



SAINT
JOSEPH



Mater
Dolorosa



Saint
Wendelin

Roman Catholic Parishes of Northeastern Butler County



*For the Lord sees not as man sees:
man looks on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.*

1 SAMUEL 16:7



March 22, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

A Message from Fr. Matt ...

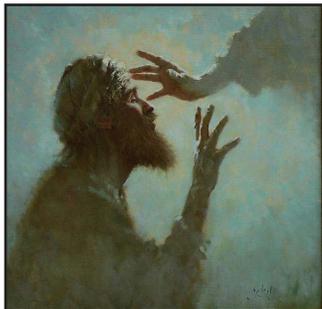
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

So how are you doing? Someone told me that this is the weirdest time that they have ever lived through. That is pretty spot on. There are many things we count on in troubled times that aren't there for us. I think you know what I mean..State Stores! Honestly, think about the things we do to get through tough times: get together with family and friends, go to Mass, hug each other, even play and watch sports. These are simple things we can't do right now. It is tough. Some people are really afraid, and have good reason to feel that way. Some are annoyed at the disruption to our lives, and they have good reason, too. It is just weird. It seems like everything is stacked against us. Is this a moment to despair? I think it depends on how you see it.

How you see it? That is pretty much the theme of the Readings this week. In the First Reading, God chooses one of Jesse's sons to be King. But it isn't the son who Jesse thought would be picked. His older sons were more accomplished, polished, and seemingly ready, but those men weren't God's choice. God takes David, the youngest of Jesse's sons. It is confusing to all of them. Why David? Because "not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." God sees things differently than we do. How do you think God is seeing this week?

Do you feel like God is crossing His arms and saying, "Let's just see how they do without me!" Or maybe you feel like the restrictions about attending Mass and participating in group gatherings will anger God because we are depriving people of Him when we need Him the most. If we feel either of these, we are not seeing as God sees.

The Pharisees in today's Gospel are so caught up, as they normally are, on following the Law that they miss the saving power of God that is present before them in Jesus. We can be so like the Pharisees! They totally miss the fact that the Law is God's gift to them. They don't get that the Law can be a vehicle to God, a way to encounter Him, but the Law is not God. We see ourselves deprived of Mass, of Stations, of regular confession times (of fish fries!) and we say that we are being kept away from God at a time when we need Him most. But that is not true. Just as the Pharisees tried to use the Law to limit God, when we see the current boundaries as keeping us from God, we are limiting God! These things, like going to Mass, praying Stations, they are vehicles to God, but they are not God. Yes, the Eucharist is God, but the Eucharist is here! He sits in the tabernacle of each church. And we must not limit Him. The Second Reading says, "Awake, oh sleeper!" God is not standing with arms folded. God is not angered that we are deprived of public church events. God is here. He is mercy itself and He wants to give you everything that you need.



So, how do we learn to see things the way God sees? In the Gospel, the man born blind is a great example for us. Jesus sees this man, not as his neighbors see him, a sinner, a person lacking, but as God sees him. Jesus looks at the man's heart and has mercy. The blind man knows of Jesus only because of what others have told him. But he isn't satisfied with that. When he is face to face with Jesus, he tells Him, "I believe in You." The man has no regard for what others have said or what the Law says. I believe in you, he tells Jesus. The one who was blind all his life was able to see much more than those with eyesight. Jesus knew what was in his heart.

Last week we talked about hope, about faith in God unlocking power. We talked about quenching the thirst of Jesus by believing in Him. The eyes of faith are the eyes of God. Through the eyes of faith, how do you view what's going on in our lives right now? We see people hurting, people afraid, people annoyed. But God sees into the heart. What do you see in the hearts of people? I have seen fear and I have seen frustration, but I have also seen so much love, so much concern for others. So much good.

We have an opportunity in these weird times to challenge the limits we put on God. God is not closed up in a building. He is here. He is with us. Faith in this, and in Him, gives us eyes to see things clearly. This is a weird time, but it could very well be the best time. A time to challenge our relationship with God. To see if we have, in fact, enshrined vehicles to God as gods themselves. Do we have the eyes of Pharisees or the eyes of the healed blind man? Take a step. Trust in God. Believe and watch that belief open up eyes that see as God sees.

