

St. Joseph Parish

FIRST SUNDAY OF

Lent

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FEBRUARY
21 2021

**The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.**

Mark 1:12-13

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

stjosephlb.org

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Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

Suspended till further notice

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

8:30 a.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 am

Come Join Us

Reconciliation

Saturdays

4:00-4:45pm

By the East Church Door
parking lot

Eucharistic Adoration

No Adoration till
further notice due to
Covid-19



Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to Lent! One of the primary purposes of the season is to pray with and accompany our catechumens and candidates to the Baptismal font and the Altar of the Lord at Easter. Recall that our catechumens have never been baptized and our candidates were baptized in another Christian faith and now desire to make a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church. This weekend they will be enrolled in the Book of the Elect, a sign by Christ and the Church that they are ready for the final journey leading to the Easter Sacraments. Pictured below are our 5 catechumens and four candidates – PLEASE PRAY FOR THEM!

RCIA

Catechumens:

 <i>Shan</i>	 <i>Amy</i>	 <i>Justin</i>
 <i>Sara</i>	 <i>Zachary</i>	

Candidates:

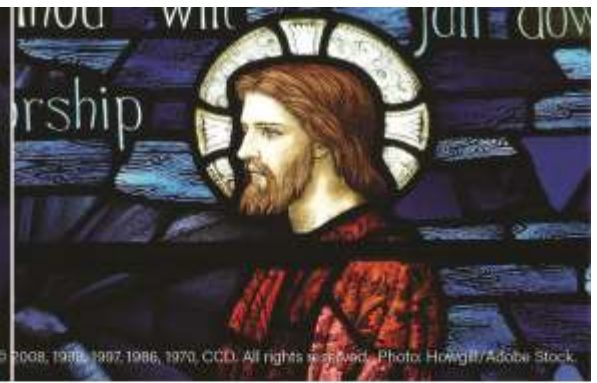
 <i>Charleen</i>	 <i>Anthony</i>	 <i>Marin</i>	 <i>Matt</i>
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Gratefully in Christ,
Msgr. Kevin

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

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BAPTISM

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluia's"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15

FIRST LENT
SUNDAY OF
FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Did you know?



Identifying Risky Behaviors Online

As virtual learning continues, children are spending most of their days online. With their own jobs and responsibilities, parents likely cannot stand behind them and supervise their every move. So, it is more important than ever to assess your **child's online activities periodically. Make sure you know which sites they are visiting, and who they are talking to on social media sites.** Discuss risky behaviors with your children, like posting personal information (full name, age, location, school information, and more) using inappropriate language, or accessing sites with questionable content. For more information, **get a copy of the VIRTUS article "Risky Online Behaviors and Young People"** from lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

Movement For A Better World

"Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God." Pope Francis

February 27-28: Children's Book Drive:

Collecting new and gently used reading books to distribute to the children our 80 supported families for Easter.

March 27: Easter Food and Reading Book Distribution:

We will support 80 families in need! We are assessing our COVID-prudent options for inviting parishioner assistance.

Special Needs Ministry: We have an active ministry of providing essential living needs (refrigerators, stoves, beds, etc.) to families in need. Three or 4 times per year, we inform by e-mail, the needs we are working to fulfill. May we e-mail that information to you? Can you help to help with a COVID-safe delivery of items to families in need? Please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385

Skip-a-Meal Donations: Please be especially mindful during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

Tim - (562) 453-8013

St. Joseph Book Club



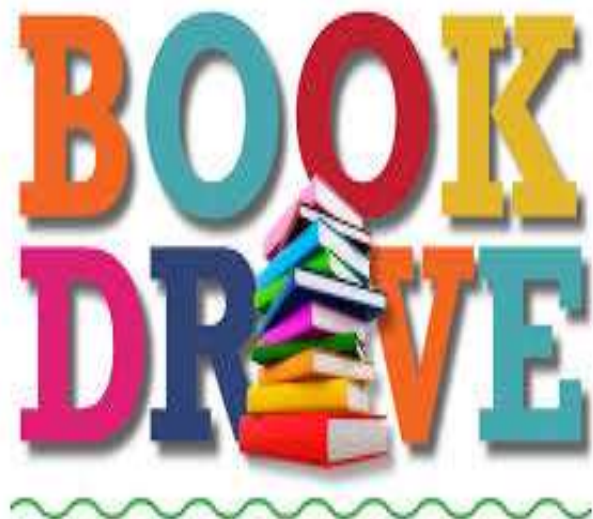
Overdue: A Dewey Decimal System of Grace by Valerie Schultz
(2020 Catholic Press Association first place award, memoir)

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7pm.

In Overdue Valerie Schultz shares her experience in prison ministry and how she learned to see the prisoners as human beings. They possessed all the gifts and flaws that define humanity...every single one of them a human being created and loved by God. It was no challenge to find God in all things in prison because God was palpably everywhere.

All are welcome!

