

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

02/22/2026

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Pastor: Father Nalazala Raj **Phone:** 479-963-2131 **Cell:** 501-522-9482 **Email:** frajnalazala@gmail.com
Deacon: Tom Pohlmeier **Phone:** 479-963-3355 **Cell:** 438-0217 **Email:** pohlmeiers@hotmail.com
Principal: Shirley Kiefer **Phone:** 479-963-2119 **Email:** principal@saintjosephschoolar.org
Church website: www.stjosephparisar.org **School Website:** www.saintjosephschoolar.org
Church email: stjosephchurch2131@gmail.com

Reconciliation: Sundays 8:15-8:45am/Thursdays 7:00-7:45pm

****Exposition/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament –Tuesdays and Thursdays – noon until 8:00pm**

Mass Intentions

2/23	Monday	11:30am	+Jim Fletcher	Raymond & Dorothy Neumeier
2/24	Tuesday	7:30pm	+Mary Ann Gronwald	Bill & Frances Rhineheart
2/25	Wednesday	8:00am	+Charles & Rita Lorenzo	Phillip Lorenzo Family
2/26	Thursday	11:30am	+James Nehus	Raymond & Joan Harrison
2/27	Friday	8:00am	+Brad Johnson	Brian & Shelley Johnson
2/28	Saturday	6:00pm	+Ronnie Koch	Joyce & Family
3/01	Sunday	9:00am	Living & Deceased Parishioners	Father Raj

Feast Days this Week: 2/23 – St. Polycarp; 2/27 – St. Gregory of Narek

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SATURDAY, February 28: 6:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Kurtis Simmons, Nick & Kim Neumeier, **Lector:** Sarah Simmons
Servers: Lainey Rainwater, Ella & Emerson Komp **Gifts:** Jason & Holly Komp
Ushers: S Elskan, J Schluterman, B Sullivan, R Robberson **Music:** R Edelhuber & D Rainwater

SUNDAY, March 1: 9:00am

Eucharistic Ministers: Joey McGarrah, K&L Vines **Lector:** St. Joseph School students
Servers: Chloe Cope, Olivia Stringer, Dominic Perreault **Gifts:** Devine family
Ushers: D&R Rhineheart, M Freeman, J Harrison **Music:** Leslie & Students

DONUTS: Lisa Vines

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***Feb 23:** MASS AT 11:30AM
OCIA at 6:00

Feb. 24: Adoration noon-7:10pm. Benediction@7:10 followed by Novena prayers. Mass at 7:30

***Feb. 25: Lenten Luncheon here at St. Joseph** 11:30 in the hall – School Children will provide a musical program
Confirmation & Religious Education classes at 6pm

***Feb. 26:** MASS AT 11:30 followed by Adoration through 8:00pm. *Reconciliation 7-7:45pm*

Feb. 27: Ponder Study Group after 8:00 Mass

****STATIONS OF THE CROSS** in church at 6pm, followed by a meatless meal in the hall

Feb 28/Mar 1: Monthly collection to benefit St. Joseph School

March 7: Ladies Lenten Retreat with registration beginning at 10am. (More details on page 2)

February is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family.

The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus—the school of the Gospel. 1st, a lesson of silence-may esteem for silence, an admirable and indispensable condition of mind, be revived in us. 2nd, a lesson on family life-may Nazareth teach us what family life is- its communion of love, its simple beauty, and its sacred character. 3rd, a lesson of work-Nazareth, home of the Carpenter's Son, in you I choose to understand and proclaim the redeeming law of human work. (Paul VI at Nazareth, January 5, 1956)

++ALL Fridays of Lent are days of abstaining from meat, beginning at age 14.++

If you are looking for a way to enhance your experience of *listening* to the Sunday Readings, you might want to consider joining the “**Ponder Group**” that meets in the rectory conference room every Friday morning after 8:00 Mass. **Each week they read and discuss the upcoming Sunday’s readings.** Father Raj joins the group each week.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

****MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!****

Thursday, March 19, is the feast day of our parish patron, St. Joseph!!

The cornerstone of our church was placed in May, 1926,

giving us a great cause for celebration in this 100 year milestone!

Father Raj will offer **Mass at 6pm on March 19**, and a **parish potluck will follow** afterwards in the hall.

It is hoped that everyone will make plans to be there!!

Submitted to the **Prayer Chain:** Fr. Larry Donohoo/health issues; Stacy Baschle/PET scan; David Raper/heart procedure; Bobby Floren/knee replacement; Jackie Atchison/health issues; Ralph Albracht/in rehab/torn muscles; Tammy Schneider/health issues/testing; Devin Bradley/heart ablation; Vernetta Turner/heart surgery; Bryan Harkey/back surgery

We welcome all visitors and invite newcomers to register at the church office where we would enjoy meeting you. If you regularly attend Mass at St. Joseph’s and are not yet a registered parishioner but would like to be, please contact the church office at 963-2131.

