

St. Joseph Catholic Church
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Old Words, New Translation...

Scriptural echoes will be heard; we will hear John the Baptist saying “Behold the Lamb of God, Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world (John 1). We recall the centurion who said in Luke 7 “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.” The Gloria also contains echoes from Luke 2, John 1, Revelations 15 and Psalm 83. Our Catholic liturgy is filled with Scripture and the new translation is full of them.

There are sayings from the early Fathers of the church from 100 A.D. to 451 Chalcedon, especially in the Creed. The Fathers of the church always taught that Jesus was both Divine and human, so He was incarnate as a human being even before He was born. So we now say “incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

That Jesus is God, not just like God; He is the only begotten Son, born of the Father before all ages. “God from God, Light from Light.” Christ is begotten of the Father, not made; “consubstantial with the Father.” So we are “one voice” with the Father of the early church and with the Scripture.

Then there are prayers from the sacramentaries, the books written for the ministers of the church down through the ages from about 700 A.D. The new sacramentary more accurately portrays the prayers as originally written. We join our voices with those who prayed those prayers for centuries.

This is the prayer of the church, which is always taking place, 24 hours a day, somewhere in the world. The liturgy is an act of worship and God’s action in our midst as we give praise to God for all His blessings to us.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Endowment Fund is a key ingredient in the success of any educational institution. Fiscal integrity is closely related to the size of the endowment because it is the foundation of the school's operation. We have 40 Trust Funds in our parish—about half for church and half for the school. This year, because of tough economic times, the Diocese is only paying 2-1/2% on all Trusts. We have been blessed with many gifts to the Trust Funds. They are at \$1-1/2 million—not big enough yet to make a big difference, but with your help we are getting where we want to be—about \$10 million.

These Trusts meet several needs and are very important in helping us stay on budget for the year, help with tuition aid, and maintaining our schools' upkeep. It only takes \$5,000 to establish a Trust Fund, payable over one or two years. This would help a lot. The principle of such Trust Funds is never touched, only the interest.

I have 2 Trust Funds established—one for my parents, who gave me life, love and encouragement; and one for my brother, Eddie, who was one of the best Christians I know of and generous to a tee.

We are trying to increase our Trust Funds and our Endowment (which is \$20,200 for the Parish and \$109,650 for the schools). Not great, but okay for now. You can help them grow by sending a donation to the church as a memorial or a gift. Dick Clark will see to it that it gets where it's supposed to. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



Help Us Pray our Best...Not Just Say the New Words

The prayers of the 1974 sacramentary, which we have been using for the past 3 decades, strove for brevity and conciseness of expression. The new Missal is a more poetic form of expression, e.g., we don't tell God what to do but find our right place before God. We stand humbly before God and implore His mercy because we realize that we do not earn nor deserve the good things that come from God's grace. It's all about the grace of God's action and the effects of His grace upon us. In the new translation there is one clear petition and the expression of motivation to trust God and our hope for the effects of God's grace in us.

May the new prayers enrich our experience of the Mass, leading us to a deeper appreciation and a fuller expression of our faith. To pray the liturgy well will take work, for priests and people, to give God an offering of praise.

We join together in the worship that Jesus gives to the Father. We are in Christ. Christ is in us. He is the Head. We are His body in the world—feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, etc. He needs our hands and feet to bring His love to the world. We are equipped and energized for this work at the Eucharistic table. We give praise to God and promise to be a light in the world. It all coincides in Christ and all of us through His sacraments. God's grace is at work in us.

“And with your spirit.” It is not just the priest who prays but Christ in all of us, through His spirit. The priest is given this grace in ordination. He acts in the Spirit of Christ. This exchange between priest and people happens 5 times at every Mass. It is Christ's liturgy.

Priests and Christ are so united that at the words of consecration, the priest speaks as Christ, “This is My Body. This is My Blood.”. The Lord be with you introduces all 4 elements of the Mass as a dialogue taken place between God and us.

Thank You, God

As we celebrated 103 years in our church this Thanksgiving, we have a lot to be thankful for. Our present church was built in 1908 for a cost of \$42,000. Our Parish started in 1858 and is now one hundred and fifty three years old. Our schools started in 1888. Can you imagine what blood, sweat and tears went into the building and maintaining of our church and schools since then? We owe a lot of gratitude to so many for their sacrifices and generosity in making it all possible.

From our humble beginnings as a parish in 1858, our church has endured the test of time and has formed generations of authentic and great Christians who work hard to make our church, our families, our schools, and our community a better place for all. We continue this legacy of excellence.

The generosity of our church is first class. Parishioners have done and continue to do so much. We truly are the body of Christ in action, praying and working together for the betterment of all. We have so much to be thankful for. And we are. Thank you God for such a wonderful parish. We are so grateful for so many and so much.

