

## Dear Padre,

**My grandkids' parents don't want them to be baptized. Can I do it myself secretly so as not to cause problems?**

Your concern is understandable, but secret baptisms are prohibited in the Catholic Church. The decision to baptize a child is determined by his or her parents. To secretly usurp their decision may cause problems of its own. For an infant to be baptized, "The parents or at least one of them or the person who legitimately takes their place must consent," and "There must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion" (Code of Canon Law, 868 §1). An exception is permitted when the child's life is in immediate danger: "An infant of Catholic parents or even of non-Catholic parents is baptized licitly in danger of death, even against the will of the parents" (CCL 868 §2). Here, the Church's pastoral concern is for the child to receive the immediate graces from the sacrament; the question of raising the child in the faith becomes moot in a life-or-death situation.

"Since the earliest times, baptism has been administered to children, for it is a grace and a gift of God that does not presuppose any human merit.... Entry into Christian life gives access to true freedom" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1282). Continue to pray that your family may see baptism as a sign of God's love, which offers true freedom for humanity. ●



Fr. Byron J. Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV



The Spirit opens borders, first of all, in our hearts. He is the Gift that opens our lives to love. His presence breaks down our hardness of heart, our narrowness of mind, our selfishness, the fears that enchain us and the narcissism that makes us think only of ourselves.... Sadly, oddly enough, in a world of burgeoning "social" media, we risk being ever more alone.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 8, 2025

#### Monday

February 16  
Weekday  
Jas 1:1-11  
Mk 8:11-13

#### Tuesday

February 17  
Weekday  
Jas 1:12-18  
Mk 8:14-21

#### Wednesday

February 18  
Ash Wednesday  
Jl 2:12-18  
2 Cor 5:20-6:2  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

#### Thursday

February 19  
Thursday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Dt 30:15-20  
Lk 9:22-25

#### Friday

February 20  
Friday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Is 58:1-9a  
Mt 9:14-15

#### Saturday

February 21  
Saturday after  
Ash Wednesday  
Is 58:9b-14  
Lk 5:27-32

#### Sunday

February 22  
First Sunday  
of Lent  
Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Rom 5:12-19 or  
5:12, 17-19  
Mt 4:1-11

#### Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

**"Take courage! Without fear! Many times in the Gospel Jesus says: 'Do not be afraid.' We need to be courageous in the witness we give, with the world and above all with life: giving life, serving, sometimes with great sacrifices in order to live out this very mission."**

Pope Leo XIV

**Still looking for bulletin advertisers! There is room! Let's get this page filled up! Our goal is to get 10 advertisers. Cost is \$180/year.**

**St. James Catholic Church  
201 N. Missouri Street  
Potosi, MO 63664**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**February 15, 2026**



(Photo courtesy of Jeremy Boyer)

#### Mass Schedule

February 2026

Mon: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Tues: 8:15 AM (St. James)

Wed: 8:15 AM (St. Joachim)

Thurs: 8:00 AM (St. James)

Fri: 8:00 AM (St. Joachim)

Sat: 8:00 AM (1st Sat. of the Month @ St. James)

**Saturday: 4:00 PM**  
(1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend @ St. James; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> weekend @ St. Joachim)

**Sunday: 8:00 AM (St. James)**  
10:00 AM (St. Joachim)

#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Feb 16  
@ St. Joachim

Tuesday, Feb 17:  
**Marvel Chazelle**

Wednesday, Feb 18:

**6pm: Bob Jost**

Thursday, Feb 19:

**Dan Declue**

Friday, Feb 20:  
@ St. Joachim

Saturday, Feb 21:  
**Mike "Coach" Nickelson**

Sunday, Feb 22:  
**Garry West**

#### Confessions:

Saturday: 3:15-3:45pm  
Prior to Sat. evening Mass or by appointment



**MERKEL ANGUS**  
HIGH QUALITY FREEZER BEEF



**Moore Funeral Homes**



**Edward Jones**

Angela Momot, AAMS™  
Financial Advisor  
326 East High Street  
Potosi, MO 63664  
Bus. 573-436-8908 • Fax 877-702-3380  
TF 877-747-0145  
angela.momot@edwardjones.com  
California Insurance License OC24309

