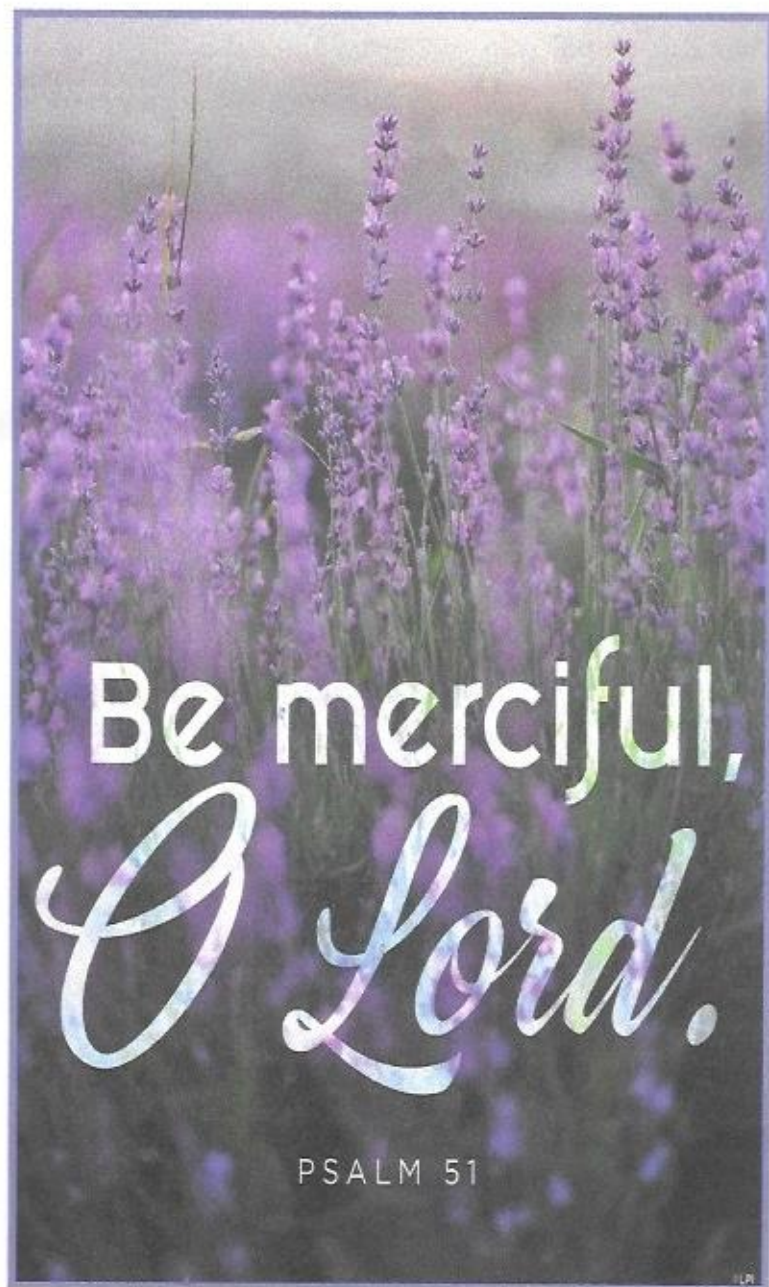


# ST. JOSEPH AND ST. JOHN NEPOMUK CATHOLIC CHURCHES RACINE, WISCONSIN · MARCH 1, 2020



## PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Steven K. Varghese, Pastor  
Deacon Douglas Gundlach - SJ  
Leslie Gain, Administrative Assistant - SJN  
Amber Fay, Coordinator of Faith Formation - SJ and SJN  
David Kirkpatrick, Director of Music - SJ and SJN  
Heidi Hernandez, St. Joseph School Principal  
Michael Reth, Business Manager - SJ  
Deanne Koleske, Parish Secretary - SJ  
Jeanmarie Diehn, St. Joseph School Secretary  
Mary Lee Odders, Bulletin Editor - SJ and SJN  
Russ Blaha, Maintenance - SJ  
Thomas Quiroz, Maintenance - SJN

## MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. - SJN  
Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. - SJ  
Saturday Mass of Anticipation, 4 p.m. - SJN  
Saturday Mass of Anticipation, 5:15 p.m. - SJ  
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. - SJ  
9:45 a.m. - SJN  
10:30 a.m. - SJ

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Anytime by appointment or Saturday, 3-3:45 p.m. - SJN

