

# Dear Padre,

*I have done some really terrible things in my life. When I did them, I didn't think anything about them, but now I feel very guilty. Can God really forgive me?*

As we Redemptorists like to say, "With God there is plentiful redemption." God's mercy is everlasting and overflowing in its abundance. As we continue in Lent, let's remember that Easter is the sign that God forgave even the great sin of the crucifixion of his only Son. Time and time again throughout the Scriptures, Jesus demonstrates this bountiful mercy. He forgave Zacchaeus, the tax collector. He forgave the woman caught in adultery. He was tender with the Samaritan woman we hear about in today's Gospel. He spent his days living among and forgiving all manner of sinners. He even forgave Peter's great denial. The Church has named a multitude of saints, but note that in 2,000 years it has never declared anyone to be definitively condemned to eternal punishment. There is hope and mercy for all.

No matter how great the sin, God will forgive it. All you have to do is ask for mercy sincerely. All that takes is a repentant heart. From the tone of your message, you are truly sorry. Find a priest with whom you are comfortable and ask him to celebrate with you the sacrament of reconciliation. If you don't know how to go to confession, just ask. The priest will help you. Be at peace. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR / DearPadre.org



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 13	March 14	March 15	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Lk 4:24-30	Dn 3:25, 34-43 Mt 18:21-35	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

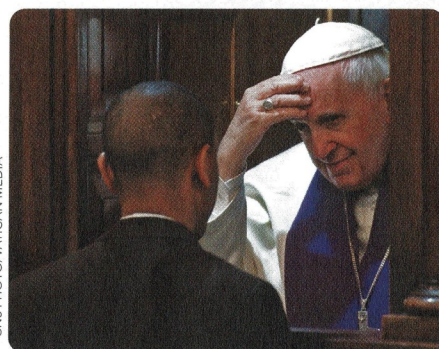
### Know Someone Overly Anxious about Sin?

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).

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*We all have the right to be forgiven. All of us....Forgiveness is a "right" in the sense that God, in the Paschal Mystery of Christ, has given it in a total and irreversible way to every person willing to accept it with a humble and repentant heart.*

ADDRESS AT A COURSE ORGANIZED BY APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, MARCH 25, 2022



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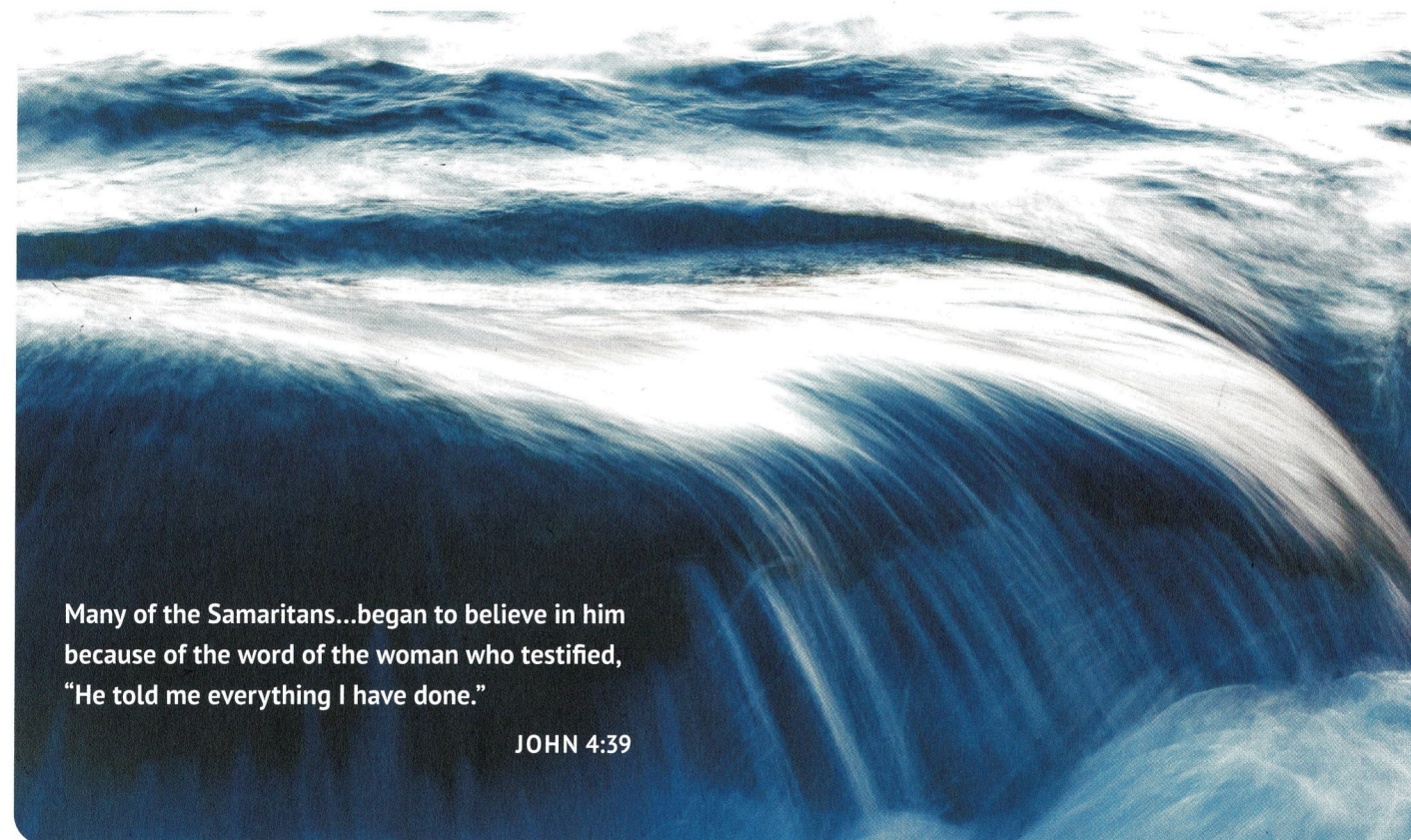
# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Exodus 17:3-7 / Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42 or John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



