



Cathedral of St. Joseph

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 A Letter From Our Pastor
- 4 Join Us for Our St. Joseph Feast Day Celebration on March 19
A Valuable Time for Prayer and Community
- 5 Veiling Images in the Cathedral
Why Are the Images Veiled in Church?
- 6 A Historical Look at Our Lenten Practices and Traditions
- 7 Lent at St. Joseph Cathedral School
How Our Students Enter into this Season of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

GETTING TO KNOW DEACON JIM KLIETHERMES

Reflections on Stewardship, Family, and a Great Love for the Church

Our parish is blessed with men whose steady presence may go unnoticed – not because their service lacks impact, but because it is offered quietly, humbly, and faithfully. Deacon Jim Kliethermes is one of those men. For decades, he and his wife, Liz, have lived stewardship as a way of life – rooted in faith, family, and a generous love for the Church.

Deacon Jim’s story begins in a

small town, where faith and family shaped him from an early age.

“I grew up the fifth of six children,” he says. “My father died when I was 4, so I didn’t really know him. Yet, I was very fortunate to have older siblings, a devoted mother who stayed home when I was young, and several uncles who were good examples of fathers and husbands.”

continued on page 2



Deacon Jim Kliethermes and his wife, Liz (at far left) with family their grandson’s wedding



Cathedral of St. Joseph

GETTING TO KNOW DEACON JIM KLIETHERMES

continued from front cover

Those early witnesses — along with faithful men in his parish — planted seeds that would grow over a lifetime.

After studying engineering at the University of Missouri-Rolla and serving two years in the Army, Deacon Jim began a new chapter in St. Louis, where he met Liz.

“I knew I wanted to marry a Catholic, and I fell in love with Liz,” he says.

This year, they will celebrate, God willing, 60 years of marriage. Together they raised four children, three daughters and a son, and are now blessed with eight grandchildren.

When their children were little, a simple but powerful way Deacon Jim prioritized faith within family life was by always going to Mass.

“No matter where we were, we attended Sunday Mass,” he says. “I think that impressed our children with the importance we placed on our faith.”

Even vacations became moments of formation — showing their children, year after year, that their relationship with Christ comes first.

They also made sacrifices to strengthen their children’s faith through Catholic education. Deacon Jim shares that they were blessed to send their children to Catholic schools — an environment that supported what they were working to build at home. One of the big advantages, he notes, was the reinforcement from so many good examples of fathers and husbands in their faith community.

That sense of involvement naturally led Deacon Jim and Liz to join ministries and serve the parish. From fish fries and bazaars to caring for flower beds



Deacon Jim and his grandson Wilder work together landscaping on the Cathedral grounds.

and the Cathedral grounds, they offered their time and talents wherever they were needed. They served as lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Eventually, after encouragement from others and prayerful discernment with Liz, Jim entered the diaconate and was ordained in 2004.

Deacon Jim points to St. Joseph as a guide for both fatherhood and discipleship.

“I’ve always been impressed by how St. Joseph acted after his dreams — how he took Mary as his wife and fled to Egypt to protect Jesus,” he says. “I also love images of St. Joseph working with Jesus in the carpenter shop.”

Seeking to imitate St. Joseph’s presence in Jesus’s early life, Deacon Jim was intentional about being involved in his children’s hobbies and projects. This presence gave his children a solid foundation of love and support.

Now that his children have grown and have families of their own, Deacon Jim shows us that faithful stewardship can build a family of faith and love that flourishes and grows. His example teaches us that being a good husband and father is intrinsically linked to being a good son and steward of God.

Deacon Jim’s witness invites all of us — especially the men in our parish — to follow Christ in our daily lives and to look to St. Joseph for guidance. Just as we see St. Joseph lead with obedience to God, purity of heart, and a quiet strength, we are called to be men of virtue and prayer. To put this in practice, simply follow Deacon Jim’s approach — go to Mass consistently, be present to those you love, and be open to offering your time and talents in the service of God.

