



# OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH

820 WESTERLY PARKWAY, STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday Masses

Saturday: 4:00pm  
Sunday: 7:30am,  
9:30am, 12:00pm

### Holy Days

(Vigil 6:00pm,  
7:00am, 9:00am &  
12:05pm)

### Weekday Masses

Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday,  
Thursday, Friday  
7:00am & 9:00am  
Saturday: 9:00am

Confessions -see inside

### Adoration of Blessed

Sacrament is on  
Wednesdays after  
7:00am Mass  
until Benediction at  
6:45pm.

Per Directives by Bishop  
Mark: The Church is open  
Monday through Sunday  
7:00am to 7:00pm.

OLV Online Giving: go to  
[www.ourladyofvictory.com](http://www.ourladyofvictory.com)  
and click on the link  
<https://abundant.co/olvsc> to  
give online.

- Text Giving: Text OLVSC  
to 73256.

- Use the Abundant App,  
which you can download  
on your smartphone.

You are now able to  
make your Christmas  
offering online.

March 6 & 7, 2021  
3rd Sunday of Lent



Office Phone

814-237-7832

Office Fax

814-237-6709

Church Website:

[www.ourladyofvictory.com](http://www.ourladyofvictory.com)

Church E-mail:

[office@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:office@ourladyofvictory.com)

School

814-238-1592

Preschool

814-238-6616

School/Preschool Website

[www.olvcatholicschool.org](http://www.olvcatholicschool.org)

Diocesan Website

[www.ajdiocese.org](http://www.ajdiocese.org)

OLV Prayer Network

[prayer@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:prayer@ourladyofvictory.com)

**Mass Broadcast** - The Sunday 9:30am Mass is broadcast on  
ESPN Radio, 1450 AM and 103.7 FM. Courtesy of the Knights  
of Columbus Father O'Hanlon Council 4678.

### **Parish Staff - 237-7832**

Pastor, Fr. Neil Dadey  
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Jonathan Dickson  
Deacon David Lapinski  
Secretary, Betty Gummo  
Secretary, Diane Lapinski  
Director of Religious Ed (Gr. K-8), Jim Hoy  
Director of Rel. Ed (Gr. 9-11), Rose Ousey  
Director of Youth Ministry, Rose Ousey  
Director of Development, Chris Kirkpatrick  
Directors of RCIA, M. A. Spychalski & Bill Hanelly  
Director of Music, Joe Malafarina  
Principal, Chad Packer - 238-1592  
Director of Preschool, Dawn Lorenz - 238-6616

**Secretaries' Office Hours:** Mon. - Fri., 8:30-Noon, 1-4pm  
(Please try to correspond by phone, email or regular mail)

#### **Bulletin Notice**

Material to be published in the following week's bulletin should be on Diane's desk no later than Tuesday at noon.

#### **Baptism**

Sundays, by appointment during COVID by contacting Diane.

#### **Marriage**

Diocesan Regulations require nine months prior notice. Contact Betty, the Secretary.

**Sacrament of Penance:** Saturdays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 6:00pm.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Following 7:00am Mass with Benediction at 6:45pm.

### **Are You or Someone You Know Interested in Becoming a Catholic?**

#### **Are You an Adult Catholic Seeking Confirmation?**

If you are interested, please email [becomingcatholic@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:becomingcatholic@ourladyofvictory.com).

Because we are not regularly in the RCIA Office during the pandemic, email is the best way to contact us.

We will reply with information about the process and answer any questions you may have.

**A Reminder:** If you do not feel safe attending Mass, please check out our YouTube Channel and Facebook page: OLV State College, to view OLV's Mass. The 4:00PM Mass on Saturday is also live streamed on OLV State College Facebook page. Communion will be distributed on Sunday at 10:30am after you have viewed Mass. Also please check out our website [www.ourladyofvictory.com](http://www.ourladyofvictory.com).

**The Rosary** is prayed at 8:25am, Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., before the 9:00am Mass. On Wednesday, it is prayed at 8:15am.

