

# Dear Padre,

*Sometimes I become pretty disgusted with my life and myself. I wonder if anyone really loves me. Is there any way I can know that God loves me?*

Every human person is made in the image of God. This means that your life is infinitely precious in God's eyes. God values and loves you beyond anything you could ever imagine.

God has also placed into our hearts a yearning for love and happiness that cannot be satisfied by anything less than God. True love will not be found in riches or well-being, in fame or power. True happiness will be found in God alone, the source of all life and all love.

In New Testament times, many people believed that wealth and success were signs of favor and love from God. If disaster struck, you would assume that God was angry with you, or that you had done something wrong. Ill-fortune was a "sign" that God's love had been withdrawn from you.

Jesus turned this sort of thinking on its head. Jesus taught that God truly loves all people, including those who are down on their luck. God's love is not based on wealth, fortune, or success. Rather, God loves you because you are God's own creation, God's child, and heir to God's own kingdom.

You might find it helpful to talk over those feelings of self-disgust with a spiritual director or a confessor. Meanwhile, take comfort in the words of Isaiah: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine (Isaiah 43:1). ●



CREATIVALIMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 6 <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> Gn 1:1-19 Mk 6:53-56	February 7 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 1:20-2:4 Mk 7:1-13	February 8 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 2:5-9, 15-17 Mk 7:14-23	February 9 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 2:18-25 Mk 7:24-30	February 10 <i>St. Scholastica, Virgin</i> Gn 3:1-8 Mk 7:31-37	February 11 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 3:9-24 Mk 8:1-10	February 12 <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Sir 15:15-20 1 Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37

### Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](http://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).

CNS PHOTO / VATICAN MEDIA



### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**God changes the world by transforming our hearts, and this he cannot do without us. The Lord wants us to open the door of our hearts in order to enter into our lives....For when God finds an open and trusting heart, he can work wonders there.**

HOMILY BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, OCTOBER 2, 2016



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 58:7-10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 / Matthew 5:13-16



## No More Than Enough

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**“Y**ou are the salt of the earth.” Prior to industrialization, salt was a highly valued commodity. In the Middle Ages, a ton of salt sold for thirty-three gold ducats. Much earlier, Roman soldiers were often paid in salt. Hence our word *salary*. “You are the light of the world.” Like salt, light also is a valuable and necessary part of life. Without light, living plants die and human beings grow depressed.

Curiously, we only become aware of salt and light when they are absent. Food tends to be less tasty and bland without salt. And without light in the room we stumble and trip. Yet too much salt ruins food, while too much light blinds us, like when we drive facing headlights at night or stare at the sun. As valuable as salt and light are, both are at their best when unnoticed.

I offer these realities as images for persons of faith. Too much of “us” in the mix and we become the center of life, our egos blinding others to the workings of God. Yet absent, a world without persons of faith grows flat for lack of values and wisdom.

Likewise, the Church. Whenever the Church draws attention to itself, whenever it is clothed with pomp and majesty, God recedes to the background. Without the Church's wisdom, however, a world hungry for meaning grows lost; charity is forgotten. We are called to be salt and light, no more than enough. ●

### Reflect

**How do I keep a balance between too much of me in the picture and too little?**

Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

MATTHEW 5:16





# St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Thomas J. Wissler, Pastor

February  
4 & 5  
2023

Weekday: 6:30am

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:00am

**Confessions – Saturday**

4:00pm – 4:40pm

Office: 636.583.2806

Website: [stjosephneier.com](http://stjosephneier.com)

Email: [parishoffice@stjosephneier.com](mailto:parishoffice@stjosephneier.com)

Father Tom's Cell: 636.744.5587

Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337



From Fr. Tom,

Just before I typed this article, I saw one of those on-line surveys, the topic being prayer. The result stated that 41% of those responding say they don't pray at all. That's a LOT of people, if it's true. Can there be a correlation between this and all these "mass shootings" that seem to occur more often than ever? Or the violent juvenile crimes that are becoming more prevalent? Or the rampant drug abuse and overdoses? Or the strange ideas some folks have about their bodies and what to do with them? Or the increase in suicides? Let's face it, when we turn away from God and try to abandon Him, things go south pretty quickly. The Sermon on the Mount from which recent Sunday Gospels are taken gives us, as one priest calls it, the recipe for staying with God and remaining in His love. These gospel readings give us direct commands on how to live life and how to treat each other. Each gospel reading builds on the one before it. I encourage all of us to take out our family bibles at home and read the entire Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's gospel. Read slowly and pray along!