“No matter where we were, we attended Sunday Mass. I think that impressed our children with the importance we placed on our faith.” — Deacon Jim Kliethermes

APPROACHING LENT WITH THE HEART OF A STEWARD

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue our journey through the season of Lent, a time of reflection, penance, and spiritual growth, I would like to remind you of the importance of examining our stewardship commitments of time, talent, and treasure. This period is not just about giving up certain luxuries, but also about deepening our faith, renewing our commitment to God, and serving others with a generous heart.



Time: Time is a precious gift from God, and how we use it reflects our priorities and values. During Lent, we are invited to dedicate more time to prayer, reflection, and service. Consider setting aside time each day for prayer and Scripture reading, attending Mass faithfully, and participating in parish devotions such as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross, and the special liturgies of Holy Week. These moments help draw us more deeply into Christ's passion and mercy. Additionally, offering your time in service to those in need within our community is a meaningful way to live out the season. Acts of charity and service become powerful expressions of faith during this sacred time.

Talent: Each one of us possesses unique talents and abilities bestowed upon us by God. Lent is a perfect time to reflect on how we can use those gifts to further His kingdom. Consider sharing your talents within the parish and the broader community—whether by helping with parish traditions like Fish Fries, assisting with outreach efforts, or engaging in the Corporal Works of Mercy by serving those in need. You may also serve through existing ministries, prayer initiatives, or by offering your professional skills to support parish life. When we place our talents at the service of others, they become a source of blessing and a tangible expression of our commitment to Christ.

Treasure: The stewardship of our material resources is a vital aspect of our faith. During Lent, take a closer look at your financial commitments and how you can align them with your faith. Consider increasing your financial support to the parish and charitable organizations that serve those in need. Sacrificing a portion of your financial resources during Lent can be an act of solidarity with the less fortunate and a way to live out the spirit of almsgiving.

Above all, I remind you to embrace a more profound connection with Christ during this holy season. Use this time to reflect on the significance of Lent and how your stewardship can be a living expression of your faith and love for God.

May this Lenten season be a time of spiritual growth and transformation, as we examine and strengthen our stewardship commitments in the spirit of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. May we draw closer to God and one another, as we journey towards the joy of Easter.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephen Jones



Cathedral of St. Joseph

Join Us
FOR OUR

ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY CELEBRATION ON MARCH 19

A Valuable Time for Prayer and Community



After more than 200 parishioners attended last year's first St. Joseph Feast day celebration, we look forward to gathering again this year!

On March 19, our parishioners and friends are invited to join us for solemn vespers at 6 p.m. in the Cathedral. During the prayer time, we will also finish out the novena to St. Joseph together as a community. Afterward, we will have fellowship and share a meal.

"This is a great opportunity as a parish to come together in fellowship," says Terry Vignola. "Hospitality is one of the pillars of stewardship, which is very important to us."

The main meal will be pasta with meat sauce, salad, and bread — a nod to the Sicilian tradition of celebrating St. Joseph. One of the traditions included in the feast day is the St. Joseph's Table, a three-tiered table display featuring a statue of St. Joseph, lilies, candles, and desserts. The table is symbolic as the three tiers represent the Trinity.

Since St. Joseph is our patron, it is especially important for us to celebrate his feast day.

"He is just a really good example of fatherhood and faith," Terry says. "He's a really great intercessor for our families. I think it's really good to commemorate him."

While last year was the first time we've celebrated the feast day in this way, we hope the tradition becomes an established part of our community here at the Cathedral for years to come. Anyone who attends will receive a St. Joseph prayer card and medal in devotion to our patron.

"Last year it was wonderful to see all the people who participated," Terry says. "I'm really looking forward to it growing this year and becoming a staple event for our parish year after year."

Julie Gramlich also looks forward to this year's opportunity for our community.

"The parish just loved the idea of gathering for this," she says. "It's not a fundraiser — it's just a way to be together as a community. They loved the food and were amazed at the table with the desserts. They thought it was a wonderful event to bring us together."

Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal, cook the pasta and meat sauce, as well as others to make the salads, bake bread, and prepare desserts. Help is also needed to serve and clean up.

To assist with the meal, please contact Terry Vignola at 573-690-9191 or Julie Gramlich at 573-635-7991, ext. 305.

