



## Coming of Age, Coming of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**I**t is said we never become a believer before age thirty-five. I don't think there is anything magical about that age. Some in their seventies still have not yet come to be people of faith, and there are those who, at a very young age, seem to have entrusted their lives to God. What the age of thirty-five does say, however, is that most people need to have lived a while and experienced a few ups and downs to recognize there is a power in their lives greater than themselves.

This week's Gospel story of the man born blind encapsulates a lifelong journey of coming to see who Jesus is, compressed into a few days. When asked who cured him of blindness, the man first says the man Jesus did it. Brought to testify before the Pharisees, he says that Jesus must be a prophet. Confronted by the

Pharisees a second time, he testifies that Jesus must be of God. Finally, when he sees Jesus again, he calls him Lord, a name for God. The story is a parable of sorts about how we come to have faith, to see with new and different eyes.

Faith involves trusting, sometimes trusting an unseen Power who feels absent at times; about surrendering control over our lives to God, as we come to see in an entirely new way. It can take a lifetime to begin seeing in such a way. ●

### Reflect

***Where am I on the journey of faith?  
How open are my eyes?***

[The man who had been blind] replied, "...One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

JOHN 9:25



# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Fr. Sebastian Devasya, Pastor  
P.O. Box 1310  
507 Harrison St.  
Princeton, WV 24740-1310  
304-425-3664

M A R C H 1 8 & 1 9 , 2 0 2 3

CONFESSION: SATURDAY 3:00 - 3:30 AND BY APPOINTMENT ONLY,  
PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE  
SUNDAY MASS IS AVAILABLE ON LIVESTREAM  
[www.facebook.com/sacredheartprinceton](https://www.facebook.com/sacredheartprinceton) Sacred Heart  
Princeton (@shprinceton) • Instagram photos and videos  
Office Hours: Mon - Thu 9 am - 2 pm

## Mass Intentions:

Saturday, March 25, 4pm - † Mary Jane Wheby Bowling by William Bowling

Sunday, March 26, 11am - † N.E. Santon by Jacob Santon

Tuesday, March 21, 6pm - † Florencia Neri Sr. by Shelby & Jun Neri

Thursday, March 23, Noon - † Luis Quesada by Maria Franco

Saturday, March 25, 4pm - † Carlos Avalos by Bertha Avalos

Sunday, March 26, 11am - † Deceased Members of Sacred Heart

## Upcoming Church Events

Fri, Mar 17, Noon, Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Altar Society & Women's Group)

Fri, Mar 17, St. Patrick's Day

Wed, Mar 22, 6 pm, CSA with Bishop Brennan

Fri, Mar 24, Noon, Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Pastoral Council)

Tue, Mar 28, 6 pm Penance Service (Princeton)

Wed, Mar 29, 6 pm Penance Service (Bluefield)

Fri, Mar 31, Noon, Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Anchor Prayer Group)

5-7 pm Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

5:30 - 7:30 2023 Hunger Challenge

Sun, Apr 9, Easter

Apr 17-21, No Mass, Fr. Sebastian out of town

## Church Staff

**Pastor**-Fr. Sebastian Devasya  
[sdevasya@dwc.org](mailto:sdevasya@dwc.org)

**Office Manager**: Kim Hickman  
[khickman@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:khickman@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Secretary**: Laura Wyatt  
[lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Faith Formation**: Laura Wyatt  
[lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lw Wyatt@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Youth Ministry**: Lorin Albin  
[lorin@sacredheartprinceton.org](mailto:lorin@sacredheartprinceton.org)

**Newman Center**: Paul Krause  
[pkrause@dwc.org](mailto:pkrause@dwc.org)

# Fourth Sunday of Lent



Dear loving Sacred Heart Family,

This week we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Lent. We are over halfway through our Lenten journey. If you are struggling, no worries, you still have time to refresh and renew your Lenten promises and practices. Be gentle with yourself. It is a journey; everyone will experience it differently.