## TRUSTEES

Jim Tresemer - SJN      John Gates - SJ  
Suzanne Yde - SJN      Pete Koleske - SJ

## PASTORAL COUNCIL

Dennis Maller, Chair

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**St. John Nepomuk Church; 1903 Green Street; Racine, WI**  
Parish Office phone: 262-634-5647 and fax: 262-634-1436  
e-mail: [stjohnnepomuk@wi.rr.com](mailto:stjohnnepomuk@wi.rr.com)

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon;  
Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, closed

Office/Mailing: 700 English Street; Racine, WI 53402-4799

**St. Joseph Church; 1533 Erie Street; Racine, WI**

Parish Office phone: 262-633-8284 and fax: 262-633-8285  
e-mail: [info@st-joes.org](mailto:info@st-joes.org) website: [st-joes.org](http://st-joes.org)

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Office/Mailing: 1532 N. Wisconsin Street; Racine, WI 53402-4805

Faith Formation Office: 262-633-9005

School Office phone: 262-633-2403 and fax: 262-633-4423  
website: [st-joes-school.org](http://st-joes-school.org)

Preschool: 262-633-0112

School Office: 1525 Erie Street; Racine, WI 53402-4830

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION

**Registration and calendar:** [st-joes.org](http://st-joes.org) or 262-633-9005

Registration questions: 262-633-9005


Faith Formation class absences: 262-633-9005

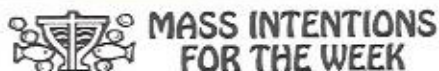
## LEGACY GIFT

Please remember St. Joseph Church or St. John Nepomuk Church in your estate planning. Thank you.

## CATHOLIC CEMETERY ASSOCIATION OF RACINE

Please call their office, 639-1071, or visit [racinecemeteries.org](http://racinecemeteries.org)

 Join us on Facebook at St. Joseph Parish Racine to access archived bulletins and more.

**MONDAY, MARCH 2**

*Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46*

8 a.m. NO Mass or Communion Service

**TUESDAY, MARCH 3 St. Katharine Drexel /**

**Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions**

*Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15*

8 a.m. - SJN + Bert and Margaret Mayerl

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 St. Casimir**

*Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32*

\* 8 a.m. - SJ - The living and deceased members  
of the Sus and Shimkus Families

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5**

*Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8*

*[3a]/Mt 7:7-12*

8 a.m. - SJN + Virginia and Hilario Rodriguez

**FRIDAY, MARCH 6 Anointing of the Sick /**

**Day of Abstinence\* / Stations of the Cross**

*Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8 [3]/Mt 5:20-26*

8 a.m. - SJ + Robert Zerzanek

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7 Sts. Perpetua and Felicity**

*Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48*

8 a.m. NO Mass or Communion Service

**MASS OF ANTICIPATION**

*Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [22]/2 Tm 1:8b-*

*10/Mt 17:1-9*

4 p.m. - SJN - The living and deceased members of the  
Baumgardt and Simanek Families

- The living and deceased members  
of St. John Nepomuk Parish

5:15 p.m. - SJ + Don Christensen

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:30 a.m. - SJ + Mary Sura

9:45 a.m. - SJN + Cecilia Rosenbaum

10:30 a.m. - SJ - The living and deceased members  
of St. Joseph Parish

Key: SJ - St. Joseph, SJN - St. John Nepomuk,

\* - Mass with the school students



**Spring forward! Daylight Saving Time  
begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 8.**

**ST. JOHN NEPOMUK PARISH'S SANCTUARY LAMP:**

As we adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament,  
please remember in faith,

**BERT AND MARGARET MAYERL.**

If Racine Unified Schools are closed due to inclement weather, there will be no morning Mass, after-school activities, Religious Education or practices.

Dear Parishioners,

Lent is primarily the time of intense spiritual preparation for conquering our temptations, using the means Jesus used during his forty days of preparation in the desert for his public life. It is also the time for renewing our lives for the celebration of Easter with our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death, and Resurrection.

Today's Gospel teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The tempter urges Jesus to turn stones into loaves of bread. But Jesus rejects that temptation to mistrust His Father by satisfying his own immediate, temporal needs and thus reducing His Divine mission to self-satisfaction. The tempter then suggests that Jesus prove that he is really the Son of God by jumping off the parapet of the temple. Jesus rejects this as a temptation to act as God's superior and demand He prove His trustworthiness! Jesus rejects the temptation to idolatry.