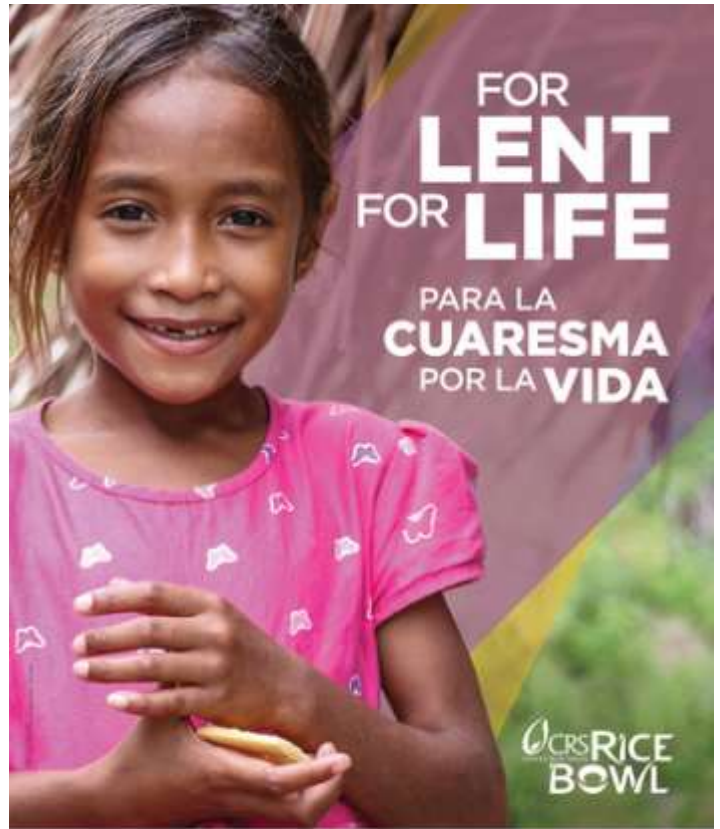
For more info. email: goodlife@msn.com



Lenten Observance

Abstinence and Fasting

Abstinence from eating meat is to be observed on all Fridays during Lent. This applies to all persons 14 and older. The law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday applies to all persons 18 or older and younger than 59. Fasting means that one full meatless meal per day may be eaten. Two other meatless meals may be taken sufficient to maintain strength, but together they should not equal a full meal. Liquids, including milk and fruit juice, may be taken between meals. If health or ability to work are affected, fasting does not oblige. Private, self-imposed observance of fasting on Lenten weekdays is strongly recommended. Pastors and parents should ensure that children who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence are taught an authentic sense of penance, conversion and reconciliation.



csrcricebowl.org | csrcplatodearroz.org

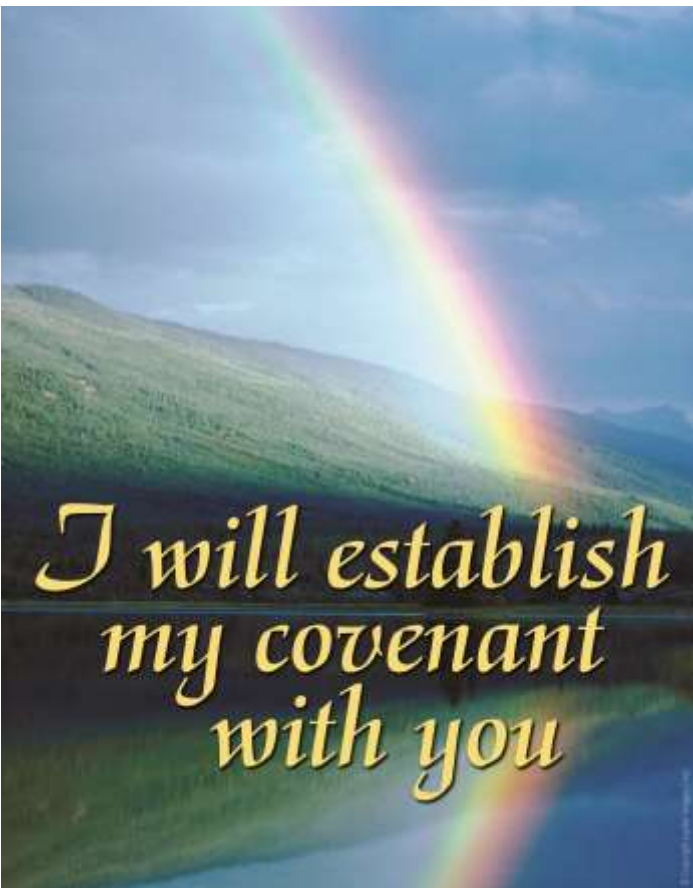
WE ARE CALLED

This Lent, commit to our global human family through:

- ◆ Daily prayer
- ◆ Weekly fasting
- ◆ Almsgiving

Jesus asks us to care for our sisters and brothers and to recognize him in them. With CRS Rice Bowl as our guide, we can answer to this Gospel call. What you give up for Lent changes lives.

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Online giving is available! Please visit csrcricebowl.org to learn more.



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DRIVE-THRU BOOK DRIVE



February 27th - 28th

Collecting new or gently used children's reading books
(toddler through 17) for our
Easter Food and Book Distribution.

St. Joseph Parish Hall
6200 E. Willow St., Long Beach
February 27th 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
February 28th 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Would you like us to pick up your donation?
Please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385