



Served By: Fr. Paul Bisson  
 Box 776, Russell, MB R0J 1W0  
 Phone Office: 204-773-2924  
 Deacon Darin Douglas: 204-532-2157  
 Email: [stjoewkr@gmail.com](mailto:stjoewkr@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.stjosephrussell.com](http://www.stjosephrussell.com)  
 Archdiocese of Winnipeg [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)



*St. Joseph The Worker Parish, Russell, MB      St. Theresa's Parish Rossburn, MB*

**Responsorial Psalm 33:** Let your love be upon us, Lord, even as we hope in you.

St. Joseph's Russell needs volunteers to **read** and **usher** on Sunday Morning Mass, please choose which Sunday and sign up on the Ministry Schedule – found on the table where the donation envelopes are located. Thank you!

**Did you Know!** The National Catholic Broadcasting Council offers Sunday & Daily TV Mass on the Web, visit the website at [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com) or [www.youtube.com/dailytvmass](http://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass) to watch Mass each day.

**Zoom Along with Us** you can use it on your computers, tablets, i-pads & smart-phones  
 We still have **Sunday zoom Mass at 9:00 a.m.**

### Serra Club of Winnipeg present cheque to Vocations ministry

The Archbishop - The Serra Club of Winnipeg continues to be active in its support of Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg.

On February 10, 2023, a cheque for \$10,000.00 was presented to Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, Archbishop of Winnipeg, for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg vocations programs. Jane Alderdice, District Governor Manitoba Serra Canada Council, Barbara Rolstone, Co-Manager Serra Club Winnipeg and Marlene Coughlin made the presentation. We were also joined by Father Peter Nemcek, Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg for the presentation. [Click here for full article.](#)

### Mass Intentions For This Week:

#### Second Sunday Of Lent

Saturday Mar 4 7:30 p.m. Russell + Jutta Leven req. by Anne & Ubald Deschambault

Sunday Mar 5 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 am**  
 For all parishioners by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + John Ryshytylo req. by the McLaughlin's

Monday Mar 6 Health of family & friends req. by Jean Goba

Tuesday Mar 7 + Emilienne Mangin req. by George Mangin & family

Wed. Mar 8 + Deceased Family req. by Frank & Madeline Mangin

**Confessions St Lazare 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.**

7:00 p.m. Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage at St Joseph the Worker

Thurs. Mar 9 **9:00 a.m. Rossburn Adoration**

**9:30 a.m. Mass** For the sick & shut ins req. by David Woychyshyn & family

**Confessions Brandon 1:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. as needed**

Friday Mar 10 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration

9:00 a.m. Special Intentions req. by Irene Deschamps

10:15 a.m. Rossburn Personal Care Home Mass & Music

**Confessions Rossburn Sacred Heart 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. as needed**

**7:30 p.m. Zoom Station Of The Cross**

#### Third Sunday Of Lent

Saturday Mar 11 7:30 p.m. Russell + Duncan Spurway from Funeral Mass offering

Sunday Mar 12 9:00 a.m. Russell **Zoom on-line Mass 9:00 a.m. & YouTube after 10:15 am**  
 For all parishioners by Father Paul

11:00 a.m. Rossburn + John Ryshytylo req. by St Theresa's Parish

### St. Joseph The Worker News:

**Please remember in your prayers** those who are sick in hospitals, care homes, or in their homes & those who care for them. If you wish to receive the Sacraments of Anointing, Confession, or Holy Communion – please call the parish office & leave a message: 204-773-2924.

**First Communion** – Next class will be March 9th from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**Praying with Pope Francis, March:** For victims of abuse: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**Thank you** to Darlene Witty and the ladies who helped her prepare for the World Day of prayer on March 3rd. Thank you to all those who participated and joined in on the service. Thanks to those who also participated in the fellowship lunch after the service.

**Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage** You are invited in the New Year at St. Joseph The Worker

**Next Session Wednesday March 15th at 7:00 p.m.**

For more information contact Father Paul Bisson, 204-773-2924, or  
 Deacon Darin Douglas, 204-532-2157.

**Stations Of The Cross** will be available on Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on  
**March 10<sup>th</sup>.** This will continue until Easter. This is a good way to enliven our  
 prayer life and slow down our mind to really see what God has in mind for us.



### Experiencing Our Own Deserts

Orthodox author John Chryssavgis considers the desert as a symbol of both “deserted-ness” and God’s presence:

Anyone who has experienced some aspect of deserted-ness, that is to say some form of loneliness, or else some form of brokenness, breakdown or break-up—whether emotionally, physically, or socially—will be able to make the necessary connections. Each of us has known times of drought; dry and arid moments when we await refreshment and rain, when we wait for hope and life....