As faithful disciples, we are always tempted by the devil, the world, and by our own selfish interests. So, we need to cooperate actively with God's grace to conquer our temptations.

Happy Lenten journey,

*Fr. Steve*

**\*The Catholic Church asks each member to preserve the penitential character of Lent.** For this reason, Catholics, who have celebrated their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, are bound to **abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and each Friday of Lent**; the age of fasting is from the completion of the 18<sup>th</sup> year to the beginning of the 60<sup>th</sup> year. Hence, in addition to abstaining from meat, one should **fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**, eating only one full meal. Smaller quantities of food may be taken at two other meals, but no food should be consumed at other times during those two days.

*United States Council of Catholic Bishops*

**St. John Nepomuk Parish**

**February 22/23 collection:** \$ 2,071.00

Amount budgeted per week: \$ 2,403.85

Year-to-date budget: \$ 81,730.90

Year-to-date given: \$ 77,558.53

Year-to-date balance: \$ -4,172.37

**St. Joseph Parish**

<b>Weekly collection income:</b>	\$ 4,085.75
February 22/23 collection:	\$ 3,950.75
Church renovation:	\$ 100.00
Energy costs:	\$ 35.00
<b>Weekly budget requirement:</b>	<b>\$ 9,100.00</b>
<b>Difference for the week:</b>	<b>\$ -5,041.25</b>
Year-to-date budget:	\$ 318,500.00
Year-to-date given:	\$ 223,958.60
Year-to-date balance:	\$ -94,541.40
Evangelization Committee:	\$ 100.00

**A Lenten Day of Reflection, "Simons of Cyrene – Carrying the Cross of Christ,"** with presenter Fr. Bill Stout, OFM, St. Catherine's High School chaplain, is Saturday, **March 7**, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Richard's Parish. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 697. A \$5 donation is requested for cost of materials/refreshments. Schedule: 3 p.m. confessions, 4 p.m. Mass, and 4-8 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner in Vogel Hall. Package \$12 ticket includes program and dinner. Call Harold Von De Bur, 630-215-5362, pgkharold24@gmail.com.



**We need your feedback on the Disciple Maker Index survey!** The [disciplemakerindex.com](http://disciplemakerindex.com) website is open until **Monday, March 23**.

Paper copies of the survey are available at church entrances of St. John Nepomuk and St. Joseph Churches. Both Parish Offices have paper copies available. **Responses are anonymous and confidential.** The Archdiocese of Milwaukee and our parish ministries will use this information for future planning, as we strive to be the best disciples we can be. **P-l-e-a-s-e take the 15 minutes to complete the Disciple Maker Index survey and return paper copies to the tables at the church entrances.** We need your help.



**The Food Pantry's most needed items** are canned meat, beef stew, corned beef hash, chili, canned fruit, Chunky soup, pasta sides, saltine crackers and toilet paper.

**St. John Nepomuk parish needs** two volunteers (one to check clients in and one to take groceries to their car) to work once a month (1.75 hrs.) on a Tuesday beginning February 4. Please call Linda Meredith at 262-456-6035. The recipient list has increased tremendously. Thank you all for helping us feed the poor! Donation checks can be placed in the church collection or sent to St. Vincent de Paul Society; P.O. Box 44195; Racine WI 53404-7004.

**The bulletin article deadline** is noon Monday, March 2, for the March 8 bulletin. Send written items to the Parish Office or [info@st-joes.org](mailto:info@st-joes.org). **Bulletins and inserts are archived at [st-joes.org](http://st-joes.org)**; on Facebook at St. Joseph Parish Racine.

**For the Sacrament of the Sick and Communion for the Sick** when a parishioner is unable to attend church due to age, prolonged illness, or upcoming hospitalization, please call St. John Parish Office at 634-5647 or St. Joseph Parish Office at 633-8284.

**If you wish to have Father visit your hospitalized loved one**, please call your Parish Office with your request. The hospital does not notify us of parishioner admissions.

**Creative Hands** meets at St. Joseph's Parish Center on first and third Mondays, 1-3 p.m. Next on **March 2**.

**Senior Group at Sacred Heart Church's Haban Hall** meets first/third Tuesdays, noon-3 p.m. Next **March 3**.



**St. Joseph's Lenten Best Friday Fish and Shrimp Fries in town are March 13 and 27, 5-7 p.m.** Dine-in MSMH or drive-thru service at the N. Wisconsin Street garages.

