

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2020

Saint Joseph Church

79 Case Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146
Phone 724-981-3232 / Fax 724-981-4174

Rev. Thomas J. Whitman, Pastor

Director of Religious Ed:
Sr. Sandy Pedone, H.M.
Parish Secretary: Lori Vasconi
Financial Secretary: Carol Koch
Maintenance: Brad Goodall
Music Director: Mary Messina

Office Hours

Monday - Friday,
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
(closed 12:30-1:30 PM)

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil - 5:15 PM
Sunday - 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Weekday: M, T, Th, Fri - 8:00 AM
Wed. - 12:10 PM
(Check weekly bulletin for changes.)

Confessions

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM or by request.

Religious Education Program

Sundays, 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
CCD Grades K-10 at Case Avenue Elem.
School, Grade II in the church annex.

Parish Council Meetings

Council typically meets on the third
Monday of each month.

Shenango Valley

Catholic School System

Catholic Middle and High Schools:
724-346-5531
St. John Paul II:
724-342-2205



Facebook.com/
StJosephSharon



www.Stjosephs-Sharon.org



HEARING
ENHANCEMENTS
AVAILABLE

PARISHIONER PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY & ZIP _____
PHONE _____
E-Mail _____

Place completed form in today's collection basket or drop it off in the church office.

New Member Address Change Update Info

Baptism: Please contact the parish office to schedule a time and date. A pre-baptism class is required. No baptisms during Advent and Lent.

Matrimony: By appointment six months in advance.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA): Please call the church office at 724-981-3232.

Prayer Line: For intentions, please call 724-981-3232.

**BE INFORMED
BE PREPARED
BE SMART
BE SAFE**



DOWNLOAD OUR PARISH APP:
TEXT APP to 88202

LOG ON TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE:
www.StJosephs-sharon.org

PASTOR'S COLUMN

AIR CONDITIONING: As I announced at Masses the Air Conditioning system for the Church died. It will be some time before this is remedied. This is going to involve a whole new system. You might want to dress accordingly, based on how hot it is outside. Good thing Masses are shorter.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY: This feast would normally be on Saturday, August 15, but because it falls on a Saturday, it is **not** a holyday of obligation this year.

SELF-QUARANTINE: Summer is usually a time for people to travel for vacation. If you are traveling to one of the COVID19 "hot spots" you should self-quarantine for at least 14 days. This should also include a quarantine from attending Mass. We need to be careful in order to protect one another and especially those who are most vulnerable.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: We are still in need of people to help with the cleaning and sanitizing after each Mass. If you would like to help, please contact Fr. Tom. Thanks to those who have been doing this each week. There are some things you can do to help even if you are not able to help with cleaning and sanitizing:

- Bulletins – when you are finished with your bulletin either take it home or throw it away. There are waste cans at each exit. Please do not leave them in the pew. That means more work for those who are cleaning and sanitizing.
- Candy Wrappers – please put them in the garbage can, not in the plastic or wooden holders in the pews.
- Flat Hands (and thumbs) – please take care to have your hand (and thumbs) flat so that the host can be placed in your hand without making physical contact.

NOT A RETURN TO NORMAL: We have been open for a few weeks for daily and weekend Masses, **but this is not a return to normal.**

- Confessions are being heard on Saturday from 4:00 to 4:30. Because of the restrictions of COVID 19 we are not able to use the confessionals. Confessions are in the main body of the church in front of the confessional, masks are required, and six feet of distance needs to be maintained between the priest and the person confessing. People are asked to sit in the section near the organ to wait for confession. **Because of this the church is not available for others to come and pray at this time in order to give privacy to those wishing to go to confession.**
- The doors for Masses on the weekend are propped open so you do not have to touch the doors. **The doors are opened one half hour before Masses.** We have mice, squirrels, skunks, birds, and a host of other creatures that lurk around the church and thus cannot leave the doors open 24/7. We have not returned to normal. Please plan to arrive in that half hour before Mass starts.
- People have been particularly good about leaving after Mass is over so we can clean and sanitize the church. If you would like to volunteer to help with the cleaning and sanitizing after Mass, please let Fr. Tom know.
- **GENERAL RULES FOR MASS:** Masks are to be worn by everyone. Social distancing – six feet apart – must always be maintained – even when in line for communion and when entering and leaving the church. Families in the same household may sit together. Pews will be taped off to indicate where you can and cannot sit. Hand sanitizer is available at each entrance and you are encouraged to bring your own in preparation for communion. We are only permitted to use 1/3 of the church capacity. There will be no collection basket passed, but there will be baskets at the front of church to put your envelopes in either before or after mass. Communion is strongly encouraged to be received in the hand. People should come to Church and find a place to sit and not gather to talk. After Mass people should leave in an orderly fashion keeping the appropriate distance from each other. People should go immediately to their cars and leave and not gather in groups that will block exits and cause people to come into close contact. Please avoid contact with surfaces. Doors and pews will be sanitized after each mass.
- People have been particularly good about leaving after Mass is over so we can clean and sanitize the church. If you would like to volunteer to help with the cleaning and sanitizing after Mass, please let Fr. Tom know.
- I realize these are an inconvenience to everyone, but we need to be very diligent about protecting others. Think of others first.

Pastor's notes continued...

FALL RAFFLE: We will again be holding our Fall Raffle. The Raffle will be held October 3, 2020. Tickets are \$100 each and will be available beginning in July. Prizes are \$10,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000. Order forms for tickets are at the exits of the church and on our parish website at www.stjosephs-sharon.org. Order forms can be placed in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office. Thanks to all those who have supported this Raffle in the past and best of luck in this year's Raffle.

