

live  the  
faith

**Pray Gratefully - Serve Responsibly - Give Generously**



**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**  
*a Stewardship Parish*

Volume 6, Issue 1 February & March 2018



Sometimes in life there are little coincidences that remind us that God is there and that He has a sense of humor. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. God is love, but He has a funny idea for how we should celebrate Valentine's Day this year. On the day when most people will be thinking about hugs and kisses and cards, God will ask us Catholics to spend the day in prayer and fasting.

Jesus,  
“On the day when you get kisses and lipstick marks on your face, you will also get ashes on your forehead!”

You might give your sweetheart a box of chocolates, but tell her that she has to wait forty days before she can eat it! Ash Wednesday is one of the two days of the year on which Catholics are required to fast. This means eating only one regular meal and two small snacks. Just make sure that you eat that regular meal with that special someone! It is interesting that in the Bible it says that God has a funny way of being romantic.

God's idea of a honeymoon was to lead His beloved into the desert for forty days. He loved His chosen people, rescued them from slavery, and led them into the Sinai desert where for forty years he could be “alone with her.” It is almost like God stole His bride and eloped with her. “Therefore, behold I will allure her, and will lead her into the wilderness: and I will speak to her heart.” (Hosea 2:14) Even though His people suffered, God remembered it as a very special time for Him: “I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through the barren wilderness.” (Jeremiah 2:2)

This year God wants to give us a very unusual Valentine's Day message which is found in the first reading of that day “Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people... return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning...” (Joel 2:12-15.) For us it might seem unpleasant,

ST. JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

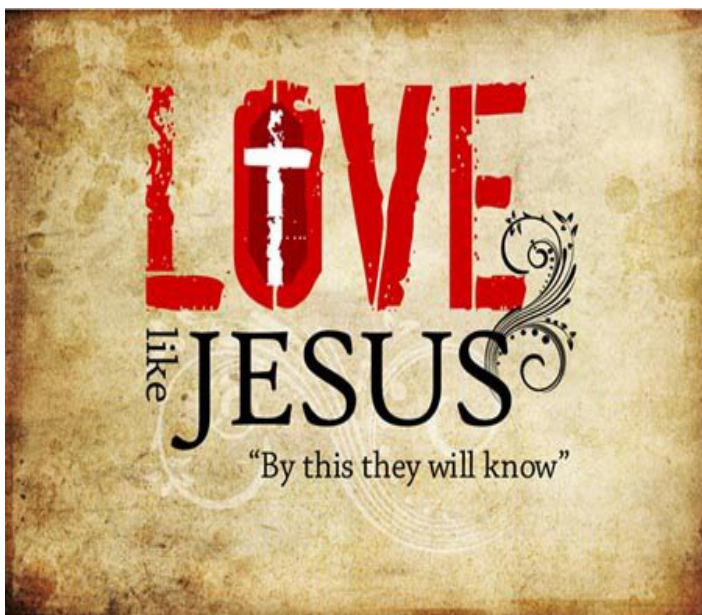
ASH  
WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14  
MASS TIMES

7:00am	(English, Church)
8:00am	(English, Church)
9:30am	(English, Church)
12:00pm	(Latin, Church)
5:45pm	(English, Church)
6:00pm	(English, Hall)
7:30pm	(English, Hall)
7:30pm	(Spanish, Church)

# will you be my Valentine?

but for God this is a very special time of intimacy with His people. We prove our love for God by our sacrifices, and of course, God was willing to suffer to show His love for us. Jesus consummated His love for His bride the church by dying on a cross and saying "It is consummated!" (John 13:29; cf. also Ephesians 5:22-32.)



Another thing that is very unusual this year: Easter will be cancelled because it has been discovered that Jesus did not really rise from the dead. April Fools! This year Easter falls on April 1, which is April Fool's Day! But don't be fooled if someone tells you that Easter is a hoax. The Resurrection of Jesus is not an April Fool's joke! In fact, scientists have found convincing proof that Jesus did rise from the grave. Archeologists recently reopened the empty tomb and have found new evidence that the area around His tomb was indeed a first-century burial place, over which the Romans built a pagan temple in order to prevent Christians from worshipping there. Historians have shown there is ample proof that the Resurrection was real, as was beautifully explained in the 2016 movie "Risen" and the 2017 movie "The Case for Christ." Many scientists have been brought to faith by the inexplicable image on the Shroud of Turin, the burial cloth of Jesus.

“How are we going to show our love for Jesus, who died and rose to show His love for us?”

Here are some suggestions on how we can make sacrifices and unite them to His in order to show our love for poor sinners. Beginning on Valentine's Day, we can spend more time with Him in Prayer; spend time alone with Him in the desert by committing to an hour in the Adoration Chapel; seek and receive His forgiveness in the confessional (available daily), or at our communal Penance Service on March 14; and approach Jesus in the sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. Remember that Jesus gives us a living Valentine's Day card when He gives us His Sacred Heart in Holy Communion!