The theme this week is about sight and blindness and invites us to see with God's eyes. The first reading is the story of David being chosen as God's anointed one. Samuel is told that God does not see as man sees. Man sees the appearance, but the

LORD looks into the heart. The Book of Samuel challenges us to step outside of the ordinary and comfortable way of seeing and learn to focus our sight through the lens of faith.

In the second reading, from Paul to the Ephesians, Paul reminds us that we should live as the children of light: "Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light." The light of faith in Christ Jesus warms our tepid hearts and calls us out of our spiritual hibernation.

In the Gospel, the healing of the blind man is significant and a teachable moment. In ancient times it was unheard of someone restoring the sight of a blind person. Through the Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. Jesus wants to make clear that sinfulness and sickness are not synonymous. However, that does not mean that we cannot make ourselves sick with sin! We must always be aware of our own propensity to sin through our thoughts, words, habits, and actions. It is easy to close our eyes and turn our heads when it comes to our own sin, but we see with a very critical eye when it comes to our neighbor's sin. Let us not fool ourselves: What is most important, is how God sees!

So, how *does* God see? God does not give value to our appearance, our age, finances, or stature in life. Thankfully, God loves us blindly heart and soul. Our challenge this week is to think deeply about sight and blindness, light and dark, and how we see others and ourselves:

Do I sometimes judge or stereotype others because of their appearance, culture, wealth, sex, or because of their differences?

What issue in my life today needs to be examined through God's eyes?

In what parts of my life is the darkness of sin blinding me?

What steps am I taking this Lent to remain in the Light of Christ.

This season of Lent invites us to see with God's eyes that we are no longer in darkness. Instead, we live in Christ our Light! Our own arrogance, prejudice, anger, jealousy, and ego will eventually cause us spiritual blindness. However, if we begin to reflect Christ through practicing faith, hope, and love; he will restore us with His Holy vision. We pray for light and vision in our own lives and in our Church. May our heavenly Father continue to guide and enlighten us giving us courage to see His divine reality that surrounds us. We also pray for those who continue to walk and live in darkness. May the holy light of God shine upon them, illuminating their hearts, casting out the darkness, and opening their eyes to see Jesus, their loving and compassionate Savior!

Fr. Sebastian





## Fourth Sunday of Lent: Jesus Heals



**THE GRACE I SEEK:** to believe that Jesus longs to bring me healing and strength

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.**

*Jesus, the Lord of Life, has given himself to you in the Eucharist. He is gazing upon you, his beloved child, with great love at this very moment. Pause for a few moments and wonder at his gift for you. Allow yourself to rest in his loving gaze.*

*Thank Jesus for the gift of himself in the Eucharist.*

**ASK FOR THE GRACE:** Jesus, help me to believe you are longing to transform my life with your healing.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3-4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

**“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the LORD looks into the heart.” [...] Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.” (1 Samuel 16:7b, 13a)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

Knowing that Jesus sees into the recesses of the heart, where in your heart is Christ’s healing needed the most? Is there a place in your heart where you have never allowed the Lord to go? Ask Jesus for the grace to allow his spirit to “rush” upon that place to heal any wounds or sickness hidden there.

**SCRIPTURE MEDITATION** — Read slowly, 3-4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through this passage.

**“They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. [...] So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, ‘He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.’” (John 9:13, 15)**

**REFLECTION QUESTION** — Allow yourself to sit with these questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart.

Jesus, the Good Physician, knows our weaknesses of body, heart, and mind. He longs to heal us in ways we cannot imagine. Gazing upon the Eucharist, ask Jesus to help you “see” his providential care. Ask for the eyes to recognize his healing presence in your life, and thank him for this healing.

*Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive his presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.*

**CLOSING PRAYER** — O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. (Collect, Fourth Sunday of Lent)

**SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION** — At every Mass, Jesus offers himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire for spiritual healing.



## EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

stjustinmartyr.org/em

*Additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are needed for weekend Masses and for taking Holy Communion to the sick and/or homebound. If you are interested in serving our parish in this vital ministry, please sign the sheet on the table in the Narthex or contact Susie Pace (topsy@suddenlink.net or 304-425-7862). Training will be provided.*

### Stations of the Cross

**March 17** – Noon - Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Altar Society & Woman's Group)

**March 24** – Noon - Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - (Pastoral Council)

**Mar 31**- Noon - Stations of the Cross, Holy Communion - Anchor Prayer Group)

### Lenten Penance Service

Tuesday,

**March 28 6 pm**  
Princeton

Wednesday, March 29  
6 pm  
Bluefield

### St. Joseph Work Day

**A Spring Clean-Up is planned for the outside of the church on Saturday, April 22**

We will be picking up debris, refreshing our flower gardens by planting some new flowers, placing some mulch, trimming a few bushes and trees, and taking care of anything else that needs attention

If you plan to volunteer please bring a rake, shovel, trimmers, or your favorite piece of garden equipment.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep our church a beautiful place for all to worship!

PURCHASE  
YOUR TICKET  
FROM A  
KNIGHT

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31**  
**5 - 7 PM**  
**CHURCH HALL**  
CARRYOUT AVAILABLE



**FISH FRY**  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**COST: \$10**  
**FISH, FRIES,**  
**COLESLAW,**  
**DESSERT AND A DRINK.**

 Sacred Heart  
Catholic Church

Greeters



*Additional Greeters are needed for all Masses. If you would be interested in being a Greeter, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the Narthex.*





# WEST VIRGINIA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

**Christ is Present! Will you be?**  
*Come to the Table - Spring 2023*

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Eucharistic Congresses are part of the National Eucharistic Revival, a three-year renewal of "the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist."

## DATE & LOCATION

**APRIL 21 - 22**  
**ST. JAMES CHURCH**  
**CHARLES TOWN**

**APRIL 28 - 29**  
**CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH**  
**WHEELING**

**JUNE 2 - 3**  
**BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL**  
**OF THE SACRED HEART**  
**CHARLESTON**

## KEYNOTE



Fr. Luke Spannagel



Fr. Timothy Anastos



Fr. Joe Freedy

## SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY EVENING

Taizé Service  
Reception

### SATURDAY

Powerful morning  
prayer & procession of  
all the vicariates

Keynote Speaker

Q & A

Breakout Sessions  
Music

Eucharistic Adoration

Mass and more

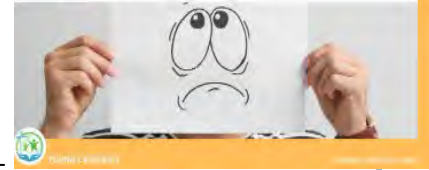


For more information and to register  
visit [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) or scan the QR code.



# Religious Education

## GIVE UP COMPLAINING



*made to be downcast, but to look up to heaven.*  
Pope Francis

And to stretch yourself, if you are tempted to complain, think of something to be grateful for instead. Make it something related to the thing you were about to complain about. So if you were about to complain about the traffic on the way to school, be grateful that you have transportation instead.

### Faith Formation:

#### K-2

#### Lesson Theme:

Jesus invites us to see and believe. .

#### Word of the Week:

Anoint

#### Grades: 3-6

#### Lesson Theme:

We believe in Jesus .

#### Word of the Week:

Conversion

### IT'S NOT EASY

It is so easy to fall into the habit of complaining. Try to give up complaining for Lent. To really not complain at all is more difficult than it sounds. So don't complain about anything. At all. Really. Fast from complaints entirely.

If doing it for all of Lent seems to big a job to start with, try it for a week or even just one day.

