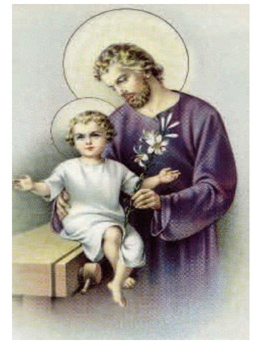
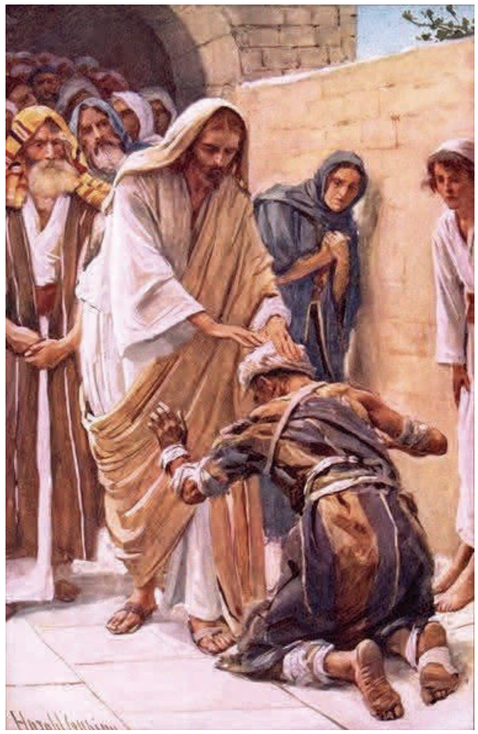
St. Joseph Catholic Community

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 11, 2018



The leprosy left him, and he was made clean.



St. Joseph Catholic Church
1300 N. Main, Bluffton 46714
260-824-1380
email: stjosephchurch@adamswells.com
website: stjosephchurchbluffton.org
Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Pius N. Ilechukwu
Msgr. Pius' direct email: stjosephchurch1875@gmail.com
Director of Liturgical Music: Sr. Rose Clare Ehrlich, CSA
Administrative Assistant/DRE: Michelle Paxton
Director of Youth Ministry: Steve Higgins
Steve's email: sehiggins78@yahoo.com

Finance Committee Members:
Doug Lehman– 824-0367 / Rick Singer– 824-8009
Becky Biberstein– 565-4143 / Jim Yonker– 824-0651

Parish Council Members:
Barb Ault– 638-4725 / John Horn– 433-5544
Monica Harris– 450-9818 / Dave Huss– 622-7531
Mike Lautzenheiser– 820-0316 / Sue Singer– 824-8009

Social Committee Members:
Jessica Seago, Chairperson– 273-3475
Ann Reifsteck– 824-1044 / Carrie Onweller– 273-9734
Jenny Esmond– 824-4312 / Missy Huss– 820-0411
Tori Emrah– 622-1241 / Mary Ann Flowers– 824-1132
Rebecca Anderson– 273-3353

Building Board Committee Members:
Oscar Heyne– 273-1415 / Doral Smith– 824-1484
Joe Baur– 824-1760 / Dan Sudhoff– (317)-654-2075

Welcome! We extend our hearts and hands to all who celebrate with us at St. Josephs. We would like to invite any guest to fill out the form below, if interested in becoming a registered member of this Parish. Thank you for worshiping with us! Again Welcome, Bienvenidos, Benvenuto, Willkommen, Nno-nu, Byenveni!

- (cut here)- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Name:____ Phone:__________________
Address:____
City:____ State:_____ Zip:___________
e-mail address:_______________________________________

[ ] New Parishioners, please send a Parish Registration Form [ ] We've Moved, here is our new information

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 10
7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m. No Intention
8:30 a.m. Rosary
4:00 p.m. Confessions
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Lucila Santanilla + by Gloria & Gerry Riveros

Sunday, February 11
- Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time -
7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Leslie 'Bud' Felger + by Dain & Linda Felger
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Parish Family

Monday, February 12
7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m. George & Bessie Harvey + by Mike & Debbie Lautzenheiser
8:30 a.m. Rosary

Tuesday, February 13
7:00 a.m. Adoration
7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30 a.m. Rosary
8:30 a.m. Confession