Please pray for those who are sick in our parish and families:

Betty Bean  
Shirley Beckman  
Valerie Broeker  
Anna Marie Brueggemann  
Peggy Collins  
Chris Elbert  
Cynthia Faust  
Zachery Goosage  
Benny Hammer  
Andrew Hellebusch  
Marcia Herbst  
Brandon Huels  
Kevin Gibbons  
Olivia Jasper  
Rick Just

Get  
Well  
Soon

Ashley Koelling  
Marcus Lowe  
Jacob McMullin  
Eldo Meyer  
Jean Oldavi  
Alice Rolf  
Ashley Shelton  
Marcia Shollenberger  
Courtney Smith  
Special Intention 1  
Special Intention 2  
George West  
Sr. Georgiann Wildhaber, SSND  
David Young  
Sheri Zambruski



Please pray for those serving our country:

Adam Amato  
Matthew Blankenship  
Jamie Brueggemann  
Murphy  
Andy Davis  
Taylor Donner  
Emily Guenther

Caleb Logsdon  
Michael Miller  
Michael Murphy  
Reese Pellin  
Sam Smith  
Owen Struckhoff  
Luke Stuesse

## Thank you for your generosity!

### Donations for General Fund January 23 – 31, 2023

Regular Offering Envelopes: (52)	\$	4,791.00
Regular Offering Loose:	\$	73.00
Online Giving*:	(9) \$	505.01
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,369.01</b>

\* With Transaction Fees Removed.  
(Number of Contributors)

## Tithes & Offerings

### Giving Back to God



## January "General Fund" Collections

January 1, 2023	\$4,970.85
January 8, 2023	\$4,976.95
January 15, 2023	\$3,663.30
January 22, 2023	\$2,993.53
January 31, 2023	\$5,369.01



## Thank you for your generosity!

### Donations for Restricted Funds: January 23 – 31

Catholic Education (1+2\*)  
**\$137.34**  
\*Online Giving

St. Louis Review (2)  
**\$70.00**

## THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

**NO MASS | HAVE A VERY BLESSED DAY!**

### Tuesday Morning, February 7<sup>th</sup>

**6:30AM | VIRGINIA & JIM GRANT & MARGARET & NORVIL PILLEN**

### Wednesday Morning, February 8<sup>th</sup>

**6:30AM | DENNIS VOSS**

### Thursday Morning, February 9<sup>th</sup>

**6:30AM | MIKE BLOCK**

### Friday Morning, February 10<sup>th</sup>

**6:30AM | GLEN GETTEMEYER**

*By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.  
~ 2 Peter 1:3 ~*

<u>MASS TIMES</u>	<u>THIS WEEKEND</u>	<u>NEXT WEEKEND</u>
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<b>5:00pm Saturday</b>	<b>February 4</b>	<b>February 11</b>
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Mass Intention:	Parish Family of St. Joseph	Paul Brueggemann & Doug Smith
Lector:	Judy Brueggemann	Karen Gerlemann
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Anna Donner	Theresa Straatmann
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Theresa Straatmann	Anna Donner

<b>8:00am Sunday</b>	<b>February 5</b>	<b>February 12</b>
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Mass Intention:	Ed & Irene Stuesse	Renee Cella
Lector:	Dennis Randolph	Vi Schroeder
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Vi Schroeder	Cathie Grus
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Jane Struckhoff	Diane Schmidt

<b>10:00am Sunday</b>	<b>February 5</b>	<b>February 12</b>
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Mass Intention:	Bob Wildhaber	Parish Family of St. Joseph
Lector:	Marilyn Rau	Jen Kissinger
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	Christine Baker	Jeff Baker
Eucharistic Minister: (C)	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>	<b>VOLUNTEER</b>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## February

- **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**
  - Ladies Sodality Meeting – 9am – Parish Hall
- **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**
  - Parish Council Meeting – 6pm – Parish Hall
- **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**
  - Finance Meeting – 5:30pm – Rectory
  - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**
  - Quilters – 8am – 1pm & 7pm – 9pm – Quilter's Room
- **Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**
  - Quilters – 8am – 1pm & 7pm – 9pm – Quilter's Room
  - Sarah – Out of the Office
- **Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**
  - Office Closed – Presidents' Day

## WCU Meeting

Monday  
February 6th @ 7pm  
Marian Activity Center  
Downstairs

### SPECIAL ENVELOPES

For those who are not receiving envelopes through the mail, if you are interested in receiving **JUST "Special Envelopes"** Please contact Sarah in the office  
636-583-2806 or parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

### February "Extra" Envelopes

February 5th  
Catholic Education

February 12th  
Capital Maintenance & Preservation Fund

February 22nd **Mass Times**  
Ash Wednesday **6:30am & 7pm**

All funds collected on Ash Wednesday will be for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

## Union Knights of Columbus

### Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

Board Meeting • 7:30pm – Lounge

### Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

Council Meeting • 7:30pm – Hall

### Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Breakfast

7:30am – 11:30am • All you can eat

Adults \$12 • Children (6-12) \$6

### Super Bowl Bar-B-Que Sunday, February 12, 2023

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT  
Union KC Hall  
11am – 4:30pm

#### \$12 YOUR CHOICE

DINNERS COME WITH 2 SIDES

BAKED BEANS, BAKED POTATO, GREEN BEANS

PORK STEAK  
DINNER

FRIED CHICKEN  
DINNER

8 PIECE FRIED  
CHICKEN

12 HOT WINGS

\$7  
PORK STEAK  
SANDWICH



STAY & ENJOY  
THE GAME AT  
OUR  
BAR/LOUNGE