

Stewardship FOR Life



CHRIST THE KING - CAMBRIDGE :: ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON - ISANTI :: STS PETER & PAUL - BRAHAM

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

When I think about the season of Lent, I often find myself thinking about what I want to accomplish spiritually. Perhaps I will look at a habit or something in my life that I want to change. I might ask myself, "How is God calling me to grow this year?" or "How am I going to use the three disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as spiritual tools to help me come closer to God?" Perhaps it goes back to my youth when my mother, or my faith formation teacher would ask, "What are you going to give up for Lent?" When I talk to others about Lent, they often do the same thing. They focus on their personal spiritual goals or desires, rather than focusing on the communal aspect of Lent.

The communal aspect of Lent is different than our personal ambitions, and it isn't a group of individuals doing their own thing in an organized effort for a set amount of time either. The communal aspect of Lent is about a Church uniting as we pick up our cross and follow Jesus.

After being ordained for a year, I traveled with some classmates to Jerusalem to see the Holy Land as it wasn't safe for us to do so in seminary. We followed the Way of Cross, and seen the places where significant events had happened in the life of Jesus. I don't remember which station it was, but the painting on the wall was Jesus picking up his cross to carry it with his disciples following behind as they carried theirs.

It was striking to me to think about being in that line of disciples as I was called to carry my cross. Even though we have individual crosses, they are all united with the cross of Christ.

The communal aspect of Lent isn't about what we do or don't do, but that we're part of it. It is a call to participate in the cross of Christ. After being ordained now for eighteen years, Lent has taken on a different meaning for me. Yes, I still use the three disciplines of Lent, but in much more of a communal sense. I look for ways to accompany others. I fast for others. I give for the sake of others. I participate in the life of the Church with others. It isn't about me, but how I can participate in the mission of Jesus with and for others.

Blessings, Fr. Peter

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PRAYER: SAINT WHO?

St. Joseph

How do you start an article about a saint of this magnitude? This man, whose litany describes him using titles such as: Mirror of patience, Glory of home life, Hope of the sick, Patron of the dying, and Protector of Holy Church. Those are some tall orders and that's just to name a few!

St. Josemaría Escrivá boldly claimed that the greatest male saint in the history of the church is not a pope, bishop, priest or friar... but a layman, a husband, a worker. We could honor St. Joseph for so many reasons, in fact the Church recognizes him twice in the Liturgical Calendar. May 1st is set aside to honor his role as Worker, a role so admirable. This month though, we focus on the fact that St. Joseph was asked to take on the giant role of being protector of the Christ Child and the Blessed Mother. He doesn't speak a word in the scriptures, but his choices teach us so much about what obedience and faithfulness look like. March 19th is the feast day we celebrate this part of Joseph, his guardianship over the Holy Family.

To do this justice, reference needs to be given to a beautiful homily given on the topic by Bishop Robert Barron. I'll sum it up for you, but to hear it for yourself, see the link below:

[*BISHOP BARRON'S HOMILY*](#)

In the homily, Bishop Barron helps us understand this title given to St. Joseph, Protector of Holy Church. What does that even really mean? How does it apply to you? Let's break it down!

We all know the Christmas story well. We know that Christ was born into this world, taking on humanity, coming as a helpless little baby for our salvation and to show us by His example how to live out that salvation. He was helpless at first, fully human and fully God. He was a real human baby and He completely relied on His caregivers to survive. He chose to come to us in this vulnerable state, and He chose the two protectors He would rely on. St. Joseph was asked to take on the task to protect the Christ Child during his earthly life. The scriptures show us that once Joseph gave his obedient "yes," he faithfully, without question, did all that the job required. When asked to travel to Bethlehem for the census, he did so, taking care of Mary on the way.

When they were turned away at the Inn, he found a safe place for Mary to have her baby. When the power hungry King Herod ordered for all the babies under 2 to be killed in order to prevent a "baby king" from taking his throne, Joseph took Jesus and Mary and fled as he was told to do. Traveling in ancient times would have been very challenging by the way. Roads were unsafe with robbers and the journey would have taken a long time. Joseph never left their sides.

When Joseph agreed to be the protector of Jesus and Mary, he was up against a lot. This was not an easy job. Bishop Barron points out something so interesting; chapter 12 of Revelation tells the birth story again. We see a Woman, clothed with the sun and the moon beneath her feet. She is crying out with birth pangs, about to give birth to a baby. We see a Red Dragon right there waiting, ready to devour the baby when He is born. Who is the woman and the baby? Mary and Jesus. Here we have our answer about why life often feels like we are up against a lot, why we often feel the struggle. The Devil is very much at work and he has helpers ready at every corner just waiting to devour. Devour what, you might ask? They are waiting to devour the Christ Child in each of us.

continued next page...





