

From Father Totton's Desk

The Liturgical Year is quickly reaching its conclusion. In less than a month, we will begin a new Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent on Sunday, December 2. As we approach a new Year of Worship, I would like to use this column to reflect upon and review some of our assumptions and understandings about the Sacred Liturgy, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Many years ago, on a cold and snowy winter's morn, I was preparing for a weekday Mass in the sacristy at St. James. Due to the weather conditions, the congregation was lighter than normal – the sacristan and the server's mother were the only two souls in the pews – as time for Mass approached, the server, a boy of about 12 or 13, stopped to ask me, "Father, if nobody showed up, would you still celebrate Mass?" I answered his question with one of my own: "Matthew, if we could say that the Mass has an 'audience' who would that be?" With surprisingly little reflection, the server answered the question in one resounding word: "GOD!" "That's right I said, now ring the bell, and let's get started!"

To this day, I am edified when I think about that young man's grasp of the Mass. To ponder his insight is to be reminded that Mass is primarily an act of worship! I call this to mind when it looks like a smaller-than-usual congregation has gathered or when we have a "quiet" Mass due to lack of music support, or when those gathered, in the case of a funeral, for example, are unfamiliar with the responses that so many of us take for granted. I am also mindful that whenever the Mass is celebrated, the entire company of angels and saints is present, as we are transported, mystically, to God's throne in heaven. Still, there is something about basic "religion" (a word, the root of which means to be "re-connected") by which one is helped by the presence and fervent participation of other believers.

One of the most remarked upon phrases of the Second Vatican Council is "full, conscious and actual participation in the liturgy." Though the meaning of this phrase has been interpreted (and sometimes misinterpreted) in many ways, at its root, it means that the believers gathered are united as members of the one Mystical Body of Christ, to offer Jesus' Sacrifice to the Father. This "full, conscious and actual" participation happens *primarily* through our prayerful interior disposition at Mass, not so much by exercising special "ministries" within the Mass such as reading or serving or ushering, etc. To be sure, we *need* readers and ushers and servers, but those duties do not, in and of themselves constitute "full, conscious and actual participation" otherwise, the 95% of faithful who are "merely" in the pews are deprived of the opportunity to exercise *full, conscious and actual participation*.

Another aspect of Mass about which some are confused is its entertainment value. This usually comes to the surface when people describe Mass by what each "gets out of it." Usually, when someone says this, they are talking about whether or not they enjoyed the homily, or whether or not the music was "uplifting". To be sure, since the homily is part of this act of worship, it *should* be edifying to help the faithful enter into the worship, but we don't come to Mass merely to hear Father's musings! Thanks to the "magic" of the internet, one may now read any number of excellent bulletin reflections from priests throughout the world and have a better experience than they might have listening to the homily. If we judge Mass by how entertaining we found it to be, then we are missing the point! The same may be said for music. One may listen to any number of recorded songs of a quality or style far surpassing that which can be done in the average parish (with all due respect to our dedicated and skilled musicians) but the music at Mass is for the purpose of worship, *not* entertainment. When we sing at Mass, with the assistance of our music ministers, we are singing as an act of Divine Worship! GOD is our "audience".

The texts of the Mass also highlight the degree to which Mass is an act of Worship (of the Father, in the Son, through the Holy Spirit.). Easily over 85% of the Mass texts are prayers directed to God the Father. It is true that some of the texts involve a dialogue between the priest and the faithful ("The Lord be with you..." for example) but the vast majority of Mass texts indicate that the priest celebrant, Sacramentally configured to Christ, is speaking to the Father, language of Sacrifice, language of Divine Worship. All present at Mass are asked to exercise *Full, Conscious and Actual Participation* at Mass by uniting their prayers to those of Jesus through the prayers being offered on His behalf by the priest celebrant. In this regard, the priest, acting *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ) is *leading* the Faithful in Divine Worship, rather than conducting some form of religious-based entertainment for the Masses. Entertainment is for consumers, Mass is for Disciples – be a Disciple!

Fr. Joseph W. Totton



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Fr. Joseph Totton - Administrator

Mass Time
Sunday: 8 am
Confessions: Sunday at 7:30am
Office 816-473-2011

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Easton, MO 64443
816-294-9841 - Fr. Totton's cell

Mission Statement

**We the members
of Saint Joseph
Catholic parish,
will strive to be
the reflection of
Jesus in this
particular time
and place.**

Cemetery Board

Ed Fisher
Mike Roth
Steve White



**Thirty-first Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

Parish & Finance Councils

Jim Adams
Jim Ingle
Rosalie Ingle
Tony Kauzlarich
Marge Kinney
Julie Moran
Jordan Roth
Mike Roth
Wayne Weipert

Email: stjosephchurch@centurytel.net
Website: stjosepheaston.org
Fr. Totton's email: fathertotton@gmail.com
Office Manager: Marge Kinney
Hall Rental: Marge Kinney

To Protect our Children:

To Report Abuse - Jenifer Valenti 816-812-2500
Victims' Advocate - Kathleen Chastain 816-392-0011
chastain@diocesekcsj.org
Nov 4, 2018



Ministry Schedule

Nov 4- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Jim Ingle

Lectors: Scott Antle & Jordan Roth

Ministers: Wayne Weipert, Jan & Paul Pottier

Counters: Tony Kauzlarich and Rudy Wolford

Nov 11- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Richard LaFollette

Lectors: Doug Ottinger & Jan Pottier

Ministers: Jim Ingle, Marylou Euler, Paul Pottier

Counters: Richard & Mary Ann LaFollette

Mass Intentions



Sunday, Nov 4 + Mark Jungk

By: Roth Family

Sunday, Nov 11 + Chad Klein

By: Klein Family



BIRTHDAY

Noah Ottinger Nov 2nd
Herman Buter Nov 10th

Congratulations and Best Wishes Everyone!