Some young people even decide to give themselves entirely to Jesus. Two young men are studying to be priests in the Diocese of Stockton. Several young ladies have given themselves to Jesus as religious sisters, as brides of Christ. In our parish, we are dedicating this year to praying for more vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life. Jesus wants to be your Valentine. Jesus died for us, the least we can do is to live for Him!

*Fr. Mark's*

Visit Fr. Mark's blog...  
[www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-blog.html](http://www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-blog.html)





# STJMOD YOUNG ADULTS

Every 2nd and 4th  
Friday of the Month  
7pm in StJPII Room 11



Are you a  
Young Adult  
age 18-35?  
Looking for a  
fun place to  
meet new  
people and learn more about our faith?  
You are welcome to check out one of  
our gatherings.

<https://www.facebook.com/STJMODYA>  
[www.instagram.com/STJMODYA](http://www.instagram.com/STJMODYA)  
[youngadults@stjmod.com](mailto:youngadults@stjmod.com)

## Next Gathering

2/9 Lent Prep and  
Game Night

2/26 Sushi Night  
JP Asian Fusion

3/9 Stations of the  
Cross

3/23 Marriage and  
Relationships



# How I Became a Priest: by Fr. Mark

## Year of Religious Vocations: Vocation Stories

When people ask me why I became a priest, I usually tell them that it was because I liked the smell of the stale holy water inside Presentation Church in Stockton! Every man, including me, can recall the smell of the perfume of his first girlfriend. But my attraction to women had to compete with the fact that I was also falling in love with "Mother Church."

I should start from the beginning. My ability to be a spiritual father comes from having a loving family, with a mother and father who provided a warm, happy home and hugs. They nourished us by gathering us around the dinner table each evening, and the altar table each Sunday. I had two younger sisters, Cindy and Denise. I like to say that my early childhood was divided into two periods: B.C. and A.D., which means "Before Cindy" and "After Denise." Before Cindy was born, I was the center of the universe: the first born who got all the love and attention. I was spoiled and loved in the extreme. After Denise was born there was more competition for love and attention, which caused some anger and resentment, but it also caused another reaction in me: I began to seek attention and love by being helpful to



my parents. I was told that I would take my sister Cindy by the hand and lead her all over the house. This probably helped to cause me to become a priest, as I am a person who wants to take people by the hand and help them on their way to heaven.

My family was not overly religious. We prayed before dinner and went to catechism and Sunday Mass. I remember one catechism teacher who motivated us by giving a piece of See's Candy if we gave the correct answer in class. Another catechism teacher, Mini Infelis, taught us how to pray the rosary. I began to enjoy praying. Using an old briefcase my father gave me, I put all of my religious pictures in it and before bed I would open it to create a private altar where I would say my rosary. In 7th grade I did a history report about medieval monasteries, and I decided that I wanted to be a monk. After speaking to several diocesan priests, however, I eventually decided to become an ordinary diocesan priest.

Throughout high school, I continued to look forward to entering the seminary. I attended 6:30am Mass every day at Presentation Parish before classes

at Lincoln High School. I also tried to do a daily holy hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, following the famous recommendation of Bishop Fulton Sheen. As the only young man in the Legion of Mary group, I was "blessed among women" at meetings. As a high school foreign exchange student in France, I discovered that most French people are non-practicing Catholics, who were amazed that I wanted to attend daily Mass. By bicycle, I went to countless wonderful churches!

Attending Delta College for two years, I played on the soccer team and gradually began to lose interest in becoming a priest. Next, I studied journalism at Chico State University, becoming a disc jockey for a campus radio station. I also attended parties and chased girls (but God prevented me from catching any!) Throughout, I was not able to drown out the voice of God calling me to the priesthood. I felt unfulfilled and resumed my practice of daily Mass and holy hour, and decided to enter the seminary. When I told my roommates about my decision, they said it was "cool," and I found out that some of them were Catholic. After two years of college seminary, I was sent for five years of theology study in Rome. This was a blessing, as I was able to visit the shrines of Europe and the Holy Land. I received a theology degree from the "Gregorian University" and a license degree (S.T.L.) in moral theology from the "John Paul II Institute for Studies of Marriage and Family." Upon finishing my studies, I returned home and was ordained a priest by Bishop Donald Montrose on September 24, 1988. A month later I went to my ten-year high school reunion. Dressed as a priest, I fully expected to receive the award for the "most unusual career," but this was awarded to a classmate who had become the director of the Electric Light Parade in Disneyland!

After ordination, I served as associate pastor at: Annunciation Cathedral in Stockton, Our Lady of Fatima in Modesto, St. Frances of Rome in Riverbank, and St. Jude's in Ceres. For seventeen years, I have served as pastor in three different parishes: St. Patrick's in Ripon, Sacred Heart in Turlock and, since 2012, at St. Joseph's.

