

St. Joseph Bulletin

St. Joseph Catholic Church (Established 1848)
1011 First Street, Patterson, LA 70392

Msgr. Joseph A. Pellegrino Second Sunday of Lent: The Covenant of Faith

As I mentioned in the homilies I had last week, what I would like to do this year during Lent is focus on the first readings. The first readings for the Sundays of Lent present various covenants. This Sunday our focus is on Abraham and the Covenant of Faith. We use the term faith in many ways. Sometimes we use the term to point to a particular religion. "I am a member of the Catholic faith. The people across the street are members of the Lutheran faith. Those down the block are members of the Methodist faith." Sometimes we use the term to refer to the sum teaching of the Church. For example, "Our faith teaches us that we have a responsibility to reach out to the poor." Sometimes we use the term to explain a certain belief, such as "I cannot understand the Trinity, but I believe in it because it is an article of our faith." Very often, we use the term faith to refer to our trust in another, "I have faith that my wife will pick me up at the airport."

The most important use of the term faith, though, is our complete trust in God. This is how faith is used in today's reading from Genesis. Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Yet, God had also told him that he would be the father of many nations. How could this happen if he were to listen to God and sacrifice his son? Abraham had to have faith that somehow God would fulfill his promise.

Let's pause for a second, though, and remember that the Hebrews never practiced human sacrifice. In fact, one of the reasons that God allowed their enemies to conquer them at the time of the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities was that some Israelites had left Yahweh and joined in with the pagan sacrifice rituals even in some cases sacrificing their own children. This was a complete abomination before God and man. Yet, in today's first reading Abraham was told to sacrifice his son. This was not because God wanted human sacrifice, but because He wanted to test Abraham to see how great his faith really was. Would he sacrifice his only son, the one whom he loved? The Fathers of the Early Church also saw in this call for Abraham to sacrifice Isaac a prophecy of the extent of the Father's love for his people. Abraham's decision to sacrifice his son, Isaac, prefigured the Father's decision to sacrifice the Son, Jesus.

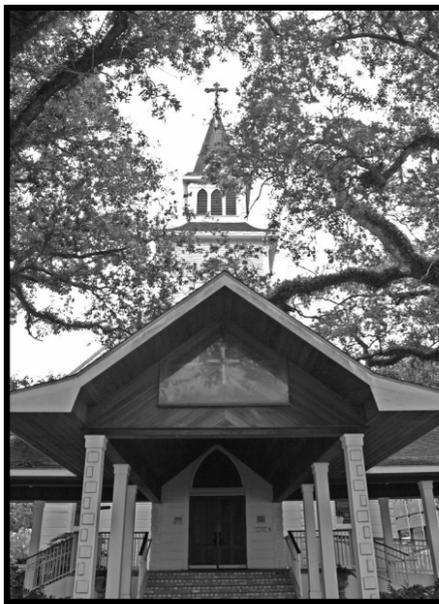
God had told Abraham to do something that seemed utterly absurd. Yet, Abraham had faith that somehow God would work out his promise and his plan. Abraham completely trusted in God even though everything around him and within him told him differently. What faith Abraham had! What faith you have! I have been gifted with witnessing this type of faith over and over again in so many of you and your families. Let me give you a beautiful example from just last week. A while back I saw two young brothers entering the Church, a sixteen year old and a fourteen year old. The sixteen year old is challenged. Many of you know him, or at least have been at Mass with him. He prays in his own way, with his own sounds which are not all that pleasant, but he comes here to pray with his family, and he is welcome here. In fact, I am edified by the way that the members of the parish accept him. What stood out to me last Sunday, though, was not the sixteen year old but his fourteen year old brother. When the two walked into the Church, the younger boy saw that his brother was frightened. His brother looked around, stopped and then started sucking his thumb. Perhaps the crowd scared him. Or maybe he just lost track of where his mother was. That's when I saw the younger boy take his brother's hand and guide him to the pew his Mom had picked out. I pointed this out to one of our servers saying, "Look, how beautifully that boy is taking care of his brother." What a wonderful man that fourteen year old is going to become." What a wonderful child he is now. His brother has been a gift to him, as well as to the whole family and to our parish. I am also convinced that no matter how much work the older child takes, his parents love him deeply and could not bear the thought of a life without him. He is special in a many more ways than implied in the term special education.

Consider this: for this boy to be born, his parents had to take a leap of faith. They had to trust God even though there were many telling them to do something terrible, something they would have regretted for the rest of their lives. But they trusted in God, and they and their other children and we have been blessed. Abraham trusted in God, and God made with him the covenant of faith. This family and our parish are receiving their portion of the covenant of faith.

