

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

Saint Joseph Church

79 Case Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146
Phone 724-981-3232 / Fax 724-981-4174

Rev. Thomas J. Whitman, Pastor

Director of Religious Ed:
Sr. Sandy Pedone, H.M.
Parish Secretary: Lori Vasconi
Financial Secretary: Carol Koch
Maintenance: Brad Goodall
Music Director: Mary Messina

Office Hours

Monday - Friday,
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
(closed 12:30-1:30 PM)

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil - 5:15 PM
Sunday - 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Weekday: M, T, Th, Fri - 8:00 AM
Wed. - 12:10 PM
(Check weekly bulletin for changes.)

Confessions

Saturday: 4:00 - 4:30 PM or by request.

Religious Education Program

Sundays, 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM
CCD Grades K-10 at Case Avenue Elem.
School, Grade II in the church annex.

Parish Council Meetings

Council typically meets on the third
Monday of each month.

Shenango Valley

Catholic School System

Catholic Middle and High Schools:
724-346-5531
St. John Paul II:
724-342-2205

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StJosephSharon


www.Stjosephs-Sharon.org


HEARING
ENHANCEMENTS
AVAILABLE

St. Joseph
Sunday Mass
Available Online

Sunday Mass Links available on
our website
 www.StJosephs-Sharon.org

our Facebook page
 [Facebook.com/StJosephSharon](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephSharon)

our free parish app
 **Download: text APP to 88202**



PASTOR'S COLUMN

MEMORIAL DAY MASS CANCELLED: Our traditional Memorial Day Mass at St. Rose Cemetery is cancelled for this year due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

SPECIAL COLLECTION CHANGES: We would like to inform you that, due to the pandemic, the International Needs Collection, which was scheduled to be taken up on May 24 will not be taken up in the Diocese of Erie this year.

In addition, please inform your parishioners that, likewise due to the pandemic, Pope Francis has moved the Peter's Pence Collection, for this year, from June 27-28 to the October 3-4.

LATEST INFORMATION: Things change from day to day as we look at the possibility of opening up churches gradually. The best place to find the latest information is our parish APP or the parish website.

PARISH APP AND WEBSITE: We find ourselves in uncharted waters with the Coronavirus pandemic. One of the ways to stay connected to what is happening here at Church is with our parish App. You can connect this App to your phone by texting APP to 88202. This App is FREE. This was something the diocese paid to let all parishes and parishioners stay connected about two years ago.

Our parish website will also be a place for the parish bulletin and other information <http://www.stjosephs-sharon.org/>

ST. JOSEPH PARISH MASS ONLINE: Check our parish website, Facebook page, or the parish app for the link to Mass with Fr. Tom for each Sunday. This weekend's Mass can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/8qPxOVZgA-M>

STATIONS OF THE PANDEMIC: A parishioner came across an interesting version of the stations of the cross that have been adapted to the pandemic. It might be a good prayer for individuals and even families. It can be found on our parish website or at the original site <https://aleteia.org/2020/03/23/a-way-of-the-cross-for-a-time-of-pandemic/>

THANK YOU: Thanks to all those who have been mailing in or dropping of your offertory envelopes in the mailbox each week. It has helped us to continue providing services that are needed.

Thanks to all those who have been supporting our Parish Food Pantry and those volunteers who have continued to work at the Pantry each week. We have streamlined things a little to practice safe distancing and still provide assistance to those in need.

MASKS, MASKS, MASKS: Anyone entering the Church, or the office needs to be wearing a mask. This is for the protection of the those visiting and those who are working here. This will most likely be the case for any functions that happen in the future as we prepare to open things slowly. Everyone needs to follow this rule when entering the Church or the Parish Office.

LIVING FAITH BOOKLETS: These quarterly little prayer booklets are available in the Church. The Church is open between 7am and Noon each day. Please use the Case Avenue Entrance. We are grateful to a parishioner who continues to provide these for the parish each quarter. I know many people use these daily for their prayer.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: The diocese is offering some emergency assistance to individuals or families in need. Details can be found on the diocesan website <https://www.eriercd.org/>

PARISH OFFICE: The parish office is closed to visitors and our staff are working from home and coming into the office when necessary to keep things flowing smoothly.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS: One of the daily reflections I read has been concentrating on the person of Julian of Norwich. She lived in the time of the Black Death in Europe and yet she focused her writing on her relationship with God and the oneness of God and the oneness of our relationship with God, which she termed “oneing.” In today’s Gospel Jesus prays for the unity of his disciples and the church. This unity is not simply a holding together of people in community but a unity that we have not only with one another but a unity that makes us one with God and with all humanity. I share some of the insights from those daily reflections of Fr. Richard Rohr to take us deeper into this notion of unity that Jesus prays for and the sense of “oneing” that Julian understood so deeply and wants us to know as well.

Julian’s time in history can be summed up by Mary Earle in these words, “Julian lived at a time of vast social, [religious,] and political upheaval, incessant wars, and sweeping epidemics. Norwich, with a population of around 25,000 by 1330 . . . was struck viciously by the plague known as the Black Death. At its peak in the late 1340s in England, it killed approximately three-fourths of the population of Norwich. A young girl at this time, Julian was certainly affected in untold ways by this devastation. When the plague returned, she was about nineteen.”