**CHRIS ROLWES**

(314) 852 7471  
ROLWESPLUMBING@GMAIL.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

LICENSED ● BONDED ● INSURED

# St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street  
Potosi, MO 63664



**Staff**  
**Rev. Anthony Dattilo-  
Pastor**  
[AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org](mailto:AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org)  
Phone: 573-436-0580 (St. Joachim Rectory)

**Rev. Vince Nyman-  
Associate Pastor**  
Phone: 314-614-0718

**Angie Mitchell**  
Office Manager (part-time)

**Vicki Thurmond**  
Parish Secretary (part-time)  
[stjameschurch@centurylink.net](mailto:stjameschurch@centurylink.net)

**Judy East:** Custodian

**St. James PSR**  
**Dr. Melissa Cordia**  
Co-Coordinator  
**Laura Allen**  
Co-Coordinator  
**Jamie Thompson**  
Co-Coordinator  
[stjamespsr@gmail.com](mailto:stjamespsr@gmail.com)

## February 21 & 22

### Lector:

Saturday 4pm: Laura Allen  
Sunday 8am: Jeanne DeGonia

### Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday 4pm	Sunday 8am
C: Annette Portell	Don Thompson
L: Paul Villmer	Jamie Thompson
R: Maureen Mills	Jim Politte

### Servers

Saturday 4pm: Aubrienne McGovern  
Sunday 8am: Ava West

### Music:

Sat: 4:00pm. Chala Short  
Sun: 8:00am Rebecca Richards  
Sun: 10:00am Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

### Heavenly Dusters

Jeanne DeGonia 2/13-2/20  
**\*Need Volunteer\*** 2/27-3/6  
Diane Mull 3/13-3/20

### Altar Linens

Connie Scott 2/16-2/23  
Bobbie Heifner 3/2-3/9  
**\*Need Volunteer\*** 3/16-3/23  
Diane McGirl 3/30-4/6

### Money Counters

Becky & Rhonda 2/10  
Jeanne & Rhonda 2/17  
Pat & Tina 2/24  
Rhonda Politte & Pat Portell 3/31  
*(I am in the office on Monday's for anyone who wants to count on that day. I do go to Mass first*

## Weekly Collection 02/08/26

<u>Envelopes:</u>	3300.00
<u>Loose:</u>	292.00
<u>Online Giving</u>	60.00
<u>Maintenance:</u>	240.00
<u>St. Vincent de Paul:</u>	678.00
<u>Votives:</u>	37.00
<u>Black &amp; Native American</u>	45.00
<u>Latin American Apostolate</u>	10.00
<u>Catholic Charities</u>	50.00

**Total Giving: \$4712.00**  
# of Contributors: 55  
*Thank you for your generosity!*

### Ash Wednesday Mass February 18 at 7PM

**Servers:** Ava West, Madison Battreal, Meadow Henson  
**Lectors:** Eliza Boyer and Gabriel Belfield  
**Eucharistic Minister:** Kim Coleman  
**Gifts Bearers:** PSR Students  
**Musician:** Jeremy Boyer

### 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:20*

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of being a modern-day Pharisee.

## Lenten Bible Study

\*\*Don't forget that you will need your bible and a catechism. If you are in need of a catechism, I have a few available but they can also be purchased on Amazon.com or www.thriftbooks.com. You will need a 1/2 inch binder or a folder for your study guide.

- Session 1: Scripture & Tradition
- Session 2: The Kingdom, Authority, and the Papacy
- Session 3: The Eucharist
- Session 4: The Sacrament of Confession
- Session 5: Mary
- Session 6: Justification
- Session 7: Who is Jesus?

Here are the dates for the study. Keep in mind that because of scheduling issues (availability of the buildings and my schedule) not all sessions will be in order each week. So, if you plan to jump around, please watch the schedule and attend when you are able.