*Pessimism and complaining are not Christian. We were not*

## Schedule:

### Faith Formation

Mar 19, 26

Apr 2

Apr 9 & 16  
No Class

May 7

### Youth Sunday:

Mar 19

Apr 16

May 21

### Youth Ministry:

Mar 19, 31

Apr 23

May 4, 21, 28

## Youth Ministry

Come spend time with your peers and have some fun? Please join us at:

Youth Night in Parish Hall,

March 19th

6-7:30 pm

Dinner will be provided

Contact Lorin Albin

[lorinjalbin@gmail.com](mailto:lorinjalbin@gmail.com)

### TEC Retreat

Who: Rising High School Juniors through Rising College Freshmen. (2023-2024)

When: 10:00 AM Saturday, June 10th to 4:30 PM Monday, June 12th, 2023

Where: St. Mary Parish, Morgantown (Star City)

Cost: \$40 for lodging, food, and supplies. Scholarships are available

For more information please email Daniel Maul  
[dmaul@dw.org](mailto:dmaul@dw.org) or  
Ralph Modena  
[ralphmodena@gmail.com](mailto:ralphmodena@gmail.com)



Pease Join us for the 2023  
Hunger Challenge  
March 31  
5:30 - 7:30 pm

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!** Sign up in the Narthex or text Lorin Albin at 540-529-6495

## Adult Faith Formation

### Women's Group

Thursdays at 10:15 am in the Conference Room

### Men's Group

First and Third Thursday at 10 am in the Narthex

### Book Study

March 21, at 6 pm In the Conference Room





[formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)

## This Week on Formed



**FORMED**

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

### Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ

Celebrate the feast of Christ's foster father with even more joy and respect this year by watching a movie about him! Enter into the life of this great saint through the movie Joseph of Nazareth!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit [formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup) and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



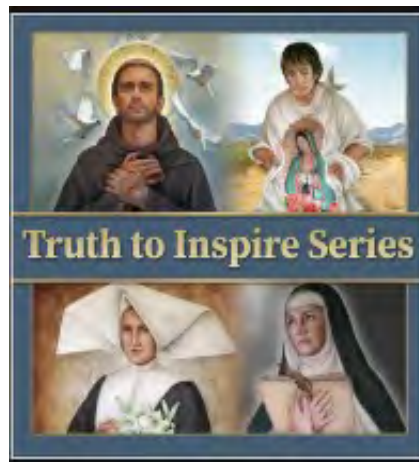
An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and ignatius press



### The Annunciation | Sacred Art

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they discuss the spiritual and theological significance of the Annunciation over a piece of Sacred Art by Elizabeth Zelasko that depicts this incredible scene.

## “Formed” for Kids



### The Truth to Inspire Series

The Truth to Inspire Series offers captivating audio dramatizations for children of the lives of saints and well-known Marian apparitions in order to teach them more about the Catholic Faith.

### Who is the Holy Spirit? | Adventure Catechism



### Short Answers to Big Questions



### Time with Jesus - Introduction







### Lenten Activities; Pay Attention to Somebody You Normally Avoid

We all have people we try to avoid for one reason or another. This Lent, pick a person you would normally try to stay away from and pay some attention to him or her. Have a conversation.

There are many reasons we might avoid people. Maybe they annoy us or get on our nerves. Maybe they are unpopular and we don't want to be seen with them. Maybe we just don't know them and that makes us uncomfortable.

Whatever the reason, try to remember that the person we are avoiding is made in the image and likeness of God. Perhaps by interacting, we will discover something we didn't know about God also.



**Living in the Gap: Growing in the ability to Respond rather than React via Zoom**

Thursdays, April 13<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>  
from 7:00 – 8:15 pm EST

Questions: email Sally Orcutt, O.P. at  
[sally@sayyes2yourlife.org](mailto:sally@sayyes2yourlife.org)

In this 4-week program invites we will explore what is at the heart of our knee-jerk reactions. We will learn how to identify the “Gap” which is the space between the moment we begin to feel distressed and our often negative reaction. Our goal is to understand what drives our reactions so that we are more fully able to live “in the gap” and choose how to respond rather than react.

Donation: \$70 (all materials provided).

Register: email [wvisreg@gmail.com](mailto:wvisreg@gmail.com)

## 15 minute mushroom stroganoff

### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 500 g (~ 17 ½ oz) mushrooms, sliced or diced
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 70 ml (~ ¼ cup) vegetable stock
- 2 tbsp sour cream
- Salt
- Black pepper
- 4 tbsp fresh parley, chopped

### Instructions

1. Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok, and add the onion. Cook for a few minutes over a medium heat, until slightly softened. Add the garlic and sliced mushrooms, and cook for a further 5 minutes, or until the mushrooms are thoroughly cooked.
2. Coat the mushrooms in the smoked paprika, then add the vegetable stock and sour cream. Bring to a gentle simmer, and

cook until the mixture has come together into a silky sauce.