The greatest gift of my life is my call to the priesthood. I am happily married to Mother Church and Mother Mary. There is never a dull moment because every day is different and it is a joy to be a spiritual father to all of you. If I find myself feeling low, I can visit a catechism classroom and get cheered up by the kids. I am also cheered by seeing the nice people gathered at Mass, or in the homes of parishioners who invite me to dinner. Of course, I am cheered and strengthened and nourished by Our Lord and Our Lady when I make time for daily prayer. **I love my job!**

# St. Joseph's Events Calendar

## February Events



### K of C Lenten Fish Dinners Fridays, 5-7pm

in Fr. O'Hare Hall

Tickets in the office, on the Plaza,  
at the door or [www.kofc10644.com](http://www.kofc10644.com)

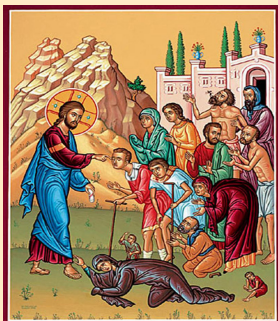
February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16

Concluding with a Soup Dinner  
March 23



### Galatians: "Discover your Freedom in Christ" Feb 20-Mar 20 Tues 6:30-8pm

(No Class Feb. 27 during Parish Mission)



### Mass & Anointing of the Sick February 24 10am

### Parish Movie Night in April 7

## March Events

### Parish Lenten Penance Service



Wednesday, March 14, 7pm

### St. Joseph's Feast Day March 19

5:45 Mass

STJ Awards, Potluck  
on the Plaza after Mass  
(Novena March 11-19)



## Diocese

### Chrism Mass March 22 6pm at the Cathedral

(No 5:45 Mass at St. Joseph's)



### Bishop's Ministry Appeal

Are you a part of the 900  
participating families? Help us  
reach our goal by giving a gift  
to the BMA and selecting  
St. Joseph's Modesto.

[www.stocktondiocese.org](http://www.stocktondiocese.org)

## HOLY WEEK MARCH 25- EASTER

Chrism Mass, Cathedral, Stockton April 6, Thursday, 6:00pm,  
There is no 5:45pm Mass at St. Joseph

### **Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 25**

Sunday Masses regular schedule, 9:00am – Novos Ordo  
1:30pm Spanish Mass, procession with the palms

### **Holy Thursday: Thursday, March 29**

8:00am – Tenebrae, 6:00pm Sacred Music Concert  
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00pm – Church, English; 7:30pm - Hall, Spanish

### **Good Friday: Friday, March 30**

8:00am - Walk for Life at East Ridge Community Church, Prayer Service at St. Joseph's  
8:00am – Tenebrae  
12:00 noon – Live Stations of the Cross  
1:30pm – Commemoration of the Lord's Passion  
3:00pm – Divine Mercy Novena starts  
6:00pm – Our Lady of Sorrows (Spanish)  
7:30pm – Stations of the Cross, Church

### **Holy Saturday: Saturday, March 31**

8:00am – Tenebrae, 8:30pm – Easter Vigil: Church – English, Hall-Spanish

### **Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 1**

5:30am (Salubong(Encounter) Procession to Mass), 6:00am Sunrise Mass, 7:30am,  
9:00am TLF, 10:30am (Church), 10:30am (Hall), 12:00noon, 1:30pm (Spanish), 5:30pm  
Office closed on Monday, April 17, but there will be 8:00am and 5:45pm Masses





# ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1813 Oakdale Road  
Modesto, CA 95355



## THE TREASURE OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

PRESENTED BY FR. BOB LOMBARDO, CFR,  
DIRECTOR OF THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF  
THE ANGELS, CHICAGO



LENTEN PARISH MISSION  
FEBRUARY 25-27  
7:00-8:15PM

SUNDAY (O'HARE HALL)  
"THE EUCHARIST AND PRIESTHOOD"

MONDAY (CHURCH/CONFESSIONS)  
"HEALING AND RECONCILIATION"

TUESDAY (CHURCH)  
"GO OUT AND MAKE DISCIPLES"

Fr. Bob has given various retreats to Parishes and Youth groups for over 20 years. For the past seven years he has been assigned to the Mission of Our Lady of the Angels on Chicago's West Side.

FREE - A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN



If you would like to help with a special project at our church, please contact the Director of Operations at

209.551.4973, x 207, or simply visit [www.stjmod.com](http://www.stjmod.com) and make a direct contribution.

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm Sundays: 7:30am, 9am (Latin), 10:30am, 12noon, 1:30pm (Español), 5:30pm & 7:30pm

#### DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday 8am & 5:45pm;  
Friday TLF @ 12 Noon; Saturdays 8am

#### CONFESSION

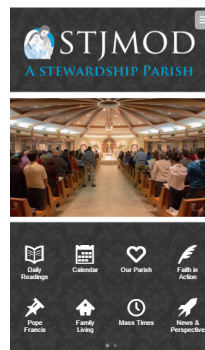
Monday through Thursday 5-5:30pm  
Fridays 6:30-7:30pm during Holy Hour  
Saturdays 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm

*Homebound please call 551-4973 for a priest to visit you by appointment.*

**Our Parish Mission:**  
*To Evangelize God's People Beginning with the Gift of the Holy Eucharist.*



[www.facebook.com/stjmod](http://www.facebook.com/stjmod)



STJMOD is the official app for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Modesto, CA. It is designed to provide parishioners with a powerful tool for communication, collaboration, and ministry.

[www.stjmod.com](http://www.stjmod.com)