### **MASS MEMORIALS**

**Mon., Mar. 8 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Lk 4:24-30**

7:00am - NO MASS

9:00am - Intentions of Fr. Neil Dadey

**Tues., Mar. 9 Dn 3:25,34-43/Mt 18:21-35**

7:00am - † Loretta Langton by K of C #4678

9:00am - † Jessica Muha by Ann & John Rigo

**Wed., Mar. 10 Dt 4-1,5-9/Mt 5:17-19**

7:00am - † Robert Ricketts by The Family

9:00am - † Theresa Pagano by Marie Bonner

**Thurs., Mar. 11 Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23**

7:00am - Ints. Cathy & Mark Savareno by Steve & Roberta Milillo

9:00am - † Josephine Tumino by Carmela DeNicola & Family

**Fri., Mar. 12 Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34**

7:00am - Ints. Mary T. Reisteter by Mary & Eric

9:00am - † Carmela Raggi by Ann R. Gipson

**Sat., Mar. 13 Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14**

9:00am - † Lina Gianfelice by The Family

4:00pm - † Bella Gummo by Phyllis Austin

**Sun., Mar. 14 Chr 36:14-16,19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn3:14-21**

7:30am - Ints. Jeff Murphy & Sons by The Kenney Family

9:30am - For All the People of the Parish

Noon - † Carole Redmond by Meg Pruss

**February 28 Collection:** Envelopes \$18,429.00; Loose \$376.00; Online \$3,610.00; School \$62.00; Maintenance \$22.00; Twin Parish Mission \$30.00; Heat & Utilities \$65.00; Debt Reduction \$383.00; SVdP \$646.00; US Missions \$4.00; Catholic Publications \$66.00; Candles \$39.00; Ash Wednesday (Mandeville, Jamaica) \$240.00; Holy Name of Mary \$6,530.00. Total: \$30,502.00.

**Baptism** - It is with great joy we welcome Myla Terese Freeman, daughter of Matt & Meredith, to the OLV Parish Family.

**Please Remember In Your Prayers** Thomas John Mills and Henry D. Sahakian, who died recently.

**Marian Gift Shop** - The Gift Shop is open on Sundays from 10:00am to noon. Due to COVID 19 regulations, one person or two related people will be allowed to shop in the store at one time. To schedule an appointment for another time, please call Lesa at 237-7832 and leave a mes-



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament -**  
**Each hour you spend with Jesus will**  
**deepen His Divine Peace in your heart.**

"The most powerful thing we can do on this earth with our time is to spend it in Eucharistic Adoration. Nothing can do more to change the world, to bring His divine image." - Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration. Please consider spending time with him between 7:30am and 6:45pm on Wednesdays. We now need adorers for the 2-3pm hour.

If you cannot commit to every week at a specified time, please consider volunteering to be a substitute for Adorers who cannot attend during their scheduled time. Please email Janine at [Janine.surovec@gmail.com](mailto:Janine.surovec@gmail.com) to be added to our adoration schedule as a committed or substitute adorer.

**Stations of the Cross** are held on Fridays at 1:45pm when school is in session (note new time) and 7:00pm in the Church. A pdf version of Everyone's Way of the Cross can be found on our website.

**Catholic Charities** has closed its State College office and re-established its Emergency Financial Assistance program exclusively on a virtual basis. Cathy Ballat, the Case Manager, will take phone calls remotely. Her email is [cballat@dioceseaj.org](mailto:cballat@dioceseaj.org). The phone number for all Clinton and Centre County agencies and clients to use immediately: (814) 232-5731. All mailed correspondence should be sent to the Altoona Office at P.O. Box 1349, Altoona, PA 16603-1349.

**Queen of Peace Rosary Makers** made 3,270 rosaries for India, Jamaica, Central America, Ghana (Fr. Ralph), Blue Army and Saint Paul Street Evangelization. 220 rosaries were donated to OLV. We request old and new rosaries to be mailed to foreign countries. We will repair rosaries for a small donation. Donations to cover shipping rosaries and religious articles are greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Jackie Fritton (237-5595) or Laura Schneider (238-8782). New members are most welcome.