3. Season to taste, and serve topped with plenty of fresh parsley.

[15 Minute Mushroom Stroganoff - Easy Cheesy Vegetarian](#)



## Weekly Offering



Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Music for  
March 18 & 19, 2023

Mass of Remembrance  
Mass Readings on pg. 217  
Word & Eucharist

Entrance: G642  
“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Responsorial Psalm: G35  
Shepherd Me, O God

Presentation of Gifts: G593  
“I Want to Walk as a Child of  
the Light”

Communion: G590  
“Christ, Be Our Light!”

Closing Hymn: G645  
“Amazing Grace”

	Weekend Mar 11-12	YTD Actual	Ytd Budget
Envelopes	3,228.00	36,032.16	33,000.00
Loose Offertory	161.00	967.40	900.00
Easter Flowers	255.00	936.00	1,000.00
Total Contributions	\$ 3,644.00	\$ 37,935.56	\$ 4,900.00
Tender Mercies	100.00	540.00	750.00
Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund	685.00	785.00	1,500.00
Attendance:	4pm: 47	11am: 90	

## Parish Council

Deb LaMothe (Chair)	Vickie Blankenship
Harold Cofer	Gerry Cosgrove
Mike Flanigan	Renee Green
Anthony Heltzel	Zack Romano
Santina St. John	
Ad Hoc:	Gina Boggess
Kim Hickman	Laura Wyatt
Susie Pace	

## Finance Council

Charlie Pace (Chair)	Gina Boggess
Richard Flanigan	Kevin Garrett
Shelby Neri	Gene Richardson
Frank Sinicrope	Fred St. John
Ad Hoc:	Kim Hickman

## Ministry Schedule

DATE	Lector	Extraordinary Minister	Greeter	Video	Sacristan	Altar Server	Counter
3/18 4 p	M. Tinio	V. Manley	M. Gaspersich	n/a	T. Byron	T. Byron	J. Choate
3/19 11a	M. Kisiel K. Carter	W. Picknally	T. Wyatt R. Wyatt	T. Wyatt	D. Richardson	D. Richardson M. Rieger A. Rieger	
3/25 4 p	M. Bacho	K. Bailey	F. Bacho	n/a	T. Byron	C. Pace	T. Settle
3/26 11a	G. Saffell	R. Modena	S. Neri	Picknally	D. Richardson	D. Richardson	
4/1 4p	B. Schumacher J. Gaspersich	V. Manley	C. Prox M. Gaspersich	n/a	T. Byron	C. Pace	S. Pace
4/2 11a	John Cox G. Saffell	G. Richardson	V & C Blankenship	W. Picknally	D. Richardson	M. Shay	

## Please include the following in your Daily Prayers

### Parishioners:

Catherine Belcher  
Ruth Boyd  
Deloris Caccamo  
Ron Ciccolini  
Romulo DelaRosa  
Dale & Mary Lu Geiger  
Angie Grbac  
Cynthia & Gordon Harmon  
Cyndi Jones  
Nancy Larkin

Valarie Laxton  
Christina Laxton  
Robert Laxton  
Kaitlyn Laxton  
Keith Laxton  
Jim Lintz  
Jim & Diane Luciano  
Fr. Greg Lyttle  
Jaelynn Mendoza  
Annette Morgan

Dr. Jun Neri  
Patricia Nester  
Esther Piconi  
Alan Rieger  
Deborah Saffell  
Jacob Santon  
Gareth Settle  
Felomina Yongque  
Carrie Yurkovich  
Jane Walthall



