

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



It's astonishing to some people that we Catholics will spend time talking to a priest about our deepest faults. Confession of sins and being assured of God's forgiveness is not something that everyone readily understands. But

when we take the time to really acknowledge our sinfulness, to admit to ourselves, to God, and to another person (the priest) what we have done wrong, we can experience the healing that comes from the confession of our sins.

The Gospel today explicitly reminds us that the forgiveness of sins is connected to healing. When we confess our sins, make an act of contrition, and receive absolution we are healed in that sacrament. The paralyzed man who was dropped through the roof in front of Jesus by his friends had his sins forgiven. Much to the astonishment of the crowd, the paralytic got up, rolled up his mat, and walked out the door. It was that easy.

There is a lot of misconception about the sacrament of penance. Once a person gets over the hurdle of fear or shame though, it really is as easy as the actions of the paralyzed man. There was a lot of work on the part of others to get him in front of Jesus. They had to carry him there, open the roof, and lower him down. And before we go to confession, there is some work we have to do. We have to examine our conscience, and be willing to be honest with ourselves and with God. But after that it's easy. We sit down, tell the priest our sins, receive a penance, pray a prayer of contrition, receive absolution, and then go on our way.

It is the work of reconciliation that takes much longer, sometimes even a lifetime. Because sin fractures relationships, confession really is the easy part. It is what we do afterwards to heal the wounds that are the most demanding. It is a good thing Lent begins on Wednesday!

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**IN OUR HOMILY TODAY** - God's love for us is stronger than all human wickedness. The Lord, who loves justice, is also the Lord of mercy. Blessed be the Lord. Next week: Baptism is a good focus for our Lenten reflections because on Easter Day we will be invited to renew our baptismal vows.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** Confirmation students if you need service hours, be sure to check out our website for opportunities. Recently added - our upcoming Mardi Gras party and Father/Son Breakfast.

**National Collection for Black and Indian Missions Next Weekend:** Our financial contribution helps to support Catholic American Indian communities on reservations, in rural areas and inner cities. The collection also supports African American evangelization programs particularly in the south. [www.blackandindianmission.org](http://www.blackandindianmission.org)

## ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

*Peg Walsh*

**REST IN PEACE:**

*Donna Eno (sister of Lynn Szewczyk)*

GENERATIONS  
OF FAITH

*Living as Catholics*

"Our 2012 year: "Prayer"

*March's theme:*

*'Catholic Prayers/Devotions; Feast of St. Joseph*

**March's Sessions:**

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> ● 9:30am- 12:00pm

Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> ● 5:00-7:30pm

Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> ● 6:00-8:30pm



**11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENT**

**SESSIONS CONTINUE:** Tuesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, and Mondays March 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION MASS:** Will be celebrated on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm by Rev. Msgr. David Slubecky, Vicar General.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** February, 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00am, and 7:00pm, this marks the beginning of the Season of Lent.

**ABSTINENCE:** All Catholics who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday are bound to abstain totally from meat on the following days: Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**FASTING:** All Catholics between their 18<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> birthdays are also bound to observe the Law of Fast on the following days: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This practice involves limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Light sustenance may be taken on two other occasions in the course of the day.

**EASTER DUTY:** After they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, all the faithful are bound by obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. This obligation may be fulfilled between February, 26<sup>th</sup> (First Sunday in Lent) and June 3<sup>rd</sup> (Trinity Sunday).

**St. Francis High School to offer Practice Entrance, Placement & Scholarship Exam:** for all boys currently in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 8:30 -12:00. There is no cost to take the exam and a snack will be provided. The school is located at 4129 Lake Shore Road, Athol Springs, NY (Route 5 – Hamburg, NY). For more information please contact Mr. Sean Obrochta at [obrochtas@stfrancishigh.org](mailto:obrochtas@stfrancishigh.org) or (716)627-1200 ext. 455.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** The Annual Catholic Charities letters are in the process of being mailed out. We hope that you will be generous in your response.  
**NOTE:** They no longer mail cards with the letters. You are asked to fill out the bottom section (which has your name & ID number) & return it in the response envelope or drop it off at church or in the collection).

**ALTAR & ROSARY MEETING:** Tuesday, February, 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM

**St. Joseph's Annual Mardi Gras Party:** Tuesday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. There will be door prizes, 50/50, pizza, music and Family Fun. Just bring a SWEET TREAT to pass around. Please sign-up in the church vestibule by Sunday Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> for food count or call Becky at 537-4201.

**Alcove for Life:** On display in the "Alcove for Life", located in the Parish Hall, near the stairwell, are FREE pamphlets covering a variety of Respect Life topics. The purpose of this literature is to promote a better understanding of the life issues. Human life must be protected and defended from the moment of conception to natural death, and throughout all points in between. Our Parish Respect Life Ministry strives to make this happen through prayer, education, service and action. Please take a moment to visit the Alcove and take advantage of these educational materials.

**Father/Son & Men of the Parish Breakfast:** The guest speaker this year is Frank Clement-Collector of Named Bricks and member of International Brick Collector's Association (he is from Orchard Park). It is only two weeks away and will be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> after the 8:00AM Mass. If you never attended why don't you consider coming this year it is a great way to meet the men of our parish you worship with every week. Tickets can be purchased in the vestibule of the church after all the Masses. The cost is \$4.00 which includes a full breakfast plus a great speaker and door prizes. (Boys four and under eat free.)

**SOUP & STATIONS:** Friday, February, 24 at 6 PM. Please bring a soup, bread or desert to share. Stations will begin at 7 PM.

**Gift to God:** \$2825.00 Regular Collection, \$80.00, Education & \$25.00, Fuel

Counters for February 26<sup>th</sup>: Team M



*Mass Schedule  
&  
Intentions  
for the Week*

Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00am For All Parishioners  
 Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>  
 8:00am Margaret Merlau (R. Baer & S. Rodler)  
 Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 7:00am Ash Wednesday Service  
 8:00am Helen Barron (Bill & Sandy Franczak)  
 7:00pm Esther Ling (Altar & Rosary Society)  
 Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 8:00am No Masses  
 Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00am Helen Barron (Altar & Rosary Society)  
 7:00pm Stations  
 Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
 5:00pm Mother's Day Intentions  
 Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00am Cecelia Fronckowiak (R. Marlowe Family)  
 10:30am All Souls

**Altar Server Schedule**  
 Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 7:00pm Adam Fridman & Hannah Lovullo  
 Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
 5:00pm Nate Damon & Mark Wagner  
 Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00am Shea Moltrup & Abigail Jusiak  
 10:30am Kelly Brown & Alana & Emily Szewczyk

**Eucharistic Minister Schedule**  
 Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 8:00am J. Montgomery, C. Kramer & C. Roth  
 7:00pm B. Andrzejewski, W. Waligora & E. Russell  
 Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
 5:00pm C. Roth, N. Hack & D. Ende  
 Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00am D. Bartz, D. Wilson & G. Weissenburger  
 10:30am A. Everts, C. Wenke & B. Andrzejewski

**Lector Schedule**  
 Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 8:00am Bill Franczak  
 7:00pm Terry Bennett  
 Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
 5:00pm Nathan Lovullo  
 Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00am Josh VanRemmen  
 10:30am Children's Mass

**Sacristan Schedule**  
 Sat/Sun February 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>  
 •5pm M. Roth •8am A. Bartz •10:30am S. Kidd