Cost: \$10 platter of hand-breaded, fried fish; shrimp; or combo; or \$5 kids' meal option of baked mac and cheese and Crazy Taters. Tickets at the door, drive-thru, parish office, or school office. Join us for this fundraiser for the parish and the Class of 2021.

**Deepen your relationship with Jesus through a series of three Lenten mini-retreats** with Fr. Ron Gramza at St. Lucy Parish. Each explores one of the traditional Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving in the life of Jesus and how to apply it in our life. On **Thursdays, March 19 and 26 and April 2** at 9 a.m.

**If you or someone you know is grieving to loss of a loved one, please consider joining a six-week bereavement series** conducted by St. Paul the Apostle Parish **Thursdays, April 16-May 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Offering spiritual and emotional support through sharing with one another. **Required registration:** Parish Office, 886-0530. Cost: \$25. Space is limited.

**Our advertiser dollars pay for our bulletin. Thank them when you patronize their business.** Advertiser of the Week: **Feiner Plumbing**, 524 Villa St., 632-8994.



**Please remember in your prayers our men and women in uniformed services**, especially those serving in the Middle East. We beg your protection and guidance for them, O Lord.

*WE, THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH, RACINE, WISCONSIN, believe the Church is the Living Body of Christ, in which we all share responsibility. As the unit of God's Family which fulfills this universal mission of the Church within our community, this parish unites in a spirit of stewardship to offer our time, talents and treasure to foster Catholic Education, and to care for the spiritual, intellectual, moral, and temporal needs of parish members.*

### **Liturgical Roles for March 7 and 8**

#### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Saturday 5:15 p.m. Ethan Petersen (Cross),  
Ryann Petersen  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Alyssa Buchaklian (Cross),  
Tony Alvarado  
10:30 a.m. Aliah Ramirez (Cross),  
Emily Ramirez

#### **LECTORS**

Saturday 5:15 p.m. Nat Cycenas  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Genie Bosch  
10:30 a.m. John Sardino

#### **CANTORS**

Saturday 5:15 p.m. Kay Shalbrack  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Miles Group  
10:30 a.m. Mona Fortier

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF**

##### **HOLY COMMUNION - CIBORIUM**

Saturday 5:15 p.m. Deacon Doug Gundlach  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Deacon Doug Gundlach  
10:30 a.m. Sandy Lindstrom

#### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF**

##### **HOLY COMMUNION - CHALICE**

Saturday 5:15 p.m. John Nielsen and Mary Lee Odders  
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Betsy Tarczon and Dave Tarczon  
10:30 a.m. John Sardino and Pat Carbonneau

Please direct private prayer requests to St. Joseph Prayer Chain team. Call Lorraine Caspers, 639-1070.



**Stations of the Cross will be prayed Lenten Fridays at St. Joseph Church after 8 a.m. Mass, at 12:25 p.m. when school is in session, and at 6:30 p.m. with Deacon Doug. Please join us as we journey together during Lent.**

**St. Joseph's School Auction is Saturday, April 25.** We need your help to build the kids a playground! If you or a family member work at an institution that would donate, sponsor our event, or match monetary donations, please let us know! Please contact Lora Miller, 414-313-4289 or loranismiller@yahoo.com. Thank you! *St. Joseph's Home and School Association*



**Our spiritually-adopted babies are six months old.** The poster in the back of church shows what the baby can do at this development stage. *Human Concerns Group*

### **This Week in Our St. Joseph Parish Family**

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Rosary: Church  
8:30 a.m. Mass - Rite of Enrollment for Confirmandii:  
Church  
After all Masses - Girl Scout Cookie Sale: Sch. lobby  
**NO** Religious Education classes  
7 p.m. - A.A. meeting: MSMH

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 2**

1 p.m. - Creative Hands: Parish Center  
3-7 p.m. - Youth Center

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 3**

4:30 p.m. - Rosary: Church

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4**

6-7:15 p.m. - Religious Ed., gr. 6-10: St. Joseph  
6:15-7:15p.m. - Religious Ed., gr. 1-5: St. John

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 5**

6 p.m. - All Committee Meeting Night: MSMH  
7-8:30 p.m. - Adult Choir rehearsal: Church

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 6**

After 8 a.m. Mass - Stations of the Cross: Church  
12:25 p.m. - Stations of the Cross with students: Church  
6:30 p.m. - Stations of the Cross, Deacon Doug: Church  
6:30 p.m. - School Variety Show: Gym