### Friends and Family

Linda Berghof (mother of Jackie Mercado)  
Mary Berentes,  
Lou Berentes (friend of Monica Mills)  
John Bowers  
John Caccamo (brother of Pat)  
Rita Calhoun (Aunt of Tanya Marx)  
Irene Charney  
Regina Church (friend of Monica Mills)  
Judy Clayton (sister of Loretta Lintz)  
Matthew Cosgrove (Jim Cosgroves nephew)  
Linda Cunningham  
Rachel Denton  
Kimiko Fetto (friend of Bill Picknally)  
David Frei & Mary Piper (son-in-law & daughter of Carrie Yurkovich)  
Kyle Geiger  
Mike Goff  
Myles Harris  
Velma Hartwell  
Wylie Rae Henson (Kay Bailey's granddaughter)

Brenda Ivelise  
Ruby Jones (Aunt of Rachel Colosi)  
Langan Family  
Lucas Llado (grandson of Maria Franco)  
Richard Lockhart  
John Mills (brother of Gary Mills)  
Sandy Morefield (friend of Gaspersich family)  
Tina Mullins (friend of Tanya Marx)  
Wayne Mullins (brother of Delores Caccamo)  
Carolyn Munther (mother of Lisa Black)  
Susan Nelson (Bill Picknally's daughter),  
Rex Neely  
Allan Perry  
Agnes Sedi  
Sherry Sisk  
Bryan Staten  
Agnes Tokarski (Bill Picknally's sister)  
Jamie Willoughby (niece of Sharon Buttaci)  
Richard Wentz (brother in law of Rick & Laura Wyatt)

### In case of an emergency and a priest is needed, please call:

**The Parish Office**  
**(304) 425-3664**

**Bluefield Parish Office**  
**(304) 327-5623**

**Kim Hickman**  
**(304) 920-2440**

**In case of Illness:** Please call the parish office to let us know if you, a family member, or a parishioner is sick. We can place your name on the prayer list. If requested, Fr. Sebastian will arrange for distributing Holy Communion in the home.

**Nursing homes, rehabilitation centers and anyone who is hospitalized** are not permitted to contact the church. If someone you know is in the hospital, please call the church office.

**In case of serious or life threatening sickness or the actively dying:** The church should be contacted as soon as possible. People deserve the opportunity to confess their sins, profess their faith, be anointed, and receive Holy Communion – the foretaste and pledge of eternal life. PLEASE don't wait until after the person is unconscious or so sedated that he or she cannot communicate. It is imperative with current situations, that there be enough time for Fr. to go through the appropriate protocol



# Dear Padre,

**Why should I bother to be more religious? I'm a good person. Isn't that enough to get me into heaven?**

When asked for advice about how people should decide on a vocation, St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, said they should do an imagination exercise. "Imagine that you are on your deathbed," he said. "From that point of view what would you wish you had done in your life?" That is still good advice.

Here's another exercise: Imagine you have a grandmother who is completely generous and caring toward you. Throughout your childhood, she was always there for you. But as a teen you belittled her and, in effect, told her that all she had offered is worthless to you. In a saner moment, won't you feel terrible about how you treated her?

Our life with God is much the same. God has given us absolutely everything, from our existence to every breath we take. God has also given us a way to know him through his Son, Jesus (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 73). And one way we know Jesus is through the Church and the celebration of the sacraments (CCC 1085). To refuse these gifts, to say, "I am already a good person. I don't need these gifts from God" is a bit presumptuous, don't you think?

To be "religious" is not just an outward show of piety. It's the way we have been given to learn God's language: the language of forgiveness, of faith, hope, and love. ●



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHENITZ

**Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSSR / DearPadre.org**

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26
<i>St. Joseph</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16	Ez 47:1-9, 12	Is 49:8-15	Ex 32:7-14	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	Is 7:10-14; 8:10	Ez 37:12-14
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 /	Jn 5:1-16	Jn 5:17-30	Jn 5:31-47	Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	Heb 10:4-10	Rom 8:8-11
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a					Lk 1:26-38	Jn 11:1-45 or Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**We complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves....Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. If we are blind, we cannot claim to be guides and teachers for others: indeed, a blind person cannot lead another blind person....**

ANGELUS, FEBRUARY 27, 2022



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