

From the Pastor’s Desk:

Three Temples in Singapore



A “temple,” in the most generic sense of the word, is a place of encounter with a divine being. It is usually also a place where one may offer a sacrifice to that being as an act of worship, prayer and communion. I would like to tell you the tale of three temples I recently encountered on a single day in Singapore.

For reasons too complicated to explain in this brief column, I found myself on an extended layover on that island nation of 5 million citizens. While there, I researched some basic facts about this little country and discovered a lot that I would like to share! Among the highlights: Crime is taken very seriously in Singapore to the extent that drug traffickers are subject to capital punishment and chewing gum (without a doctor’s prescription) is illegal, as a result crime is very low and there is a general courtesy and respect shown for both people and property; about 1/3 of Singaporeans practice Buddhism while 18% are Christians and about 14% are Muslim with other religions (or none) practiced by the remaining 1/3 of the population. The people professing these various creeds seem to live a rather harmonious existence; finally, over the past two decades, Singapore has experienced a tremendous economic growth which has put it on parity, if not above, many of its Western peers.

One morning, I set out to find a Catholic Church in which to pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Thankfully, it wasn’t that difficult, and I took a taxi to visit the “Novena Church” – so called because of the popular Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help conducted by the Redemptorist Priests in residence there. The Church building itself was an impressive gothic stone structure with soaring vaulted ceilings and realistic images in stained glass. It would rival a number of medieval churches of Europe for its beauty and design, and could easily be described as a “large” church by Kanas City standards. The most curious point, however, is the date on the cornerstone: **2017!** The parish offers a robust liturgical and devotional schedule. I was surprised to discover a standing-room-only crowd for a midday Mass at Noon on a Thursday! I was also edified by the truly “universal” character of those in attendance for there were Chinese, Filipinos, Malays, Indians and Caucasians all worshipping together (the liturgy was in English, the official language of Singapore).

During my time in Singapore, I wanted to visit one of the many Buddhist temples, since I don’t know when I will ever have the chance to do so again, and I wanted to get a sense – even an outsider’s sense – of what they do when they go to the temple. I chose a Chinese Buddhist monastery which, though constructed in the 20th Century, had been built to resemble an ancient temple. To say the least, the experience was very foreign, and I don’t have the proper background to understand it (I also don’t understand Chinese!) Prior to visiting, however, I sent a message to a friend from Navy Chaplains’ School who is a (Korean) Buddhist priest, simply asking for etiquette out of respect for those in attendance. Her response is worth sharing because I think it is something that can be applied to our conduct in Church as well: *Maintain mindfulness and keep your mind open; Wear appropriate clothing; Respect all people in the temple, young and old; Speak well to people in the manner of a “Bodhisattva”* (of course, we would substitute “Jesus” here!); *Avoid thinking you already have great understanding, or that the dharma speech (homily) does not apply to you; Do not bring food or drink into the meditation hall; turn off cell phones; be on time.*

The final “temple” upon which I would like to reflect is not a deliberate temple in the sense of the buildings described above, but you shall see its relevance in comparison with the other two. Only a few steps from the Novena Church is a complex of shopping centers – multiple buildings, each containing five or six levels and many corridors, connected by short passageways and tunnels, all grouped under the heading of “Shops at Novena Square”. In this urban mega-mall, one could find most of the major western retailers we would find in any shopping center in the United States, and a few dozen others from Europe and Asia that I had never heard of, along with restaurants, food courts, kiosks and all that one would expect in a modern shopping center! There’s even an entire multi-level mall – *Velocity* – dedicated to specialty sporting goods retailers! During business hours, consumers fill the corridors and frequent the nooks and crannies in search of an elusive happiness that the goods of this world cannot satisfy. This, and many like it – throughout Singapore (and there are MANY!) – and throughout the world, is a temple to consumerism. You will recall that I mentioned above the prosperity of Singapore. I offer my reflection on this third “temple” **not** as a condemnation of capitalism, for it is a system which, *properly tempered by Christian values*, **is** compatible with both human dignity and human freedom. Nevertheless, we must always be vigilant to keep our priorities straight! Jesus himself said, “*where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” (Matthew 6:21) In the weeks ahead, let us begin thinking about our priorities. Let us prepare to enter the Lenten season with a sense of detachment from earthly goods (though not to the neglect of truly basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, etc.) mindful of the advice of St. John, who wrote:

“Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the World passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:15).

-Fr. Joseph Totton



St. Joseph Church

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Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 17, 2019

PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Joseph Totton
Phone: 816.294.9841
Email: fathertotton@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY
Penny Harrison

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL
Jim Adams
Jim Ingle
Rosalie Ingle
Tony Kauzlarich
Julie Moran
Jordan Roth
Mike Roth
Wayne Weipert
Michael Fisher

CEMETERY BOARD
Ed Fisher
Mike Roth
Steve White

HALL RENTAL
Call office at 816.473.2011 or email:
stjosephchurch@centurytel.net

MASS SCHEDULE
Sunday 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS
Sunday 7:30 a.m.