Scan this code
to register for the
March 19 celebration.



VEILING IMAGES IN THE CATHEDRAL

Why Are the Images Veiled in Church?



You may notice something different when you enter the Cathedral, something you may not have seen for a long time – or ever.

You'll notice that the major images in the Cathedral – the main crucifix and the shrine statues/images – have been veiled in purple cloth.

The Roman Missal states, *“In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.”*

Why in the world would we want to do that?

First, the veiling of images alerts us to the fact that we are in a special time. It’s another one of those Lenten “shake-ups” we’ve talked about during this holy season. We enter the church, see the veils, and we know something is different. These last two weeks of

Lent are meant to be an immediate time of preparation for the Sacred Triduum – the commemoration of Our Lord’s Passion and Resurrection – and these veils are a forceful reminder that we need to get ourselves ready.

Secondly, the veils allow us to focus our attention on the words being said at Mass – the prayers, the readings, the Passion narrative of the Gospels. We restrict a portion of our senses so that we might heighten others.

Third, the Church uses veils to produce an intensified sense of anticipation for Easter. Just as wrapping paper covers a gift that we want to unwrap, so these veils cover beautiful images that we want to see.

And that’s the point! Just like wrapping paper, those veils are not meant to be there forever. They are temporary, and the crosses and images will be uncovered – in their beauty and glory – at Easter so that we can bask in the light of the Risen Lord!



Cathedral of St. Joseph



A HISTORICAL LOOK AT OUR LENTEN PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

When the Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, we enter into a time of preparation, sacrifice, and penance, culminating in Holy Week and the joyous celebrations of Easter. And while the liturgical season of Lent offers us a time for solemn reflection, it is also widely welcomed each year as an opportunity to be drawn ever closer to our faith.

But just how did this penitential season come to be? And how did the reverent hallmarks of Lent – such as fasting and prayer – become so deeply ingrained in our observance of this season?

To understand the Lenten season, it is important to understand the word “Lent” itself, which is derived from two Anglo-Saxon terms: *lencten*, meaning “spring,” and *lenctentid*, which is the term for both “springtide” and “March” – of course, Lent often falls throughout most of March, and during the transition into (and renewal of) the spring season. In Latin, the corresponding term for “Lent,” *quadragesima*, refers to its dating from the 40th day before Easter.

This brings us to another hallmark of the Lenten season – its length of 40 days. However, Lent was not originally observed for this length of time. During the first three centuries of the Christian era, Easter preparations consisted of three days of fasting and prayer. In some places, this preparation was extended into the entire week before Easter – which we now observe as Holy Week. There is also some evidence that, in Rome, Easter preparation was as long as three weeks.

In its early form, Lent was an intense period of spiritual and liturgical preparation for catechumens who were to be baptized at Easter. At the time, many members of the community observed this period of preparation alongside the catechumens. But, as time passed and more people were baptized as infants, the connection between catechumens and Lenten preparation gave way to a focus on the themes of repentance and fasting during Lent for all Christians.

It was not until the fourth century – upon the legalization of Christianity – that Lent developed into its current length of 40 days, which mirrored the length of Jesus’ fast and temptation, as chronicled in Luke 4:1-13.

Yet, interestingly, the Lenten observations of fasting and prayer did not always take place for 40 consecutive

days. For instance, in Jerusalem, fasting was observed for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday – thus, Lent lasted for a total of eight weeks. In Rome and the West, fasting took place for six weeks, Monday through Saturday, with Lent being observed over six weeks. The practice of fasting for six days over six weeks eventually prevailed, with Ash Wednesday being instituted to account for 40 fasting days before Easter.

And as the length of Lenten observance developed over time, so did the observance of fasting itself. At first, some areas of the Church abstained from all meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for certain foods, like fish. And while a person was to only have one meal a day, a smaller repast would be allowed so that manual laborers could maintain their strength throughout the day. Eventually, eating meat was allowed throughout the week, save for Ash Wednesday and on Fridays.