Many children in our parish are adopted. Many of the adults in our parish were adopted when they were children. How much faith their parents, both their birth parents and their adoptive parents had to have in God! Many people were telling that pregnant woman to find a horrible solution to her situation. But she, in her own way, had faith that God would work it all out for the good. Many people cautioned the adoptive parents that this might be more difficult than they imagined, but they trusted in God.

Abraham trusted in God, and God made with him the covenant of faith. These parents, birth and adoptive, are now celebrating the gift of the covenant of faith. You married folks made a decision to give yourselves to God by giving yourselves to each other and by accepting the gift of each other. You needed faith in God to marry well. Your decision to marry in the Church was ultimately a realization that this is what God wanted. He wanted to be present in your marriage in the way of a sacrament. Your decision to marry your spouse was a matter of trusting in God, even though the future may have appeared to be unclear. Your decision to have children was also a decision to put your complete trust in God.

Abraham trusted in God, and God made with him the covenant of faith. You look at your spouse, you look at your children, and yes neither they nor you are perfect, but you look at them and you realize that you also have received the gift of the covenant of faith. I could tell similar beautiful stories about so many of you and your families. You could have turned from trusting in God when so many around you suggested solutions to your challenges which would have ultimately pushed you away from God. Or you could have simply become cynical; instead, you chose to be people of faith. You know that God will work it all out. You don't know how, but somehow. And He will. This is your share in the covenant of faith. "If God is for us, who can be against us," St. Paul asks in today's second reading. Life has its challenges, but each challenge can be met and conquered simply by trusting in God to work his wonders in our lives. God will take care of you. And He will take care of me. We trust in Him. We have faith in Him. And when the challenges appear insurmountable, when our faith appears weak, we call out with that man in Mark 9:24. "I do believe, Lord. Help those parts of me that don't believe." And we trust in God to form with us, as He did with Abraham, a covenant of faith.



Celebration of Holy Mass

Weekends:
 Saturday 4:30pm (Vigil Mass)
 First Sat. Rosary 4pm
 Sunday 8am, 10am, 5pm

Weekdays:
 Mon. Wed. & Fri. 6:30am
 Tues. Nursing Home 9:30am,
 Thurs. 12:10pm

Reconciliation

20 minutes before Masses begin or
 anytime by appointment.

Rectory Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9am - 3pm
 Friday 9am - Noon

New Parishioners

We welcome you with great joy and
 invite you to register and worship with
 us regularly.

Forms are available in the rectory.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

Baptism - Instructions are offered
 for both parents and godparents
 during the months of February, May,
 August, and November. Plan
 accordingly when expecting a child or
 choosing godparents and call 395-
 3881 to register for the class or to
 schedule a baptism.

Confirmation - Young people are
 prepared for Confirmation through
 the Confirmation Program. Adults are
 prepared for Confirmation through
 the R.C.I.A.

Matrimony - Diocesan Policy
 requires that a couple make
 arrangements with the pastor at least
 6 months prior to desired date.

Sacrament of The Sick - Call the
 rectory to make arrangements for
 Communion and Anointing.

Rite of Christian Burial

Arrangements to be made with a
 priest by the family.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders or
 calling to religious life** - please
 contact the priest in order to discern
 God's will.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian

Initiation of Adults) - This process
 is structured to provide information
 for the formation of those who are
 seeking a fuller life as Christians in
 the Catholic Tradition. For
 information, please call the Office of
 Religious Education.

Religious Education For Children

Call the Office of Religious Education
 for information about registering
 your child.

Knights of Columbus - Meet the
 second Thurs. of the month at 7pm.

Come Lord Jesus Groups

Seeking to become closer to God,
 learning more about scripture and
 being spiritually prepared for Sunday
 liturgy....consider joining a CLJ
 Group Call Marguerite Sumrall
 395-5304 for more information.

