

Catholic Parishes of St. Luke and St. Joseph  
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www.stsjlj.com

Diocese of Peoria  
Bishop Louis Tylka

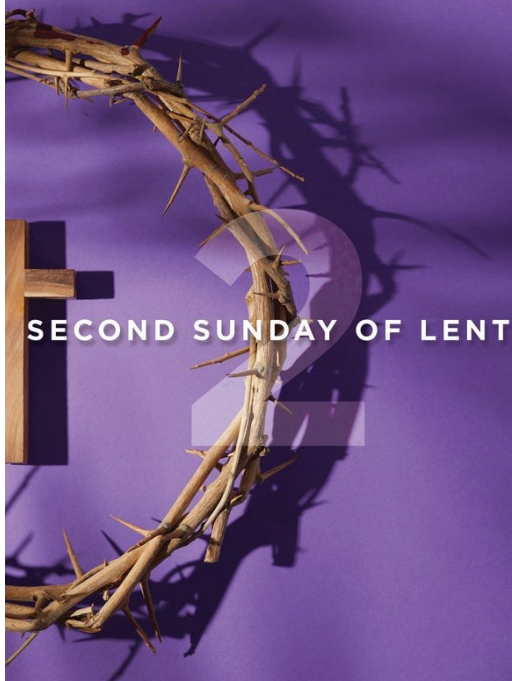
Pastor  
Father Ryan Mattingly

Confessions

St. Luke  
Saturday before Mass 3:00 - 3:45 pm

St. Joseph  
Sunday before Mass 9:30 - 9:45 am

Bulletin announcements and calendar changes should be typed and submitted by Tuesday to the parish office or emailed to [saintluke.eureka@gmail.com](mailto:saintluke.eureka@gmail.com)



*"This is my beloved son,  
listen to him."*

Mk 9:7

## *The Second Sunday of Lent* *February 25, 2024*

Dear Parishioners,

The binding of Isaac, called the Akedah (Hebrew for binding), is one of the richest and most difficult passages of the Old Testament. One of the distinguishing characteristics of God is He abhors child sacrifice, a common practice at the time. Yet, here He demands Abraham kill His only son. Besides the natural recoil of such an act, it also raises the issue of how God will keep His promises to make a mighty nation out of Abraham's descendants.

In short, this is the last thing Abraham would have been expecting. Nonetheless, when commanded, he obeys. We do not know how old Isaac is, but he is at least old enough to carry the wood for the sacrifice up the mountain and realize something is amiss, asking where the lamb for the sacrifice is. At the very least, Isaac is no child. He knows what is happening and obeys as well.

Three themes woven throughout the event and interplay with each other. First, the Akedah is a clear statement of God's sovereignty. As the Lord and Creator of all, He has the right to demand anything. Abraham doesn't protest, because he has no grounds to do so. Isaac is a gift belonging primarily to God. If God demands the gift back, it will be painful, but not unjust.

Having laid claim to all that we have, the second theme emerges. Despite being entitled to, God does not make full use of it. He wishes us to be docile to Him, to be willing to always say yes no matter what He asks, but He does not demand anything unless it is somehow for our good. Once the faith of Abraham and Isaac is revealed by their obedience, God forbids the sacrifice. In what seems at first blush seems ghastly turns out to be a revelation of God's goodness and care for us.

Which brings us to the third theme, God's love and generosity. Asking a father to sacrifice his son, "your only one, whom you love," is more than God is willing to ask. It is not, however, more than He is willing to give. The Father will sacrifice His only beloved Son to save mankind, but there will be no last minute reprieve. Likewise, Christ will obey like Isaac, except His sacrifice will be brought to full completion.

Abraham and Isaac obeyed because they trusted God will keep His promises, even when what He asks seems to make it impossible. Christ obeys because He has the same faith, only perfected by His suffering. Yes, He will die, but He trusts His Father will make His death into true life, for such is the power of God. As we see God's goodness and the depths of His love, we can be certain St. Paul's words are true: "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?"