BARTOLOMÉ ESTEBAN MURILLO. *THE HOLY FAMILY WITH A LITTLE BIRD.*
C.1650. MUSEO DEL PRADO. MADRID. SPAIN

Christ's birth story is about God becoming Man to save us and Christmas can always serve as a reminder that Christ wants to be born in each one of us. Just like Jesus being born in the manger, maybe when we start on our journey of faith we start off very vulnerable, like a tiny baby. The Red Dragon is there, waiting to devour the Christ Child in us, always. In fact, Bishop Barron exclaims we should expect this, bank on it! Don't be surprised when things feel hard, the Red Dragon has helpers who are just trying to wipe Jesus right out of us.

This is where the great news comes into the story! The Bishop goes on to say this is where we need to remember that God too has helpers, so many helpers! By His own secondary causes He finds a way to protect the Christ life in us. This is where we can turn to St. Joseph! Silent, faithful, St. Joseph. He always listens to the Father. His job was to protect the child Jesus and His mother all those years ago.

In her autobiography, St. Teresa of Avila beautifully speaks about Joseph's greatness saying, "For to other saints, Our Lord seems to have given power to succor us in some special necessity, but to this glorious saint, I know by experience, he has given the power to help us in all things."

The Devil is at work, he has demons lurking everywhere. Let us not be naive about this, but expect it. On this Solemnity of St. Joseph, the protector of Jesus, go to Joseph, pray to Joseph, ask him for his intercession and his help. He will quickly become a close friend of yours, protecting the Christ life in you and preventing the dragon from harming you.

Another of his famous titles that seems to be how we need to end this article:

St. Joseph, Terror of Demons, Pray for Us!

HOSPITALITY

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “radical hospitality”? It may cause some to feel uncomfortable, some to think it’s a form of extremism while to others, it may bring a feeling of excitement.

Webster’s defines radical as relating to the root, origin or foundation of something; fundamental. The root of hospitality is the Latin term, *hospes*, which translates to host and guest. The “guest” maybe someone familiar or a complete stranger but the act of hospitality invites a relationship.

Jesus established the teaching of radical hospitality when He said to love the ones who are hard to love. Embracing radical hospitality is to live a life that goes against our culture. As in the definition of radical, our identity, or foundation, as people of faith won’t be lost as we make this change of practicing radical hospitality. Instead, we will have gained.

There is a common bond between all of humanity because we were created in God’s own image and likeness as well as being called to community. Radical hospitality is transformative; it helps provide the presence of meaningful community life. It brings about a life where people are accepted, feel valued and are included in the Church. Instead of thinking, “What can others do for the Church, we should be asking, “What can the Church do for others?” This is also an important step of bringing a Church from maintenance to mission, going beyond Church walls to help people encounter Christ.

However, reaching out to create opportunities to engage in radical hospitality isn’t the only option, we just need to be aware. We could have opportunities with a person sitting next to us at Mass, a coworker, someone we meet at a grocery store or a neighbor we may encounter while out for a walk. It’s not about going through a checklist or logging results, it’s about bringing change in our world by becoming available to one person at a time, one moment at a time.

As Christians we are called to see Christ in everyone we encounter. We must see Christ in the immigrant, the incarcerated, the homeless, those with addiction, those with mental illness, those who look different as well as those who love, worship or vote differently. In our Church communities there are many voices upheld while some are ignored. Radical hospitality calls us to reach out to those who have nothing to give us, but need us.

At this time, we could reach out to our immigrant neighbors who are feeling fear, abandonment and loneliness. If you are interested in practicing radical hospitality, please see the information provided in the Community Opportunities portion in the “Looking for a Way to Serve?” section of this publication.

Brenda Taylor

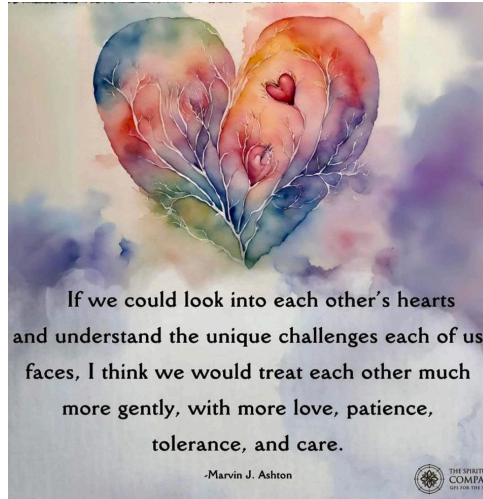


FORMATION: CAREGIVER'S GROUP

If you are a caregiver for a parent, spouse, child, or friend, do you often feel frustrated, overwhelmed, grief over the life you once had, or lonely? You are not alone. Those feelings, kept inside, can harm you both physically and spiritually, and keep you from being the best caregiver you can be. Sharing those feelings with others who understand can be a wonderful comfort.

