



***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

The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans.

A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus.

Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so. ●

Reflect

***How have you been saved and
how do you need saving now?***

Monday March 11	Tuesday March 12	Wednesday March 13	Thursday March 14	Friday March 15	Saturday March 16	Sunday March 17
NO MASS	MASS 12:15 P.M. Chapel	MASS 12:15 P.M. Parish Hall	NO MASS	MASS 12:15 P.M. OLM	MASS 5:30 P.M. Church	MASS 9:30 A.M. Church

Parish Staff

Pastor - Father Michael Flanagan.....606-792-7114
 Deacon- Paul David Brown.....606-793-0563
 O.L.M. School Principal Bernadette Carroll.....606-369-8253
 RCIA Director Father Michael Flanagan.....606-792-7114
 Cantor..... Wally Cybriwsky.....606-226-5399
 Organist..... Nora Harmon-Bayer.....606-298-3906
 Ladies Guild: Tri Chairs
 Carolyn Cochran..... 606-297-1954
 Karen Wolfe.....606-673-3941
 Vickie Wright.....606-297-4521
 Outreach Mountain Outlet.....606-789-9192

School Staff

Administrator Father Michael Flanagan.....606-792-7114
 Head Teacher Bernie Carroll606-369-8253
 Secretary Billie Williams.....606-789-3661

Prayer List

Fr. Hoppenjans
 Ricky Mullett
 Ray Tosti
 Patty Vanhooose
 Phyllis Edwards
 Mary Zielinski
 Tamara McKenzie
 Peyton Mercer
 Bernie Merlo
 Mike Kulp
 David Hillman
 Irwin McHugh
 Tiera Newsome
 Kimberly Gottfried
 Fr. Brandon Bigam

Sr. Nancy Edwards
 Michael Carroll
 Phillis Edwards
 Fr. Bill Fedders
 Harold Bayes
 Regina Collins
 Jacob Collins
 Lorraine Doderer
 Bob Felty
 Dr. Mark Caruso
 Garland Arnett
 Steve Faust
 June Lane
 John & Charles Ratliff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/RECONCILIATION: 4:45 - 5:15 p.m.
 Saturday; 8:45 – 9:15 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment.

WEDDINGS: Wedding date & arrangements must be made six (6) months ahead of proposed wedding date with the Pastor.

BAPTISM: Please contact the Pastor to schedule an appointment.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please register with the pastor.

STEWARDSHIP

Amount needed each weekend \$ 2 612 . 60
 Collection March 3, 2024 \$ 1 113 . 00
 Special Collections (\$500.00 – Sound System) \$ 650 . 00
 Online Giving – YTD \$ 27 . 02
 OLM Roof - YTD \$ 2 700 . 00
 FYTD deficit \$ (37236 . 50)

Ministry Schedule

Saturday, March 9, 2024	Sunday, March 10, 2024
Sacristan: John Gannon	Sacristan: Vickie Wright
Greeter: Bernie Merlo	Greeter: Volunteer
Servers: n/a	Servers: n/a
Lector: Tina Starkey	Lector: Margo Riggs
EM's: Volunteer	EM's: Angela Doderer & Volunteer

P.S. If anyone has passed on from our prayer list, please let us know.

4th Sunday of Lent

Today's gospel reading is full of promises to “everyone who believes” in Jesus. They will have eternal life (John 3:15). They will not perish (3:16). They will not be condemned (3:18). But what does it mean to believe in him?

We might think that believing in Jesus means being convinced that he is who he says he is. And it does. We agree with the truth that he is the Messiah, the Son of God. We acknowledge His miracles and the wisdom of his teachings. But intellectual assent will get us only so far. As James says, “Even the demons believe that and tremble” (2:19).

The belief that Jesus is talking about here is an act of the will; It's a decision to place our trust in someone we know and love. That kind of personal connection with the Lord can spark a deep faith that changes the way we think and believe. Saint John Henry Newman talked about the importance of our relationship with Jesus when he said, no man will be a martyr for a conclusion. (*An Essay in Aid of a Grammar of Assent*).

Reflection from *The Word Among Us*

HYMNS FOR MASSES (MARCH 9-10)

We Remember #510
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light #597
Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist #374
You Are the Light #600

LADIES GUILD MEETING – MARCH 10

There is an important Ladies Guild meeting this Sunday, March 10th, after the 9:30 Mass. All ladies of the parish are invited.

SECOND COLLECTION – MARCH 9-10

Our second collection this weekend is for Catholic Relief Services.

LENT

During Lent, we prepare ourselves in a special way for Easter, which this year is March 31. On the 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays of Lent we celebrate the Scrutinies at Sunday Mass praying especially for Rigel Preston and Joshua Reed as they make final preparations to join our Church.

RCIA

RCIA next meeting will be Wednesday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Rectory.

BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study will be Wednesday March 13 after the 12:15 Mass in the Parish Hall.

ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Rosary will be prayed every Sunday at 9 a.m. before the 9:30 Mass. Please join us!

HOLY WEEK ECUMENICAL SERVICE – MARCH 26

St Michael's will lead the Ecumenical Service on Wednesday, March 26 at the First Methodist Church from noon to 1 p.m. Our Ladies Guild will be hosting the food and are asked to be there around 11 a.m. to prepare the food.

LEGION OF MARY

We are grateful to support the Legion of Mary here and throughout Eastern Kentucky. We have a Legion of Mary image displayed in the gathering area. See Mary Ann Rutledge or Fr. Michael for more information.

SOUND SYSTEM INSTALL

We will have a new digital Sound System installed by Newtech Systems in Church this week. The installation is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13 and Thursday, March 14. Training will take place Friday, March 15.

TEST STM WEBSITE – ONLINE GIVING

We invite you to use Fr Michael's test website. It has all the bulletins since last July, the latest Liturgical Ministers schedule, and a Donate tab for those who wish to donate electronically to our Offertory, OLM Roof Replacement Fund, Tuition Assistance for Students, or Outreach to the Poor.

Here is the link to the website:

<https://www.frmichaelflanagan.org>

You can also donate using the QR Code below. The default way to give is to our Church Offertory, but you can select the other options listed above from the drop-down menu. Use your smart phone camera to access Online Giving. Here is the QR code:



Copies of the QR Code are available in the Gathering Area in Church.

We welcome any feedback/suggestions.

DAY OF PRAYER – EVERY THURSDAY

Fr. Michael invites all parishioners to pray every Thursday that God would send us more people to join our parish, celebrate Mass with us, and evangelize others.

PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

Dear Padre,

In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?

The “respectability” of the location or publisher doesn’t matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo’s intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn’t arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at uscbb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: “Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity... The sin of pornography needs the Lord’s forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord’s mercy and his power to free and heal you.” ●



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

If God is the God of life...

then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.

If God is the God of peace...

then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.

If God is the God of love...

then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



MONDAY

March 11
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17–21
Jn 4:43–54

TUESDAY

March 12
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1–9, 12
Jn 5:1–16

WEDNESDAY

March 13
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30

THURSDAY

March 14
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7–14
Jn 5:31–47

FRIDAY

March 15
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12–22
Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

SATURDAY

March 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18–20
Jn 7:40–53

SUNDAY

March 17
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31–34
Heb 5:7–9
Jn 12:20–33

Timely Topics Viewed with a Catholic Perspective

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