The desert, while accursed [in the Scriptures], was never seen as an empty region. It was a place that was full of action.... It was a space that provided an opportunity, and even a calling, for divine vision. In the desert, you were invited to shake off all forms of idolatry, all kinds of earthly limitations, in order to behold—or, rather, to be held before—an image of the heavenly God. There, you were confronted with another reality, with the presence of a boundless God, whose grace was without any limits at all. You could never avoid that perspective of revelation. After all, you cannot hide in the desert; there is no room for lying or deceit there. Your very self is reflected in the dry desert, and you are obliged to face up to this self. Anything else would constitute a dangerous illusion, not a divine icon....

The desert is a place of spiritual revolution, not of personal retreat. It is a place of inner protest, not outward peace. It is a place of deep encounter, not of superficial escape. It is a place of repentance, not recuperation. Living in the desert does not mean living without people; it means living for God.

Chryssavgis encourages us to face desert experiences instead of running away:

One does not have to move to the geographical location of the wilderness in order to find God. Yet, if you do not have to go to the desert, you do have to go through the desert .... The desert is a necessary stage on the spiritual journey. To avoid it would be harmful. To dress it up or conceal it may be tempting; but it also proves destructive in the spiritual path.

Ironically, you do not have to find the desert in your life; it normally catches up with you. Everyone does go through the desert.... It may be in the form of some suffering, or emptiness, or breakdown, or breakup, or divorce, or any kind of trauma that occurs in our life. Dressing this desert up through our addictions or attachments—to material goods, or money, or food, or drink, or success, or obsessions, or anything else we may care to turn toward or may find available to depend upon—will delay the utter loneliness and the inner fearfulness of the desert experience. If we go through this experience involuntarily, then it can be both overwhelming and crushing. If, however, we accept to undergo this experience voluntarily, then it can prove both constructive and liberating.

John Chryssavgis, *In the Heart of the Desert: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*, rev. ed. (Bloomington, IN: World Wisdom, 2008), 3, 34, 35, 36.



Dear Padre,

What is the value of lighting a candle in church?

Lighting candles is one of many customs that can be found in most of the world's religions. Lit candles, in church or at home, in front of a picture or statue of a favorite saint, serve a symbolic function. The light of the candle represents our desire that our prayer may be constant, as St. Paul urged (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The candle burns while we go about our daily tasks, symbolizing our desire to be at prayer with God. Similarly, Tibetan Buddhists spin prayer wheels and believe that as long as the wheels spin, a prayer is offered. Candles give light and banish the darkness. For Catholics they symbolize the light of Christ, by whose death and resurrection we are saved.

Lighting a candle isn't a required act. You can pray without lighting candles, without statues, without anything but your faith in God. However, we Catholics love our symbols. We like to engage all of our senses in our prayer experience: beautiful churches, colored light, incense, great music and, yes, candles.

One extreme position to avoid is lighting a candle hoping it will cause something else to happen, like the sudden cure of a loved one or relief from financial ruin. We are to avoid all appearance of using candles as if they have an untapped, magical power. Nevertheless, lighting a candle as a part of our prayer is a comforting custom and most things (and people?) look lovelier by candlelight. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4,	Mi 7:14-15,	Ex 17:3-7
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	12-13a, 17-28	18-20	Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
				Mt 21:33-43,	Lk 15:1-3,	Jn 4:5-42
				45-46	11-32	

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy,... "The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint."

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD), MARCH 19, 2018



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent (A)

Genesis 12:1-4a / 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 / Matthew 17:1-19



Once Upon a Mountaintop

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Many people, perhaps most people, have had a religious experience of some sort, something akin to that of Peter, James, and John atop the mountain with Jesus. It may or may not have included hearing a voice. Most often it is a deep sense of God's presence beyond anything they have ever known, like a profound realization of what life is about or how it is laced through and through with God. It usually occurs as we are idle, not doing anything in particular, and often when we are younger, yet it is also something that changes our understanding of what life and God are about.

Most people do not talk about such experiences for any number of reasons, partly because there do not seem to be words to describe such a moment in a way anyone would understand, like trying to describe falling in love. Partly because if we tried, we fear others would think us strange. And partly because we can find ourselves wondering whether it was real or simply our imagination. Yet always we remember the moment and know it to be true.

One additional characteristic of such moments is that they tend to take us to a new place in life, as with Abram in the first reading. For him it was to pack up his life and move. More likely for us it is to a life of service, caring, and treasuring all of life now in a new way. ●

Reflect

If you've had a religious experience, is there someone you can talk to about how it changed your faith?

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

MATTHEW 17:5B