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 7**

6:45-7:45 a.m. - Men's Faith/Bible Group: Parish Center  
4:45 p.m. - Rosary: Church

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Rosary: Church  
**NO** Religious Education classes  
noon-6:30 p.m. - Basketball and Cheer practices: Gym  
7 p.m. - A.A. meeting: MSMH

**MARCH ALTAR LINEN:** Mary Lee Odders

**SANCTUARY LADIES:** Friday, March 6—Jackie Hairapetian, Mary Lee Odders, and Judy Scholz

**COLLECTION TELLERS:** Sunday, March 8—Debbie Blaustein and Sandy Sus

**WELCOME IN BAPTISM:** Georgia Rene, the daughter of Jason L. and Veronica J. (Gagliano) Averkamp

**IN YOUR CHARITY:** Please remember in faith, James Dickert, who received his Christian burial through our church and ministry. Eternal rest, O Lord.

*WE, THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOHN NEPOMUK CHURCH OF RACINE, WISCONSIN, believers in God and living members of the Body of Christ, through prayer and worship, will strive: to make good use of our gifts of time, talent and treasure and to pray for growth of our parish family and all people of God: to be open to the direction of the Holy Spirit by reaching out to all members of the community in a friendly and welcoming manner; to challenge all parishioners to become involved in the life of the parish, thus making St. John's a vibrant Christian community.*

### Liturgical Roles for March 7 and 8

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Miguel Sosa

Sunday 9:45 a.m. Grace Gross

#### LECTORS

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Barb Zielinski

Sunday 9:45 a.m. Deb Schuebel also Sacristan

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

##### OF HOLY COMMUNION - PLATE

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mary Jean Blaha also Sacristan

Sunday 9:45 a.m. Barb and Ron Zielinski

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

##### OF HOLY COMMUNION - CUP

Saturday 4:00 p.m. Lauri Buchaklian and


Peter Sisak

Sunday 9:45 a.m. Alicia Stiles and

Alisa Pichelman

**Welcome in baptism, Asher Anthony Ashish Patel,** son of Ashish R. and Natalie F. (Gross) Patel.

**Our Building and Grounds project update** shows this week we have received Green envelopes totaling \$190. To-date total is \$7257.35. Continue to use the monthly Green envelopes for our parish repairs.

 Our Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of **Bert and Margaret Mayerl**. Call the Parish Office, 634-5647, to schedule March Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Candles.

### THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

#### 2020 RAFFLE WINNERS

Sunday, Feb. 16 -	Pamela Heilman	#875	\$50
Monday, Feb. 17 -	Joe Gartner	#266	\$25
Tuesday, Feb. 18 -	Mike Degenhart	#152	\$25
Wednesday, Feb. 19 -	Sue Hobach	#900	\$25
Thursday, Feb. 20 -	Steven or Lindalu Whalen	#748	\$25
Friday, Feb. 21 -	Molly Murphy	#1119	\$25
Saturday, Feb. 22 -	Ivan Ivic	#147	\$25

### This Week in Our St. John Nepomuk Parish Family

#### MONDAY, MARCH 2

8 a.m. - Bulletin article deadline: Parish Office

Noon - Parish Office closes

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 3

After 8 a.m. Mass - Perpetual Help Devotions: Church

Noon - Parish Office closes

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Noon - Parish Office closes

6-7:15 p.m. - Religious Ed., gr. 6-10: St. Joseph

6:15-7:15p.m. - Religious Ed., gr. 1-5: Parish Center

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

After 8 a.m. Mass - Cenacles of Life Group: Chapel

8:30-11:30 a.m. - Arts and Crafts: Parish Center

12:30-3 p.m. - Sacred Heart Ladies: Parish Center

6 p.m. - All Committee Meeting Night: St. Joseph

School cafeteria

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Parish Office closed

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

After 9:45 a.m. Mass - Christian Mothers and Altar

Society Breakfast meeting: Parish Center

**NO** Religious Education classes

7 p.m. - A.A. meeting: St. Joseph School cafeteria

**Attention, Proclaimers, Eucharistic Ministers and Sacristans.** I am scheduling for April-July. If you have any dates you can't make, please call Carolyn at 632-7781 by Tuesday, March 10.