### MONDAY 6PM (ST. JOACHIM)

Session 1) Feb 9; Session 2) Feb 16; Session 3) March 9; Session 4) March 23; Session 5) March 30; Session 6 & 7) Justification & Who is Jesus

### WEDNESDAY 9:15AM (ST. JOACHIM)

Session 1)Feb 11; Session 2) Feb 18; Session 3) March 11; Session 4) March 25; Session 5) April 1; Session 6 & 7) April 8

### FRIDAY 9AM (ST. JAMES)

Session 1)Feb 13; Session 2) Feb 27; Session 3) March 13; Session 4) March 27; Session 5) April 3; Session 6 & 7) April 10

## St. James Ladies Sodality



You're invited to our Dine In & Carry Out Fish Fry. Our menu will consist of Fried Shrimp or Swai fillets. We will also have coleslaw, stewed tomatoes, baked beans, mac n cheese, and hushpuppies.

### WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

- Golden fried fish & shrimp
- Refreshing drinks
- homemade desserts



**COST**  
**ADULTS: \$15**  
**KIDS: \$8**

**DATES: FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>**  
4pm-until Sellout

PRESENTED BY ST. JAMES KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

# FRY DAY FRIDAYS

February 20th  
March 6th **11:00-1:00**  
March 20th

**\$12/PLATE**  
FISH, BAKED BEANS, & POTATO SALAD

201 N. Missouri Street Potosi MO 63664

The KC Men have added an additional date to the calendar: **March 13th from 11-1 (Drive Thru only)!** Mark your calendars!

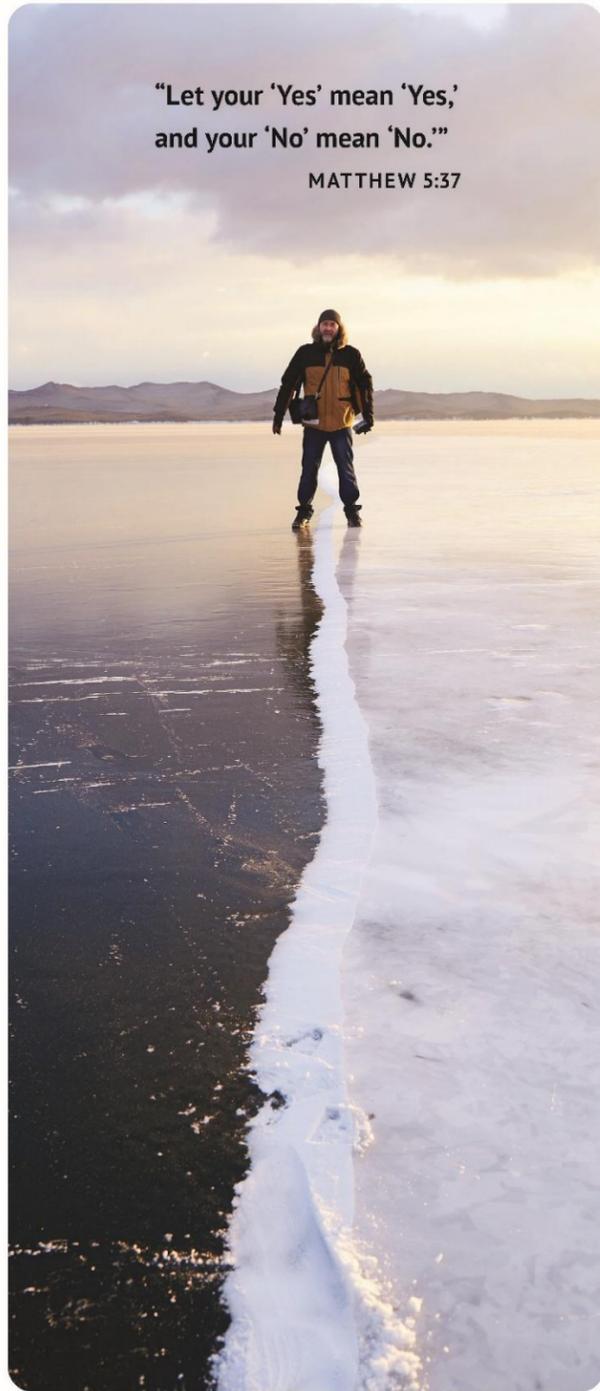
Ladies Sodality will have a

# BAKE SALE

At all of the Men's Fish Fries  
Feb 20  
March 6  
March 20

\$4/slice or \$20/whole cake or pie





**"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,'  
and your 'No' mean 'No.'"**

MATTHEW 5:37

## Some Walk Away

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**L**et your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'" (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, "And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be" (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple "Yes" or "No"? Do you want to say, "Yes, but... I can't do it now." Or "I can't forgive this particular person." Or "I can't welcome this particular stranger." Or "I can't love him or her or them."