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday
7:00 a.m. Evelynn Morrissey & Carolyn Flaugher by Mike & Jill Morrissey
7:00 p.m. John & Marcella Quinn + by Scott & Monica Harris Family

Thursday, February 15
7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m. Charles Ault + by Family
8:30 a.m. Rosary

Friday, February 16
7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m. Sr. Margarette Ehrlich + by St. Joseph Choir
8:30 a.m. Rosary
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 17
7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 a.m. No Intention
8:30 a.m. Rosary
4:00 p.m. Confessions
4:35 p.m. Rosary
5:00 p.m. Fathers of Tom & Becky Jackson by Tom & Becky Jackson

Sunday, February 18
- First Sunday of Lent -
7:10 a.m. Rosary
7:30 a.m. Parish Family
9:40 a.m. Rosary
10:00 a.m. Lisa Ewald + by Joe & Pat Pfeifer & Jennifer Esmond

Our Love & Prayers Go Out To...

Please remember in your prayers… Bud & Sharon Miller, Ramon Villamil, Genevieve Lohmuller, Becky Biberstein, Fern Britton, James A. Yonker, Sr., Evelyn Morrissey, Betty Meyer, Ron Payne, David Carr, Ronnie & Bonnie Burns, Michael Green, Dorothy 'Dottie' Marbach, Rick Cotterman, Frances Carr and Kelsey Peters.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: FEBRUARY 11TH, 2018, YR. B.
WE ARE INVITED TO AVOID AT ALL COST, ALL THAT CAUSE SPIRITUAL UNCLEANLINESS

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in the name of the Lord Jesus, I say, peace with you all. I am back. Thanks be to God, the Almighty, the loving and merciful Lord. I prayed for each of you. I want to say a "Big Thank You" to every one of you, for your prayers, care, concern, while I was away for my vacation. I want to thank you also for your loving kindness, for the Christmas and New Year, good wishes, gifts, both in kind and in cash. I am very grateful. May the Lord God Who knows you very well, reward you abundantly, Thanks, Thanks, and Thanks again.

N.B: **1. Remember that our "Parish Mission Week" is from March 4 Sunday to 8 Thursday. Please leave these days free for the Mission Week Activities. The program will be available soon.**

2. Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is almost with us, on Feb. 14, 2018. Are you ready for Lent or are you getting ready?

3. ***I insert Lenten Challenges in the Bulletin of this weekend, Feb. 11,2018. So, take yours, post on your fridge, to see it every now and then and do your best to practice some of them.***

4. As you know, we plan for Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to join in the "Foot Steps of Jesus Christ". It is fast approaching. So, consider seriously of joining us to the home land of Our Lord Jesus Christ. You will never regret going. It will help you to understand more vividly the Scripture passages. It is from April 23 to May 2, 2018. If you intend to go, please call Janet Lehman: 260-824-0367 or Stacey Coulardot: 260-466-1224 or Parish Office at 260-824-1380 or the organizing agency. The Brochures are available at the Narthex.

5. "The Light Is ON for You", an annual "two-hour" Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed and Confessions in all Churches in our Diocese, as directed by our Bishop Most Rev. K.C. Rhoades, comes up on Feb. 28, 2018. It starts in our Church here by 5:00 p.m., with Confessions from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer follows, then, Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and Benediction. Mass at 7:00 p.m. Try to join and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

Last weekend I reflected with you, on the reality of unavoidable conditions of: sickness, pain, suffering and death in human existence. We were encouraged to cope with them, since we cannot change or avoid them. In today's Liturgy, the readings, especially in the first reading and the Gospel, we are faced with the problem of leprosy in some parts of the world. We can realize that separation, rejection caused by leprosy can be very painful and devastating in life. Over the centuries in the olden days leprosy has no cure. Its victims are sent out of their community, ostracized and rejected. Even today in some of the developing countries', there are still thousands of people who suffer this terrible contagious and dangerous illness.

In the first reading; Lv 13:1-2, 44-46: A leper was shouting, "Unclean, unclean" as he/she goes along the road, for he/ she is unclean. He is to separate himself/herself from his community and live outside the camp/village/town. He is untouchable, unclean and rejected. Lepers remained in this condition until they are cured, but in most cases, most of them died in such horrible, sad conditions, for there was no easy known means of curing them.