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



Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle– February 22

“I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail, and, once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN: REPORT ABUSE
OMBUDSMAN: Jenifer Valenti – 816.812.2500
DIOCESAN VICTIM ADVOCATE: Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday February 17
8:00 a.m. Marilyn Harwood †
by Jan Pottier

Sunday February 24
8:00 a.m. Doug Bembrick †
by Mary Bembrick

Please remember in prayer those who have died.
Grant them eternal rest and peace, O Lord!
† Denotes Deceased

February Birthdays

Lauren Kempf February 18
Miles Mitchell February 20
Claire Condett February 23



Cursillo Weekend

Every 6 months a 3-day Cursillo retreat takes place. Men and women in the parish are invited to take part. Several parishioners have made one and would be willing to sponsor a new member. If you want to find out about it please call Richard or Diane Hon 816.6823839.

Dates of our 2019 Weekends are: **Men- Feb 21-24, and Women – Mar 28-31.**



Contribution Statements for Income Tax Purposes...

Parishioners requesting a contribution statement for 2018 are kindly requested to send an email to stjosephchurch@centurytel.net or leave a message on the parish voicemail at 816-473-2011. We will make every effort to issue statements in a timely manner.

WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 17- 8 a.m. Mass

Greeter: Wayne Weipert
Lectors: Doug Ottinger, Jan Pottier
Ministers: Marylou Euler, Jim Ingle, Wayne Weipert
Counters: Richard and Mary Ann La Follette

February 24- 8 a.m. Mass

Greeter: Jim Ingle
Lectors: Scott Antle, Jay Pflugradt
Ministers: Doug Ottinger, Wayne Weipert, Jim Ingle
Counters: Jordan and Amanda Roth

Weekend Collection - February 10, 2019

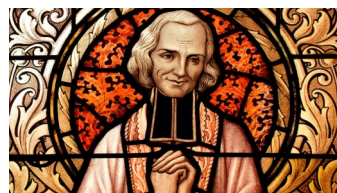
Envelopes: \$ 1,450.00
Plate: \$ 148.00

Total Parish: \$ 1,598.00

Fiscal Year Budget July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

February-to-Date: \$ 3,870.00
February Budget \$ 7,550.00
Year-to-Date: \$ 70,541.00
Year Budget: \$ 90,600.00

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



The incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney, patron of parish priests,

will be visiting the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 519 N. 10th Street in St. Joseph, on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, 2019. The Shrine of Ars, France, has made this major relic available for a national tour in the United States. The Knights of Columbus is hosting this tour and welcomes you to this special opportunity to offer veneration to a saint who is a model of holiness and integrity for clergy and laity alike. The day will begin with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 8:00 a.m.; reception of the relic and Veneration follows throughout the day until 8:00 p.m. Confessions will be made available. Evening Vespers begin at 5:30 p.m. For more information about St. Jean Vianney and the relic tour, please visit www.kofc.org/vianney

Mark your Calendars—Parish Events

Parish & Finance Council
Tuesday, February 12 at 6 p.m. in Rectory

Altar Society
Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

Hand Linens
January/February: Bonnie Gregory

Donut Sunday - March 3– John McPhee and Wayne Weipert

Knights of Coumbus Council #5067
Jay Pflugradt, Grand Knight
1st & 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.
Rosary 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Recitation of Rosary
2nd Sunday of month beginning at 7:40 a.m.

Historic Cemetery Preservation Presentations

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2nd, at 4:00 p.m., at St. Joseph Catholic Church hall, Easton.

Reference the enclosed sheet in the bulletin for details.



Kessler Cemetery Cleanup

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 2nd, at 1:00 p.m., at Kessler Cemetery. Carpoolers can gather at 1:00 p.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Church hall, Easton.

Reference the enclosed sheet in the bulletin for details.

LIGHT + LIFE: A JP II FAMILY APOSTOLATE

Join us for a **Married Couples Retreat, March 22-24, 2019**, at Conception Abbey, 37174 State Highway VV, Conception, MO 64433. Discover anew your relationship with your spouse and Jesus! This retreat is a time for rest and recommitment and is offered in a new, shorter retreat format with lower cost. More information and registration can be found at <https://kcsjfamily.org/light-life>.



Prayer Corner

“To everything there is a season and time. .

for every purpose under heaven.”
—Ecc. 3-11



“ . . a time to heal. . .”

Ron Kretzer, Bob Everett, Mildred Ottinger, Lori Redmond, Nancy Totton, Bubba Miller, Amy Dobrowansky, the elderly and infirm, the chronically ill and their caregivers. For those who attend to the dying and grieving; for medical professionals and first responders; for the homeless and those lost in this world; for those who harbor hatred and especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

For our home bound parishioners:

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

“ . . 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.

Please notify the parish office of any new intentions or of any names that should be removed.

Bishop Johnston’s prayer intention for February.

“Please join me in prayer: my February intention is for those who experience profound loneliness.”

Papal Prayer Intention for this month

“For the victims of human trafficking and of violence.”

Let us pray to the Lord...

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 information.