**Sponsor of the Week:** Without advertisements in our bulletins from sponsors like **Brummert Family Chiropractic** this bulletin could not be possible. Be sure to remember them when you need their services.

**Advertising** - Are you interested in advertising in the OLV Bulletin? Check out the local businesses that advertise in our bulletin. If you wish to advertise your business, contact Cindy Schaefer at J.S. Paluch at 1-800-945-6629 or [schaeferc@jspaluch.com](mailto:schaeferc@jspaluch.com). You can also go to <https://www.jspadbuilder.com> and design your own ad. For every annual ad you purchase, OLV will receive \$50 from JS Paluch. It is a win for everyone!

**The Gabriel Project** is a Pro-Life Movement offering parish-based pastoral care to women in a crisis pregnancy. It's goal is to help pregnant women with all their practical needs, as well as offering them unconditional love in an apostolate of friendship throughout their pregnancy.

The Gabriel Project is working with 11 mothers who had their babies in January and due in February. During this pandemic, many are in dire need. If you would like to donate to the Gabriel Project, please make a check payable to Our Lady of Victory. They can be mailed to OLV, 820 Westerly Parkway, State College, PA 16801, or placed in the collection baskets. Donations of newborn sizes, such as diapers, onesies, etc., are especially needed and can be placed in the wooden bin in the back of the church, marked The Gabriel Project. Due to liability, we cannot accept used toys, strollers, cribs or car seats. Thank you very much for your support for these families, especially with prayer. Also, please continue to pray for these mothers and their unborn babies.

**Catholic CDs** have been restocked and are available at the display in the Gathering Space.

**Face Mask Display** - Face Masks, made by Catholic Daughters, are on sale in the Gathering Space.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP:** In the aftermath of COVID 19, **many families and their children need tuition assistance** to attend Our Lady of Victory Catholic Preschool thru Middle School.

All individuals/households with an annual income of \$115,000 or PA personal income tax liability of \$3,500+ annually qualify to participate in the EITC Tax Credit Program.

If you are in the position to help by directing your Pa Income tax through the **Educational Improvement Tax Credit EITC program** to OLV through the Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund, please contact Chris Kirkpatrick at [chrisk@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:chrisk@ourladyofvictory.com) or 814-237-7832 ext. 404. The Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund has over one million dollars to disburse for next year. Tax credits are available on a first-come, first served basis.

Businesses that qualify to get their taxes back are C-Corporations and owners of Subchapter S-Corporations, LLCs, LPs, LLPs and Partnerships. Please contact Chris today.



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**OLV Catholic School**

**(Pre-K through Middle School) offers:**

- Academic Excellence • Self-Discipline • Passion for Charity
- Catholic Values • Leadership

**New Student Enrollment is Now Open. Call 814-238-1592 to schedule a tour.**

**Apply online at [www.olv Catholicschool.org](http://www.olv Catholicschool.org).**



A Special Thanks to  
Joe and Sue Rogacs

### **OLVCS News:**

**Enroll Now for Fall 2021:** OLVCS is a Middle States accredited school, providing quality education for children in Kindergarten through 8th grade. We provide opportunities for students to excel in academic work, athletics, fine arts, and other extracurricular activities. The environment and teachers at OLVCS enable students to reach their potential and learn the skills they need to succeed at OLVCS and beyond. Our certified teachers are continually improving their skills through in-service and post-certification opportunities. We are proud and blessed that we can continue to provide in person learning this school year. To learn more and to enroll your child, go to [olv Catholicschool.org](http://olv Catholicschool.org). Contact Cindy Kolarik at [kolarikc@olvcs.org](mailto:kolarikc@olvcs.org) for a tour.

