

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Newsletter

Shannon Morgan ~ Editor

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Issue 461 February 2026

February Mass Readings

February 01
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary
Time

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

1 Cor 1:26-31

Matt 5:1-12

February 08
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary
Time

Is 58:7-10

1 Cor 2:1-5

Matt 5:13-16

February 16
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary
Time

Sir 15:15-20

1 Cor 2:6-10

Matt 5:17-37

February 22
First Sunday of Lent

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Rom 5:12-19

Matt 4:1-11

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a time of **prayer** and **penance**, when Christ wants to lead us back to our baptismal promises of **dying to sin** and of **living for God**.

WHEN IS LENT?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until the afternoon of Holy Thursday. It runs for about 40 days.

WHY 40 DAYS? The "40 days" (not including Sundays) of fasting, prayer, and penitence before Easter reflect Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO DURING LENT?

1. Turn away from our sins and turn back to God. Detach from habits and tendencies that are contrary to God's will. Lent is a time of conversion.
2. Open our hearts to our Father, so that we may live with Christ for God. Jesus is calling us to be people of praise and prayer, and living signs of his love for all.

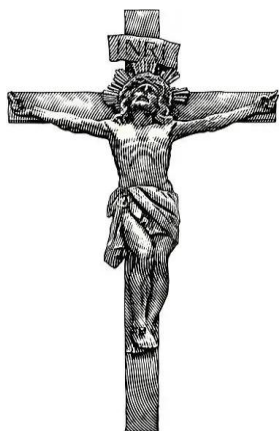
"This time of fasting opens the gates of heaven to us. Let us welcome it and pray that when Easter comes we may share the joy of the risen Lord."
LENTEN RESPONSORY



Archdiocese of Toronto

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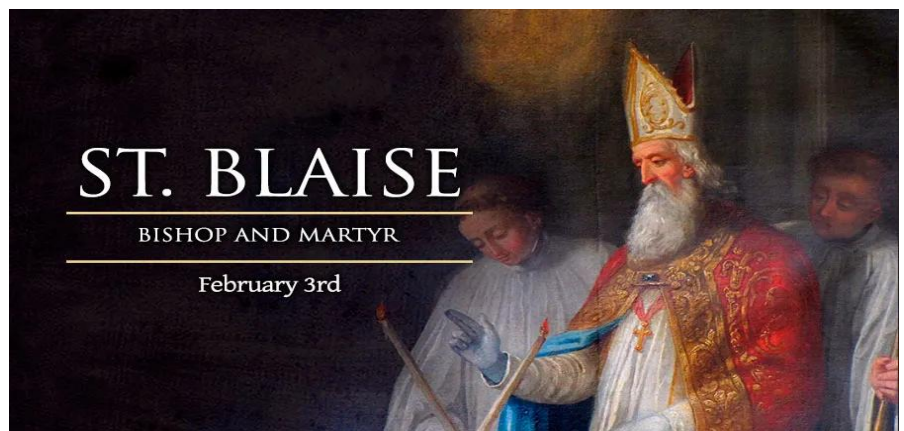
Text from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Living Lent"



ST. BLAISE

BISHOP AND MARTYR

February 3rd



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Financial Report

DECEMBER 2025

RECEIPTS:	
Collections	45,101.00
Second Collections	16,674.00
Fund Raisers	(3.85)
Cemeteries Funds	1,258.26
Other Income	13,993.70
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$77,023.11
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Salaries & Benefits	23,286.28
Rectory, Church & Offices	11,575.73
Budgeted Committees	2,472.09
Contributions/Aid	1,500.00
Scholarships	- 0 -
Second Collections	4,714.00
Cemeteries Expenses	415.67
Other Expenses	41.66
Diocesan Assessment	2,224.83
Parish Support-Seminarians	377.10
Capital Expenditures	- 0 -
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$46,607.36
EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS:	\$30,415.75



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Our Lady of Lourdes

★ The Church celebrates the World Day of the Sick on Feb 11.

★ On Feb 11, 1858, Mother Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous.

★ Revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception.

★ Emphasized prayer for sinners.

★ Officially recognized by the Church in 1862.

★ She appeared 18 times at the Grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes.

★ Water from the miraculous spring in the Grotto has healed many.





Remember, this is our parish newsletter and our way to connect with each other. If you have news you would like to share, please email me at stjosephnews14@gmail.com.



01	Ronnie Dallari	14	Janine Harkins
02	Terence Cass	15	Sophia Edwards
02	Carol Maples	17	Joe Turchi
04	Gary Brickey	17	Leonard Zell
05	David Henning	18	Thomas Dial
07	Alejandra Gonzales	18	Elmon Savage
07	Jules Schweiger	19	Denise Euseppi
08	Susan Lambert	19	Shirley Hartwick
08	Sharon Theriot	21	Crystal Coats
09	Mary Ellen Miskell	21	Leonila Giblin
11	Stephanie King	24	Robert Felsman
12	Lela Murray	28	Matt Soto
13	Antonio Herrera		

09	Joe & Carolyn Strode
17	Erasmus & Wendy Camarillo
17	William & April Hogan
29	James & Denise Euseppi





PILLARS OF LENT

PRAYER

What does it mean?

Prayer is the time we give to God, such that He can work in us and we can abide by Him. We take time out from the activities and busyness of the world to turn to God, reflect, listen, talk to Him, read and meditate on His Word, and become one with Him. Prayer strengthens us during Lent and leads us closer to God (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18).

Read:
Gospel of
Matthew,
Chapter 6



FASTING

What does it mean?