Finance Council Members

Our Church Finance Committee members are: Bill Allen (President), Mary Frances Lang (Vice-President), Dick Clark (Secretary/Treasurer), Jim Lipscomb, Jimmy Word, Dianne Towles, Ray Millwood, Britt Virden, Key Reifers, Joe Bennett and Father Somers. They do a great job in taking care of the finances of our parish and we thank them very much. Up to the present time, we are \$20,000 short on our budget. Please help us out by doing the best you can and giving as much as you can. Thank you.

Italian Sausage Sale

The Greenville Knights of Columbus is once again selling Italian Sausage, available in links or bulk. The cost is \$4.50 per pound or 3 pounds for \$13.00. If you missed getting some at the K.C. Hall or after Mass, you can call Bernie Brown at 347-8360, Dick Clark at 379-0599 or Robert Fratesi at 378-6617.

Christmas Tree Sales at St. Joe



Monday - Friday – 3:00 - 7:00 pm
Saturday – 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday – 2:00 - 6:00 pm

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses!

If you miss Mass on Sundays, who gave you permission to do so! Was it God or Jesus or the church? Probably not. Was it your own excuses? Probably! Going to Mass and making the Sunday holy is a serious obligation given to us by God. It should not be taken lightly. Hope to see you in church this Sunday! Parents should make sure their children are going to Mass on Sundays.

Welcome Mrs. Zepponi

St. Joseph Schools are pleased to announce the addition of Lisa Zepponi as the new Director of Development. "Since 1888 St. Joseph Schools have provided excellent education in a safe, positive, Catholic environment. It is important to have someone with serious qualifications to lead our recruitment and development efforts. " Lisa Zepponi has the experience to do an excellent job in guiding us where we want to go.

Welcome aboard, Lisa!

Prayer for St. Joseph Church

Lord, we pray for our parish daily. Help us to be the best we can be. Bless our efforts and keep us safe from all harm. Thank you for your presence among us. May we rededicate ourselves to your service daily. Fill us with your gifts and make us always eager to serve you and each other in faith, in hope and in love. Thank you, Jesus. Bless our families, our schools and our parish community. Amen

Why Go to Church?

One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going." "Why not?" she asked. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "(1), they don't like me, and (2), I don't like them." His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church: "(1) You're 49 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"

The Picnic

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter. "This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?" The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

God never says GOODBYE

You sometimes hear people say: "I've given up God and religion; I don't believe in that nonsense anymore." Whatever may have brought them to such a position one can never be sure. There may be many reasons – failure or disappointment, a kind of despair with one's own weakness. Some may have definite hang-ups with the church, others may have felt neglected or hurt in some way. And many have allowed their faith to deteriorate simply by being lazy or by too much emphasis on a materialistic lifestyle.

But whatever the reason one thing is certain, we can never leave God, because He will never leave us. GOD NEVER SAYS GOODBYE. He made us, He loves us, He cares about us – even when we don't care too much about Him. Our life depends on Him as the flow of a fountain depends on its source.

We can leave God and go our own merry way. But God remains. His love endures and He never forgets us. We believe that God wants all of us to experience His love in a special way during this Christmas. We offer you a special invitation to attend one or more of these services and we hope you will. God loves you and we do too.

This is an opportunity for all of us to come together so that we may be refreshed, renewed, loved, unified, welcomed, and be filled with His grace. We need hope and peace in these troubled times. We need to pray for ourselves, our families, our churches, our communities and our world. We need to know and experience again His love for us.

God has a great blessing in store for you, for all of us. He never gives up on us and He never says goodbye.

The following is our schedule for the season. Please check it carefully and plan to attend. You will be blessed.

Tuesday, Dec. 13 7:00 p.m. **Parish Reconciliation Service** (8 priests available for confession)

Saturday, Dec. 17 4:45–5:30 p.m. **The Sacrament of Reconciliation** (in Church)

One may go to confession anytime by appointment.

Christmas and Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 24 5:30 p.m. A Christmas Mass, especially suited for children and their families. Led by the Children's Christmas Choir. *(Nursery available)*
11:40 p.m. Sing Christmas carols with the 10:30 Mass Choir. *Come and enjoy.*

Sunday, Dec. 25 12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass. *Come and bring a friend.* Carol program begins 11:40 pm
8:40 a.m. Come and enjoy singing Christmas carols with the 8:00 Mass Choir.
9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass. (One Mass only this morning.) Led by 8:00 am Choir

Saturday, Dec. 31 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass

2012 New Year's Schedule

Sunday, January 1, 2012 8:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m. *Special Day of Prayer for peace in the world.*
NO 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 8, 2012 Feast of the Epiphany
(regular Sunday schedule)