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●

### Reflect

**What teachings of Jesus are too hard to consider?**



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY

### THE COUNCIL'S CORNER

Our next meeting is Feb 10th @ 5:30pm. Our next Fifth Sunday brunch is March 29th after 10am Mass. Mark your calendar now!  
**\*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ERIC AUBUCHON @ 314-605-6268\***

*"Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Christ."  
 Pope John Paul II, Inaugural Homily*

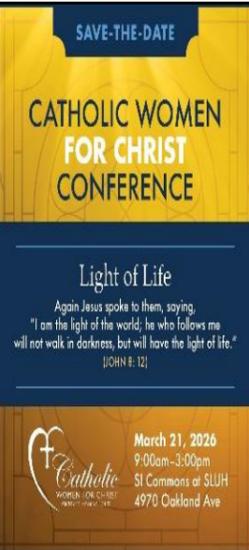
### St. James PSR NEWS

PSR students will meet in their classrooms at 6:30pm Ash Wednesday. We will report to church as a group but if students want to sit with their families it will be fine. We are excited to say some of our students will be participating in the mass. It is inspirational to watch and listen to what is being learned each Wednesday during class here at PSR. We are so very blessed with our teachers and what they do for our youth! Thank you ladies! Finally, the rice bowls were sent home with the students Wednesday. There will be more available in the back of church for those families that do not have kiddos in PSR. All bowls need to be returned after Easter.

*From Dr. Melissa Cordia*

### Ladies Sodality

Our next meeting is on March 3rd from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Parish Hall. We have elected new officers. Our new President is Bobbie Heifner, Vice-President is Kim Coleman, Secretary is Laura Allen, and Treasurer is Diane McGirl. **We will be hosting Indoor Dining Fish Fries on February 27th and March 27th, serving beginning at 4pm until sell out. Please mark your calendars.** The chili/soup cook off has been cancelled to allow us to host these fish fries.



Catholic Women for Christ is back for 2026! Join us on Saturday, March 21, 2026, at Si Commons at St. Louis University High School with ladies from around the Archdiocese of St. Louis for a day of spiritual talks, prayer, and community. We will explore the theme "Light of Life" and discuss how we see the Light, walk in the Light, and become the Light. To register and for more information, visit [www.catholicwomenforchrist.org](http://www.catholicwomenforchrist.org)

### Parish Calendar

- Feb 16:** Rural Clinic here  
 Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm  
 Parish Office Closed for Holiday  
 St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 6pm
- Feb 18:** Ash Wednesday 7pm Mass  
 Parish Office will have a delayed opening 11-3(Vicki has bible study @ St. Joachim)
- Feb 20:** Fish Fry 11-1 Drive Thru Only  
 Ladies Sodality Bake Sale 11-1
- Feb 21:** Food Pantry Distribution 7am-9am
- Feb 21:** OMAHS Euchre Tournament after Mass(Parish Hall)
- Feb 26:** Parish Picnic Meeting 6pm (Parish Hall)
- Feb 27:** Ladies Sodality Fish Fry Dinner (Parish Hall) Dine-In & Carryout:4pm-Sellout
- March 2:** Men's Faith Sharing Group 6:30pm
- March 3:** Ladies Sodality Meeting 5:30pm
- March 6:** Fish Fry 11-1 Drive Thru Only  
 Ladies Sodality Bake Sale 11-1
- March 10:** KC Men's Meeting 6:30pm

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry served 127 families (356 individuals). Thanks again to our packers and those who braved the cold weather on Distribution day!

*"God demands first the heart. . . then the work."  
 St. Vincent de Paul*

**St. Vincent de Paul collection:  
 Canned meat, canned chili w/meat,  
 spaghetti w/ meat, canned stew, tuna**



## This Week On Formed

### Lent | What Catholics Believe

Join Fr. Scott Bailey, a priest in the Archdiocese of Denver, as he answers some of the Internet's most asked questions about Lent. What is Lent? Why is it 40 days long? Or even, what should I give up for Lent? Find out in this episode of What Catholics Believe.