**OLVCS Middle School Shadow Day, March 18** - OLVCS is hosting a Middle School Shadow Day on Thursday, March 18. This event is open to the public. Any student enrolled in 5th grade may attend. Shadow Days are one of the best ways for your child to get a glimpse of what life is like at OLVCS. Your child will get a peek at our Middle School by shadowing a current student. Students will experience what a true day at OLVCS is like and will experience the community and spirit of our school. Your child will tour the school, meet our caring teachers, and will eat lunch with new friends. Your child will hear about our great athletics, fine arts (including band/strings, forensics, and theatre!), and STEM opportunities. Space is limited. To allow for social distancing, advanced registration is required. To register or to learn more, [email kolarikc@olvcs.org](mailto:kolarikc@olvcs.org) or call 814-883-8615. Once you register, we will contact you with additional detailed information about the day. In addition, contact us if you would like to arrange a personal tour. We are now accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year. Our enrollment process is straightforward and can be completed online at [www.olv Catholicschool.org](http://www.olv Catholicschool.org). Our Lady of Victory Catholic School provides the ideal environment for your child's academic success, growth in faith, and development of lasting friendships. We are excited to meet your family and 'show off' our school!

**OLV Preschool Open Enrollment:** This is a great time to think about the gift of Catholic Education for your child. Open registration for OLV Preschool for the 2021/2022 school year is occurring now. We are excited to continue to offer the following programs, as well as afternoon enrichment programming, for next year!

2 1/2 Year Monkeys (2 Years, 7 Months by 8/31/21): T/Th or MWF

3 Year Polar Bears: T/Th or MWF

3 Year Penguins: M-F

4 Year Koalas: M-F

4 Year Kangaroos: MT/ThF

PreK (5 Years before 12/31/21): M-F

Please, reach out to Ms. Gigi at [petersp@olvcs.org](mailto:petersp@olvcs.org) or Director, Dr. Dawn Lorenz at [lorenzdz@olvcs.org](mailto:lorenzdz@olvcs.org) if you have questions regarding registration. Watch our Facebook Page for virtual tours of our preschool and more information!



### **Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy Board of Trustees!**

As we celebrate our 10th year, Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy seeks dedicated women and men to answer the call and serve our students and faith community on the Board of Trustees. If you have a passion for Catholic education, please submit questions, nominations, or a letter of interest and résumé for consideration by **March 15** to Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy Board of Trustees, 901 Boalsburg Pike, Boalsburg, PA 16827 or email [SJCABOT@stjoacad.org](mailto:SJCABOT@stjoacad.org)



**Daylight Savings Time** begins Sunday, March 14. Remember to move your clocks forward one hour before you turn in Saturday night.

## Religious Education News (CCD)

**High School Religious Education UPDATE:** Classes will now directly report to their class locations instead of meeting together in the school gym to start. *9th grade* will go straight to the Activities Center. *10th grade* will still report to the OLV School Gym. *11th grade* will meet in the church. This is to aid in better social distancing procedures. **Sessions will now be from 1:15-2:30 PM (ending earlier).**

### **Sunday, March 14**

Grade 9- Regular Class

Grade 10- **Mandatory Class**

Grade 11- Regular Class

### **Sunday, March 21**

Grades 9, 10 & 11 - Regular Class

We will be continuing to monitor the SCASD decisions for remote learning as well as diocesan guidelines regarding in-person classes. Updates will be provided through email and the bulletin.

**First Communion Photographer:** We are currently looking for a professional event photographer to photograph our First Holy Communion on April 10, 2021. Please contact Jim Hoy at the parish office or via email at [jhoy@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:jhoy@ourladyofvictory.com).

**Grades K, 1 and 3 through 8 Religious Education** is being conducted through remote learning for the 2020-2021 school year. Sacramental Preparation for 2nd grade meets from 10:45-11:45am on Sundays. Please contact Jim Hoy at [jhoy@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:jhoy@ourladyofvictory.com) if you have questions about this change. More information will be provided soon to those who have registered.

**Recent First Communion Recipients:** If you would like to pick up your child's certificate, pin, and/or blessing cup, please contact Jim Hoy to arrange a day to stop by the parish office.

## Youth Ministry

We are continuing to meet inside the Activities Center Social Hall to allow for proper social distancing. Please wear a mask to all events. Keep an eye on your emails to stay up-to-date.