Here are some great ways to enter into the Lenten season and prepare our hearts for Christ’s coming at Easter:

- Participation in the Divine Mercy Chaplet – this form of prayer is rooted in God’s infinite mercy, which remains at the heart of our faith.
- Stations of the Cross – we have a great opportunity to reflect on Christ’s sacrifice for us as we solemnly follow His path to the cross.
- Special Holy Week services – consider joining us on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, fully entering into the Triduum and reflecting on Christ’s passion before we arrive at the light of Easter.
- Assisting with parish Fish Frys – this is a wonderful way to share in stewardship and fellowship during the Lenten season.
- Participating in the Corporal Works of Mercy – as mercy remains at the heart of our faith, we have an opportunity to embrace the Lenten practice of almsgiving by providing for those in need.

LENT AT ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

How Our Students Enter into this Season of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving

Following the Catholic liturgical calendar is a beautiful way to move through life. At St. Joseph Cathedral School, students experience the liturgical seasons as part of their daily routine. During Lent, each teacher brings their own meaningful traditions into the classroom. It's inspiring to see the thoughtful ways our faith is woven into each school day, helping students grow spiritually as they learn.

Principal Gina Bailey is proud to watch the teachers move through Lent with students.

"Active participation in Lenten activities is not simply a tradition, but an essential part of our students' spiritual formation," she says.

"When students pray together, practice self-discipline and serve others, they learn that faith is meant to be lived each day through our words and actions."

These lessons are building a firm foundation of faith for these children and young people.

"By fully embracing the Lenten season, we help our students grow not only academically, but also spiritually and morally, as young people are called to live out the Gospel in their daily lives," Mrs. Bailey says. "Lent invites students to slow down, reflect, and grow in their relationship with God in intentional ways."

Shelley Quinn teaches 3-year-old preschoolers. Although her students

are young, they can understand sacrifice. She has them give up their favorite toy by putting it in the "sacrifice box." They put their handprints and names on a sign affixed to the box to show their commitment to the sacrifice.

Margaret Jurgovan, who also teaches 3-year-old preschoolers, carries on a special tradition known as a "blessing walk." During this time, students quietly kneel in the school hallways and pray for the staff and students who use those spaces. They leave behind handmade notes as a reminder that those areas have been prayed over.

"This helps children see that prayer is a gift meant to be shared with others," she says.

The preschoolers also kneel during their regular prayer times, rather than sitting as they usually do. Students take turns serving as prayer leaders, and the class lifts up special intentions, with everyone joining together in the response, "Lord, hear our prayer."

"By praying together, kneeling reverently, and thinking about others, preschoolers begin to understand empathy, gratitude, and self-control," Mrs. Jurgovan says. "These practices lay the foundation for lifelong habits of prayer and thoughtful decision making rooted in faith."

The preschool dramatic play center is transformed into a chapel where students may dress as priests or deacons and reenact

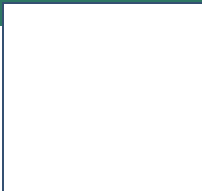
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CATHEDRAL OF
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LENT AT ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

continued from page 7

parts of the Mass.

Joe Powers teaches junior high religion. His students also learn about Lent, though in a much different way than the preschoolers. Before Lent, students in sixth through eighth grades pick one resolution for each pillar – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. They are invited to reflect and adjust throughout Lent. The eighth-graders are invited to participate in a 24-hour food fast.

“This period of fasting serves as an invitation to deeper reflection and self-discipline,” Mr. Powers says. “The fast is paired with prayer and intentional reflection, helping students connect the experience of sacrifice with Christ’s own fasting and with greater awareness of those who experience hunger daily.”

Mr. Powers – along with Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Quinn, and Mrs. Jurgovan – feels blessed to have the opportunity to instill the faith in young people. Lent is an opportunity to be even more intentional.

“Active participation in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving helps students live their faith, not just learn

about it,” Mr. Powers says. “These practices form habits of devotion, temperance, and generosity, shaping how students make daily choices and encouraging them to turn more intentionally toward God and others.”



“Active participation in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving helps students live their faith, not just learn about it. These practices form habits of devotion, temperance, and generosity.”

– Joe Powers