### Whole 40

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.

### Heart of Prayer

Heart of Prayer invites participants into an intimate and peaceful retreat with Bishop Andrew Cozzens. Set in the beautiful Chateau on the Augustine Institute Campus, Heart of Prayer reveals the beauty and transcendence of a prayer life, as Bishop Cozzens draws from Scripture and the saints to offer guidance that is practical and down-to-earth.

\*Go to <http://signup.formed.org>

\*Enter our parish's zipcode 63664

\*Enter your name and your email address.

\*Enjoy!

### MONDAY

February 16

Weekday

Jas 1:1-11

Mk 8:11-13

### TUESDAY

February 17

Weekday

Jas 1:12-18

Mk 8:14-21

### WEDNESDAY

February 18

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### THURSDAY

February 19

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15-20

Lk 9:22-25

### FRIDAY

February 20

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1-9a

Mt 9:14-15

### SATURDAY

February 21

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b-14

Lk 5:27-32

### SUNDAY

February 22

First Sunday

of Lent

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Rom 5:12-19 or

5:12, 17-19

Mt 4:1-11

# Good News!

February 15, 2026

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 15:15-20 / 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 /  
Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

**"Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'"** (Matthew 5:37). This teaching of Jesus seems to get lost, perhaps because it comes at the end of a long listing of commandments. Regardless, it seems to get right to the point, almost making the other commandments unnecessary or perhaps clarifying them. Either you are going to be a child of your heavenly Father and live like one, or you are not. If you are a child of God, you would not contemplate any evil behaviors, let alone actually do them.

That is the clarity of the teaching of Jesus. It is authentic. It is compelling. It invites a response. Yet, there are those who were present with him who did not understand. Who missed the point. Who insisted on another way. Who could not discern the simplicity of the truth. To each of these men and women, including some with the religious title of scribe or Pharisee, he observed, "And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be" (Matthew 6:23). Even sadder is that not only did they miss the point, they also simply walked away.

Do you want to say more than a simple "Yes" or "No"? Do you want to say, "Yes, but... I can't do it now." Or "I can't forgive this particular person." Or "I can't welcome this particular stranger." Or "I can't love him or her or them."

Have you also missed the point? Do you also want to walk away? ●

© 2026 Liguori Publications. Imprimi Potest: Fr. Kevin Zubei, CSSR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists. Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of the Redemptorists. To learn more about the Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com. No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from The New American Bible, Revised Edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA. Visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.

# RENDEZVOUS Breakfast

February 28<sup>th</sup>

Serving from 7 am - 10 am

Pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, milk, orange juice and coffee

\$8 per person

Proceeds go to Emmaus Youth Group to help with the Steubenville Conference



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

OLD MINES, MO

FISH FRY'S



We will be serving February 18<sup>TH</sup> (Ash Wednesday), February 20<sup>TH</sup>, March 6<sup>TH</sup>, March 20<sup>TH</sup>, & April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Good Friday)

Serving 3 p.m. till Sold Out with Dine-in, Carry-Out, & Call In Available.

Serving: Fish, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Fries, & Hushpuppies. Dessert & Drink Included

\$13 per Plate

FOLLOW ME  
MAKE YOU  
MEN



AND I WILL  
FISHERS OF  
MATTHEW 4:19

## FROM THE OFFICE: ATTENTION!

\*We are in need of volunteers for the Altar Linens and Heavenly Dusters ministries. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the office. Our parish depends on volunteers for these ministries. Please consider volunteering and giving back to our parish and especially to Jesus. We want to sincerely thank those ladies who have served so selflessly all these years. You are greatly appreciated!

## Interested in Becoming Catholic? (OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, in being fully received, or in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, contact the parish office, or call coordinator, Joyce Politte 636-328-1343. All are welcome.

Our catechumens & candidates will be attending the Rite of Election at the Cathedral Basilica on February 21, 2026. Please pray for them as they take this next big step on their faith journey.