Our Isanti Area Catholic Community has a Care Givers Support Group that meets the third Tuesday of every month at 2:00 pm in the Neumann Meeting Room at Christ The King parish hall.

We join in prayer, friendship, and discussion. Active caregivers benefit from the knowledge and understanding of past caregivers, and those who may anticipate being a caregiver can better prepare for their future responsibilities.



The focus of this ministry is to support one another in love and friendship, as well as providing a social break, with refreshments provided. All discussions are confidential within the group, and for uncomfortable topics that a member may wish to discuss anonymously, a suggestion box is provided to suggest the topic for discussion.

This ministry was begun as a result of the Called and Gifted program and discernment of the Holy Spirit's gifts. All past, present, and future caregivers are welcome. The coordinators of the Caregiver Support Group look forward to you joining us and getting to know you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Marilyn Blosberg at 763-757-2530.



EASTER MASS TIMES:

TRIDUUM MASSES WILL ALL BE AT CTK:

HOLY THURSDAY: APRIL 2ND, 7:00PM CTK

GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 3RD 3:00PM CTK

EASTER VIGIL: APRIL 4TH 8:30PM CTK

EASTER SUNDAY:

APRIL 5TH, 8:30AM SEAS

APRIL 5TH, 10:30AM SPP

FOR MORE EVENTS AND INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR FACBOOK PAGE HERE:

[IACC FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT

by **Cindy Frost**

(Based on Luke 8: 43 - 48)

Dear Lord, I was born reaching. Reaching out to arms who could not hold me. Reaching out again to those who would have me, those able and willing to nurture, help and teach me about you in my youth.

Your grace touched me first in baptism, pouring into me over the years, so undeserved – yet I was ever grateful. In my early thirties I was overcome with grief from losing my father. Soon after that I was gutted by the unraveling of my marriage. I leaned heavily on the safety and comfort found in my faith back then. Still learning, still reaching. If only I could touch the hem of your garment...everything would be all right.

As the years have passed, many challenging circumstances have pushed my patience. Always I found comfort and solace in Holy Mother Church. Through holy scripture, and her traditions, the smell of incense and even the beautiful colors of sunlight, dancing through stained glass. Your quiet presence in the sanctuary. I was drawn to the miracle of Your son, who was born and came to be one of us on that cold winter night so long ago.

Twenty plus years have flown by since then. I am now even more appreciative of the graces given and the wonderful, godly man you have placed in my life. We have continued reaching together. To build a life and a deeper understanding of your Word and teachings through continuing catechesis.

As you walked along, a woman searching for a cure, who had exhausted her life savings on doctors, stretched out her hand in the hope of touching your garment so she could receive healing. Likewise, we reach out daily for your blessings. Bless our health, our aging minds, failing bodies and weary spirits. This world is an ever-demanding place and evil runs rampant. We need thee, Lord, Ohh how badly we need thee. So, if it be your will, may our reach be met with your words, "Your faith has made you well - go in peace."



LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?

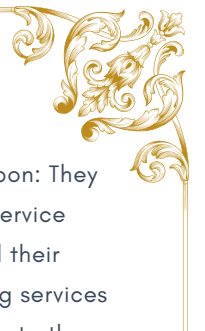
Current and Ongoing opportunities for service

- Braham Fish Fries: Volunteer sign-up in back of church OR Contact: Darryl Kukowski 763-360-9741 or Cheryl Fike 320-469-0700
- SEAS Fish Fries: Contact Dean Carpenter: 763-639-7028

Contact Brigitte for further information: 763-689-1221 option 2

Community opportunities

- To donate food, household items or ways to serve, you may contact Catholic Charities in St. Cloud. Financial donations can be sent to the Diocese of St. Cloud c/o Multicultural Ministries at 305 7th Avenue North, St. Cloud MN 56303 or by choosing "Community Needs" at <https://stedio.org/pay>. The community members struggling right now also need our solidarity and prayers.
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon: They support Isanti County service members, veterans and their families by coordinating services and resources available to them. They help service members and veterans and their families with various support services and financial assistance if needed. Various volunteer opportunities are available. Contact them at 612-476-8244
- Email isanticountybyr@gmail.com



STEWARDSHIP FINANCES

Financial Overview

As we continue to reflect on the theme of stewardship in our daily lives, it is important to provide an update regarding the financial condition of our parishes. Seven months into the 2025-2026 fiscal year, a review of the finances shows that all three parishes are currently operating with a positive balance. However, this surplus is modest and only slightly above the break-even point, indicating that while we are not operating at a deficit, our financial position remains delicate and could easily shift.