Many of the Samaritans...began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done."

JOHN 4:39

## A Fountain of Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The **lovelorn column in the local newspaper** shared a letter from someone who felt adrift. She had everything she needed or wanted—a marriage, a job, a home. Yet she felt there had to be more to life, but she didn't know what it was or where to go. She wondered, *Could anyone help me?*

Like the woman from Samaria who happened upon Jesus when she came looking for water at the local well, she and the letter writer were both eager for "living water." The woman at the well would then no longer need to come each day for her household needs, and the letter writer would have her deeper thirsts quenched. Both wanted something more out of life, not unlike most people at one time or another.

Long before Jesus encountered the woman at the well, the people who were led by Moses through the desert grumbled to him about their thirst, which triggered Moses to grumble to God about the people. The result was finding water in the desert, the most unlikely of places. As a result, they realized that God was taking care of them, that God was ultimately their source of life.

We may decide what will bring new life—a new relationship, a new job, a new home. Yet just as often the answer comes from totally unexpected sources: the deserts of our lives. Also just as often, we somehow miss the answer. When we do recognize it, however, we say, "Thanks be to God." ●

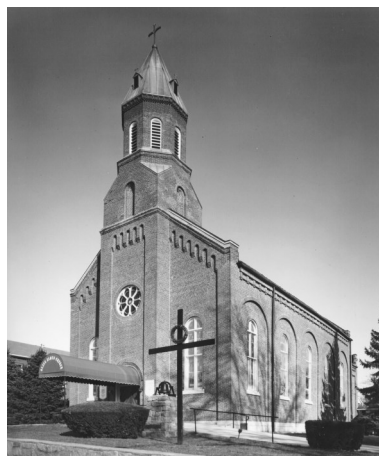
### Reflect

**When and where have you found grace in an "unexpected place"?**



# St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street  
Potosi, MO 63664



## Weekly Mass Schedule

Mon	No Mass
Tues	8:00 AM
Wed	8:00 AM
Thurs	8:00 AM 6:00 PM
Fri	8:00 AM
Sat	8:00 AM 4:30 PM
Sun	8:00 AM 10:00 AM

**\*HOLY DAY SCHEDULE:**  
Please check the Bulletin for Mass times.

**E-MAIL:**  
stjameschurch@centurylink.net  
**WEBSITE:**  
www.stjamespotosi.org  
**FACEBOOK:** St. James Catholic Church @stjamespotosi

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Tuesday thru Thursday  
Phone: 573-438-4686

