

Dear Padre,

My friend's parish is having a St. Joseph's Day Altar. What is that?

According to tradition, the altar to St. Joseph originated in the Middle Ages by Sicilians who invoked their patron saint during an extended drought and famine. When rain finally brought relief, the people expressed their gratitude in two ways: by displaying a table with the foods they harvested and by distributing their plenitude to those most in need.

Over time, the custom of an altar around the March 19 feast day of St. Joseph gained popularity and is now embraced by the faithful of any nationality wishing to share their good fortune with those who have less. The meatless feast usually includes baked items, beans, nuts, fruits, and seafood presented in ways that symbolize elements of the faith. Prayerful rituals and children portraying the Holy Family add to the celebration and heritage.

Whether the altar is modest or elaborate, at home or in church, it's a labor of love meant to strengthen the bonds of family and friends in its preparation and to strengthen one's faith and charity in its execution.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love.

We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MARCH 19, 2013

Calendar

- Monday**
MARCH 15
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17-21
Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday**
MARCH 16
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1-9, 12
Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday**
MARCH 17
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8-15
Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday**
MARCH 18
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7-14
Jn 5:31-47
- Friday**
MARCH 19
*St. Joseph,
Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*
2 Sm 7:4-5a,
12-14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
or Lk 2:41-51a
- Saturday**
MARCH 20
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18-20
Jn 7:40-53
- Sunday**
MARCH 21
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31-34
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-33

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Eph 2:4-10
Jn 3:14-21

You Decide

We normally take great pride in making our own decisions. When we did this as children, it was a sign that we were growing up; as adolescents, it was a proclamation of independence. Now as adults, when making decisions we demonstrate that we are self-directed. The problem doesn't seem to lie in decision-making itself but in the options given to us that require a decision. And there is the rub. Often these are options not of our choosing. This can make decision-making very difficult.

Today's Gospel is all about making decisions. Options are placed before us. We either choose Jesus and the extraordinary way of life that he has outlined for us, or we go along with the movements of society. This could include making money at any cost, denying hospitality to those who knock on our door, harboring an attitude of superiority over others. We either choose to live in the light with the insights that our faith provides, or we simply accept the values that bombard us each day through the media, namely: Me first. What's mine is mine. What's in it for me? Not in my back yard.

If we look carefully, we will realize that the way of life Jesus promotes is based on the dignity of each person, who is made in the image and likeness of God. Actions that dismiss, demean, damage, or destroy human life are contrary to the teaching, life, and example of Jesus. Accepting his way brings forth a new society called "the reign of God." Rejecting it will undermine the foundations of the society we have. Which will it be? You decide.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ✦ How might you have compromised your religious values in order to get by in life?
- ✦ Might God be asking you to choose something new?



And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.

JOHN 3:19



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The central theme of today's readings is that our salvation is the free gift of a merciful God, given to us sinners through Jesus, His Son. The readings stress God's mercy and compassion and remind us of the great love, kindness and grace extended to us in Christ.

In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we learn the compassion and patience of God. God chose Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy to, and salvation of, His chosen people exiled in Babylon. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 137), the Psalmist voices the pain of exile the captives of Judah suffered. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus. Today's Gospel provides a theme that parallels the Gospel, but on a much higher level. Jesus, the Son of God, becomes the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Through John 3:16, the Gospel teaches us that God has expressed His love, mercy, and compassion for us by giving His only Son for our salvation. Nicodemus, the wealthy Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, meets Jesus by night and begins a long religious discussion. Jesus explains to him that he must believe Jesus' words because Jesus is the Son of God, and, by referring to the story of Moses and the bronze serpent (Nm 21:1-9), further explains God's plan of salvation. Just as God saved the victims of serpent bite from death through the bronze serpent, He is going to save mankind from its sins by permitting the crucifixion and death of His Son Jesus, because the love of God for mankind is that great.

We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love: As a forceful reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation, the crucifix invites us to more than simple generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us not only to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering, but also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image, and carry our own daily cross with joy, while helping other to carry their heavier crosses. We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving, and merciful. Let us try to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities in sharing our love with others during Lent. Our rebirth by water and the Spirit must be an ongoing process. That is, we must lead a life of repentance and conversion which will bring us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us, to an ongoing renewal of life through prayer, Bible reading, frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist, and doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
03/15	Monday	No Mass Today		
03/16	Tuesday	No Mass Today		
03/17	Wednesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Youth: Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/18	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/19	Friday	11.30 AM	Bayard	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist (St. Joseph)
03/20	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	People of God
03/21	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Charlie & Lucille Brandt
03/21	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Oneva Lummel

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME

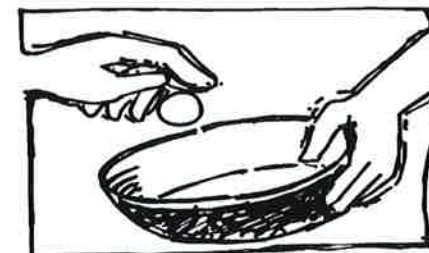
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Stations of the Cross by Youth:
March 17, Wednesday
at 6.00 PM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$1097.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$11.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1108.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$1108.00
BUILDING FUND	\$331.00
HEAT/AC	\$530.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3,615.00
BALANCE	\$2,431.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.
- Fish Fry March 19 from 5:30-7:30. \$8 Adults, \$4 Youth under 5-free



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME

Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM

Stations of the Cross:
March 19, Friday
at 11.30 AM
followed by Mass
(Solemnity of St. Joseph)

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$734.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$29.00
SUBTOTAL	\$763.00
MASS STIPEND	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$813.00
BUILDING FUND	\$15.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$2,915.00
BALANCE	\$1,992.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME

Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM

Stations of the Cross:
March 18, Thursday
at 6.00 PM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$490.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$10.00
SUBTOTAL	\$500.00
MASS STIPEND	\$100.00
EASTER FLOWERS	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$640.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6,439.00
BALANCE	(\$ 303.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