In the Gospel; Mk 140-45: A leper again, came to Jesus kneeling at His feet and passionately pleaded with Him: "If you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus knowing the horrible condition of this man, was moved with pity, concern and love, stretched out his hand, touched him and said, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately and he was made clean. You can imagine how happy this man must be, for being set free from rejection, disgrace, separation from his family, wife, children friends and community. Jesus manifested the powerful, healing love and mercy of God, Our Almighty loving God. Let us thank Him for this leper and for all He has been doing for us. Though, the Lord Jesus, warned him not to tell anyone about his cure. He could not keep his mouth shut, but joyfully broadcasted it all over the place.

Let us look at this scenery at another level. The uncleanness of the skin caused by leprosy can be compared to the uncleanness of the soul caused by sin. What leprosy does on the human body is what sin does in human soul. Lepers are unhappy, and sinners are unhappy too, or should be unhappy. Sin causes spiritual leprosy. Spiritual leprosy is more dangerous than bodily leprosy. We must do our best to avoid spiritual leprosy. That is why it is necessary that we should as soon as we know that we have committed any sin, we must quickly go to the priest for confession to be cleansed from our sins.

continued on next page...

continued from first page… Do not delay. The longer the sin remains in our souls the more dangerous it is for us. Work hard to keep your soul clean, dust off "the dust of sin" from your soul. So Lenten Penance Service with confession is fixed for us on Wednesday March 7, 2018.

God bless you Msgr. Pius N. Ilechukwu

ANNOUNCEMENT: Every second Thursdays of the month, Msgr. Pius N. Ilechukwu visits the sick, the aged, and homebound in our parish, and hospitals to give them Holy Communion, hear their Confessions and administer the other Sacraments as each needed.

Again, every Sunday our 4 Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers drive around our parish to give Holy Communion to those parishioners who requested for it. Thus, there is need for MORE Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers for the Home Bound. Please if you are willing to help contact Msgr. Pius, or Parish Office at 260 824 1380 or one of the Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers for the Home Bound. If you know any parishioner who needs visit, do not hesitate to contact him or the Parish Office at the same phone number, 260 824 1380. God bless you.

NB: "Heaven is for us all. I hope you are doing something about it".

BAKE SALE FROM JANUARY 27 & 28

A Big THANK YOU from the 7th grade: Kody Coyne, Catherine Crawfis, Conner Dreiband, Brooklynn Huss, Eve McElhaney, McKenna McNabb, Logan Reifsteck, Carol Butler & Nancy Wagner, Catechists

A Big THANK YOU from the 8th grade:
Allison Bear, Caden Clifton, Beth Geisel, Wyatt Girod, Donita Harris, Corey Huss, Haley Onweller, Kerry Coyne, Michelle Paxton, Catechists
Also, **Thank you so much** to the 7th and 8th grade parents who helped make the baked goods with your kids! They were so delicious! With your kindness we raised $418.50 and are able to help 4 children!!

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CALENDAR 2018

- Tues., Feb. 13– St. Joseph Women's Mtg.– 7:00 p.m.
- Wed., Feb. 14– Ash Wednesday Masses 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs., Feb. 15– ALPHA– 6:30-8:00 p.m. (each Thursday through May 10 except Mar. 8 & Mar. 29).
- Fri., Feb. 16– Lenten Soup Supper– 5:30-6:30 p.m. each Friday of Lent (except Mar. 16 & 30). All are Welcome!
- Fri., Feb. 16– Stations of the Cross– 7:00 p.m. each Friday of Lent. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Sat., Feb. 17– Student's Mass– 5:00 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 18– Coffee & Donuts after 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Masses hosted by St. Joseph CCW.
- Wed., Feb. 21– Parish Finance Mtg.– 7:30 p.m. (after Mass)
- Thurs., Mar. 1– All Day Adoration- 8:30a.m. - 7:00 p.m. / Evening Prayer– 6:30 p.m. /Litany of the Eucharist/ Benediction– 6:45 p.m. /Mass– 7:00 p.m.
- Sun. - Thurs., Mar. 4-8– Parish Mission– watch for details!
- Tues., Mar. 6– Knights of Columbus– Rosary 6:40 p.m./Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Wed., Mar., 7– Parish Council Mtg.– 7:30 p.m. (after Mass)
- Fri., Mar. 16– K of C All You Can Eat Fish Fry!- 4:30-7:30pm
- Sun., Mar. 18– Coffee & Donuts after 7:30 & 10:00 a.m. Masses hosted by St. Joseph Social Group
- Sun., Apr. 1– Easter Sunday
- Tues., April 3– Confirmation Mass at St. Mary's, Decatur– 7:00 p.m.
- Sun., April 15– Student's Mass– 10:00 a.m.

WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 17 & 18, 2018

CANTORS:
5:00 Leeann Kennerk
7:30 Donna Geisel
10:00 Nancy Leitz (Choir Mass)

LECTORS:
5:00 Catherine Crawfis (Student's Mass)
7:30 Geoff Frank
10:00 George Witwer

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
5:00 Janette Minch, Linda Huseman, Kevin or Jessica Seago
7:30 Dave/Margie Huss, Jill Morrissey
10:00 Diana Cole, Dan Geimer, Ed Shestak, Jeff Miller, Larisa Sudhoff, Tammi Helm

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY:
5:00 Volunteers
7:30 Doug/Janet Lehman
10:00 Todd Hartman Family/Christ Reifsteck Family

SERVERS:
5:00 Brooklynn Huss, Wyatt Girod, Volunteer
7:30 Clayton Vachon, Mark/Beth Geisel
10:00 Sophie Emrah, Angela Rogers, Volunteer

Collection for Weekend of February 3/4, 2018
Adult Envelopes- $3,083.00
Child Envelopes- $34.75
Loose- $190.00
Religious Ed. Fund- $50.00
Repair/Rainy Day Fund– $1,168.00
Bulletin Ad- $500.00
Hall Rent- $120.00
Paper Gator- $41.78
Total- $5,187.53

The amount needed each week to make budget is $5,116.40
We are $71.13 ahead of budget from last week.

Other Collections within our Parish–
St. Vincent de Paul- $40.00
Bolivian Mission- $500.00
Diocesan Special Collections:
Latin America- $60.00
Thank you for your gifts to St. Joseph's!

SCRIPTURE/MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Feb. 12 - Sixth Week in Ordinary Time - Jas 1:1-11/Mk 8:11-13
Tues., Feb. 13 - Jas 1:12-18/ Mk 8:14-21
Wed., Feb. 14 - Ash Wed. - Jl 2:12-18/ 2 Cor 5:20—6:2/ Mt 6:1-6,16-18
Thurs., Feb. 15 - Dt 30:15-20/ Lk 9:22-25
Fri., Feb. 16 - Is 58:1-9a/ Mt 9:14-15
Sat., Feb. 17 - The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order - Is 58:9b-14/ Lk 5:27-32
Sun., Feb. 18 - First Sunday of Lent - Gn 9:8-15/ 1 Pt 3:18-22/ Mk 1:12-15

Newly Baptized - Welcome!
Carmela Ann Lane, daughter of Eric & Holly Lane
Baptized December 9, 2017

Kinnley Crum, daughter of Andrea (Roberts) Crum
Baptized February 4, 2018

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

All that we have, including our time and talents, belongs to God.

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

LENTEN CHALLENGES 2018

TRY AND PRACTICE SOME OF THESE LENTEN CHALLENGES

1. **The 7 Corporal Works of Mercy:** To feed the hungry; To give drink to the thirsty; To cloth the naked; To shelter the homeless; To visit the sick; To visit the imprisoned; and To bury the dead.
2. **The 7 Spiritual Works of Mercy:** To counsel the doubtful; To instruct the ignorant; To admonish the sinners; To comfort the afflicted; To forgive offences; To bear wrongs patiently; To pray for the living and the dead.
3. To attend weekday Masses **1, 2** or 3 times every week or daily during Lent.
4. To pray every day with devotion and attention, (Rosary etc.).
5. To Fast every Friday, (or 2, 3 more days in a week or as often as possible).
6. To do the Stations of the Cross every Friday or even, every day during Lent.
7. To eat simple food as often as you can, when possible.
8. To Fast from watching **TV**, once, twice, or three times a week.
9. To avoid **all sins** and to avoid looking at any pornographic images.
10. To avoid the **7 Capital sins:** Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Anger, Gluttony, Envy and Sloth. **(Sloth is a culpable lack of physical or spiritual effort, or culpable laziness).**
11. Practice: **4 Cardinal Virtues:** Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.
12. To go to Confession and confess your sins during this Lent.