In Christ,  
Fr. Mattingly

## Mass Schedule & Intentions

<b>Sat, Feb. 24</b>	<b>Vigil for Sunday</b>
4:00 pm at St. Luke	Pro Populo
5:30 pm at St. Joseph	George Girardi Family by Jean Girardi
<b>Sunday, Feb. 25</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
8:00 am at St. Luke	Donna Purfield by Ed Hoekstra
10:00am at St. Joseph	In reparation for the sins of the Church
<b>Monday, Feb. 26</b>	
8:00 am at St. Luke	No Mass
<b>Tue, Feb. 27</b>	<b>St. Gregory of Narek</b>
8:00 am at St. Luke	Donna Coffey by Stephen Coffey
<b>Wed, Feb. 28</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
9:00 am at St. Luke	Sharon Gries by Steve & April Wagner
<b>Thur, Feb. 29</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
8:00 am at St. Joseph	John Deffenbaugh by Dean & Jennifer Peterson
<b>Fri, March 1</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
8:00 am at St. Joseph	Donna Coffey by Stephen Coffey
<b>Sat, March 2</b>	<b>Vigil for Sunday</b>
4:00 pm at St. Luke	Bert & Rita Rhoman by Marion Tompkins
5:30 pm at St. Joseph	Pro Populo
<b>Sunday, March 3</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>
8:00 am at St. Luke	In reparation for the sins of the Church
10:00am at St. Joseph	JoAnn Beer by Mark & Ruth Ann Martino

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sunday, February 25

- 9:00 am Faith Formation (St. Joseph & St. Luke)
- 9:00 am Adult Education (St. Luke)
- 9:30 am Rosary (St. Joseph)
- 11:00 am Choir Practice (St. Joseph)

### Monday, February 26

- No 8:00 am Mass
- 8:30 am Rosary (St. Luke)

### Wednesday, February 28

- 8:00 am Adoration (St. Luke)
- 6:30 pm Lenten Study (St. Luke)

### Friday, March 1

- 5:30 pm Stations of the Cross ( St. Joseph)

### Sunday, March 3

- 9:00 am Faith Formation (St. Joseph & St. Luke)
- 9:00 am Adult Education (St. Luke)
- 9:00 am Coffee & Donuts (St. Luke)
- 9:30 am Rosary (St. Joseph)
- 11:00 am Faith, Food & Friends Potluck (St. Joseph)
- 11:00 am Choir Practice (St. Joseph)

### Monday, March 4

- 8:30 am Rosary (St. Luke)

### Wednesday, March 5

- 8:00 am Adoration (St. Luke)
- 6:30 pm Lenten Study (St. Luke)

## STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of February 18

Week: 33

	St. Luke	St. Joseph
Weekly Offerings	\$ 2,705.82	\$ 836.14
Building Fund Offerings	<i>see Roof Fund</i>	\$ 25.00
Votive Candles Offerings		\$ 24.00
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 2,705.82	\$ 885.14
Budgeted Weekly Collection	\$ 2,314.63	\$ 1,425.00
CDOP Collection - Aid to Eastern Europe Church	\$ 105.00	
Year to Date Total	\$ 87,561.43	\$ 47,410.11
Budgeted INCOME YTD	\$ 76,382.63	\$ 47,025.00
Surplus or Deficit YTD	\$ 11,178.81	\$ 385.11

**Thank YOU for your Generosity!**

### ST. LUKE'S ROOF FUND

(\$45,000 GOAL)

DONATIONS this week \$ 150.00

TOTAL -To-Date \$ 36,086.11

Percentage 80.2%



**Ad What-em?:  
Common questions about celebrating  
Mass ad orientem**

Should I feel excluded because the priest's back is towards me?

