

People, Look East!

...thus begins a familiar Advent hymn. It might also describe a call for us to re-orient our worship.

In last week's bulletin, I shared about my experience visiting *Hagia Sophia*, the ancient Christian Basilica in Istanbul. I was surprised by the positive reaction that I received from parishioners who were interested in, even fascinated by, such an ancient church half a world away! In comparison with our churches today – even those which are “old” by North American standards – there is something truly “otherworldly” about a place like Hagia Sophia, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome or even Paris' gothic Notre Dame Cathedral. The very design of the architecture is intended to transport us to another time and place. It is intended, I dare say, to transport us to another dimension altogether. As I have stated in earlier bulletin columns, when we are at Mass, we are simultaneously present at Calvary, at the Lord's Supper and before the very Throne of the Lamb in Heaven!

When I was a student at Conception Seminary College, the monks were in the process of a months-long renovation of their century-old Abbey Basilica. In the final days prior to the re-dedication, they were giving informal tours and I remember hearing a lady, a non-Catholic who was working with the visiting “bloodmobile”, comment: “WOW! If something on earth can be so beautiful, imagine what heaven must look like!” To this day, her words have left an impression upon me. Our churches, however humble and simple they may be, *should* have the ability to convey the grandeur of the action which takes place therein. Where we have lost this, we should seek to recover it, not only by restoring the grandeur to our church buildings, but also by restoring grandeur and meaning, where lost, to our liturgical celebrations.

Those of you who lived through the Second Vatican Council will remember the breakneck pace with which changes followed the closing of the Council. It must have been an exciting – and perhaps disorienting – time to experience so many changes so quickly, and with very little time to reflect. As with anything, two people may have even remember the same event in two entirely different ways. Once I asked my Dad about how he experienced the changes at Mass (he had served the Latin Mass as a boy and was 20 years old when the council began) He kind of shrugged his shoulders and said, “the Fathers knew best...I guess.” Others embraced the changes with a greater enthusiasm and still others dug in their heels and called for a moratorium on change altogether.

Today I would like to reflect on a significant change which was made – almost universally and almost instantly – which was *not even called for by the Second Vatican Council*, but one which is often attributed to that Council. This change involves the shifting in the position of the priest at the altar. Prior to “Vatican II” almost every priest celebrating Mass would stand at the altar in a common direction with the people addressing their prayers to God (a position sometimes called “*Ad-Orientem*” which means “toward the ‘east’”). Within a short time following the Council, it became almost universal practice for the priest to stand behind the altar facing the people, which has given some the mistaken impression that the priest, rather than God, is the focus of the Mass. Since Mass is not entertainment, but Divine Worship, and the object of our worship is God, we might wish to revisit the question of posture and direction of the priest. In fact, two years ago, **Robert Cardinal Sarah**, the Church's chief liturgist, made this plea:

I believe that it is very important that we return as soon as possible to a common orientation, of priests and the faithful turned together in the same direction—Eastwards or at least towards the apse—to the Lord who comes, in those parts of the liturgical rites when we are addressing God. This practice is permitted by current liturgical legislation. It is perfectly legitimate in the modern rite. Indeed, I think it is a very important step in ensuring that in our celebrations the Lord is truly at the center.

I have read many encouraging articles written by priests and lay people who have experienced a return to the ancient practice recommended by Cardinal Sarah. I wish I had room to share them all with you. The popular author, **Fr. Dwight Longenecker** offers the following advice to help his readers understand such a shift in direction:

At the heart of the Christian experience is repentance and conversion of life. The word metanoia or repentance actually means “turning in a new direction.” Therefore, at Mass when we orient ourselves toward the tabernacle, toward the Lord's presence, we are turning in a new direction—turning away from ourselves and toward him. There are various times within the celebration of the liturgy when the priest can turn toward the East with the people: during the penitential rite, the Gloria, the prayers of the faithful and the prayer of consecration.

The full text of Fr. Longenecker's article is worth a read. It may be found online at: www.aleteia.org/2016/06/09/mass-whats-the-point/. Finally, I would direct your attention to a brief video regarding *Ad-Orientem* worship which I have posted on our parish website. You can also access it directly at <https://youtu.be/0CWgpwZzeFl>.