**Parish Hall or Parish School of Religion**  
Phone: 573-436-0144

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF:  
**March 13, 2023**

MON	8:00 AM	No Mass
TUE	8:00 AM	Lauren Farrow
WED	8:00 AM	Logan & Gladys Kathcart Family
THU	8:00 AM	Kevin Scott
THU	6:00 PM	Ona Bohannon
FRI	8:00 AM	Janet Coleman
SAT	8:00 AM	Dave & Jane Werner
SAT	4:30 PM	Parish Family
SUN	8:00 AM	Jack Malloy
SUN	10:00 AM	Jacob Rolwes

**Week of: March 5, 2023**

Envelope.....\$	7082.00	Main & Repairs.....\$	335.00
Loose.....\$	682.00	On-Line donations.....\$	65.90
SVDP.....\$	970.00	Catholic Relief svcs...\$	110.00
Votive Lights.....\$	53.00	Easter Flowers.....\$	85.00
Light House.....\$	5.00		

**Special Ministers**  
**Week of: March 18 & 19, 2023**

**Lectors:**  
Sat: 4:30 pm Bob Mills  
Sun: 8:00 am Susan Broombaugh  
10:00 am Jamie Warden



**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**  
**Saturday 4:30 pm Sunday 8:00 am Sunday 10:00 am**

**C: Paul Villmer Don Thompson Mary Roy**  
**L: Judy East Jamie Thompson Diane McGirl**  
**R: Annette Portell Glenda Farrow Nikki Warden**

**Servers:**  
Sat. 4:30 p.m. Lane & Madison Battreal  
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Volunteers Please  
Sun.10:00 a.m. Bruce Carter

**Music:**  
Sat. 4:30 p.m. Chala Short  
Sun. 8:00 a.m. Rebecca Richards  
Sun.10:00 a.m. Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.**

SVDP food donations: breakfast foods, cereal, breakfast bars, etc

Heavenly Duster: 3/17: Faye Jarvis  
Altar Linens: 3/13: Jean Roberson

**Mass Offerings -**  
Masses can be said for the living also; birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Come by the office or write the name & any preferred date on paper, put in envelope with \$10 for each Mass & drop in drop box or put in the collection basket at Mass. If the chosen date is available, I will schedule for that date, if not I will schedule next available.

Have you encountered God in your own life? Won't you share your "God Encounter"? Your encounter may be exactly what someone else **NEEDS** to hear. Send your stories to: [stjameschurch@centurylink.net](mailto:stjameschurch@centurylink.net). If you want to remain unnamed, we can do that. Let's just start sharing our stories.

**Word of Life**  
"We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life'. We find ourselves not only 'faced with' but necessarily 'in the midst of' this conflict: we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life" (The Gospel of Life 28)

For those nearing the end of life:  
May they be given the grace to persevere in faith and place their trust in God as they prepare in hope for eternity with Christ;  
We pray to the Lord:

**Two weekends only! Visit this Lenten Relic Display**  
You are invited to attend a special Lenten experience at the National Shrine of **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri**. Relics including: fragments from the True Cross and the Last Supper Table, Saint Paul of the Cross, and particles from Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, and Calvary.  
The relics will be on display **March 25 following 12:10 p.m. Mass to 4:00 p.m., March 26 following 11:00 a.m. Mass to 4:00 p.m., April 1 following 12:10 p.m. Mass to 4:00 p.m., and April 2 from 2-5 p.m.**  
Join us for a presentation by Michael O' Neill, "The Miracle Hunter," on April 2 from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Call the Association of the Miraculous Medal at 1-800-264-6279 or go to [www.amm.org](http://www.amm.org) for more information.

**Upcoming Events**  
Mar 13: SVDP mtg, 6:00 pm, Food Pantry  
Mar 14: Parish Council, 5:30 pm, Parish Hall  
Lenten Study, Judy Wrights home, 6:00 pm  
**Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day**  
Mar 20: Rural Parish Clinic Here at St. James  
Mar 24: KC Fish Fry, 11:00 -1:00, drive-thru  
Ladies Sodality bake sale, 11:00-1:00, drive-thru  
**Apr 04: Penance Service, 7:00 pm**

Forward in Hope  
Jesus, You are the Resurrected One.  
We, in the Archdiocese of St. Louis thank You for sharing your resurrected life with us.  
Help us to move forward in hope as we plan for our future, Lord. May we be emboldened by the power of the resurrection, gracious Father, that we would be anchored in hope. Strengthen us through the Eucharist to be more courageous and encourage us to be more humble. Inspire us with the Eucharist to be true witnesses of our Faith, Stir the Spirit that dwells within us,  
Open our hearts to be Your hands and voice in this world so that others will be drawn to You  
As we move forward, protect and strengthen our plans and efforts. As we live as a resurrected people, let not failure discourage us nor success blind us.  
And at all times, lead us, Lord.  
Amen