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St. Joseph School

Our mission is to empower students through our Catholic Faith, Academic Excellence, and Community Service to become leaders of integrity and compassion.

Registration for 2026/2027 in now open!! St. Joseph School is ANSAA certified. Get spots reserved for your children NOW!! *EFA scholarships are available for Kindergarten through 8th grade students.* Don't wait!! Tell your friends!! Spread the word!! Paris, AR, is one of the few small towns to still offer a quality Catholic education!!

Mrs. Johnson's Kindergarten class gained a new student. Welcome, Eli Schneider!!

A Best Choice UPC box is in the cry room for your convenience. You may leave empty ink cartridges as well.

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YOU are invited to a drop-in birthday party in the hall for Mary Martin on Sunday, March 8, from 2-4. No gifts, please.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY this week to Sandra Viktora, Mary Beshoner, Kim Swedeen, & Blaine Maddox (Feb 29 😊)

Today is the kickoff for Arkansas Catholic subscriptions. There are several ways to subscribe: The print edition is delivered to your mailbox each week for 12 months for just \$32 (\$30 for seniors), OR you may read the entire digital edition FREE on your computer or most Smart devices. Sign up for a free account at digital.arkansas-catholic.org. You may scan the QR Code on the bulletin attachment today to order. Find accurate and reliable information about the Church in Arkansas, the Church in Rome, and around the world.

Have you noticed?? A **BABY CHANGING STATION** is now in place in the cry room. There is no need to step outside into the cold or the rain to go to the bathrooms. What a wonderful addition for our parents with little ones!

A few **"HOUSEKEEPING TIPS."** Before leaving after Mass, please put the Breaking Bread hymnal in the book holder right side up with the cover facing out. Laminated prayer cards are to be put at the end of the pew. If any items have been placed in the books as bookmarks, please remove them and place them in the correct spot. Thanks!

The Mother's Society has Easter Lilies for sale @ \$25 each. This year lilies are limited to one per family and may be in honor of/in memory of multiple people, allowing more families to participate. Call/Text Rita: 438-2803

February 15 Collection: Adult env (40): \$2960. Children: \$6. Loose: \$257. Total: \$3233 Candles: \$71. Hall rental: \$100. Bulletin ad: \$100.

St. Benedict CYM is sponsoring a Fish Dinner on Friday, March 6, 4:30-8pm in their hall. To-go trays available. Adult: \$12. 10 & under \$6. Silent Auction, 50-50 raffle.

The Mother's Society is hosting a Day Retreat in the hall on March 7 for ladies of all ages. Registration begins at 10am. Fr. Cassian will present the first session @ 10:30, to be followed by a potluck lunch. (Bring a dish to share). The second session begins at 12:30, followed by Q&A. Call or text Rita @ 438-2803 for information. No fee.

Christ the King Church, LR, is hosting an international organ concert at 7:30pm, Fri., Feb. 27. Australian organist Andrej Kouznetsov is the organist for St. John Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane. Admission is free, but a donation will be collected at the end of the concert. A reception will be hosted by the American Guild of Organists after the concert.

Subiaco Academy Spring Festival: Sat, March 7, 2-8pm in the Green Room of the Athletic Complex. Mass at 4pm in church Games, raffles, food and music, silent auction. Call 934-1001 or email subiaco@subi.org for raffle information.

Any Arkansas photographer, 18 & older, can enter their photo of a local Catholic Church or institution by March 18 for a chance to be featured on the cover of the 2027 DOLR directory. For info, contact Debbie Kelly at dkelly@dolr.org or 501-664-0125.

FEBRUARY BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Mary Freeman, Evanna Eckart, Catherine Elsen, Hilda Elsen, Patsy Eveld, Lorraine Ezell, Charlotte Fletcher, Barbara Forst, Celeste Fox, Dorothy Gilbert, Elizabeth Gurley, Joan Harrison, Patty Hixson, Michelle Howard, Jaime Jackson, Rene Kiefer, Shirley Kiefer, Jane Koehler

INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR FEBRUARY

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

It's not always easy to keep Christ at the center of your marriage. During Lent, make an effort to pray for each other to get to heaven. **What have you done for your marriage today?** www.foryourmarriage.org

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship, and him alone shall you serve.'" (Matthew 4:10)

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches, and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is the time to prune ourselves of earthly things, and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is the time to repent and let go of other "gods" we have been putting before God.

Have you noticed that the side doors of church are much easier to open?? A Steward realized the need to replace the doorknobs that had become hard to turn, so he took care of them without fanfare, without calling any notice to himself. THIS is the example of a true Steward. Seeing a need and taking care of it.