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt

VICARIATE FOUR GROUPING 438
North Oakland, Chicora,
Carbon Center

St. Joseph Parish, North Oakland

Located at 864 Chicora Road,
Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713 Fax: 724-607-1183

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main Street,
Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-2275

Temporary Office Hours at St. Joe Rectory:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

St. Wendelin Parish & School

Located at 210/211 St. Wendelin Road,
Butler, PA 16002

Parish - 724-287-0820

School - 724-285-4986

www.stwendelinbutler.com

www.stwendelinschool.com

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday, 9:00am-Noon

**PLEASE NOTE, THE ENTIRE
FOLLOWING SCHEDULE IS
ALTERED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

MASS, CONFESSION, ADORATION SCHEDULE
THIS SCHEDULE IS ALTERED FOR HOLY DAYS & SPECIAL EVENTS

ALWAYS CHECK THE WEEK AHEAD SECTION

SUNDAY MASSES

ST. WENDELIN - 7:00AM

MATER DOLOROSA - 8:15AM

ST. JOSEPH - 9:30AM

ST. WENDELIN - 10:30AM

MONDAY

MATER DOLOROSA MASS - NOON

TUESDAY

ST. WENDELIN MASS - 7:30AM

WEDNESDAY

ST. WENDELIN MASS - 10:15AM

MATER DOLOROSA ADORATION - 6:00-6:45PM

MATER DOLOROSA CONFESSION - 6:15-6:45PM

MATER DOLOROSA MASS - 7:00PM

THURSDAY - ALTERED SCHEDULE

ST. WENDELIN MASS - 7:30AM

QUALITY LIFE SERVICES MASS - 10:00AM

FRIDAY

ST. JOSEPH MASS - NOON

SATURDAY

MATER DOLOROSA CONFESSION - 11:00-11:30AM

ST. JOSEPH CONFESSION - 11:45AM-12:15PM

ST. WENDELIN CONFESSION - 3:15-3:45PM

ST. WENDELIN VIGIL MASS - 4:00PM

MATER DOLOROSA VIGIL MASS - 5:30PM

Grouping Information ...

Please be aware that since the bulletin was printed, things may have changed. The best way to keep current is online: important links are listed below. There are too many canceled events to list. As of March 18, nothing communal is scheduled at the Parishes through Tuesday, March 31. You are welcome to stop in MD & SW Churches during the day for quiet prayer. You can call parish offices, as voice mails will be checked daily.

Two things that have NOT changed!

K OF C: 40 CANS FOR LENT: Nonperishables can be placed in the big brown bins in the SWP vestibule. SJP EASTER CANDY: Forms due Sunday, March 29. This is a Sarris Easter Candy fundraiser, and monies will be used to purchase steel doors for DePaul Hall. Candy available for pick up before Easter - TBA.

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

<https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>

This SWP website lists information for all three Parishes, and will have the most recent bulletin. You can access Fr. Matt celebrating Sunday Mass here, too. It will inform you about what is unique to our Grouping.

<https://diopitt.org/>

This is Diocese of Pittsburgh website. It links for live stream daily Masses, as well as news releases from Bishop Zubik.

<https://formed.org/>

The Catholic faith on demand! There are many viewings available on FORMED, including a Lenten series, reflections, Movie Night Series and children's stories. It's ultra easy to set up an account - and free.

<http://www.usccb.org/>

This is the website for United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It's the easiest way to access Mass Readings and national updates.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/>

This is the website for the textbook company for SWP CCD program. Access code is COL-2016. Lessons for each grade are available. Great enrichment!

MD & SW CHURCHES ARE OPEN

Stop in during the day for quiet prayer, and votive candles are available.

CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Only available by appointment; a schedule is forthcoming

OFFERTORY

You can hold onto your envelopes until Mass is celebrated again, or you can mail offertory to your Parish. For SWP members, this is a great time to sign up for online offertory at: <https://www.osvonlinegivin.com/4149>



**MARCH 23
THROUGH
MARCH 29**

MONDAY:

Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

TUESDAY:

Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

WEDNESDAY:

Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY:

Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

FRIDAY:

Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

SATURDAY:

Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

SUNDAY:

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

2019 PARISH SHARE PROGRAM FINAL NUMBERS ARE IN

St. Joseph	Mater Dolorosa	St. Wendelin
Goal - \$6,775	Goal - \$34,447	Goal - \$39,088
Actual - \$20,067	Actual - \$20,333	Actual - \$30,477

2020 PARISH SHARE GOALS

St. Joseph	Mater Dolorosa	St. Wendelin
2019 - \$6,775	2019 - \$34,447	2019 - \$39,088
2020 - \$6,289	2020 - \$20,985	2020 - \$47,710

You should have received 2020 PSP Campaign information in the mail.



Parish Offertories

March 14 & 15

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass	\$586.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,000.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$50,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal.....	\$29,275.50
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal ..	\$1,690.00
2020 Parish Share Goal.....	\$6,289.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$1,690.00

Thank you for your generosity
to Parish Ministries!

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass	\$1,163.00
Weekly Goal	\$2,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$150,000.00
House.....	\$00.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal.....	\$92,933.50
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$635.00
2020 Parish Share Goal.....	\$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$635.00

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass	\$2,492.00
Offertory Online	\$400.00
Total Offertory	\$2,892.00
Weekly Goal	\$5,139.00
Fiscal Year Goal.....	\$272,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$159,292.78
Project Fund Online.....	\$5.00
Adopt A Child.....	\$5.00
Adopt A Child Online	\$5.00
Parish Share.....	\$1,130.00
Parish Online	\$20.00
Total Parish Share	\$1,150.00
2020 Parish Share Goal.....	\$47,710.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$1,150.00

School & Religious Education

This week's St. Wendelin School Student of the Week is:

MAGGIE SCHNUR

Maggie is a Kindergarten student at St. Wendelin School. Maggie enjoys learning new things. She is working hard and becoming a very good reader. Outside of school, Maggie enjoys spending time with her family: her Mom, Dad and sister Molly! Maggie would like to be a teacher when she grows up. Congratulations to this week's St. Wendelin School Student of the Week, MAGGIE SCHNUR!

Catholic Identity Program

This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This week's Virtue is:

Reverence

Reverence shows honor, love & respect in our words & actions.



Reference: Reverence Reflections.

God said, "Do not come near! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."
Exodus 3:5

Whether staring in awe at the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, or deep contemplation during silent prayer, or reflecting on the miracle of a newborn baby, we are taken up with reverence. Reverence is a deep longing of the soul, drawing forth honor, love, and respect for the mystery of God beyond human comprehension. Reverence regards all ground as holy and each moment as an opportunity to open our eyes to a world of wonder beyond our wildest imagination.

To determine the status of the PTG's Spring Fundraisers, check the St. Wendelin School website at <https://www.stwendelinschool.com/> Information on the following events will be listed: Good Friday Fish Dinner on April 10, Deer Classic at Happy Hunters on April 25, Hanging Flower Basket Pre-orders in April, Family Fun Bingo on April 17 and May 29 and 50/50 Raffle Drawing on April 29 and May 20

AS OF MARCH 18, HUNT FOR HOPE 2020 REMAINS SCHEDULED

HUNT FOR HOPE 2020 - Benefits Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Saturday, April 4, 1:00-3:00pm, Karns City High School

Easter Egg Hunt ~ Pictures with the Easter Bunny ~ Chinese Auction ~ Bake Sale

Hunt for Hope is for kids up to age 13 ~ just \$5 per child

RSVP with children's names & ages, adult contact name & phone number & fee by **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25**

Mail this info & fee (checks to Karns City High School) to: Breanna Tomsey, 481 Rattigan Rd., Chicora, PA 16025

Come support Lady Gremlins Softball too - Varsity at 11:00am; JV at 1:00pm and 3:00pm



WASH your hands
~AND~ **SAY**
your prayers
because
JESUS ~AND~
GERMS
are everywhere!