



St. Joseph Neier
Father Tom Wissler, Pastor

March 28 & 29, 2020

Saturday: 5:00pm

Office: 636.583.2806

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am

Website: stjosephneier.com

Confessions – Saturday

Email: parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

4:00pm – 4:40pm

Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337

Josh's Cell: 636.584.9898

From Fr. Tom,

Have you ever witnessed somebody being raised from the dead? I have! Well, sort of. It happened almost 35 years ago when I was still playing a lot of softball on several teams. I received a recorded message on the parish answering machine from a team mate from one of the teams informing me that another team mate of ours had been hit by a car and killed as he was trying to cross a highway in St. Louis ON FOOT of all things. I was immediately taken aback and just couldn't believe it and asking myself why he would do such a thing. Suicide came to mind, but I knew him and he appeared to be a really happy man. Keep in mind, this was well before the days of internet and the instant information possibility we have now. The funeral was held very quickly within a couple days and I remember arriving at the church just as the hearse pulled up to the curb. I quickly changed into vestments to concelebrate the mass and watched the pallbearers bring the casket into church. THEN...I caught sight of one of the pallbearers and there was my friend...ALIVE...carrying the body of his BROTHER. The last name on the answering machine was correct, but not the first. I never figured out what happened there, but I was overjoyed at seeing my friend that I thought was dead and, in my own confused world, come back to life again. I wanted to yell out, "Mike, buddy you're alive!!" I didn't, though because it was, indeed,

Please pray for those who are sick in our parish:

- Anna Marie Brueggemann
- Olivia Jasper
- Zachery Goosage
- Henry Tobben
- Christine Grus
- Bill Greife
- Brandon Huels
- Betty Bean
- Marisa Shollenberger
- Ryan Elbert
- Cynthia Faust
- Sheri Zambruski
- Jean Oldani
- Shirley Beckman
- Karen Waters
- Jacob McMullin
- Bill Feth
- Andrew Hellebusch
- Edward Henke
- Ashley Shelton
- KJ Frost
- Eugene Salvino
- Kelly Arrington
- Irene Krause
- Dorothy Eckstein

Please also pray for those Serving our Country:

- Matthew Blankenship
- Taylor Donner
- Jamie Brueggemann Murphy
- Luke Stuesse
- Michael Murphy
- Blake Van Leer
- Andy Davis
- Sam Smith

Please review the Parish Prayer lists above and call the office for any changes. Thank you!!

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Knights of Columbus in Union has decided to cancel all future fish fries due to the Corona Virus.

Thank you for your generosity!

<u>Collection for</u>	<u>3/22/2020</u>
Regular Offering Envelopes:	\$515.00
Regular Offering Loose:	\$ 0.00
Total:	\$515.00

Ways you are still able to donate while we are not able to celebrate Mass:

- Mail your envelope to: St. Joseph Church, 2401 Neier Rd, Union, MO 63084
- Drop your envelope in the cash box located in the back of church
- Set up an account for Online Giving (more details below)

“Save Time and Donate Online!”

Online Giving is now available for parishioners with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure.

With WeShare, you can set up a recurring weekly or monthly transaction using your checking, savings, or credit card account. You can decide how much to give to any collection and make changes any time, day or night. Plus, you can leave your checkbook at home on Sundays.

Please visit <https://stjosephneier.weshareonline.org/>, if you would like to enroll in Online Giving. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call the parish office at **636.583.2806**.

"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." --Luke 6:38

Fr. Tom Continued...

his brother who was deceased. As I recall it now, I was both sad and extremely happy almost simultaneously, and then I felt stupid. How could I make such a mistake? That is the closest I have ever come to experiencing someone being raised from the dead.

The readings for this Sunday are: First Reading, Ezekiel 37: 12-14. Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 130:1-8. Second Reading, Romans 8:8-11. Gospel Reading, John 11: 1-45.

