

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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



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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.



PASTOR'S COLUMN

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. This is our major fundraiser in the parish. Please consider supporting our parish in this event and taking a chance to win \$10,000. Due to Covid-19 circumstances, there will be no dinner and the ticket drawing will be after the 5:15 Mass on October 3.

THANK YOU: Thanks to all those who have responded so far to my letter making an appeal for funds to help with the cost of the Air Conditioning system. There is still plenty of time to make your gift to this appeal. We are using the CSA envelopes for this appeal as this is a parish maintenance project.

SECOND COLLECTIONS: Since we do not have physical collections during mass, please use the envelopes in your packets for any second collections. You can place all your envelopes in the baskets at the front of the sanctuary.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION: On the weekend of September 19-20, there is an envelope in your packet for Catholic Education. This collection is important for our Catholic Schools and our Religious Education Program. Half of this collection stays here in the parish to support our Religious Education Program.

SELF-QUARANTINE: Summer is usually a time for people to travel for vacation. If you are traveling to one of the COVID-19 "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.

RECEIVING COMMUNION: I have said this from the pulpit and written it in the bulletin and even said it to people as they come up to communion: PLEASE KEEP YOUR HAND FLAT TO RECEIVE COMMUNION. Your other hand should be UNDERNEATH YOUR FLAT HAND. If you are right-handed, your left hand should be on top and FLAT and your right hand should be UNDERNEATH your left hand. Most people are doing this correctly, but some people are still not keeping their hand flat and are reaching for the host before I can pull my hand away and thus touching me. You should not be reaching for the host until you have stepped to the side and are ready to consume the host. Please be attentive to this.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: I am grateful to those who are helping to clean and sanitize the church after Masses.

- 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.

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.**

Bishop Persico has given us permission to begin public Masses, **if people follow the protocols that have been put in place.** Those protocols can be viewed on the diocesan website www.eriecd.org and our parish website <http://www.stjosephs-sharon.org/>. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holyday Mass is still in effect. Those who are ill or who are at risk should remain at home and continue to use the television or internet Masses that continue to be made available.

- 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.

Pastor's notes continued...

- **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.
- I realize these are an inconvenience to everyone, but we need to be very diligent about protecting others. Think of others first.

LATEST INFORMATION: The best place to find the latest information is our parish APP or the parish website. 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. Some people, including me, have experienced the Sunday readings not being up to date. The best fix seems to be to uninstall the App and reinstall it.

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/zr5xFeUUvHI>

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

BOOK RECOMMENDATION: I have been reading “Becoming an Ordinary Mystic” by Albert Hasse, OFM. I highly recommend this book on spirituality and prayer. It is an easy read with extremely helpful examples.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS: Our readings continue to speak about a reconciling spirit that needs to be at work in our relationships and in our communities. Too often today we find that relationships are “disposable” and community is not something I need to be involved in or need to give of my time to foster.

In the first reading the prophet Ezekiel is appointed as a “watchman” for the people. A watchman was one who stood above the city gates and kept watch for any type of danger that was approaching the city. He would blow his trumpet to warn the people of the danger. Ezekiel was asked to be a “watchman” in terms of the moral or spiritual dangers that were affecting the people. If he did not warn people, then the responsibility for what happened would be placed on him.

In the Gospel, Matthew describes a process of reconciling with someone who has offended us. This process involved meeting with the person directly, bringing in witnesses to support our claims, and even getting the church community involved. There was a serious obligation to do whatever was needed to reconcile our differences. Today, we tend to simply dismiss people who disagree with us and have nothing more to do with them. In effect, we “throw away” the relationship. The relationship is no longer useful for us, so we dispose of it.

In the second reading Paul, who was as legalistic as they come in his background as a Pharisee, tells us that love is the fulfillment of the law. The law told us the things we could not do: do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not bear false witness, do not covet, ... But the law did not tell us what we could or should DO. Paul tells us that what we should do is love. The law expressed what we were not allowed to do, and often we think because we did not do anything wrong, we have done enough. Paul says we need to do more than just avoid sin; we need to do things that are loving. We may not have killed anyone but what relationships have we “thrown away” or “discarded” rather than trying to reconcile them? We may not have killed anyone but how have we supported and encouraged others? Love demands that we do more than just avoid sin but that we DO something good for the other person.

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



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

Amie Arp

by Theresa Horstman Cole and Family

****RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFO**** I hope you are well and safe. Regarding Faith Formation classes (CCD), we are exploring two or three possibilities or a combination of a couple of them. As soon as we have chosen them, you will be notified and then you will be able to make a choice. Taking into consideration what families are going through to coordinate this way of “new schooling”, we will be delaying the beginning of classes until the latter part of September or the first part of October. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Peace, Sr. Sandy

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, Sept. 12, 2020	5:15pm	S. McLaughlin
Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020	8:30am	J. Necastro
Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020	11:00am	K. Bonomo

Mass Intentions

+Indicates Mass

Monday, September 7-1 Cor 5: 1-8 / Lk 6: 6-11

+8:00 Michael Kuzel (Rita & Frank Klecic)

Tuesday, September 8-Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-6, 18-23 or 1:18-23

+8:00 Gerrie Derr (Judy Morocco)

Wednesday, September 9-1 Cor 7: 25-31 / Lk 6: 20-26

+12:10 Adrienne Ward (Fran Giroski)

Thursday, September 10-1 Cor 8: 1b-7, 11-13 / Lk 6: 27-38

+8:00 John Keaveny (Judy Morocco)

Friday, September 11-1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22b-27 / Lk 6: 39-42

+8:00 Barb Young (Family)

Saturday, September 12-Sir 27:30-28:7 / Rom 14: 7-9 / Mt 18: 21-35

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

+5:15 Deceased Members of the Parish

Sunday, September 13-Sir 27:30-28:7 / Rom 14: 7-9 / Mt 18: 21-35

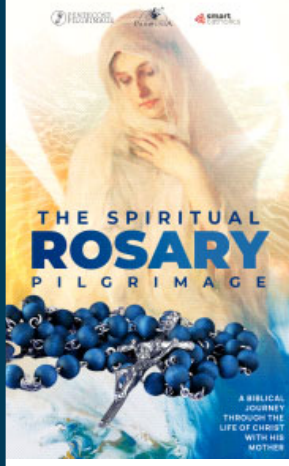
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

+8:30 Cheryl Enos (Family)

+11:00 Michael Brooks (Family)



<p>BE INFORMED</p> <p>BE PREPARED</p> <p>BE SMART</p> <p>BE SAFE</p>	<p>KEEP IN THE KNOW <i>About St. Joseph Church</i></p> <p>DOWNLOAD OUR PARISH APP: TEXT APP to 88202</p> <p>LOG ON TO OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.StJosephs-sharon.org</p>
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 <p>THE SPIRITUAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE</p> <p>A BIBLICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH HIS MOTHER</p>	<p><u>ONLINE RETREAT</u></p> <p>Beginning on September 8, our Blessed Mother's birthday & runs through October 7, the feast of The Holy Family. There is no cost & everyday there will be a talk given by a powerful speaker w/time for reflection regarding the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, please access www.parousiamedia.com w/ Christopher West.</p>
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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.