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

Responsorial Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

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.

Stations Of The Cross will be available on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on

March 24th. 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.

We will have an in-person Station of the Cross at Saint Joseph's on Friday March 31st at 7:00 p.m. This will determine for next year if we will do the Stations of the Cross on zoom or in person at the Church.



Coffee Sunday is back Palm Sunday, April 2nd after 9 am Mass and *everyone is invited!* **We hope to see you there!**

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.

Mass Intentions For This Week:

Fourth Sunday Of Lent

- Saturday Mar 18 7:30 p.m. Russell + Duncan Spurway from Funeral Mass offering
- Sunday Mar 19 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 Wade McLaughlin req. by the McLaughlin's
- Monday Mar 20 Health of family & friends req. by Jean Goba
- Tuesday Mar 21 Special Intentions req. by Irene Deschamps
- Wed. Mar 22 **7:00 p.m. Beloved: Finding Happiness in Marriage at St Joseph the Worker**
- Thurs. Mar 23 10:30 a.m. Rossburn Adoration
 11:00 a.m. David Woychyshyn req. by St Theresa's Parish
Reconciliations Russell at St Joseph the Worker 4-5pm & 6- as needed
- Friday Mar 24 8:30 a.m. Russell Adoration
 9:00 a.m. Mass Special Intentions req. by Marlene & Lorne Pettitt

Fifth Sunday Of Lent

- Saturday Mar 25 7:30 p.m. Russell + Ann Panko req. by Maryon & Margaret Mushumanski
- Sunday Mar 26 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 Laurette Sabourin req. by St Theresa's Parish

Ordination of Deacon Oliver Omega to the Ministerial Priesthood will be on Friday June 9th at Saint Mary's Cathedral at 7:30 p.m.

From The Russell Welcoming Committee

It has been over a year since Russia invaded Ukraine. Since that time, we have had over 50, women, men and children move to our area to escape war and devastation.

They are working, attending school and contributing to our communities. Having left their homes and extended family they still need our support. **What can you do to help?**

VOLUNTEERS are needed to drive individuals to work and appointments, to check in on the families and to be a support when they have questions about Canadian life & customs. Volunteers will be required to have a Criminal Record Check. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Becky Flundra at 204-796-0355.

DONATE or fundraise to help cover costs of settling into a new life including basic needs such as groceries, transportation and school costs. Donations can be made by e-transfer to rawc692@gmail.com or contact Pat Orsak at 204-532-2107 for more information. A receipt will be provided.

Russell and Area Welcoming Committee.

Suffering Lenten Reflection by Zach McLaughlin

Suffering is not easy and most of us try our very best to avoid it at all times, yet as Catholics, we fast from something we like during lent. Why would we want to inflict even the smallest amount of pain on ourselves? It is because the power of suffering is tremendous, and God uses our suffering for great things if we offer it to Him. The blind man in the Gospel was suffering. He could not see the sky, the trees, or his loved ones. But God used his suffering to show that He works through people's pain. The same goes for us. God will use the suffering that comes from our Lenten sacrifices for the greater glory of God. Still, that doesn't suddenly make suffering easy. If we offer our suffering to God for a specific purpose, or for someone we know that is also suffering, it will make it easier to accept our suffering or to persevere in our Lenten fast or sacrifice.

Apart from fasting, lent can also be a time of relief. Lent could also be spent breaking bad habits and replacing them with other activities that will nurture our relationship with God. It is very relieving when a bad habit is broken, as habits can be very hard to overcome. Don't be discouraged by the pains and sorrows of life. Thankfully, God does not abandon us. He is always with us through our hardships and is there to help us. Jesus cured the blind man in the Gospel: He restored his sight. The man could see the sky, the grass, but best of all the beautiful face of Jesus. Just the same, Jesus will eventually cure all of us of all our pain and suffering if we trust in Him. Whether that will be in heaven or sometime yet on earth, we do not know. That is up to God, and He knows best. We too, will also one day behold the beautiful face of God when we reach our heavenly home. There, our sight will no longer be tainted by our earthly view of life. We know that in heaven there will be no more suffering. Here on earth, we know that suffering can be redemptive, which means it can save souls, only through God. That is why we, as Catholics give up something for lent and offer it to God, to be used for the salvation of souls. We are saved from our sins by Christ suffering and dying on the Cross for us. He thought of us as He suffered on the cross and all throughout His earthly life. Christ suffered everything that we will ever have to suffer. The power of suffering is immeasurable! We too must do our best in offering even the smallest discomforts to God for the healing of souls. This does not mean the more we suffer, the better we are in the sight of God. It is easy to think the bigger the sacrifice, the more God will love us; or that God will love us more if we do something for lent. This is simply not true. We don't sacrifice things so that God will love us more, but rather, we sacrifice things so that we will love God more. Even after lent is over and we go back to our normal routines we will still have many trials and sufferings that come up in our lives. We must continue to offer them to God so that His marvelous works may be shown through our suffering.

Dear Padre,

Why should I bother to be more religious? I'm a good person. Isn't that enough to get me into heaven?

When asked for advice about how people should decide on a vocation, St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, said they should do an imagination exercise. "Imagine that you are on your deathbed," he said. "From that point of view what would you wish you had done in your life?" That is still good advice.

Here's another exercise: Imagine you have a grandmother who is completely generous and caring toward you. Throughout your childhood, she was always there for you. But as a teen you belittled her and, in effect, told her that all she had offered is worthless to you. In a saner moment, won't you feel terrible about how you treated her?

Our life with God is much the same. God has given us absolutely everything, from our existence to every breath we take. God has also given us a way to know him through his Son, Jesus (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 73). And one way we know Jesus is through the Church and the celebration of the sacraments (CCC 1085). To refuse these gifts, to say, "I am already a good person. I don't need these gifts from God" is a bit presumptuous, don't you think?

To be "religious" is not just an outward show of piety. It's the way we have been given to learn God's language: the language of forgiveness, of faith, hope, and love. ●



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Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, 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 20 <i>St. Joseph</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a	March 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 47:1-9, 12 Jn 5:1-16	March 22 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 49:8-15 Jn 5:17-30	March 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ex 32:7-14 Jn 5:31-47	March 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Wis 2:1a, 12-22 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	March 25 <i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	March 26 <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> Ez 37:12-14 Rom 8:8-11 Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves....Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. If we are blind, we cannot claim to be guides and teachers for others: indeed, a blind person cannot lead another blind person....

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a / Ephesians 5:8-14 /
John 9:1-41 or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



Coming of Age, Coming of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is said we never become a believer before age thirty-five. I don't think there is anything magical about that age. Some in their seventies still have not yet come to be people of faith, and there are those who, at a very young age, seem to have entrusted their lives to God. What the age of thirty-five does say, however, is that most people need to have lived a while and experienced a few ups and downs to recognize there is a power in their lives greater than themselves.

This week's Gospel story of the man born blind encapsulates a lifelong journey of coming to see who Jesus is, compressed into a few days. When asked who cured him of blindness, the man first says the man Jesus did it. Brought to testify before the Pharisees, he says that Jesus must be a prophet. Confronted by the

Pharisees a second time, he testifies that Jesus must be of God. Finally, when he sees Jesus again, he calls him Lord, a name for God. The story is a parable of sorts about how we come to have faith, to see with new and different eyes.

Faith involves trusting, sometimes trusting an unseen Power who feels absent at times; about surrendering control over our lives to God, as we come to see in an entirely new way. It can take a lifetime to begin seeing in such a way. ●

Reflect

**Where am I on the journey of faith?
How open are my eyes?**

[The man who had been blind] replied, "...One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

JOHN 9:25

