

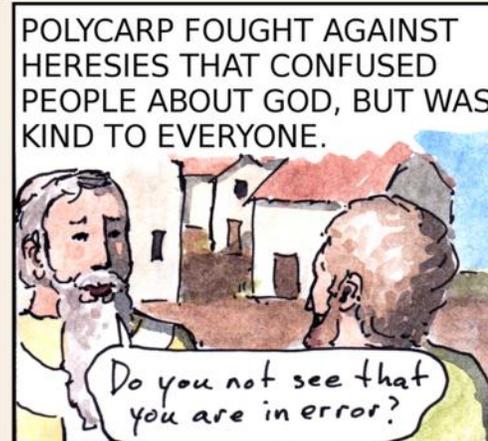
St. Joseph Catholic Church

1300 N. Main St., Bluffton | (260) 824-1380 | stjosephchurch@adamswells.com | stjosephchurchbluffton.org

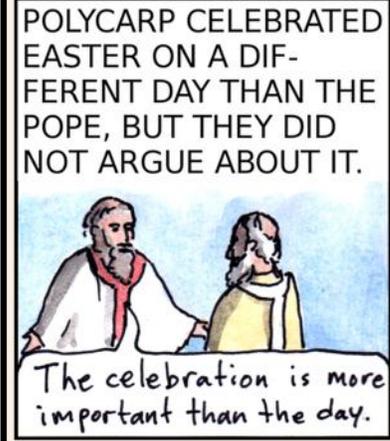
SAINT POLYCARP LEARNED ABOUT JESUS FROM SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE. HE BECAME THE BISHOP OF SMYRNA, IN WHAT IS NOW TURKEY.



POLYCARP FOUGHT AGAINST HERESIES THAT CONFUSED PEOPLE ABOUT GOD, BUT WAS KIND TO EVERYONE.

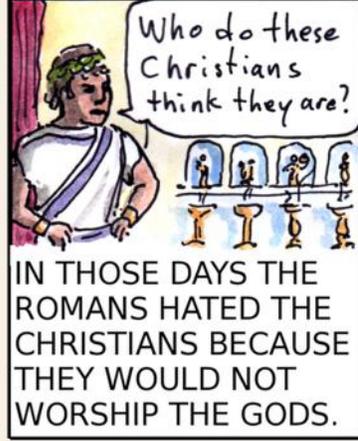


POLYCARP CELEBRATED EASTER ON A DIFFERENT DAY THAN THE POPE, BUT THEY DID NOT ARGUE ABOUT IT.



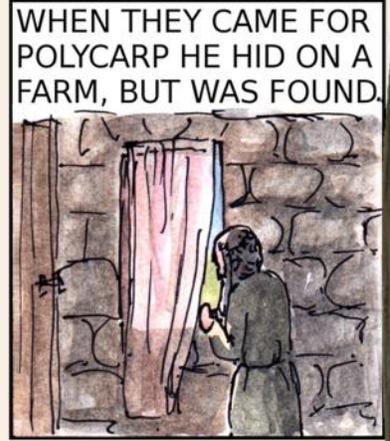
The celebration is more important than the day.

Who do these Christians think they are?



IN THOSE DAYS THE ROMANS HATED THE CHRISTIANS BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT WORSHIP THE GODS.

WHEN THEY CAME FOR POLYCARP HE HID ON A FARM, BUT WAS FOUND.

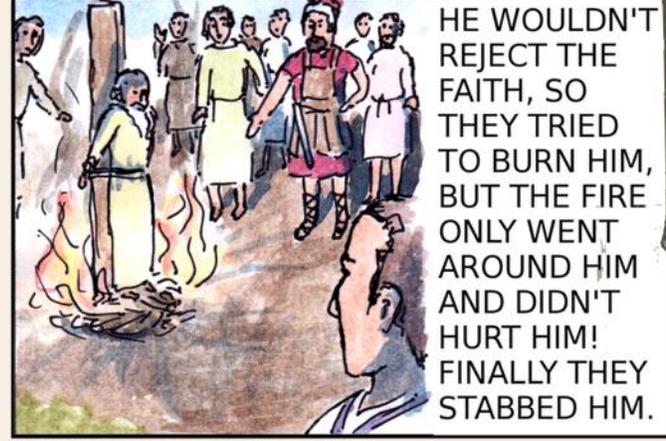


AT FIRST THEY FELT SORRY FOR HIM BECAUSE HE WAS SO OLD. THEY TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO GIVE UP THE FAITH.



Don't you see it is useless to resist?

HE WOULDN'T REJECT THE FAITH, SO THEY TRIED TO BURN HIM, BUT THE FIRE ONLY WENT AROUND HIM AND DIDN'T HURT HIM! FINALLY THEY STABBED HIM.





SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Pastor: Fr. David Violi

Fr. David's Email: frdavidvioli@gmail.com | Sacramental Emergency Number: (260) 296-0511

Administrative Assistant / DRE: Michelle Paxton | Director of Sacred Music: Teresa Smith

-(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

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Saturday, February 22

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*
5:00 p.m. Paul & Sue Sheeter

Sunday, February 23

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Parish Family
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Bill Johnson +

Monday, February 24

No public Mass

Tuesday, February 25

7:00-8:00 a.m. *Adoration*
8:00 a.m. Jane Case +
8:30 a.m. *Confession*

Wednesday, February 26

6:00-7:00 p.m. *Adoration*
6:00-6:45 p.m. *Confession*
7:00 p.m. Beatrice Hickert +

Thursday, February 27

8:00 a.m. Ron & Sally Smith

Friday, February 28

8:30 a.m. Marj Sanders +

Saturday, March 1

8:00 a.m. Special Intention
8:30-9:00 a.m. *Confession*
4:00-4:45 p.m. *Confession*
4:35 p.m. *Rosary*
5:00 p.m. Parish Family

Sunday, March 2

7:10 a.m. *Rosary*
7:30 a.m. Mary Porrata-Doria +
9:40 a.m. *Rosary*
10:00 a.m. Rose Marie & Robert Bates +



MASS READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon., Feb. 24 - Seventh Week in Ordinary Time - Sir 1:1-10 / Ps 93:1-2, 5 / Mk 9:14-29

Tues., Feb. 25 - Sir 2:1-11 / Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 / Mk 9:30-37

Wed., Feb. 26 - Sir 4:11-19 / Ps 119:165, 168, 171-172, 174-175 / Mk 9:38-40

Thurs., Feb. 27 - St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot, Doctor of the Church - Sir 5:1-8 / Ps 1:1-4, 6 / Mk 9:41-50

Fri., Feb. 28 - Sir 6:5-17 / Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35 / Mk 10:1-12

Sat., Mar. 1 - Sir 17:1-15 / Ps 103:13-18 / Mk 10:13-16

Sun., Mar. 2 - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sir 27:4-7 / Ps 92:2-3, 13-16 / 1 Cor 15:54-58 / Lk 6:39-45

This weekend (Feb. 22nd/23rd), the Church celebrates the **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**. With the start of **Lent** is only a week and a half away, we continue to be reminded of our need to prepare for this coming season. Liturgically, this need for preparation has been reflected in the readings of our weekday Masses. The weekday lectionary, differing from our three-year Sunday lectionary cycle, is now walking us through the *Book of Genesis*.

Starting at the beginning, we have been reminded of the Fall of Adam and Eve. Just as Adam and Eve were sent forth from the garden to toil over the earth, so we will soon be sent into the wilderness of **Lent**. During these forty days, we will pray, fast, and labor, recognizing the weight of sin in our lives. These lenten practices are done not as an end in themselves, but because, through them, we come to see our need for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

This journey will itself begin, of course, on **Ash Wednesday**. The ashes placed on our foreheads will mark the dust of exile, but the Cross which they trace is the promise of victory. Christ, the new Adam, takes upon Himself the toil of fallen man. He humbles Himself, walking the road of suffering and undoing Adam's disobedience by His perfect obedience. Where Adam hid from God, Christ cries out: "*Into Your hands, I commend My Spirit.*"

Throughout **Lent**, we will spend these forty days walking with and trying to more closely imitate the Lord. We won't shy away from the weight of sin. Instead, we recognize that the exile from Eden was not the end of our story; It is only the beginning of our redemption. The walk towards Calvary now is not one of despair, but expectation: *The head of the serpent has been crushed and Christ has opened the way back to the Father.*

As this forty day journey of conversion quickly approaches, we must now continue our preparations for it. We are called to stand ready and be prepared to follow after Jesus. Let us use these remaining days to look into our hearts with an honest gaze. What is keeping us from Jesus? Where do we need the Lord's healing and grace? And, these coming forty days, what can we sacrifice or change to embrace the Lord more fully in our lives?

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

To enter the **Lenten season**, we will offer three Masses on **Ash Wednesday (March 5th) at 7:00 AM, Noon, and 7:00 PM**. Entering us into the penitential season that is **Lent**, we receive ashes, a biblical sign of penance (*cf. Jeremiah 6:22-26, Jonah 3:5-6, Job 42:6, Daniel 9:3-6*). These ashes both signify the sinfulness of the human condition and mark the beginning of the way of conversion that leads to **Easter**.

LIVING WITH THE SAINTS - ST. POLYCARP OF SMYRNA

Our Saint Profile this weekend reminds us of the true historical nature of our Faith throughout time. St. Polycarp lived only one generation removed from the Lord Himself. He learned the Faith at the feet of the beloved Apostle, St. John. The story of his martyrdom is the first written account of a Christian martyr outside of the Sacred Scriptures. The life of St. Polycarp is one of great importance in understanding how the Faith was first lived and spread.

The life of this Apostolic Church Father (*one who knew the Apostles or was greatly influenced by them*) and bishop of Smyrna, an ancient Greek city, was recorded in numerous works from the same period. Even today, at least one full letter from St. Polycarp himself is preserved. In his letter to the Church of Philippi, St. Polycarp emphasized the need for faith and righteousness while urging perseverance in the Body of Christ and avoidance of false teachers.