## Old Mines Area Historical Society Euchre Tournament & Dinner

Date: February 21, 2026

Doors open & dinner at 5 p.m.

Tournament begins at 6 p.m.

Grab your partner and head to

Saint James Church Cafeteria  
201 N Missouri Street  
Potosi, Mo 63664

- If you don't have a partner, we will try to find you one
- Tournament fee: \$15 per person includes dinner
- Dinner only per person: \$10-- Chicken Alfredo & Salad
  - Water and soda for purchase, BYOB
  - 50/50 Tickets

Early Registration is encouraged.

Prizes!!

1- Place: \$100.00

2- Place: \$50.00

3- Place: \$20.00



**Jesus**  
is the  
**Sweetest**  
Name I Know!  
DINNER AND AUCTION

Saturday, March 14, 2026  
at 5 p.m.  
Twin Eagle Lake Barn  
10254 Watersedge Rd  
Potosi, MO 63664

St. Joachim Catholic School

## What is Lent?

What are your priorities in life right now? Lent is an invitation to rearrange your priorities—to focus on what matters most and leave behind what matters least.

Lent is the season where the Church prepares for Easter. Starting with [Ash Wednesday](#), Lent spans 40+ days until [Holy Thursday](#). In the fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus spends 40 days in the desert, fasting, praying, and preparing for his mission. Lent is your opportunity for that same focus.

Lent is your invitation to take your spiritual life seriously.

Lent is the perfect time to form life-giving habits and abandon self-destructive habits.

Lent is your chance to discover the abundant life Jesus invites us to at Easter.

Take these 40 days to explore God's dream for your life and it will change everything. Are you ready?

## Traditional Lenten Practices

We all need a fresh start from time to time. And Lent is the perfect time to embark on that journey.

Maybe you need a fresh start in your personal finances, or perhaps you need a fresh start in your marriage. Maybe you need a fresh start in a relationship with a child or a parent, or possibly you need a fresh start in your health and well-being. It could even be that you need a fresh start in your career.

For generations, Catholics have developed different traditions that help them make a new beginning during Lent. Here are just a few examples:

- 1. Give Something Up:** Many Catholics “give up” something for the entire Lenten season. A classic example is giving up chocolate, but you don't have to stop there! You could give up negative thinking, speaking poorly about others, or procrastinating. You could also make a positive swap: like [praying the Rosary](#) instead of watching TV, or reading an amazing Catholic book instead of scrolling through social media.
- 2. Join a Spiritual Challenge:** One of the simplest ways to transform your Lent is to join other Catholics for a spiritual challenge. You could create a small challenge with your friends, sign up for a local Bible study, or join nearly one million Catholics for BEST LENT EVER—a FREE Lenten video program with Matthew Kelly.
- 3. Deepen Your Prayer:** Catholics often will say special Lenten prayers. One of the most popular spiritual practices during Lent is the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross is one of the most simple, yet powerful, ways to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus during his Passion...and encounter him like never before.
- 4. Attend a Fish Fry:** One delicious Catholic tradition is hosting a fish fry. Since Catholics don't eat meat on Fridays during Lent, many parishes have a pescatarian meal together on Fridays—often inviting the larger community to participate too. See if a parish near you has a fish fry and take the opportunity to engage with your community!

Our God loves fresh starts. How is he inviting you to a fresh start this Lent?

## The Significance of Lenten Colors

There is incredible genius and beauty in Catholicism, even in the smallest of details. One of those small details is the significance of colors throughout Lent.

When you visit a Catholic church, attend Mass, or pray the Stations of the Cross, you'll notice certain colors repeated in the decorations and the priest's vestments. Each one of these colors holds great meaning.

**Purple:** Purple is the primary color of Lent. The color purple symbolizes our need for repentance. It also represents the purple robe that Pontius Pilate placed on Jesus before he was crucified and reminds us of the royalty of Jesus as King. Late in the Lenten season, your parish might cover every statue or painting with a deep purple cloth.