Key Concerns and Trends

There are important concerns to consider. Historically, our parishes receive the largest donations in December, as this is typically the most generous period for contributions. Once December passes, we have observed that the amount collected in the weekly offertory basket tends to decline for the remainder of the fiscal year. At the same time, our operating expenses continue to rise, creating a challenge as income drops while costs increase.

Efforts to Manage Expenses

In response to these challenges, the parish staff and Father Peter are working diligently to reduce expenses wherever possible. Their goal is to maintain a central office that continues to serve the community and to ensure that a variety of activities and groups remain available to parishioners. These efforts are ongoing and are an essential part of sustaining our parish life while staying within our financial means.



Financial as of January 31, 2026

<u>STS. PETER & PAUL</u>		<u>CHRIST THE KING</u>		<u>ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON</u>	
TOTAL INCOME:	174,625	TOTAL INCOME:	180,696	TOTAL INCOME:	197,852
ORDINARY:	110,844	ORDINARY:	137,215	ORDINARY:	138,928
EXTRAORDINARY:	6,383	EXTRAORDINARY:	3,298	EXTRAORDINARY:	11,824
OTHER:	57,398	OTHER:	40,183	OTHER:	47,100
TOTAL EXPENSES:	173,108	TOTAL EXPENSES:	174,129	TOTAL EXPENSES:	164,311
NET CHANGE:	1,517	NET CHANGE:	6,567	NET CHANGE:	33,541

Financial Stability Strategy

As we strive to live out our commitment to stewardship, we are reminded that God calls us to share the gifts we have received by giving back to God and to one another. For our parishes, meeting our financial obligations depends on covering expenses with ordinary income, which comes primarily from the weekly offertory collection basket. Continued generosity and participation from all parishioners are crucial to maintaining the financial health and ongoing mission of our communities.

Michael J. Sullivan
IACC Administrator

BRING ST. JOSEPH INTO YOUR HOMES THIS LENT: TRADITIONS, CRAFTS AND RECIPES

St. Joseph Feast Day celebrations are kind of a big deal all over the world! As the story goes, during the middle ages there was a famine in Sicily due to a drought. The people prayed to St. Joseph and after praying a massive rain fell and saved their Spring crop. This is believed to be the reason for the Feast being celebrated in March.

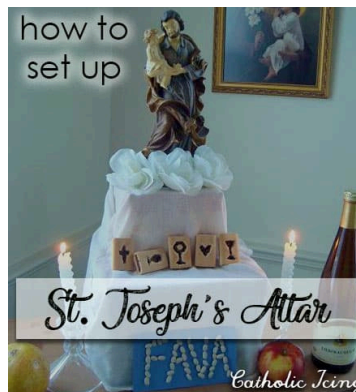
The Feast is widely celebrated today in many European countries as well as many Italian American homes. Italian or not, celebrating St. Joseph's Feast can be such blessing to your family! There are so many fun traditions you could bring into your home, whether you want to teach your kids about this awesome Saint in fun, engaging ways, or if you want to cook a traditional recipe, there is something for everyone!

Check out the links! I hope you will give one a try to help you elevate your Feast Day celebrations this March 19th!

St. Joseph, Glory of home life, pray for us!



Altar: After their prayers were answered the people set up little tables to honor St. Joseph. The tables are usually 3-tiered to represent the Holy Trinity.



[ST. JOSEPH ALTAR FOR BEGINNERS](#)

Decorative Breads: The altars are filled with many things such as flowers, candles and gifts of food, often for the purpose of giving to the poor. Bread in the shapes of tools, fish, and religious symbols often decorate the altars. catholicicing.com has fabulous and super easy ideas to make this fun for kids! Who wouldn't love carving little shapes onto Fig Newtons for example, how fun and easy!



[ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR: FUN FOOD IDEAS FOR KIDS](#)

Fava Beans: This is a crucial part of the Feast. It was believed that the primary crop saved in the Sicilian drought was the Fava bean, the "cattle fodder," and it saved the people!



[ALL ABOUT THE FAVA](#)

Lilies: This flower is often seen with St. Joseph as a sign of his purity. Once again, catholicicing.com saves the day with a beautiful novena prayer and incredibly simple Lily craft. Kids will love making these paper lilies and if you wanted to pray a 9-day novena they could add a lily to a vase each day! If you want to jump on the Novena train you would want to start on March 11th in order to end on the Solemnity itself, March 19th!



[ST. JOSEPH NOVENA & FREE DOWNLOAD](#)

REFERENCES:

LACY, MARCH 1ST, 2021. ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION IDEAS FOR YOUR HOME. CATHOLIC ICING. [HTTPS://WWW.CATHOLICICING.COM/ST-JOSEPH-FEAST-DAY-CELEBRATION-IDEAS/](https://www.catholicicing.com/st-joseph-feast-day-celebration-ideas/)

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