CONCEPTION SEMINARY COLLEGE THEATRE PRODUCTION

Conception Seminary College will present their annual fall play, entitled The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon. The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride as two narrators and a cast of characters attempt to combine all 209 tales into some bizarre and obscure updated tales. This play is a wild, free-form comedy with lots of audience participation and madcap fun.

Production dates are Friday, November 9th and Saturday, November 10th at 8:00pm and Sunday, November 11th at 2:30pm in St. Michael Hall Gymnasium on the Conception

Seminary College campus in Conception,

Admission is \$10, free for children 12 and under. No reservations needed. Pay at the door. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. The production is the under the direction of Br. Cyprian Langlois, Director of Drama at Conception Seminary College.

For further information, contact Br. Cyprian at 660-944-2837, or email cyprian@conception.edu.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)



The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816.812.2500 or JeniferValenti@att.net, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more info.

Statement from Bishop Johnston

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph stands in mourning with our Jewish brothers and sisters after the heinous attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel of life, we decry hatred and all displays of anti-Semitism. Yet again, we call on our nation and public officials to confront the plague of gun violence. May Almighty God be with the victims and their families, and bring them comfort at this tragic time.

To our friends in the local Jewish community, know that you are not alone in your grief. Today we renew our commitment to joining you in building a just society that honors and respects the differences among us, in accord with the will of God our Creator.



"GIVE FROM THE HEART" 7th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

It's that time again!

We have raised in the first 3 weeks, **\$7,738!!**

Nov 10th

Parishioners can contribute in one sum or scatter donations over the next four week time span.

Monies will be deposited in our money market account and will be used for operating expenses as needed.

Last year we raised just over **\$14,593!!**

Let's work towards or surpass last years' total!

We can do it!

Parish and Finance Councils

Weekend Collection - Oct 28, 2018

Envelopes: \$980 Plate: \$259 Hall Rental: \$100

Second Collection: Fund Raiser: \$2810 Donation: \$500

Total Parish: \$4,649

2nd Collection: Month of Oct our Fundraiser

Budget is from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Oct To Date: \$14,844.00 this includes the fundraiser \$

Oct Budget: \$ 7,550.00

Year-To-Date: \$37,498.52

Year Budget: \$90,600.00

Thank You for your continued support of St. Joseph Parish.



Mark your Calendars!

Parish & Finance Council: Nov 8th - 6 pm Rectory

Altar Society: Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

Hand Linens: Nov/Dec: Jan Pottier

Donut Sunday: Nov 4: Richard & Mary Ann LaFollette

Knights of Columbus: 5067-1st & 3rd Thursday 7 pm

Rosary on 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm

Jay Pflugrad, Grand Knight

Fr. Joseph Totton, Chaplain

Recitation of Rosary - 2nd weekend of the month

20 minutes before Mass

2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

We have an opportunity to commit our support to diocesan programs and ministries that no one parish could provide on its own.

Our theme, **"The community of believers was of one heart and mind" Acts 4:32,**

Appropriately recognizes our unity as the people of God to work together for the betterment of all.

Our goal is 100% participation. No gift is too small.

Please join our efforts.

The goal for St. Joseph's parish is \$5,775

Our Total so far is \$2235

Thank you for all your help and support of the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal.



2019 Donut Sunday Sign Up Sheet

On the back bulletin board is the sign up sheet for Donut Sunday for 2019.

Please sign up!



Prayer Corner

"To everything there is a season and a time...for every purpose under Heaven." Ecc. 3-11

"...a time to heal..."

Mildred Ottinger, Lori Redmond, Nancy Totton, Bubba Miller, Amy Spriesterbach

For our Shut - Ins

Rosemary Ingle, Carolyn O'Brien, Josephine Jackson, Delores White, Eileen Grier, Brent LaFollette

Bishop LeBlond—24th Night of the Golden Stars

FOOD, FUN AND FESTIVITIES

Nov 10th

Doors Open at 5:30pm. Cost is \$50/person

To RSVP go to: www.bishopleblond.com

or call 816-279-1629

HONORING: Leo & Lee Stock, Mt. Saint Scholastica Award Recipients

and Truman Marek '03/Girl's Softball State Champs '13 to the Athletic Hall of Fame.



March for Life

Washington D.C.

2019 MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE

Registration is now open for the March for Life Pilgrimage to Washington DC, January 17-19.

This three-day trip will include

Mass each day,

Rally on the National Mall,

and participation in the 2019 March for Life.

Registration will remain open through Wednesday, December 12th. The current early-bird rate of \$285 per person will be available through Wed., October 31st.

The amount will increase slightly to \$315 after October 31st.

Registration forms available on-line at:

www.respectlifekcsj.org

- Pilgrims under the age of 18 must also complete a copy of the diocesan youth medical release form.
- All minors not traveling with an adult will be assigned a Virtus-certified adult chaperone.
- A space may be reserved for the pilgrimage by submitting a non-refundable deposit of \$100 at anytime. Total payment must be received by Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018.