fact that Joseph's mission on earth was to be a stand-in for God the Father and raise God himself into an adult man...it's mind-blowing! Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true "miracle," a holy instrument of God, by which He protects and cares for the Child and His mother.

The greatness of St. Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of St. John Chrysostom, "*at the service of the entire plan of salvation.*" In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over Him and protected him, never shirking his responsibility of living out his true vocation as the earthly father of Jesus, the Son of God.

St. Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "*by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose.*"

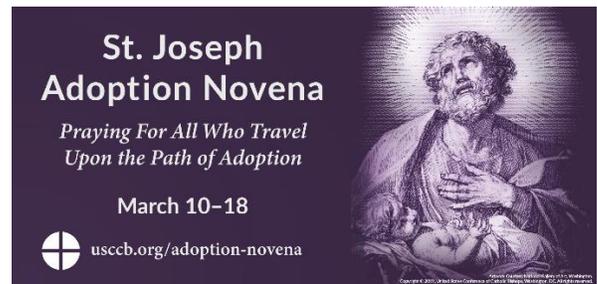
In Joseph, Jesus witnessed the tender love of God! In his role as the head of the family, Joseph clothed, fed, sheltered, and protected Jesus in his formative years. St. Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity, and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's labor.

He taught Jesus responsibility and respect, and he taught Him to **be obedient to his parents...!** Joseph saw Jesus grow daily, "*in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.*" (Luke 2: 52)

Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. By doing so, he truly proved himself as a minister of God's salvation plan. In a world where "the Father" is absent in the lives of many families, St. Joseph stands as an inspiration and example of true fatherhood, by his deeds, his words, and his love for God.

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.

Blessings & peace,
Deacon Frank



ST. JOSEPH ADOPTION NOVENA

Leading up to the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19th, join us in praying the St. Joseph Adoption Novena. Invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, we will pray the Lord blesses all who travel upon the path of adoption.

Visit <https://www.usccb.org/adoption-novena> for the novena, which begins, March 10.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



STONES FAITH GARDEN

Have you thought about the stone that you will paint for our Stone Faith Garden? What message will describe how God worked in you throughout the pandemic. Make this part of your Lenten journey. Stones will be returned during the Easter Season. We will be providing guidance and suggestions on the best practices of rock painting.

PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE

BROTHER VINCENT COLUMBIETTES SWEEPSTAKES

is your chance to win a \$75.00 prize in July and help our auxiliary raise funds to help others at the same time. Every \$10.00 you contribute to the sweepstakes earns you one chance for the winning drawing in July. Enter often!

It is easy to enter; just make a check payable to Brother Vincent Columbiettes and mail to our Financial Secretary, Rosemary Battistoni at 1515 Bon Ayre Circle, Smyrna, DE 19777. Please make sure your phone number is on your check. We will call to let you know we received your check. The winner will be notified in July. For more information visit <https://saintpolycarp.org/this-weeks-bulletin/> Thank you and good luck.

FINANCE COUNCIL

MEMORIAL BRICKS



Spring is just around the corner. The Gift of a Memorial Brick is a unique and memorable way to:

- ◆ Celebrate a special occasion...Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Graduation, etc.,
- ◆ Honor family and friends,
- ◆ Share a favorite quote and more!

If you would like to become part of the walkway to our Blessed Mother with your name or the name of a loved one, now is a good time to do so!

There are two ways to order your bricks. You can order through Faith Direct at: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/5644> (you do not need to sign up for Faith Direct), or return your form (available on our website or at the doors of the Church) with payment to St. Polycarp Church in an envelope labeled "Memorial Brick". Please place the completed order form and a check for \$80.00, made payable to St. Polycarp Church, in the envelope. You can place it in the Offertory collection, deliver it to the Parish Office (place in black box), or mail it to the parish office.

COLLECTIONS

Second Collection this weekend is for the Church in Latin America. Many people in Latin America and the Caribbean do not have access to Church programs and ministries because of a rising secular culture, difficult terrain and a shortage of ministers. Your generosity makes it possible for our brothers and sisters of this area to grow closer to Christ. Please be generous.

Next weekend's Second Collection is for Parish Utilities. Since Masses have resumed, we have been following all aspects of COVID guidelines for our parishioners' safety. One aspect is air circulation. In order to circulate the air in church, we have been running the blowers as well as the heater functions on our HVAC equipment. This is along with the recommendation of keeping windows open.

Please consider that as a result of the above, our energy costs will rise and your generosity in this area is much appreciated. Please be sure to use your envelope or mark your check "Parish Utilities" or log into your eGiving account and update your contribution for Parish Utilities.

February 28	Offertory	Poor Box	Ash Wednesday	Black & Indian Missions
Collection	\$3,158	\$59		
eGiving	\$3,082	\$320	\$102	\$65
Total	\$6,240	\$379		

Note: eGiving figures are reported twice a month.

Offertory	Received	Budgeted	Over/(Under)
February Total	\$23,507	\$27,200	(\$3,693)
Fiscal Year to Date	\$209,777	\$219,400	(\$9,623)

Thank you to all those who continue to send in their envelopes and for those who have enrolled in eGiving. Thank you for your generosity and continued stewardship.

Please consider becoming an e-giver. It is easy to make your weekly or one time contributions in support of the Parish. For more information and to sign up for online giving, visit faith.direct/DE831.

Fifty-Fifty! Play often! Proceeds benefit PSR.

February Winner - \$35

Congratulations to James Mood!

Our 50/50 winner is pulled monthly! Place \$1 in an envelope and mark 50/50 on the envelope along with your NAME and phone number. Place the envelope in the collection baskets or drop off in the drop box. If you want to play more often, just put in whatever amount you like and we will enter you once a week for each dollar you send in!

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

All meetings/events are virtual unless otherwise noted.

Our Parish Office remains closed at this time.

<https://saintpolycarp.org/calendar/>

Saturday, March 6

11:30 am Confirmation Retreat
2:30 pm Confession (Church)
4 pm Blessing of All Prayer Groups

Sunday, March 7

9 am PSR Grs. P/K, 1 & 4
9 am Intermediate Sac. Prep (ISP)
9:30 am PSR Grs. 2 & 3
10:30 am BVM Corporate Communion
Following 10:30 am Mass - Confessions

Monday, March 8

6:30 pm RCIA Sessions (Virtual)

Tuesday, March 9

10 am Columbiettes Rosary (phone)
11 am Finance Council Executive Committee
6:30 pm Liturgy Committee
7 pm Grs. 5-8 (Lesson Posted)

Wednesday, March 10

7 pm Pastoral Council Meeting

Thursday, March 11

6:30 pm Flame of Love Rosary (phone)
6:30 pm Building & Maintenance Meeting

Friday, March 12

11 am Connected in Christ Zoom Meeting
7 pm Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, March 13

2:30 pm Confession (Church)
4 pm MASS Blessing of Altar Servers & Sacristans

<https://saintpolycarp.org/this-weeks-bulletin/>