- High school youth group (gr. 9-12) will be meet this **Tuesday** (March 9) from **8:00-9:15 PM**.
- Middle school youth group (gr. 6-8) will meet **on Zoom Thursday, March 11** from **7:00 - 8:00PM** (**note: new day & time**).



### **Rosie's Pierogies Are Back for Lent!** -

On sale Fridays of Lent, (March 12, 19 & 26), except Good Friday

Cost is \$10.00 a dozen.

Options available:

Freshly made with butter and onions

Frozen Plain

Frozen Jalapeno

Frozen Bacon

They will be sold from the front of the OLV Activities Center in a drive thru manner, from 3:00 to 5:30pm, or until we run out. For more information, contact Deacon Dave at [dcfl@ourladyofvictory.com](mailto:dcfl@ourladyofvictory.com).

**The Food Bank** NO LONGER picks up food at OLV. If you have a donation, you are asked to **drop it off** at the **FOOD BANK** at 1321 South Atherton St., State College. The donation drop off hours are Monday, 9:00am to 4:30pm. Wednesday, 9:00am to 3:30pm and Friday, 9:00am to 3:30pm. Please do not leave donations outside when the food bank is closed.

**FROM THE PASTOR.....MY DEAR PARISH FAMILY**, as we continue our remembrance of ST. JOSEPH through this year, our diocesan church offers us during the month of March reflections on St. Joseph and various traditions associated with the foster father of Jesus. The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is always on March 19th, in the middle of Lent, and is specially commemorated and celebrated in Italy, particularly in Sicily. St. Joseph has been long-regarded as the island's patron saint. It is there that the tradition of the "Tavola di San Giuseppe" or "St. Joseph's Table" has its origins. The celebration is a symbolic "thank you" and a renewal of the Sicilian people's devotion to Saint Joseph. It is a shared celebration with the entire community where the riches of food are given as alms to the poor: traditional etiquette is that no one can be turned away from this table. The origin of the celebration comes from the Middle Ages and is attributed to the end of a devastating drought and famine through a prayer-devotion that the Sicilian people made to St. Joseph. Food crops for both people and livestock withered and died. The people prayed to St. Joseph for help. Desperately-needed rain poured down. After the harvest, to show their gratitude, they prepared a table with special foods to honor St. Joseph. After thanking and honoring the saint, they distributed the food to the poor and less fortunate. It became an annual tradition and eventually spread throughout the world. The feast itself is celebrated after Mass. As there is no meat on the Saint Joseph Table, a dispensation is unnecessary if March 19 falls on a Friday. (Learn more at <https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/st-joseph-table>). There are parishes in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown that have assumed this tradition but are unable to do so this year. Please go to [www.dioceseaj.org](http://www.dioceseaj.org) for a taped presentation on the Saint Joseph Table with Fr. Brian Saylor, Pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Altoona.

And since March 19th is the **SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH**, we will have a special Mass at 7:00 PM to honor him. **This will take the place of Stations of the Cross on the 19th.**

**DUE TO SCHEDULE CONFLICTS, THERE WILL BE NO 7:00 am Mass on Monday, March 8.**

As you know from past years, around this time the Diocese begins its **CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE**. Our Catholic Ministries Drive – **BE A DISCIPLE OF HOPE** – launches this weekend throughout the Diocese. The annual Catholic Ministries Drive supports 14 ministries through which people are accompanied in their journey. There are so many gifted and generous laypersons in our diocese who share their time and talent to support our Catholic ministries. Without their help and your help, we could not fulfill our mission. This year, more so than others, our world, our nation, our communities, our parishes, and our families need tangible expressions of hope. Please reflect on Bishop Mark's invitation when it arrives this week and return your pledge card in next weekend's offertory. The year 2021 is a time for everyone to **BE A DISCIPLE OF HOPE!** All contributions received beyond our parish target of \$148,316.00 will be used to maintain our parish's budget, especially during this time of Covid. Thank you for supporting these vital ministries with sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure. 100% of your gift goes directly to these ministries.

**HUMOR FOR THE WEEK** – Bulletin – Bloopers:

- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7:00 p.m. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use a large double door at the side entrance.
- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- The Rev. Meriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be the soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."