Fasting is not merely about limiting one's own consumption and abstaining from what may be considered bad - for the greater glory of God -, but also abstaining from pleasurable things. If one wants to fast, it means eating only one regular meal and two small meals. Obligatory fasting days of Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All Fridays of Lent are so-called abstinence days, i.e. one abstains from meat, alcohol, and other pleasures (cf. Daniel 9: 3).



ALMSGIVING

What does it mean?

Almsgiving is what animates Christians to notice others, love them, listen to them, and give them our time, help, advice, money, shelter, companionship, and affection. It is not limited to giving material goods alone, but it is the gift of the self. Moreover, it is based on charity, loving God and others as oneself. To give alms means to unite oneself with Christ in His poverty (cf. 1 John 3 :17)



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

2026 PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Of the 27 parishioners nominated to run for our Pastoral Council, only nine (9) accepted or were eligible to run. Since we need nine parishioners to serve on the Pastoral Council, there will be no election next weekend. Short biographical sketches of your new Pastoral Council members are listed below. Please keep these parishioners in your prayers as they begin serving in this vital parish ministry.

LAUREN BLAND

Lauren was born and raised in Pine Bluff. She became a member of St. Joseph Church in 1975 when she was baptized and received all of her sacraments here. Lauren is currently the Executive Director of The Warrior Lodge in Pine Bluff and is the president of St. Joseph Altar Society.

JULIET BOGY

Juliet has been a dedicated parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church for 35 years. Over the years, she has faithfully served on the volunteer committee for the annual Spaghetti Supper. She retired from the Arkansas Public School System after 28 years of service as an Employee Benefits Specialist.

CONNIE BOUTWELL

At the age of thirteen, Connie converted to Catholicism at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Easter, 1964. She serves as a Eucharist Minister and Lector. She is the Safe Environment Coordinator for St. Joseph Church. She is the current Catholic Daughter Regent of Court Our Lady of Victory and the Immediate Past State Regent of the State Catholic Daughters. Connie is also a member of the Building Committee, the Altar Society, and is the President of St Joseph Finance Committee. She has been a Tribunal Advocate for the Diocese of Little Rock for over ten years. Connie is on the Board of Directors for Southeast Arkansas Behavior Center where she serves as Secretary. Connie retired from Civil Service in 2013 as a Pine Bluff Arsenal Public Works Division Chief. She is married to Timothy Boutwell and has three grown children, six grandchildren and one great- grandson.

LYNN CASTLEBERRY

I was born and raised in Pensacola, Florida. My family's church was Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and I attended school at Sacred Heart. My husband, Jack and I moved to Pine Bluff after our marriage to help with the family business, Whitten Concrete. Since 1979, I have been a member of St. Joseph. All three of my children attended PRE, and I taught in the 6th grade class for several years. Following my husband's passing in 2019, I now own Whitten Concrete, which I run with the help of my children. My personal life is filled with family, including my children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild who keep me very busy and on the go.

continued...

ALYSON GAMBLE

Hi! I'm Alyson Gamble, a Catholic Convert originally from the Mississippi Delta. My husband, Jeremy, and I were married in April of 2025. I am a registered nurse working full-time in the recovery room at UAMS and part-time as a nursing educator at Jefferson Regional College of Nursing. I also work as the Diocese's Marquette Model of Natural Family Planning Instructor. I often lector at mass (mostly the 11am service). I enjoy attending prolife events, bothering my husband, cooking, and reading in my spare time. I look forward to serving our parish.

THOMAS A. KAUFFMAN

I was born in 1956 in Memphis, TN. I am divorced, 69 years old, and have 2 adult sons. Jim is Engineer for FedEx in Panama City Beach, Florida and Stephen is an Economic Research for FCC in Washington D.C. I attended St. Joseph Academy, moved to Knoxville TN, attended Sacred Heart School, moved to Pine Bluff AR in 1964, and attended Annunciation Academy until 7th grade. I attended Dial Jr. High, graduated Pine Bluff High School, and attended U of A Fayetteville. I started working for AP&L (Entergy) at White Bluff Power Plant and retired from Entergy in 2016 as Control Room Operator. I recently joined Knights of Columbus. I deeply care for people and St. Joseph Church. I wandered off a while in the 80's but returned to the Church around 2000 and have enjoyed it ever since. I want to do things to ensure the future of St. Joseph Church and will be honored to serve on the Pastoral Council.

TIMOTHY LIM

Timothy Lim is a lifelong Catholic originally from Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended Christ the King Catholic Church and Catholic High School for Boys before going to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and receiving his Doctorate of Audiology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. After his wife's brief residency at Baylor Scott and White in Temple, Texas, he and his family moved back to Pine Bluff where they are now parishioners at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Madison Lim, his wife, is a general surgeon at JRMC and the couple has 2 children.

DON STRINGER

Don is the son of the late Tom and Louise Stringer. He grew up in Pine Bluff, attended St. Joseph Church, and graduated from Annunciation Academy. Don graduated from Pine Bluff High School in 1974 and attended University of Central Arkansas. After graduation, he went into coaching at Monticello before moving to White Hall. He was the Head Basketball Coach at White Hall High School. He later became the principal at White Hall Junior High before being named principal at White Hall High School. He is retired and married to Jackie. They have two sons, the late Marc Stringer and Josh Stringer. He is an active member of Knights of Columbus.

GREG TURCHI

Greg was born and raised in Pine Bluff. He is a lifelong member of St. Joseph Church. He was an altar server from grade school through high school and an usher for 35 plus years. Greg recently joined the Knights of Columbus. He is retired from the Pine Bluff Fire Department.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY



Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer:

Amen.



St. Joseph Catholic Church

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