Welcome! We extend our hearts and hands to all who celebrate with us at St. Josephs. We would like to invite any guest to fill out the form below, if interested in becoming a registered member of this Parish.

Thank you for worshipping with us! Again Welcome, Bienvenidos, Benvenuto, Willkommen, Nno-nu, Byenveni!

---

Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City: __________________________________________ State: _____ Zip: __________
e-mail address: __________________________

[ ] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form   [ ] We’ve Moved, here is our new information

---

As we begin the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are only three weeks away from Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten Season. As we will soon walk these 40 days of prayer and fasting to more fully unite ourselves to the joy of Easter Sunday, now is as good a time as any to begin prayerfully discerning what Lenten observances we will follow. While in the seminary, we had the practice of undertaking three bona opera, or good works, as part of our Lenten discipline. (This practice historically originated from the 6th Century Rule of St. Benedict, which guides the life of monks living in community.) This is a practice that I try to continue each year and would invite you to do the same this Lenten Season.

In the seminary, we divided the bona opera into three categories: fasting, charitable work, and spiritual growth. To fast, we abstain from some practice (e.g. watching television) or indulgence (e.g. hitting the snooze button) throughout the Lenten Season. This self-denial serves as a reminder that we live not for the things of this world, but for God alone. To perform charitable work, we commit ourselves to perform some form of outreach (e.g. volunteering at a nursing home) or provide for those in need (e.g. donating to a charity). This giving of ourselves serves as a reminder that we can glimpse the face of Jesus Christ anew each and everyday in the faces of our brothers and sisters in need. Finally, to grow spiritually, we commit ourselves to some additional form of prayer or devotion throughout Lent. This practice can take on either a personal commitment, such as dedicating an additional 15 minutes each day to reflecting on the Sacred Scriptures, or a communal commitment, such as joining in the Stations of the Cross each Friday or making an effort to attend an additional daily Mass each week. This time spent in prayer allows us to be more attentive to the voice of God speaking to us.

Whichever form our Lenten devotions may take, let us spend these next three weeks prayerfully discerning how the Lord is calling us to use these coming 40 days. This time of penance is meant to open our hearts and allow the light of God to pour into our souls. These 40 days of Lent are too precious and pass too quickly to risk approaching unprepared. Over the next few weeks, our schedule of liturgies and devotions for Lent will be included in the bulletin. May each and every one of us be preparing to have a good and a challenging Lent.

**Scriptural Reflection for the 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Having heard the vocational call of the prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah, we now hear Jeremiah fulfilling his vocation as a prophet in our first reading (Jeremiah 17:5-8). The Lord's message to Israel is very similar to the message that He gave to Jeremiah when He was first called him: Trust in the Lord always or, as our psalm response echoes, “Blessed are they who hope in the Lord.” The Lord is chastising Judah for constantly choosing to follow men over Himself. And, as they see time and time again in their journey, their faith is in vain when placed in other men. It is only when they place their faith and their trust in God alone that they find true prosperity and joy.

This sentiment is reflected by St. Paul in our second reading (1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20): Our hope is in our Lord, Jesus Christ. Having reasserted the basic truths of the Faith, or the kerygma (Greek for “preaching”), St. Paul now reaffirms the truth of the resurrection. We cannot simply find Jesus Christ to be a good teacher and nothing more. He is truly our Salvator who has defeated death and calls each and every one of us to eternal life. To deny this, as some of the Corinthians have begun to do, makes faith meaningless. For this reason, St. Paul offers this beautiful passage as a reminder to the Corinthians (and us today) that we cannot water-down the Gospel message. To do so renders it ineffective and meaningless; a message that cannot save. Instead, we are a people called to faith and to place our trust entirely in our risen Lord. Such faith, when placed in God, is never in vain.

Our Lord Himself, in our Gospel (Luke 6:17, 20-26), continues this call to trust. In His sermon on the Plain (paralleled with Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount [Matthew 5:1-7, 11]), Jesus teaches the crowd the path to obtain true happiness. This path, though, seems very difficult and one full of many trials. In His enumeration of the Beatitudes, the careful listener finds those called blessed to be ones suffering greatly. In the same vein, those cautioned with “woes” would, in a worldly sense, seem to be those who are prospering in this life. Yet, the Lord calls us time and time again to go further than we ever think possible; to trust in Him completely.

Wordly prosperity can never satisfy the human heart. Those who are satisfied in this world are cautioned so that they may not grow complacent and may never forget that we live not for this world, but for life in the world to come. Those who are suffering as they live out the Gospel message are reminded to remain steadfast and to continue on the narrow way. For, it is the narrow way that will lead us to beatitude and the heavenly kingdom. It is only this that will satisfy us; it is only true union with God that will fulfill the longing of our hearts. Our Lord's words seem a great reversal, and that is exactly what they are. He challenges us today to take a deep look at our own lives and to reflect upon them. Are we living for the luxury of this world or are we striving for something greater? How can we incorporate the Beatitudes into our lives? - In Christ, Fr. David
ASH WEDNESDAY
March 6 -
Masses: 7:00 a.m. / Noon / 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS
Each Friday night of Lent beginning
March 8- serving from 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Watch for more details and a sign up sheet
in the narthex for soup-making
volunteers.