Parish Directory

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 219
Patterson, LA 70392

Email: stjoeat@cox-internet.com

Office / Rectory: 985-395-3616

Fr. Herb Bennerfield, Pastor ext. 3 ~
Bobbie Diaz (Office Manager) ext. 4 ~
Ann Murray (Housekeeper/cook) ext. 8
Office Fax: 985-395-9129

Education Office: 985-395-3881

Mamie Perry (DRE) ext. 5 ~
Rosie Pellerin (Ed. Coordinator)
Education Fax: 985-395-3685
Email: stjoeat@teche.net

Websites:

St. Joseph Church
www.stjosephpatla.org
Diocese of Lafayette
www.diolaf.org

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, FEB. 26
6:30am: Fr. Vu, John DeMatteo, George Studdard

TUESDAY, FEB. 27
9:30am: Nursing Home— Mouton & Washington Fly, Special Intention, John A. St.Julien, Mary E. & Whitney Washington, Sr. & fly, Mary Lucille & Clarence Mouton, Sr. & fly,

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28
6:30AM: Fr. Louis Vu

THURSDAY, MAR. 1
12:10PM: Greg Cart, Carol Battaglia, Edna Burgue

FRIDAY, MAR. 2
6:30 AM: JP Morella

SATURDAY, MAR. 3
4:30PM: Ernest & Dwight Coleman, JP Morella, Dottie Thomas, M/M J.P. Lipari Virginia & Luke Lipari, Josephine Trahan, Gertrude Bailey, Bobbie & Ross Grimboll, Anthony & Marie Morella

SUNDAY, MAR. 4
8:00am: Ray Jude Vidos Sr., For the People of our Parish, Lenny Guzzino, John DiMatteo, Harold Allemond, Wila Picou, Anna Mae Metrejean, Audrey Fontenot
10:00am: Louis Lipari, Frank & Diane Governale, Carey Mac Staples, Gilman & Florine Rockenbaugh, Donald Jumonville, M/M Jake P. Lipari, Guderian & Barcenas families, Daisy Boudreaux, Anna Mae Metrejean
5:00pm: James Blocker Jr., Beth Verret, Katherine Cardinale, Ross Grimboll, Elsa Y. Parchmont, Holy Souls, Judy Clark, George Studdard, Lawrence Savoie, Daisy Boudreaux, Raymond LaHoste

Sanctuary Light
Diane Governale

Note: If a name is not printed above, due to human error, be assured that God has accepted your intention in heaven. Canon Law 94

Office of Religious Education & Formation
 Mamie Perry 395-3881 stjodre@teche.net

Religious Education - 2018 at a Glance

March:
 4th: 7th & 8th Grade Mass @ 10:00 a.m.
 21st: Last CCD Class
 24th: First Communion Family Retreat 9:30 a.m. in hall.

April:
 7th: First Reconciliation for those making First Communion
 First Communion Rehearsal Parent(s) must attend with child
 8th: First Communion Mass 10:00 a.m.
 30th: Confirmation Rehearsal (Sponsors & Candidates must attend)

May:
 1st: Confirmation Mass 6:30 p.m.
 14th: Summer Bible Camp Registration Begins

June:
 11th: Camp Registration Ends
 12th: Camp Director Orientation 1:00 p.m.
 Counselor Orientation 1:30 p.m.
 18th-22nd Summer Bible Camp Week

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Adult Discussion Group: Monday at 6:30 in parish hall

First Saturday Rosary:
 The Holy Rosary will be prayed before the Vigil Mass in church beginning at 4pm the first Saturday of each month. Please join us.

“PRAY & GEAUX”- Come Pray the Rosary every Mon. morning at 8:30am @ St. Joseph Church.

Catholic Daughters will meet the first Thursday of each month at 6pm in the parish hall. If you are interested in joining please call the rectory.

St. Joseph Altar Feb. 26th thru Mar. 2 making of the cookies., mudica, & bread balls

St. Joseph Mass—Monday, Mar. 19 at 9am.

Lenten Penance Service: – Tuesday, March 20 at 6PM at St. Joseph Church

Way of the Cross—every Friday during Lent

Good Friday Way of the Cross – March 30 @ 7:00pm Pope Benedict’s Way of Cross

The following is the text of the thank you note to the parish from Harbour House staff and residents:

Dear St. Joseph Catholic Church youth group, adult leaders, and parishioners. Wow! You all have gone above and beyond once again to make Christmas a special time of year for our youth who were away from home during the holidays. This time of year is often challenging for our youth; however, the job, laughter, and fun you all bring is truly a gift we can treasure! Please know that your generosity of time, monetary donations, and gifts helped us to carry the spirit of Christmas that you all brought through the holiday. The youth were eager to spend their gift cards, and the Walmart card for the house allowed us to purchase clothing, hygiene items, reading material, brain teaser games, jewelry, and hats that our residents had placed on their individual wish lists. The air hockey table will be a great addition to our program area, and the other gift cards will continue to prove valuable as we plan outings and meals for the youth throughout the coming months. The money provided to purchase a new basketball goal and complete concrete work is priceless! We are very excited that once its completed, it will be a lasting sign of the care that your community shares so freely with ours! Thank you for taking such good care of us! As we move into 2018, we pray that you all have a wonderful year filled with God’s blessings! We look forward to sharing another meal and an afternoon filled with the joy of Christmas with you again in December! With appreciation, staff and residents of Harbour House.