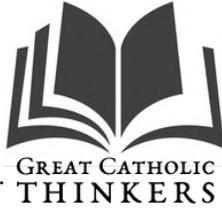
St. Polycarp's feast day actually falls today (*Sunday, Feb. 23rd*). Just as we saw last week that a feast day can be moved, it can also be "trumped" by a "higher" celebration. And, as every Sunday serves as a celebration of the Resurrection, it takes precedence over individual feast day. Yet, we can take solace in knowing that St. Polycarp would have it no other way, given his dying declaration: "*Hear me declare with boldness, I am a Christian!*"





CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE will resume Monday, February 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room. All school-aged children are welcome!

Our Winter Book Study continues on **Tues., February 25th at 6:30 PM** in the Parish Conference Room. We are reading "*A Good Man is Hard to Find*" by Flannery O'Connor. All are welcome!



G.I.R.L.'s Night Out Mardi Gras Fundraiser!

Saturday, March 1st - 6:00-9:30 PM
Tickets (\$25) on sale after all Masses or available in the Parish Office.

PARISH CALENDAR

- **Sat., Feb. 22** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 23** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 23** - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Sun., Feb. 23** - St. Joseph/St. Aloysius Confirmation Class Trivia/Social Night - 6-8:00 p.m. in the Parish Social Hall.
- **Mon., Feb. 24** - Children's Choir Practice Resumes - 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Tues., Feb. 25** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Feb., 25** - Book Study - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Wed., Feb. 26** - Adoration - 6-7:00 p.m. / Confession 6-6:45 p.m. / Mass 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Feb. 26** - Adult Choir Practice - 7:35 p.m.
- **Wed., Feb. 26** - Parish Council Meeting - 7:40 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Thurs., Feb. 27** - Mass 8:00 a.m.
- **Thurs., Feb. 27** - *Catholicism Explained* - 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Fri., Feb. 28** - Mass 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Mar. 1** - Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confession 8:30 a.m.
- **Sat., Mar. 1** - Confession 4-4:45 p.m. / Mass 5:00 p.m.
- **Sun., Mar. 2** - Mass 7:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
- **Sun., Mar. 2** - Religious Education Class - 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- **Mon., Mar. 3** - Children's Choir Practice Resumes - 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Conference Room.
- **Tues., Mar. 4** - Adoration 7-8:00 a.m. / Mass 8:00 a.m. / Confessions 8:30 a.m.
- **Tues., Mar. 4** - Knights of Columbus monthly meeting - Rosary at 6:40 p.m. in Church / meeting in the Parish Social Hall at 7:00 p.m.
- **Wed., Mar. 5** - *Ash Wednesday* - Masses 7:00 a.m. / Noon / 7:00 p.m.

Weekend of March 1st & 2nd



5:00 Dan Lautzenheiser
7:30 Donna Geisel
10:00 Jay Crisp/Adult Choir



5:00 Ginny Fenstermaker
7:30 Sarah McCorkle
10:00 Mike Dunn



5:00 Laurisa Roper
7:30 Dale McCorkle
10:00 Jeff Miller, Tammi Helm, Kevin Seago



5:00 Angel/Zoe Soto
7:30 Charlene/Anna Lynn/Jackson Felger
10:00 Sam Smith, Luke Miller, Dominic Bedwell

St. Joseph Parish Finance Report for the Weekend of February 15th & 16th

Adult Envelopes- \$2,461.00
 Loose- \$282.00
 Repair/Rainy Day Fund- \$233.02
 Donation/Bequest- \$1,700.00
Total- \$4,676.02

Our weekly budget is \$5,116.40

We are \$1,944.17 ahead of our budget for the month of February 2025.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund- \$887.00

Your gifts to St. Joseph Parish are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

To set up **Online Giving** through Our Sunday Visitor, please visit: <https://www.osvhub.com/stjosephchurchbluffton/giving/funds>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—MARCH MEETING



Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Pray the Holy Rosary at 6:40 p.m. in Church, and meet in the Parish Social Hall at 7:00 PM.
All men in the Parish are welcome!

MARCH 5th ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

7:00 a.m.
Noon
7:00 p.m.



Lenten Soup Suppers & Stations of the Cross

Fridays during Lent
 (Beginning Friday, March 7th)
 6:00—6:45 p.m.
 Followed by **Stations of the Cross** at 7:00 p.m. in Church.

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 Lisa's Cell: 260-438-2437
 sam@bkmrealestate.com
 lisa@bkmrealestate.com
 105 N Jefferson Street, Ossian, IN 46777
 Office: 260-622-1000



Thursday's: 3pm-8pm
 Friday's: 3pm-8pm
 Saturday's: Noon-8pm
 See us on Facebook & Instagram!
The Herr Family
 Parishioners



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Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.
St. Francis of Assisi

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Knights of Columbus
 Father Aloysius Phillips, Council 7555
BECOME A KNIGHT
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



THINK!
 T - is it true?
 h - is it helpful?
 i - is it inspiring?
 n - is it necessary?
 k - is it kind?
 "Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families."
 - St. John Paul II



Before you speak...
THINK!
 T - is it true?
 h - is it helpful?
 i - is it inspiring?
 n - is it necessary?
 k - is it kind?