### **"Knights Notes" :**

Please check [www.kc4678.com](http://www.kc4678.com) for Calendar of Events.

**Council Meetings - Please wear a mask until further notice.** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays -

7:30pm - 850 Stratford Dr.

K of C Bingo- Suspended.

**Knights Outreach - Homebound/Elderly**

Assistance for grocery shopping and errands, please email [info@kc4568.com](mailto:info@kc4568.com).

**Blood Donations:** Check the Red Cross site for local opportunities: [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=16801](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=16801)

**Knights Facts:** The Knights primary responsibility is to serve the Parish and its families. That might help you decide to become one. **We simply want Catholic Men who want to be a part of brotherhood.**

**On the Web:**

K of C webpage: [www.kc4678.com](http://www.kc4678.com)

K of C Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/KCCouncil4678](https://www.facebook.com/KCCouncil4678)

KC Club Facebook: KC Club - State College

### **Tune into WJVM 90.3 FM & WEJO 104.7 FM for "bonus" homilies throughout Lent.**

The Sunday homilies of Bishop Robert Barron and many of his fellow bishops are featured on the "Heralds of Faith" program that airs weekdays at 9:00am & noon.

Wherever you find yourself this Lent, WAOB's programming and prayers will accompany you. Tune into either of our two local stations, or visit the newly updated [www.waob.org](http://www.waob.org) to stream the radio content as well as daily meditations, Mass readings, and Liturgy of the Hours.

Continue to direct questions and comments to Sheryl Balkey at (814)238-6288 or [voiceofdivinemercy@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofdivinemercy@gmail.com). Our 501(c)3 organization is volunteer-run and your tax-deductible donation may be mailed to: Voice of Divine Mercy, PO Box 862, State College, PA 16804-0862. Lastly, please add the members of our local RCIA programs to your prayers this Lenten season, including those in our parishes, prisons, and universities.

**The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store** now has winter coats for 75% off - many very nice styles. We are also pleased to announce that starting this week, we will have a **Silent Auction for a First Edition copy of *Moon Shot: The Inside Story of America's Race to the Moon* by Alan Shepard and Deke Slayton SIGNED BY ALAN SHEPARD.** The Thrift Store is currently open Monday-Friday 10 AM-1 PM and Saturday 10 AM-4 PM. Please consider volunteering with us - we always need more helpers. As always, all proceeds from the Thrift Store go to help those in need in our community.

### **3rd Sunday of Lent (March 7)**

In the cleansing of the temple Jesus initiated something new. No longer was worship a matter of offering sacrifice in the temple, nor was fidelity a matter of following the law. In the Gospel of John we read that Jesus, "was well aware of what was in man's heart."

Sin causes people to turn in on themselves; to grow accustomed to conducting relationships not by the standards of generous stewardship, but by the calculus of self-interest: "What's in it for me?" (Stewardship: A Disciple's Response; USCCB, 1992)

Do you rely on God's signs and wisdom or those of the world? Be a sign of Christ's presence in the world today by offering your presence to someone in need. Pray that you may become a better steward of God's wisdom and not your own. Begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **3rd Sunday of Lent (March 7) Pope Francis Prayer and Novena Prayer**

Pope Francis' deep devotion to Saint Joseph was highlighted when he chose his inaugural day to be on a March 19, the Solemnity (Feast) of Saint Joseph. Writing *Patris Corde* during the Covid-19 Pandemic, he was inspired that Saint Joseph, "has helped us see more clearly the importance of 'ordinary' people who though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." (<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12>)

In the closing of *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis shared the prayer of trust he has prayed for over 40 years at the conclusion of Morning Prayer: "Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us on the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen."

Faithful believers pray the ancient Nine Day Novena Prayer to Saint Joseph during the Church Year all throughout the world. It is extremely powerful to begin the Nine Days leading up to March 19, the Feast of Saint Joseph. This year the 9 days would begin on Wednesday, March 10 and conclude on the Eve of the Feast Day. For the full Novena see: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com>. 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.

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