**I would like to thank the St. John Nepomuk parishioners** who worked so hard to make our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Scholastic Challenge event a huge success. We again received many favorable comments from teachers, parents, family members, etc. who came to watch. We had students participating from Racine, Milwaukee, So. Milwaukee, Kenosha, and Oak Creek.

#### Final results were:

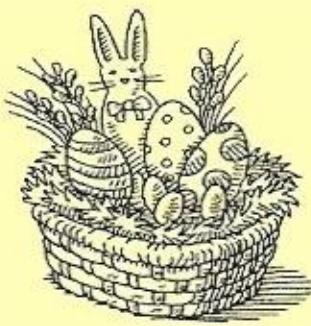
Black Division: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - St. Rita, Racine

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - St. Thomas Aquinas,  
Milwaukee

Red Division: 1<sup>st</sup> Place - St. Catherine, Racine

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: St. Roman, Milwaukee

*Paul Steimle - Chairperson*



St. Joseph and St. John Nepomuk  
Food Basket Program  
**Easter Basket Collection**

St. Joseph's and St. John Nepomuk's Food Basket Program currently provides for 39 families, 31 which have 97 children. This year, will you please help the Human Concerns group surprise the children in each family with an Easter basket according to age and gender?

On the weekends of March 7/8 and 14/15, the EASTER TREE will be located at the back table in St. Joseph Church. Each plastic egg hanging on the tree will contain a child's age, gender and family ID #.

You choose an egg and then put together a basket for that child. When the basket is completed, attach the tag from the plastic Easter egg onto the basket. Make sure the tag is visible for distribution. Drop off your donated basket at the back table at St. Joseph Church by the tree on these weekends:

**March 14/15, March 21/22, and March 28/29**

Using a cellophane bag to enclose the basket contents would be much appreciated. You can purchase these at the Dollar store. Thank you for your donation!

*Human Concerns Group*

Basket ideas: Please be mindful of **age and gender** when purchasing toys, stuffed animals, candy, books, coloring books with crayons, stickers, hair bands, gift cards, puzzles, Hot Wheel cars, nail polish, etc.

Any questions? Call Catherine Gundlach at 681-7335.



St. Joseph's Human Concerns group coordinates much of the parish care for those in need. We meet on the first Thursday of the month from September thru June. The following is the list of all the activities we are involved in and a brief description of each.

If you are interested in helping in any of these activities, please fill out the form below and return the bottom section in the collection basket during Masses. *Thank you!*

**+St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry:** There are two groups of volunteers: Group #1 – Six teams of 3 volunteers each work a 1 1/2 shift once every five weeks throughout the year. They work at the front desk distributing groceries to the clients. Group #2 - Volunteers work one day a week throughout the year. They work behind the scenes weighing food, stocking shelves, preparing grocery bags and filling the prepared bags.

**+St. Patrick's Meal Program:** The 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of January, March, May, July and September. Containers with instructions are provided for the donated salads and desserts. Volunteers are also needed to serve at the Meal Program.

**+Mitten Basket:** A basket is placed in the back of church from November thru February, for parishioners to donate mittens, hats and scarves, etc. They are distributed to our school for families in need and the rest are donated to area schools in need.

**+Prayer Team:** A contact list by e-mail or phone tree to pray when prayer requests come through. A Prayer Request box and slips are located in the back of church.

**+Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Knit, crochet, or sew for the blessings and comfort of those in need of consolation and prayers.

**+Right to Life Life Chain:** On the first Sunday of October we stand on Hwy. 31 with provided signs to show our support for the unborn and opposition to abortion.

**+Mother's Day Rose Sale:** Mother's Day weekend we sell long stem roses and the proceeds are donated to Wisconsin Right to Life organization in Milwaukee. We prepare the roses on Saturday morning at 8:30 am and then sell the roses after all weekend Masses.

**+St. Monica's Birthday Bingo:** We bake and serve cakes/cookie bars for the May birthdays at St. Monica's and assist in playing BINGO with the residents.

**+Baptismal Gowns:** Embroider small gowns for Fr. Steve/Deacon Doug to use during baptism.

**+Welcome New Parishioners:** We send a card to welcome new parishioners to the parish.

**+Food Basket Program:** Food baskets are distributed at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter to the parish families in need of assistance.