**Red:** On Palm Sunday, the priest wears bright red vestments during Mass. This foreshadows Jesus' death on the Cross.

**White:** On Easter, priests wear white vestments and many parishes will fill the entire altar with white lilies. White represents the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

## NEW ONLINE GIVING PORTAL STEPS

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/StJamesCatholic/member/login>

01



Scan QR Code

Our QR Code will take you directly to our custom giving page

02



Sign up/Sign in

If you haven't yet created a donor login, this is your chance! Login if you already have.

03



Donate!

You can now process a donation, and set up your recurring donation!

## Pope Leo XIV, General Audience: February 11, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution [Dei Verbum](#), today we considered the profound and vital connection between the Word of God and the Church. Sacred Scripture, which has been entrusted to the Church and is guarded by her, reveals its meaning and manifests its strength in the life and faith of the Church, above all in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. For this reason, the Church continually meditates upon and interprets Scripture because it is the means by which we come to know the incarnate living Word of God who is Jesus Christ. Indeed, praying with Scripture opens the door for an intimate relationship with God who through these sacred writings invites us into conversation with him. As Saint Jerome rightly points out, ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of God. With this in mind, I encourage you to read and contemplate the inspired word of God daily. May the Word of God nourish our hearts and minds and lead us to the fullness of life.

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026/documents/20260211-udienza-generale.html>

## A Thought from St. Teresa of Avila

*“Christ has no body now on earth, but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good; yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now.”*

## 2026 Parish Picnic Mark Your Calendars: June 7th

Our next meeting is Thursday February 26th, 6:00 in the Parish Hall. We are in need of volunteers for all areas. Please join us at the meeting for more information.

**Parish Family;** The Bottle Game was a HUGE Success last year!! So, we are planning it again this year!

It's not too early to start this year with planning for the Picnic... “the Bottle Game” is back. We are asking all to bring a “bottle of...?” (examples; shampoo, wine, ketchup, mustard, pickles, lotion, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, syrup, 2 liter soda, honey, jelly, vanilla, cooking oil, etc.) that we will use for this fundraiser. The way this will work is, we will sell the same number of “chances” that we have for the number of “bottles” that we receive, the tickets will be numbered, the bottles will be numbered, each ticket will cost \$3 to purchase, so you can see that this will be a good fundraiser for the church, just think you might end up with a bottle of .....! We would ask that you please make sure when you are making your purchase for these items to please check the expiration date on any perishable food items.

We will put 3 boxes/containers in the back of church, not in the vestibule – under the pew in front of the cry room for all to place their bottles in. It's not too early to start collecting, so bring your bottles.

Thank you all for your support of our Parish!



### What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent—and a wonderful opportunity to make yourself 100% available to God!

How available to God are you? 50%? 75%? 96.4%? No matter what your answer, Ash Wednesday is the perfect time to decide that you will spend this Lent increasing that number.

On Ash Wednesday, you can get your forehead blessed with ashes at Mass or a prayer service. These ashes are a reminder that we need to repent.

Repentance is a powerful invitation. When John the Baptist first appeared in the desert of Judea, this was his message: “Repent, prepare the way of the Lord” (Matthew 3:2). Later, when Jesus began his ministry, he led with this message: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

But what does it mean for us to repent, here and now, more than two thousand years later? It means the same as it did to the people walking around the dusty pathways in their sandals, trying to inch closer to Jesus as he passed through their town or village. Repent means “to turn back to God.”

We all find ourselves needing to turn back to God many times a day, in ways small and large. It is not a matter of guilt and it is not a shameful thing. It is simply that we are a better version of ourselves when we return to his side!

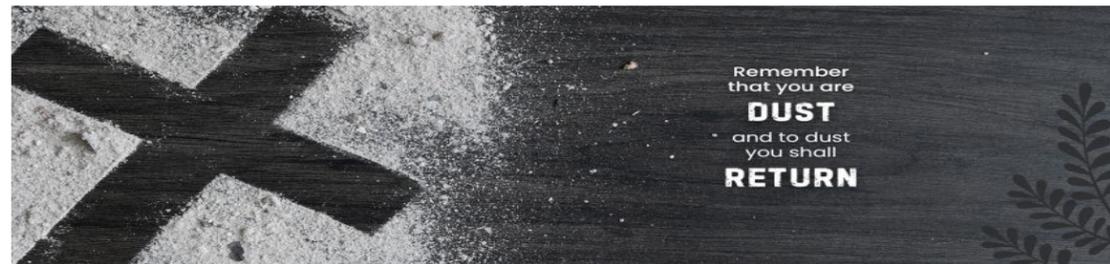
### The History of Ashes on Ash Wednesday