St. Joseph is now accepting Bulletin ads. You may purchase an Ad for your business or in memory of someone. Ads are \$20.00 a month or \$240.00 a yr. If you would like to place an Ad in the Bulletin

<p><i>Mausoleum Crypts</i> Are still available here at St. Joseph. If interested please call the rectory. 395-3616</p>		<p>Clean Up Day March 10 at 8am to prepare for the St. Joseph Altar. We will need plenty help because of the freeze damage done to the flower beds.</p>		<p>Bulletin Ad’s Available — call the office 395-3616</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of James Blocker Jr. Oct. 20, 1945 Jan. 10, 2007</p>		<p>Knights of Columbus #1710 Protecting Catholic Families for Generations</p>		<p>TOWN & COUNTRY FLORIST & GIFTS, INC Owner: Glynda Lasseigne 3515 Hwy 182, Berwick 985/385-6929 www.tandcflorist.com</p> 
<p>Frank’s Agency, Inc. Complete insurance Services 985-395-9351 frankg@bellsouth.net</p>	 <p>Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick Certified Public Accountants 985-384-6264</p>	<p>Peterson Agency Inc. In Loving Memory of Clyde Peterson Sept. 27, 1927 Dec. 20, 2010</p>	<p>Acadiana Catholic Magazine can be found in the entry of church.</p>	<p>Member FDIC</p>  <p>PATTERSON STATE BANK</p>

Sick Relatives & Friends
Please pray for the sick of our parish & their caregivers: Stella Saleme, Jason Hernandez, Herman Lajaunie, Archer Rogers, Ruth Bourgeois, Amanda Boggs, Ahney Chauvin, Peggy Grimboll, Drue Langlinais, Linda Adams, Nicole Hingle, Wilda Cali, Angelle Hebert, Aba Grace Lang, Sally Rogers, Ian Davis, Daniel Broussard, Robert, Susan, Karter Esprit, Evita Boutte, Cameron Boutte, Trinty Simons, Madeline Venable, Annie Russo, Danell Kimble, Tuwana Ray, Bobby Johnson, Cindy Guidry, Billy Garcia, Kristi Liner, Celeste Jumonville, Owen Hebert, Jackie & B.L. Como, Sherry Hughes, Carol Sampey, Anna George, Doug Hood, Guy Gilmore Jr., Frank Guarisco, Mary Bellard, Bruce LaHoste, Warren Balance, John Rousso, Brinda Beam, Curtis Gautreaux, Chase Broussard, Suzanne Lipari, Billy Picou, Debra Roy, John Michell, Quinn Toups, Leona Cloud, Aiaire Glaviano, Cliff Couture, Kylie Cayce, Shane Cayce, Benny Perry, Louie Need, David Hartford, Jerry Barrilleaux, Steve Ledet, Barbara LaCoste, Edna Porche, Robbie & Casie Toups, Frank Black, Bertha Wiggins, Morgan Murphy, Helen Brandon, David Bourdier, John Menard, Lee Michel, Allen Rink, Brenda Cutrera, Ellen Lemoine, Floyd Estay, Gulley Taylor, Anne Broussard, Wilson Bailey
Please call the rectory to add or delete a name on the list.

Stewardship Area
“Give to the Most High as He has given to you, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold.” Sirach 35:10

Last Weekend : \$3343.75
 St. Joseph Altar: \$1524.48
 Ash Wednesday \$858.36

<p>Mar. 3 & 4 Sat. 4:30pm Sun. 8:00am Sun. 10:00am Sun. 5:00pm</p>	<p>Extra Ordinary Ministers of Eucharist Leona Armato, Joy Guarisco Irene Mouton, AJ Gaudet, Mamie Perry Ruby Delaune, Monica LaSalle, Deanna Allemond Sandra Marshall, Angela Harrington, Cliff Couture</p>	<p>Lector Brightman Kornegay Jamie Guidry Don Breaux Shannon Freeman</p>	<p>Altar Servers Kaylee Craddock volunteer Mary Frances Cali, Bali Blakeman Madalyn & Zachary Landry</p>
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