Human beings are the only creatures on earth who know at a relatively young age that they are going to die someday. Can you recall the first time you went to a funeral parlor? For most people, it was probably as a child perhaps for some elderly relative who passed away. I can remember a time when the deceased were “laid out” for two consecutive nights instead of the usual one night we do now. It is very important for the living to actually see their deceased love one laying in the casket. Some parents don’t like to bring their small children to funeral parlors for fear of traumatization. But to see and realize the finality of life on earth, however young, is extremely important in understanding the concept of eternal life later on. In today’s Gospel from John, the event of raising Lazarus from the dead is told truthfully but also with an abundance of human emotion and feeling. There is obvious sadness on the part of Martha and Mary. There is also some anger directed toward Jesus for being late, and Jesus’ anger at the crowd for thinking Lazarus was dead. Then one of the most famous quotes in sacred scripture, “And Jesus wept,” appears showing the sadness of Jesus Himself! Finally we see the rest of the Jews admiring Jesus’ love for Lazarus. Do we not go through the exact same things when someone close to us dies? We are sad and maybe even angry that our loved one has died. Then we feel the concern of others when they say words of consolation to us. Our thoughts at this time turn to thoughts of God and our own mortality and what exactly eternal life means. These are all critical and necessary things to go through before we can grasp any notion of resurrection. The raising of Lazarus from the dead foretells our being raised. As our hymn says: “And I will raise you up on the last day!” After Lazarus comes out of the tomb, he was tied hands and feet. Jesus orders him to be untied and set free.

[More on the next page...](#)

Fr. Tom continued...

This not only means our resurrection in the end, but also our freedom from sin in this life. Sin binds us from being the person God wants us to be and keeps us from being totally happy now. May we all be untied from sin to live freely and happily in this life until we meet our Savior face to face!

One final question: What would be the first thing you'd do if you were Lazarus and was raised from the dead?

Universal Prayer of the Church:

1. For our Pope, Bishops, religious, and lay leaders of our church, that they fully realize the joyful message of life they proclaim. We pray to the Lord.
2. For those who have passed away, that the resurrection of the body and life everlasting be theirs, we pray to the Lord.
3. For families who have lost loved ones, that their sadness give way to the great promise of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord.
4. In our world today, let us ask God's blessing upon the efforts of physicians and caregivers in response to this corona virus, we pray to the Lord.
5. For the unemployed and working poor, that prosperity come their way with hope and blessings, we pray to the Lord.
6. For a united country and a united world, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, may we all experience the joy in realizing our own resurrection, just like Lazarus, and may our lives demonstrate that very same reality. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Neier News

☺ **Tuck Pointing Project**

We have obtained permission from Archbishop Carlson and the tuck pointing project began this week. The contractor doing the job is Western Tuck Pointing from St. Louis. They've performed many jobs for other churches in the Archdiocese.

Western has been very cooperative with us and the project should be completed in about two months! Thanks to the Parish Council and Finance Committee this year and in the past years for "getting things going." Our church will look beautiful by summertime, just in time for Homecoming!

☺ **Cleaning Project**

Josh has been using this time to disinfect just about everything in the hall and church. Many other parishes are doing the same thing with their facilities.

☺ **Live Streaming Mass on Facebook Live! – Saturdays 5pm**

From Father Tom:

I am looking forward to celebrating Mass this Saturday evening on Facebook Live! I'm a little nervous but excited. Computer and video technologies are not my strong points, but I'm glad Kelly Zagarri and Sarah Johnson have the ability to make this possible for us. Thanks to Kelly and Sarah! Since my homily is already printed in the bulletin, I will be reading it at this Mass.

Next Sunday, April 5th is Palm Sunday. Our plan is to live stream another Mass on Saturday evening at 5pm and I will bless palms at the Mass. They will be available for pick-up in the back of church or at the rectory during business hours (8am-4pm).

To be able to view Fr. Tom for 5pm Mass on Saturdays:

- Log into Facebook any time before Mass starts.
- Go to the St. Joseph's Neier Parish, Union MO page to view the live Mass each week.

**Please
refrain
from
making
comments
or sending
emoji's
during
Mass.**

**Thank
you!!**