LATEST INFORMATION: The best place to find the latest information is our parish APP or the parish website.

PARISH APP AND WEBSITE: We find ourselves in uncharted waters with the Coronavirus pandemic. One of the ways to stay connected to what is happening here at Church is with our parish App. You can connect this App to your phone by texting APP to 88202. This App is FREE. This was something the diocese paid to let all parishes and parishioners stay connected about two years ago.

Our parish website will also be a place for the parish bulletin and other information <http://www.stjosephs-sharon.org/>

ST. JOSEPH PARISH MASS ONLINE: <https://youtu.be/F2lcNrBBWfU>

PARISH OFFICE: To do business with that parish office, please call the office between 8:30am and 4:30pm. The office is not open for walk-in business.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS: Our readings today speak about those who are considered "outsiders" are now being welcomed into the kingdom of God. This was a thorny issue then and is sometimes a thorny issue even today. We need to keep in mind that all people were created by God and God is working to save all people.

In the first reading Isaiah is speaking to the people who are still in exile and living in the midst of foreigners – people they did not think had a chance to be saved. And now Isaiah the prophet is saying that these foreigners are being invited and welcomed into God's house, a house of prayer for all people. For those who think they are the only ones who are saved, this becomes an exceedingly difficult reality. Often these people think they have done everything right and deserve to be in God's kingdom. They have no room for compassion or forgiveness or understanding toward those who have not been privileged to have faith from their youth or have been uneducated in the faith. We tend to make things very black and white in terms of salvation, or who is "in" and who is "out." Often these determinations are made by us and not by God. We need to remember the bigger picture: God created all people and God wants all people to be saved. Some people may reject that offer, but God never stops trying to win them back.

If, you have ever been an outsider and then been welcomed inside the group, you know the joy that comes with that. And you know that you will do anything to stay in the group. This is the key to God's mercy – once we have truly been forgiven, we turn our life around and do everything we can to stay in God's good graces. Which means we love and care for others as God does. It is only God's mercy that can affect that kind of transformation.

Paul takes up this theme in the second reading with statements "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable," and "God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all." Paul reminds us that God's invitation to the kingdom is "irrevocable," and that God will have mercy on all who have sinned. And who of us can say that we have not sinned? God can even use our sin as an opportunity for his mercy and grace to enter our lives. But some people do not think others should be forgiven, in their mind. Fortunately for us, that is not God's mind.

And the Gospel is the story of the Canaanite woman who seeks healing for her daughter from Jesus. But Jesus and his disciples think that God's gifts and healings should only go to their people, the "insiders." But the persistence and deep faith of this woman opens their minds to see the error of their thinking and the wideness of God's mercy to include all people.

Who do we think cannot be forgiven? How are we treating them? How are we bringing them to our prayer? How are we bringing God's mercy to them in order that they might be forgiven? Isn't that what God would want us to do?

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Dorothy Ogg, Ford Bartle, Kim Anglin, Lydia Ghirardi, Evelyn Tew, Fr. Manning, Selena Urey, Lorraine Schuller, Joe & John Mochanski, Don & Rose Becker, Joseph Byers, Jackie Hoffman, Linda Yuhasz, Nadine Vellente, Liam Rueberger, Anna Rueberger, AJ Voisey, John Kutchenriter and Bev Chalupka.



*Altar flowers are donated in thanksgiving to
God and in memory of*

Edward Sentelik

by daughters Kathy Schell & Nancy Sentelik

RENTAL: The Caretaker's House at St. Rose Cemetery is available for rent. If you are interested, please call 724-346-3711. Monthly rent is \$850. The two story House has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, L.R. and D.R. Real Estate taxes, sewer, grass cutting and snow plowing taken care of. All other utilities paid by Tenant. Sorry, no pets permitted.

PLASTIC BAG DONATIONS The Food Pantry is looking for donations of the handled plastic grocery bags. If you have a stash sitting in your pantry and would like to donate them to our Food Pantry, please drop them off in one of the shopping carts located at the Clepper and Gathering Space entrances. Thank you!

BAPTISM CLASS If you are planning to have your child baptized, a baptism class is required for the parents. To register, please call the church office at 724-981-3232.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Date	Mass Time	Lector
Saturday, August 22, 2020	5:15pm	P. Lozano
Sunday, August 23, 2020	8:30am	S. Swogger
Sunday, August 23, 2020	11:00am	G. Beshero

Mass Intentions

+Indicates Mass

Monday, August 17—Ez 24: 15-24 / Mt 19: 16-22

Tuesday, August 18—Ez 28: 1-10 / Mt 19: 23-30

Wednesday, August 19—Ez 34: 1-11 / Mt 20: 1-16

Thursday, August 20—Ez 36: 23-28 / Mt 22: 1-14

Friday, August 21—Ez 37: 1-4 / Mt 22: 34-40

Saturday, August 22—Is 22: 19-23 / Rom 11: 33-36 / Mt 16: 13-20

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

+5:15 Deceased Members of the Parish

Sunday, August 23—Is 22: 19-23 / Rom 11: 33-36 / Mt 16: 13-20

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

+8:30 Joe Sinkuc (Bob Sinkuc)

+11:00 Edwin Lasche (Patricia Lasche)

*20th Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

“O woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish.”



Matthew 15:21-28

CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

Dear God, I pray for healing to all affected by this deadly virus. Only You can move in a mighty way to bring peace and healing to all. We pray for all negative outcomes to be resolved by your healing hands. Bless and cover each and every single person with your compassionate care and bring healing to their bodies and spirits. Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.