\*\*\*\*\***FORMED**\*\*\*\*\*  
Formed this week!  
**St. Frances of Rome/Catholic All Year at Home:** Join the Tierney family as they celebrate the feast of St. Frances of Rome, patroness of homemaking! Learn about practicing the corporal works of mercy in the home, the very Catholic Lenten history of pretzels & beer and wchc Kendra & 3yr old Barbara make something they like to call "trash can soup."  
**The three Temptations with Dr. Brant Pitre:** Reflect with Dr. Brant Pitre on the temptations of Jesus in the desert as he gets to the heart of the meaning of Lent. (this is really good :-)

**Dynamic Catholic Alive!**  
**RECONCILIATION**  
With whom do you need to be reconciled in life? Maybe you have sinned against the law of God through anger, lust, dishonesty, gossip, or other evil actions. Jesus reminds us that the Christian life calls for higher standards. It is essential to keep in mind that we can live up to these standards by cooperating with the grace God gives to us in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation. These sacraments give us sanctifying grace and bring us back to life when we are dead in our sin. As we approach the altar each Sunday, let us examine our consciences and seek the Lord's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation if we are guilty of mortal sin. Let us heed the Lord's wisdom to seek perfection by listening to His voice and responding to the graces He grants us. The Eucharist and Reconciliation are two extraordinary blessings we have as Catholics! "Confession is an act of honesty and courage – an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." ~Pope Saint John Paul II

**Bake Sale**  
St. James Ladies Auxiliary are hosting bake sales during Knights' Fish Fry Lunches. Homemade baked goods by the piece or whole dessert for sale. Just drive by and pick out your dessert. Thank you for your support!

**They're Back!!!!**  
**Knights of Columbus Fish Fry's**

PRESENTED BY ST. JAMES KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
**FRY DAY FRIDAYS**  
February 24th  
March 10th  
March 24th  
April 7th  
\$10/PER PLATE  
FISH, BAKED BEANS, & POTATO SALAD

**Youth Ministry**  
Our St. James youth is asking for your help. They are making "Blessing Bags" to donate to the Local Community Partnership. All donations can be dropped off at the Church Office, (Tues - Thurs) by **MARCH 31st**. Suggested items, **Small travel sized Items:** Deodorant, mouthwash, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, socks, wipes, Q-tips, tissues, individual bags of peanuts, crackers, snack bars, peppermints, etc. We want to thank you in advance for your Generosity.



**Lent & Spiritual Warfare**  
Jesus fasted during 40 days, so he calls us to fast. Why? To overcome our disordered desire for pleasure. So if you have a problem with addiction to pleasure, whether it be food or drink or sexual pleasure, whatever it might be, what's the remedy for that? Fast, because fasting helps you to control and to mortify, to put the death that disordered inclination to pleasure. Secondly, if you have a disordered desire to acquire money or possessions, what do you do? Give alms, give to the poor, because it mortifies, or puts to death, that disordered desire to possess things. So lent should be a season where we are particularly intentional about giving to the poor, giving to the Church, giving to those in need. So if you have too much money, if you have too many things, if you are attached to them, give them away and it will help you grow in freedom from that particular sin. And then finally, if you have a disordered love of self, the sin of pride or vanity, what should you do? Pray, because prayer is like poison to pride. It kills pride at the root by helping us to grow in humility, because whenever we get on our knees and pray, we are by definition recognizing that God is God and we are not, that we are his creatures, that we need his help and that we need his grace. So if you correlate the readings for Ash Wednesday with the readings for the first Sunday in Lent, the Church is giving us Jesus's directives here during Lent. It is very simple. What do we want to do? We want to pray more, we want to fast more and we want to give alms more to the poor, so that we can unite ourselves to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.  
Dr. Brant Pitre

In short, Lent is not a time for fasting, almsgiving, and prayer because we have something to prove to God. We do these things because it is through these actions that we allow God to be more present in our every moment and we draw our strength & grace from God to fight our own Spiritual War.

**St. James PSR NEWS**  
**Family Catechesis Helping Build Faithful Families!**  
Next Class will be **APRIL 23RD** Unit 7 is due.

May 14th; May Crowning/Mother's Day, All are to attend Mass  
Join our Facebook page for all the latest and greatest information.

