

From Fr. Totton's Desk

After Dinner on Thanksgiving, as I drove my parents home, my Dad commented, as we passed the local McDonald's, that there were a few cars in the parking lot. I remarked that I remembered a time not so long ago when McDonald's was closed on Thanksgiving - one of the two days of the year when they did not open (the other being Christmas). For years, sit-down restaurants have provided an alternative for (smaller) families who wanted to celebrate without going to all the trouble of cooking their Thanksgiving Day Feast. Since McDonald's is not exactly known for turkey and McStuffing, I suspect their decision to open on Thanksgiving was simply following the lead of so many retail stores which have opened to get an early jump on "Black Friday". This set me to thinking about cultural trends and whether we, as Christians, allow ourselves to be *formed by* the culture around us or whether we, by our own witness, seek to *shape* the culture around us.

Those who are older than I will remember a time "not so long ago" when Sunday's were observed as a day of rest. The Lord gave the command to Moses: "Keep Holy the Sabbath". The Jewish people did this through worship and rest. In the early Church, in light of Jesus' Resurrection, this observance was transferred from Saturday to Sunday, but observed in much the same way, with Divine Worship and a general rest from work. This is the reason we are asked to gather, as a community, for Sunday Mass, but our Sunday observance should also include a deliberate refrain from *unnecessary* work. *This requires that we make an honest distinction between essential services and non-essential commerce.* Essential services would include Emergency Medicine, Law Enforcement, Fire Protection and the like. Non-essential commerce includes retail shopping, entertainments, etc. Obviously, there are some gray areas in these question - travel is a good example of this, particularly for those who must commute long distances to make a living; foodservice represents another gray area as it may be necessary for those who are travelling or are otherwise unable to prepare a meal for themselves for whatever reason.

The Advent season is a time for us to slow down, step back, quiet down and prayerfully prepare for the coming of the Lord. For this reason, I would like to issue a challenge to you - and to myself - for this Advent season: Examine your current practice in terms of observing Sunday as The Lord's Day *and* a day of rest. This requires that we examine our own practice *not only* with regards to work, but also considering our use of services which require *other* people to work on Sunday. When you plan out your week, make provisions to take care of all non-essential commerce (grocery shopping, Christmas shopping, etc.) *before* Sunday. *If* it is possible, cook meals at home, gather with family, visit relatives and friends, interact by playing card games or board games . Gather in prayer around an Advent Wreath, take some time to share personal reflections on the readings from Sunday's Mass. Again, I readily admit that there may be exceptions to these, but let them **be just that - exceptions!** One may object, "But there just isn't enough time in the week to get everything done!" To that objection, I would respond that God will not be outdone in generosity. When we give him the "precious little" that we have to offer, he has promised to multiply even that "thirty, and sixty and a hundred fold in this life."

I am convinced that if we are deliberate about these practical details of keeping the Lord's Day "holy" it truly will produce much spiritual fruit in our own lives, helping us to grow in our relationship with God and with one another.

Fr. Joseph W. Totton

Free On-Line Resources to make this your  
"Best Advent Ever!"

Dynamic Catholic is offering a **free** Advent subscription program to provide you with daily reflections delivered to your email inbox to help you keep a spiritual focus during this Advent Season.

I have already signed up myself and I encourage each of you to do likewise today to begin receiving these daily reflections.



ST. JOSEPH  
CHURCH

Fr. Joseph Totton

Administrator

Mass Times  
Saturday: 6 pm Sunday: 8 am  
Confessions: 1/2 hr before Mass  
Office 816-473-2011  
Holy Day - Immaculate Conception  
Thursday - Dec 7: 6 pm - St Joseph  
Friday - Dec 8: 6 pm - St. Ann

P.O. Box 197  
107 North Shortridge  
Easton, MO 64443  
816-294-9841 - Fr. Joe'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



1st Sunday of  
Advent

Parish & Finance Councils

Jim Adams

Stacy Brown

Jim Ingle

Rosalie Ingle

Tony Kauzlarich

Marge Kinney

Julie Moran

Dennis Ottinger

Jordan Roth

Mike Roth

Wayne Weipert

Email: stjosephchurch@centurytel.net

Website: stjosepheaston.org

Fr. Joe'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](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org)