Happy Lenten Period

Rev. Msgr. Pius N. Ilechukwu

Here in our Parish, St. Joseph's
The Light is ON for You; *Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation*
on Wednesday, February 28 beginning with
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00 p.m.
Confessions from 6:30-7:15 p.m.
Evening Prayer follows, Litany of the Most Blessed Sacrament,
And Benediction.

Try to join and pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

ABOUT THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU

God's mercy is waiting. The light is on for you. Reconcile and receive forgiveness. This is the message we seek to send to Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as we plan for and promote The Light is On for You. On Wednesday, February 28 from 6:00-8:00 pm, parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend unite to "keep the light on." The Light is On for You is a national outreach, begun in the Archdiocese of Washington, that invites parishes to reach out in a particular way to those who have been away from the Father's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Together, we continue to raise awareness for God's mercy and make it easier for practicing and inactive Catholics alike to receive the graces of the Sacrament this Lent.

Want to know more about Alpha?

Here is how Monsignor Ringenback from Holbrook, NY explained it to his parish:

WHY ALPHA?

Last spring and again this summer we have been inviting parishioners to journey to a deeper level of faith through an experience we have called "Alpha." What's so special about Alpha and why are we offering it again? Much of it has to do with where we are as church in this day and age. We recognize that on many levels we are not reaching younger generations of Catholics and are witnessing a major disconnect with church life, especially in terms of Mass attendance. If you are a baby boomer or older, you will know this first-hand by considering to what extent your children or grandchildren regularly attend Mass. Even those who have been baptized Catholic may view themselves as having no religious affiliation.

How we counter this trend is no simple task. Alpha offers a two pronged approach by appealing to both the churched and the un-churched. First for those who are reading this column and regularly connect with church, Alpha can spark a deeper level of faith and a richer personal relationship with Jesus Christ and what it means to be His disciple. Our faith can grow dormant and our church practice routine. There are moments when we sense a need for more and Alpha might meet that need. But Alpha is also meant to reach the un-churched. Those who have found Alpha a rich opportunity to deepen faith can be the means of touching the hearts of family members and friends and invite them to share in the Alpha experience. By focusing on the fundamentals of the Christian faith in a welcoming, non-judgmental way, Alpha can gently help a person take the next step in the faith journey. That step may not result in becoming a zealous committed Catholic, but it can be a step in the right direction.

By way of a shared meal, an engaging video, and group discussion there is an emphasis on the relational aspect of faith rather than dogma in an atmosphere where any question can be asked and every person is respected.

If you are "on the fence" about Alpha, come the first night, take the leap of faith. You won't crash land. You'll come to a beautiful place of faith.

Msgr Jerry Ringenback
Church of the Good Shepherd

Come join us at Alpha!
Right here at St. Joseph's on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6 pm.
Just sign up on the board in the narthex.

GORDON & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys

Dan Gordon, Tony Crowell
Michelle Adler, David Anthony,
And Matt Hayes

260-824-9377
Dan Gordon, Parishioner

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www.helpinghandscpc.org
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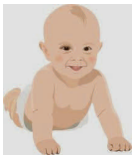

It's a child, not a choice…
Abortion does not make you "un-pregnant", it makes you the mother of a dead child.

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Don't cry because it's over.
smile because it happened.
~Dr. Seuss

To our men and women
in uniform…
past, present and future,

Thank you and
God Bless You!

Before you speak….
T H I N K !
T - is it true?
h - is it helpful?
i - is it inspiring?
n - is it necessary?
k - is it kind?

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John Horn MS, MBA– Parishioner

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Spread *love*
everywhere you go.
Let no one ever
come to you
without leaving
happier.

-Mother Teresa