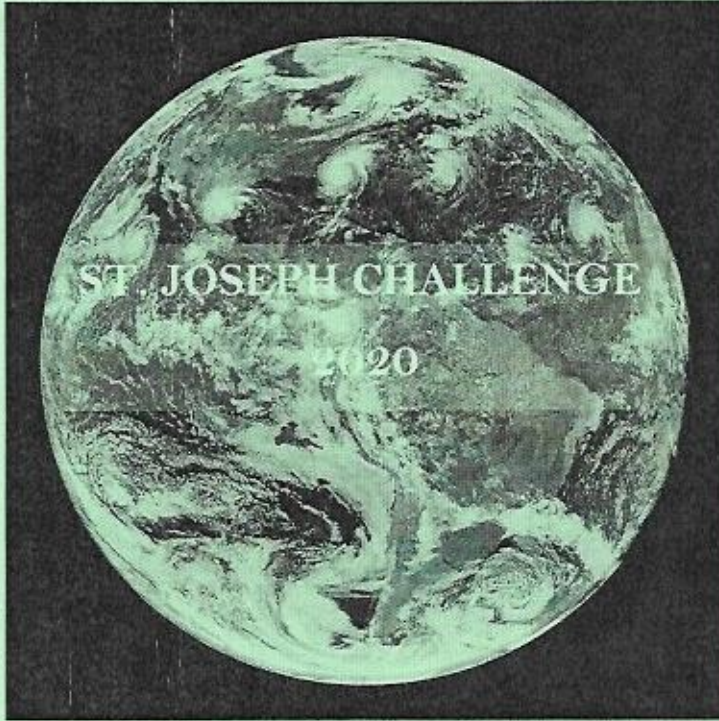
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### Human Concerns Group

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Human Concern Activities I would like to participate in or get more information on:

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# CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



**QUESTION:** What is the Number 1 thing you can do to show your care for our common home?

**ANSWER:** Step up and accept the challenge, if you haven't already!

As Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, "Human beings too are creatures of this world, enjoying a right to life and happiness, and endowed with unique dignity. So we cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture."

Pope Francis urges us to show our concern and love for all human beings, all creation and the home we share – especially for the poor and powerless. He challenges us to question our lifestyles. Do we consume more than our fair share of the earth's resources – just because we can? He asks us to think about how the way we live is degrading the air we all breathe, the water we all drink, and the ground we all live on.

As the new year and the new decade have begun, many of our fellow parishioners have already taken on the challenge or are thinking about it. Read the backside of this page to learn what other St. Joe's families are doing to save energy, reduce waste, and protect the environment.

**When** business steps up to tackle an environmental problem, you know things are serious. If you haven't heard about it already, read what a major Racine-based corporation is doing about the challenge of plastic waste. (*Hint:* When you go to the ballpark in Milwaukee, you can be part of this groundbreaking effort to remove plastic cups from the waste stream.)



## St. Joseph Families Take up the Challenge

"Set your thermostat at 60 degrees," laughed one parishioner. Her family discovered living in a cooler house is a simple but effective way to use less energy. Thinking about it, she said they also recently invested in new, more efficient appliances. Sometimes spending money now – like on more efficient appliances – will save you money long term – and reduce waste. Another example – "advanced" power strips. They save energy TVs and other appliances use just being plugged in – you don't even have to be using them!

"The hard thing for me is bottled water," admitted another parishioner. "It's just so convenient." True! In fact, not too long ago it was estimated that Americans use about 50 billion water bottles a year. That's about 13 bottles every month for each person living in our country. (Less than 25% of these are recycled.) Think of it. If you carry a reusable water bottle instead, you're plucking 156 plastic bottles out of the trash every year – without ever getting your hands dirty.

"Cleaning the basement, I discovered an old yogurt maker; now I use it a few times a month," according to another parishioner. "OK, we still buy yogurt, but we 'recycle' a lot fewer plastic yogurt containers. We love yogurt."

**Now**, about that Racine-based company and plastic waste ... that would be SC Johnson, which announced in January that they've teamed up with the Milwaukee Brewers to deal with what's been one of the ballpark's biggest sources of plastic waste – 1 million plastic cups used there every season. Plastic cups emblazoned with the SCJ logo and deposited in specially marketed receptacles will be collected, processed, and turned into bottles for the company's Scrubbing Bubbles® cleaner. Remember that when you finish your cold drink during a game!

How is your family's reducing your environmental footprint? Share it with us and drop this in the collection basket next Sunday.

### OUR FAMILY'S EARTH FRIENDLY IDEAS

No idea too small!

Examples: We don't buy bottled water. We compost. We take shorter showers.

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Your name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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