

Wisdom From Father Rutler

Among rare neurological disorders, the “pseudobulbar affect” is manifested by uncontrolled laughter or crying. It can be treated effectively in many cases with a combination of the drugs dextromethorphan and quinidine. But there is another malady for which the Food and Drug Administration has no cure, and that is the habit of affecting emotions insincerely in order to manipulate others. There is the habitual backslapper who uses laughter to avoid serious conversation, often out of insecurity. There is also the weeper whose tears flow to elicit sympathy.

A remarkable quality usually taken for granted, is that humans can laugh and cry unlike other creatures. “Risibility,” the ability to laugh or smile, is a defining trait of humanity. The moral challenge is to identify the right causes of happiness and sadness.

All sane, moral behavior has the pursuit of happiness as the goal of life. Sadness is the recognition of what impedes that goal. As long as we are in a broken world, happiness will be elusive to a degree, and at best will be “*felicitas*,” which means real but impermanent happiness.

Ancient Greeks, unlike their modern descendants who are largely occupied these days with fixing their economy, spent time studying human dispositions. They were good psychologists. Their gods and goddesses were essentially symbols of human characteristics. There were many deities who represented varying attempts at happiness, although some of their philosophers, like the Cynics and Stoics, did not think there was much of a chance at felicity. There were, for instance: Bacchus – drinking; Hypnos – drugs; Hermes – sports; Dionysius – partying; Aphrodite – sex; Tyche – good luck; Hygieia – health; Thalia – comedy; Momus – silliness and gossip; and Nemesis – revenge on enemies.

Saint Paul was familiar with that ghostly pantheon and politely confronted their clients in Athens. He did not mock or insult them. But he did declare to them that he knew the one true God who is the source of all true joy and for which those idols were lame substitutes:

Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. (Acts 17:29-31)

Most of the philosophers were unmoved because they liked hearing themselves and none other. But one of them, Dionysius, and a woman named Damaris, and “a number of others” accepted Christ. Their stories are unrecorded, but as Christ never lied, we know that they inherited a happiness higher than *felicitas*, and that is *beatitudo*—the endless joy of God’s presence.

Father George William Rutler is pastor of the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in New York City. This column was first published in their bulletin on June 30, 2019.



St. Joseph Church

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Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

July 7, 2019

PARISH PRIEST
Fr. Joseph Totton
Phone: 816-294-9841
Email: fathertotton@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY
Penny Harrison

HALL RENTAL
Contact **Mary Ann LaFollette**
816-294-6972
Lafollettes@aol.com

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

MASS SCHEDULE
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Tuesday 7:00 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 day of St. Benedict of Norcia, July 11

“Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, ‘I came as a guest, and you received Me’ (Matt. 25:35).”

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday July 7

8:00 a.m. James F. Rost †
by Carole Meade

Tuesday July 9

7:00 a.m. Fr. Phil Luebbert

Sunday July 14

8:00 a.m. Rose Ann West †
by the West girls

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

Birthdays

Mallory Chambers July 8
Shari Klein July 8
Jess John McPhee July 12
Michael Curran July 14



The Catholic young adult group for St. Joseph, *Coram Deo*, is meeting on **Thursday, July 11th**! Meet at Our Lady of Guadalupe at **6:10pm**. Our event has yet to be determined. All young adults aged 22-35 are invited to attend. We hope to see you there! Questions? Please contact Ally Goetz at agoetz@olog.org.

Are you or a loved one suffering from abortion? Find hope and allow God to heal your heart by attending a **Rachel's Vineyard** weekend retreat. The second of three 2019 retreats to be held in the Kansas City area will be on July 26-28.

For more information or to register, please call Teresa O'Donnell at (816) 679-4973 or email rvkcmo@gmail.com or visit www.rachelsvineyardkc.org.



WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

July 7 - 8 a.m. Mass

Greeter: Jim Ingle
Lectors: Scott Antle, Jordan Roth
Ministers: Wayne Weipert, Jan and Paul Pottier
Counters: Tony Kauzlarich, Rudy Wolford

July 7- 8 a.m. Mass

Greeter: Richard LaFollette
Lectors: Doug Ottinger, Jim Ingle
Ministers: Jan and Paul Pottier, Marylou Euler
Counters: Jan and Paul Pottier

Weekend Collection - June 30, 2019

Envelopes:	\$	1355
Plate:	\$	88
Total Parish:	\$	1443

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

June-to-Date:	\$	6,733.00
June Budget	\$	7,550.00
Year-to-Date:	\$	101,177.00
Year Budget:	\$	90,600.00

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

1st Annual

"In His

Presence"

Eucharistic Adoration Conference

Coronation of Our Lady of Peace Parish

13000 Bennington Ave., Grandview, MO

Saturday, September 14th 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Only \$10.00 with lunch included

Hosted by the Office of Divine Worship

Register at

<https://kcsjatholic.org/office/divine-worship/>



Mark your Calendars

Altar Society - Meets in the Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

Donut Sunday - July 7

Knights of Columbus Council #5067

Jay Pflugradt, Grand Knight
1st & 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m.
Rosary 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Recitation of Holy Rosary

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

Is your marriage going down the right road or is it a little off track?

Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers **hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer** ministry of volunteer couples that can help you learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. For more information about the upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend contact registration team: Local Telephone @ 800.470.2230 or visit our website: HelpOurMarriage.com.



A Walking Pilgrimage for the Feast of St. James along our own El Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James)

Join us for a ten-mile walking pilgrimage along country roads between Seven Dolors Church and the Mir House of Prayer. We will meet at Mir House of Prayer on Saturday, July 20, 2019, at 6:30 a.m. and then drive to Seven Dolors Church to begin our walk.

Bring your Rosary, water and snacks, comfortable shoes, and clothing for rain or hot sun. Feel free to bring your dog for the walk and a picnic lunch and bottle of wine to enjoy on the beautiful Mir House grounds at the end of the pilgrimage!

Contact Joshua or Lindsey at jcbachman@gmail.com or Kelly (text 574-276-9378) with any questions.



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, Fr. Phil Luebbert, 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, the lonely and those lost in this world; for those who harbor hatred and especially for those who have no one to pray for them. For the conversion of the enemies of the Good and of the Church; for the protection of children and the innocent.

For our home bound parishioners:

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

20th Annual Midwest Catholic Family Conference
Century II Convention Center, Wichita, KS
August 2-4, 2019

"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

Speakers include Steve Ray, Fr. Donald Calloway, Dr. Ray Guarendi,

Tim Staples and Stephanie Gray.

For more information:
www.catholicfamilyconference.org



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, at 816.812.2500 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.