Julian experienced her sixteen visions, or “showings” as she called them, all on one May night in 1373 when she was very sick and near death. As a priest held a crucifix in front of her, Julian saw Jesus suffering on the cross and heard him speaking to her for several hours. Like all mystics, she realized that what Jesus was saying about himself, he was simultaneously saying about all of reality.

Julian first wrote a short text about the showings, but then she patiently spent twenty years in contemplation and prayer, trusting God to help her discern the deeper meanings to be found in the visions. Finally, she wrote a longer text, titled Revelations of Divine Love. Julian’s interpretation of her God-experience is unlike the religious views common for most of history up to her time. It is not based in sin, shame, guilt, fear of God or hell. Instead, it is full of delight, freedom, intimacy, and cosmic hope.

The place which Jesus takes in our soul he will nevermore vacate, for in us is his home of homes, and it is the greatest delight for him to dwell there. . . . And the soul who contemplates this is made like [the one] who is contemplated. —Julian of Norwich

On that day, you will know that you are in me and I am in you. —John 14:20

“That day” promised in John’s Gospel has been a long time in coming, yet it has been the enduring message of every great religion in history. It is the Perennial Tradition. Divine and thus universal union is still the core message and promise—the whole goal and the entire point of all religion.

Lady Julian of Norwich uses the idea of “oneing” to describe divine union. In chapter 53 of Revelations of Divine Love, she writes, “This beloved soul was preciousy knitted to God in its making, by a knot so subtle and so mighty that it is oned in God. In this oneing, it is made endlessly holy. Furthermore, God wants us to know that all the souls which will be saved in heaven without end are knit in this knot, and oned in this oneing, and made holy in this holiness.” [1]

Julian observes, “If I pay special attention to myself, I am nothing at all; but in general, I am, I hope, in the unity of love . . . for it is in this oneing that the life of all people consists”. . . . [2] She reflects: “The love of God creates in us such a oneing that when it is truly seen, no person can separate themselves from another.” [3] Finally, let us hear Julian in her own Middle English words, speaking of divine and human unity: “For in the sighte of God alle man is one man, and one man is alle man.”[4]

This is not some 21st-century leap of logic. This is not pantheism or mere “New Age” optimism. This is the whole point! Radical union is the recurring experience of the saints and mystics of all religions. We do not have to discover or prove it; we only have to retrieve what has been re-discovered—and enjoyed, again and again—by those who desire and seek God and love. When you think you have “discovered” it, you will be just like Jacob “when he awoke from his sleep” and shouted, “You were here all the time, and I never knew it!” (Genesis 28:16).

As John states in his first Letter, “I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, I am writing to you here because you know it already”! (1 John 2:21). Like John, I can only convince you of spiritual things because your soul already knows what is true, and that is why I believe and trust Julian’s showings, too. For the mystics, there is only one Knower, and we just participate in that One Spirit. (Tuesday, May 12, 2020 – Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditation)

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Ford Bartle, Kim Anglin, Lydia Ghirardi, Evelyn Tew, Fr. Manning, Selena Urey, Lorraine Schuller, Joe & John Mochanski, Don & Rose Becker, Joseph Byers, Kayla Piccirilli, Jackie Hoffman, William Hruska, Linda Yuhasz, Nadine Vellented, Liam Rueberger and AJ Voisey.

If you know of someone who is ill and would like to place them on our Please Pray For list, please email Office@StJosephs-Sharon.org.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITATIONS Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the First Friday visitation will be cancelled until further notice.



Virtual altar flowers are donated in thanksgiving to God and in memory of

Bill & Frankie White

by Liz Jordan

Offertory Help During COVID-19 Crisis

The Diocese of Erie is offering parishes help during this COVID-19 crisis. We have been asking parishioners to mail their contributions to the parish, which has been working well and increasing day by day. But the diocese is offering an online giving instrument through the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Erie. This may be helpful to some of you during this time. Thank You for your continued support of St. Joseph Parish.

To encourage your parishioners to make their offertory through this online page visit: www.cfnwpa.org and click on the COVID-19 tab.

Mass Intentions

+Indicates Private Mass

Monday, May 25—Acts 19: 1-8 / Jn 16:29-33

Memorial Day

+ Andrew Tobias (Judith Tobias Delaney)

Tuesday, May 26—Acts 20: 17-20 / Jn 17: 1-11a

+ Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hayden (Hayden Family)

Wednesday, May 27—Acts 20: 28-38 / Jn 17: 11b-19

+ Marie Napolitan (Frances Foust)

Thursday, May 28—Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11 / Jn 17: 20-26

+ Charles Sanata (Family)

Friday, May 29—Acts 25: 13b -321 / Jn 21:15-19

+ Bill Lasche (Dr. and Mrs. Robert Weiner)

Saturday, May 30—Acts 2: 1-11 / 1 Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13 / Jn 20: 19-23

Pentecost Sunday

+ Louise Aquino (Rob Kroko)

Sunday, May 31—Acts 2: 1-11 / 1 Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13 / Jn 20: 19-23

Pentecost Sunday

+ Mr. and Mrs. Paul Adderty (Family)

+ Deceased Members of the Parish



CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

Dear God, I pray for healing to all affected by this deadly virus. Only You can move in a mighty way to bring peace and healing to all. We pray for all negative outcomes to be resolved by your healing hands. Bless and cover each and every single person with your compassionate care and bring healing to their bodies and spirits. Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.