PARISH CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS
• Mon., Feb. 18 - Alpha 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the social hall.
• Wed., Feb. 20 - St. Joseph church will host the monthly lunch-
eon for the Ministerial Association at noon.
• Sat./Sun. Feb. 23/24 - 7th and 8th Grade Bake Sale after all
Masses - proceeds to Bolivian Mission School Program.
• Mon., Feb. 25 - Alpha 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the social hall.
• Mon., Mar. 4 - Alpha 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the social hall.
• Tues., Mar. 5 - Knights of Columbus meeting with recitation
of the Rosary at 6:40 p.m. in Church and meeting to follow at
7:00 p.m. in the social hall.
• Wed., Mar. 6 - Ash Wednesday Masses - 7:00 a.m. / Noon /
and 7:00 p.m.
• Thurs., Mar 7 - All day Adoration 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. / Litany
of the Eucharist/Benediction– 6:45 p.m.
• Fri., Mar. 8 - Lenten Soup Supper - Serving from 5:30-6:30
p.m. Come any time!! (Lenten Soup Supper each Friday dur-
ing Lent except April 5 - K of C Fish Fry and April 19 - Good
Friday).
• Fri., Mar 8 - Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m. and each Friday of
Lent.
• Mon., Mar. 11 - Alpha 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the social hall.
• Tues., Mar. 12 - St. Joseph Women’s Group Meeting– 7:00
p.m. in the conference room.

WEEKEND OF February 23/24, 2019
CANTORS:
5:00 Marita Crawfis
7:30 Donna Geisel
10:00 Larry Leitz

LECTORS:
5:00 Dan Geimer
7:30 Steve Wagner
10:00 John Vanderkolk

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
5:00 Linda Huseman, Christine Zadylak, Volunteer
7:30 Dave Gruss, Jill Morrissey, Sherry Makowski
10:00 Tammi Helm, Sandy Smythe, Luisa Sumabat, Diana
Cole, Ann Reifsteck

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:
5:00 Volunteers
7:30 Doug/Janet Lehman
10:00 Todd Hartman Family, Chris Reifsteck Family

SERVERS:
5:00 Catherine Crawfis, Jacqueline Mayer, Volunteer
7:30 Mark/Beth Geisel, Abby Wagner
10:00 Eve/Gabe McElhaney, Alex Mechling

Collection for Weekend of
February 9/10, 2019
Adult Envelopes- $3,983.00
Child Envelopes- $29.50
Loose- $442.00
Religious Ed. Fund- $125.00
Repair/Rainy Day Fund– $195.00
Bulletin Ads- $575.00
Christmas Offering- $50.00
Spiritual CDs- $20.00
Total- $5,419.50

The amount needed each week to
make budget is $5,116.40.
We are $1,705.17 ahead of our
monthly budget.

Other Collections within
our Parish:
St. Vincent de Paul Fund- $30.00
Bolivian Mission- $1,260.00

Thank you for your gifts
to St. Joseph’s!

Recitation of the Rosary
20 Minutes before all
weekend Masses
and immediately following
weekday morning Masses.

Spread Love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you
without leaving happier. - Mother Teresa

7th and 8th GRADE BAKE SALE
After all Masses February 23/24 Weekend
Proceeds to Bolivian Mission School Program
Last year, because of your generosity,
they were able to sponsor 4 children.
Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER
“Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me
your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have
you left a place for divine love?” – Venerable Fulton J. Sheen
The Grover Company
Property Management
Fully Licensed and Insured
260-820-0638
Bret Grover

GORDON & ASSOCIATES,
P.C.
Attorneys
Dan Gordon, Tony Crowell
Michelle Adler, David Anthony,
And Matt Hayes
260-824-9377
Dan Gordon, Parishioner

2155 N Main St
(260) 824-9643
Interurban Park
Bluffton, IN 46714

DANIEL'S
JEWELERS
Dan Geimer, Gemologist(GIA)
www.daniels-jewelers.net
Dan & Jane Geimer Parishioners

DUNWIDDIE, HEATING,
PLUMBING & A/C
824-1999
Over 25 yrs. Experience
Commercial & Residential
Armstrong Furnaces & A/C
Geo- Open & Close Loops
Boilers & Floor Heat Systems
Duct Work & Sheet Metal
Well & Sump Pumps
Doug Dunwiddie, Parishioner

FAIRWAY FLOOR COVERING
Residential and Commercial
1503 W. Lancaster St., Bluffton
Charles Thompson
Kris & Kent
260-824-3049
Open by Appointment
Home: 260-824-0003
Kris Thompson Cell # 820-2333
Kent Thompson Cell # 307-6584
Kris Thompson, Parishioner

The Grover Company
Property Management
Fully Licensed and Insured
260-820-0638
Bret Grover

Advertise Here!

Advertise Here!

Advertise Here!

Advertise Here!

Sam Halfpich, Parishioner
St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, IN

It’s a child, not a choice...
Abortion does not make you “un-pregnant”, it makes you the mother of a dead child.

Thoma/Rich, Lemler
Funeral Home
Serving families in Wells County for 162 years!
308 W. Washington Street • 260-824-3850

To our men and women in uniform…
past, present and future,
Thank you and God Bless You!

Before you speak…
THINK!
T - is it true?
h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?

CARTER
HEARING CLINICS
Orchard Crossing
4116 Illinois Rd., Suite 102
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Jennifer L. Wagner, AuD
Doctor of Audiology
Board Certified in Audiology

- Hearing Aids
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Hearing Protection Devices
- Specialty Hearing Systems

Phone: 269-436-4400 • Toll-free number: 877-436-4401
www.carterhearingclinics.com

Advertise Here!

HORN
MEDIATION & TRAINING SERVICES, LLC
Guiding You Back On Course
Email: Horn.John.Sr@Gmail.com
Phone: 260-433-5544
Website: HornMediation.com

John Horn MS, MBA– Parishioner
* Listed on Indiana Registry of Approved Court Mediators
* Member of the Indiana Association of Mediators
* No fee for initial consultation

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.
-Mother Teresa