Hopefully, no. The people in the pews in front of you have their backs towards you. They are so oriented not to exclude you from worship. Your own back is towards the people seated in the pews behind you. You are so oriented not to exclude them from worship. Among the people in the pews, there is already an unspoken understanding about sitting, standing, and kneeling in the same direction – we face God in prayer together.

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the priest, by virtue of his ordination, stands and offers the prayer and sacrifice in persona Christi capitis (in the person of Christ the head), and through him, the people, by virtue of common baptismal priesthood, offer their prayer and sacrifice, (as members of the body of Christ) into the one sacrifice of Christ. Notice the beautiful Trinitarian dimension of worship: in the Spirit (who guides the Church), through the Son (who offers the one sacrifice), to the Father (who receives the only acceptable sacrifice). In the act of worship, the priest and the people are not closed in to themselves; the Church in true worship cannot but be open to God.

When we, as citizens, turn to the flag during the singing of the national anthem or the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, our posture fosters a sense of unity and community, not of exclusion.

Please be careful with the use of terms like “the priest facing the people” and “the priest's back to the people” because these terms might give the impression that worship is just about the priest and the people, more than about God.

<https://www.stpatricksvictor.org/wp-content/uploads/FAQ-Ad-orientem.pdf>

**The Eucharist: The Answer to our Prayer**

God knows our needs and desires better than we do and has provided for all of them in the revelation of His Son and the work of His Church. Join us for three classes as we explore the Our Father as the perfect prayer expressing all our needs, the Eucharist as the answer to our prayer, and Confession as a key part of our response to Christ's gift of Himself.

The parish Lenten study will begin on Wednesday, February 21 at 6:30 at St. Luke's.



**LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE**

The Lenten Penance Service will be held on March 13 at 6:30 at St. Luke's. There will be visiting priests to hear confession after a brief service.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



The Knights of Columbus will hold a meeting on February 26. There will be a meal served at 6:00 pm. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Beginning Friday, February 16 we will pray the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 5:30. Communion will be offered following the Stations. Please join us as we contemplate the Passion of Christ through this spiritual pilgrimage.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
Fridays at 5:30 pm**

March 1 - St. Joseph

March 8 - St. Luke

March 15 - St. Joseph

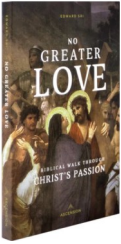
March 22 - St. Luke (\*6:30 pm)



You are invited to join the St. Joseph's Choir. The choir will sing at Sunday Mass and special holidays.

Practice will be at the piano after the Sunday 10:00 am Mass.

## ADULT EDUCATION



St Luke Adult Education will start Sunday February 18 with a Lenten study called *No Greater Love* by Edward Sri. We meet after Mass in the cry room area, To obtain study materials go to Ascension Press. All are welcome!

## Lenten Reflection

Monday March 11- Lenten Reflection at St Luke's. Ladies of St Luke and St. Joseph and guests-come listen to Sister Diane give a talk 10 am till noon followed by a light lunch. Sign up sheets will be at both churches. Cost of \$10 will be collected day of event.

## COFFEE AND DONUTS

Coffee and donuts will be served Sunday, March 3 at St. Luke's after the 8:00 am mass. All are invited to attend.



Catholic Women's League

Special Event - Guest Speaker - Sr. Subha Clare Ramesh "From Corporate Executive to Heading Avenue Franciscan Sister"

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Time: 1 - 3 pm

Place: St. Philomena Parish Center

1000 W Albany

Peoria, IL 61604

(Park on the North Side of Parish Center as School is in Session)

Bring a friend and enjoy social time and light refreshments



## FAITH, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Food, Faith and Fellowship potluck will be on March 3 after the 10 am Mass at St. Joseph's. The main dish will be sloppy Joe's. Lynn and Julie Harper are hosting. Bring a dish to share or simply come to enjoy great food and fellowship!



## The Daily Decalogue of Pope John XXIII

Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.

Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.

Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

Only for today, I will devote ten minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for twelve hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.