You might be wondering why we get ashes on our foreheads for Ash Wednesday. Throughout history, ashes have been a powerful outward symbol of interior repentance and spiritual awareness. Here are some examples of ashes in the Bible:

- "Therefore I disown what I have said, and repent in dust and ashes." (Job 42:6)
- "Daughter of my people, dress in sackcloth, roll in the ashes." (Jeremiah 6:26)
- "I turned to the Lord God, to seek help, in prayer and petition, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes." (Daniel 9:3)
- "When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: “By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands." (Jonah 3: 6-8)

The Early Christians used ashes to show repentance as well, but not just on Ash Wednesday! After going to confession, it was common for the priest to give the person ashes on their forehead. Catholics have been receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday since the time of St. Gregory the Great. In 1091, Pope Urban II encouraged the entire Church to use ashes on Ash Wednesday.

If you want to get blessed with ashes this Ash Wednesday, be sure to check with your local parish. Most churches celebrate Mass or have a prayer service on Ash Wednesday, and all are welcome to attend and be blessed with ashes.



### Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation?

Contrary to popular belief, Ash Wednesday is *not* a Holy Day of Obligation. Even though you’re not required to attend Mass, Ash Wednesday is a wonderful opportunity to rearrange your priorities and feed your soul before one of the most important seasons of the entire year!

### Can you eat meat on Ash Wednesday?

No. Unless you have a medical exemption, Ash Wednesday is a day of Abstinence for Catholics.

Avoiding meat can be difficult, but it’s a powerful way to be disciplined about your priorities. When you make little sacrifices a part of your everyday spirituality, amazing things happen!

For example, suppose you have a craving for a Coke, but you have a glass of water instead. It is the smallest thing. Nobody notices. And yet, by this simple action you strengthen your willpower and become an even better-version-of-yourself.

Or, say your soup tastes a little dull. You could add salt and pepper, but you don’t. It’s a little thing. It’s nothing. But by saying no to yourself in small ways, it makes you even freer to say yes to the things that truly matter.

If you want to grow in strength this Lent, there’s one simple thing you can do: Try to never leave a meal table without practicing some form of sacrifice. It is these tiny acts that will strengthen your will for the great moments of decision that are a part of each of our lives!

### What are the fasting rules for Ash Wednesday?

The Church requires all Catholics from ages 14-59 to fast on Ash Wednesday. As long as you are in good health, this means that you should only eat one full meal, plus two smaller meals that do not equal a full meal. Ash Wednesday is also a day where Catholics avoid eating meat.

There is great wisdom in the Christian practice of fasting—even though its benefits are largely forgotten! Fasting is a spiritual exercise, and as such is primarily an action of the inner life. Authentic fasting draws us nearer to God and opens our hearts to receive his many gifts.

Fasting is also a sharp reminder that there are more important things in life than food. Authentic Christian fasting helps to release us from our attachments to the things of this world. It is often these worldly attachments that prevent us from becoming the-best-version-of-ourselves. Fasting also serves as a reminder that everything in this world is passing and thus encourages us to consider life beyond death.

Go without food for several hours and you quickly realize how truly weak, fragile, and dependent we are. This knowledge of self strips away arrogance and fosters a loving acknowledgment of our utter dependence on God. Ash Wednesday is a powerful day to rediscover the power of fasting in your life!

### Make It Personal

Ash Wednesday is the perfect time to decide if you want to have the kind of Lent that’s easy to forget...or the kind that changes your life. Do you want a renewed commitment to prayer? More discipline in a specific area of your life? A stronger marriage? More peace? This Ash Wednesday, set aside 15 minutes to set your intentions for the season of Lent!

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/ash-wednesday.html?srsltid=AfmBOoquxGT2-q1RfrebMzjRoirjWRVK5Un4rHJUc4BwKEg4v4zZdv4i>