December 3, 2017



**December 3 - 8 am Mass**

**Greeter:** Jim Ingle

**Lectors:** Jim Barber, Jan Pottier

**Ministers:** Wayne Weipert,, Jim & Diane Barber

**Counters:** Tony Kauzlarich and Rudy Wolford

*Mass Intentions*



**Saturday, Dec 2** + Carolyn Steppe  
By: Julie & David Houser

**Sunday, Dec 3** + Jack West  
By: West Girls

**Thursday, Dec 7 - 6 pm** People of the Parish  
By:

**Saturday, Dec 9** + Eunice Grier  
By: Joan Dixon

**Sunday, Dec 10** + Irene Belzer  
By: Bill & Marge Kinney



**BIRTHDAY**

Debbie Fisher	December 3
Christie Ottinger	December 3
Kevin Brown	December 4
Charles Barton	December 6
Marylou Euler	December 6
Julie Houser	December 8
Nicholas Klein	December 9

**ANNIVERSARY**

**Congratulations and Best Wishes Everyone!**

*Ministry Schedule*


**December 10- 8 am Mass**

**Greeter:** Randy Moran

**Lectors:** Julie Moran, Jim Ingle

**Ministers:** Randy Moran, Jan & Paul Pottier

**Counters:** Randy & Julie Moran



**Mark your Calendars!**

**Parish & Finance Council:** Jan 3 - 6 pm - Rectory

**Altar Society:** Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

**Hand Linens:** Nov/Dec: Jan Pottier

**Donut Sunday:** Dec 3 - Christmas Brunch - Altar Society


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

**Rosary on 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm**

**Dan Morey, Grand Knight**

**Recitation of Rosary - 2nd weekend of the month**

**20 minutes before Mass**



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](mailto: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](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org) for more info.

**Retirement Fund for Religious collection**

**December 9 & 10**

**Help care for elders**

“Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders,” write a religious sister.

Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs.

Please give to next week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection

**Weekend Collection Nov 25 & 26, 2017**

Envelopes: \$1,105 Plate: \$258 Thanksgiving: \$157  
Holy Day: \$15 Subscription: \$30

**Total Parish: \$1,565**


**2nd Collection: Dec 10 - Religious Retirement COLLECTIONS:**

**Nov To Date: \$12,204.74**  
**Nov Budget: \$ 7,491.66**

**Year-To-Date: \$ 49,628.30**  
**Year Budget: \$101,800.00**

Next weekend we welcome Fr. Justin Hoyer to our parish.

Fr. Hoyer will be hearing confessions and celebrating weekend Masses at St. Ann and St. Joseph Parishes on Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10.



**2018 Annual Catholic Appeal**

**“How can I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me”**

As the Holidays approach, we give thanks to God for all His blessings to us and our families. We especially thank the 14 out of 96 families who have shared their financial resources toward our parish’s goal of \$5,775 for the Annual Catholic Appeal.

So far we have received \$1,800 in pledges and contributions.

We are grateful for your listening to our call to give and we know that you feel a sense of accomplishment in sharing your blessings, with others in the family of the Church in Northwest Missouri.


**Opportunities for Ministers**

Ministry is the way in which the Church continues what Christ began and still intends, namely, the salvation of humanity and the transformation of the world. All baptized and confirmed Christians receive a call and gifts enabling them to participate in this mission. When lay people carry out Christ’s work as priest, prophet, and king in their own proper way through public activity authorized by the Church, we call this lay ministry. Here are some of the ways you might be able to answer that call:

**Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

If you have a calling for any of the above ministries please see Fr. Joe Totton and he will arrange for training.

We need your help - thank you for your cooperation.



**Prayer Corner**

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

*“...a time to heal...”*

**Jon Clark, Mildred Ottinger**



**CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**



Everyone is invited to attend the annual Christmas Brunch Today

Sunday, December 3 following mass in the parish hall.


The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Schedule

December 7th - 6 pm  
St Joseph - Easton

December 8th—6 pm  
St Ann - Plattsburg

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF ST. JOSEPH NEEDS YOUR HELP!**



Catholic Charities

One of the Catholic Charities’ mission is to provide basic needs to families who can’t afford the essentials.

CC’s cupboards are in need of the following items: laundry soap, dish soap, bleach, paper towels, toilet tissue, Kleenex, deodorant, shampoo, soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, diapers, baby wipes and other items for personal hygiene needs.

Just drop them in the box in the back of the church marked "Catholic Charities" at your convenience.