-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

P.O. Box 197
107 North Shortridge
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-Third 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 18, 2018



Ministry Schedule

Nov 18- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Hubert Gregory

Lectors: Bonnie Gregory & Jan Pottier

Ministers: Doug Ottinger, Wayne Weipert & Jim Ingle

Counters: Richard & Mary Ann LaFollette

Nov 25- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Wayne Weipert

Lectors: Scott Antle, Jordan Roth

Ministers: Marylou Euler, Jan & Paul Pottier

Counters: Paul & Jan Pottier

Mass Intentions



Sunday, Nov 18

+ John McLarney

By: Everett & Roth Families

Thursday, Nov 22 9 AM

People of the Parish

Sunday, Nov 25

+ Fred Murcer

By: Steve & Pat Culver



BIRTHDAY

Josephine Jackson Nov 20th

Jody Runyon Nov 21st

Paula Neely Nov 23rd

ANNIVERSARY

Miles & Joan Mitchell Nov 24th

Congratulations and Best Wishes Everyone!

11th Annual Bishop LeBlond Fall Musical

Last chance to come and see the LB Theatre Department's 2018 Fall Musical **"Dirty Laundry."**

From the show description... "When Kenny Rudolf Alexander Pinford-Inkman VI gets word that his family's laundry basket factory is in the red, he decides to step up and save the day. Meanwhile, his competitor, Harriet Hampton of Hampton's Hampers, works from every angle to shut down her only competition in the laundry basket biz.

This show turns something as mundane as laundry baskets into absolutely delightful musical theatre bursting with laughter, love and plenty of dirty laundry."

Sunday, November 18 at 3pm on the stage at Bishop LeBlond High School.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students & senior citizens or at the door an hour before showtime.

Come and have a fun afternoon filled with laughs!



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.

Volunteers needed to preserve our first cemetery

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 24th, at 1:00 p.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church hall, Easton.

Reference the enclosed sheet in the bulletin for details.

Michael Fisher of our parish will help to coordinate the volunteer group.

A book documenting those still buried at the Old Kessler Cemetery (written by Tim Wiedmaier) can be found in the back of the church. This book was donated to the parish to be retained for Church records. Do not remove it from the back of the church.



"GIVE FROM THE HEART"
7th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
NEW UPDATE
\$13,887!!



2019 Donut Sunday Sign Up Sheet

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

Please sign up!

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new to our Parish, we invite you to register: introduce yourself to Fr. Totton after Mass, Come to the Parish Office, or Go to our Parish Website at: stjosepheaston.org

Weekend Collection - Nov 11, 2018

Envelopes: \$1,875 Plate: \$178.25 Mass Stipends: \$60

Second Collection: Fund Raiser: \$1,000 Subscription: \$28

Total Parish: \$3,141.25

2nd Collection: Dec 9 - Religious Retirement

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

Nov To Date: \$10,390.25 This includes fund raising \$

Nov Budget: \$ 7,550.00

Year-To-Date: \$47,901.92

Year Budget: \$90,600.00

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



Mark your Calendars!

Parish & Finance Council: Feb- 6 pm Rectory
Altar Society: Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

Hand Linens: Nov/Dec: Jan Pottier

Donut Sunday: Dec 2: Christmas Brunch - Altar Society

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

Rosary on 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm

Jay Pflugradt, 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 \$2705

Thank you for all your help and support of the



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Father Totton will be celebrating a Thanksgiving Day Mass on November 22nd at 9 am

St. Joseph Church - Easton

Please plan on attending we have much to be thankful for!



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

"...a time of war and a time of peace..."

We pray for the safety of all our service men and women who serve our country.



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Everyone is invited to attend the annual

Christmas Brunch which will be

Sunday, December 2 following mass

in the parish hall.

There will not be a sign up sheet again this year so please plan to attend and bring a breakfast item of your choice (casserole, fruit, muffins, etc.).

Thank you

We hope to see you there!!



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.