

live the  
**faith**

Pray Gratefully - Serve Responsibly - Give Generously

# YEAR OF MERCY

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church**

*a Stewardship Parish*

Volume 4, Issue 1 January & February 2016



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## This Year's Theme:

### Mercy Works!

We all have childhood dreams that we never forget. When I was a child I had a dream about being alone in a big marble hallway which led to several large impressive doors. It was a scary and lonely dream because I had to decide which of the doors to try to open. I'm not sure what this dream means, but I've always thought that it was about trying to find the right way to heaven. I suppose the dream could have many different meanings.



On December 8, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and thus opened the special Holy Year of Mercy which he has decreed for 2016. This beautifully decorated door (pictured on the cover of this Live the Faith Magazine) is always kept sealed except during a Holy Year which is usually every 25 years. But Pope Francis declared an "extraordinary" Year of Mercy because he believes that the world is in great need of mercy.

The ancient custom of opening of the Holy Door can have many different meanings. It is a symbolic gesture which is "poly-valent" ("many meanings"). It means allowing God's mercy to flow out. It could mean also allowing people to come in to experience God's mercy. The door can symbolize Christ who is the "gate" (John 10:9). It can symbolize our own hearts which must be open to others (since we are the church). It can symbolize Mary who opened her heart and her womb and became the "gate of heaven" through which Jesus passed.

2016  
ST. JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mercy Works!

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead
- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
- Admonish sinners
- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offenses
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead

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Please e-mail us with your comments: [livethefaith@stjmod.com](mailto:livethefaith@stjmod.com)

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**On the Cover:** Pope Francis opening the Holy Doors

# "Mercy Works!"

Pope Francis himself gave us one explanation: "In a few moments I will have the joy of opening the Holy Door of Mercy. We carry out this act--so simple yet so highly symbolic... To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them. It is he who seeks us! It is he who comes to encounter us! This will be a year in which we grow ever more convinced of God's mercy." (Homily for Mass of the Opening of the Holy Door, Dec. 8, 2016)

Psychologists say that a door is a symbol of entering into a new world or a new life. Certainly the Holy Door is a call to change. Pope Francis is wanting us to change. So let's go! Let's move and change! We can ask ourselves during this New Year: How much am I willing to change? Am I willing to leave my habitual surroundings and try something new? Am I willing to enter into a new space; to let someone else into my personal space? Am I willing to do works of mercy; to get out there and "feed the Hungry," "visit the sick," "harbor the harborless," and "comfort the afflicted"?

Our "New Year Resolution" here at St. Joseph's Parish is to do at least on "Work of mercy" each month. For example, during the month of December, we focused on "Feed the Hungry" and "Give Drink to the Thirsty." In December, we provided over 400 Christmas Baskets, while still providing food for over 3,000 individuals through the weekly food pantry. Our St. Joseph's Bread Ministry continued to provide weekly dinners (and breakfasts) to the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter, and our Knights of Columbus provided a special dinner and gifts to families in our area. During the chilly month

of January, we will focus on "Clothe the naked." During January, our parish normally provides over 500 new or gently used coats, for both kids and adults.

Pope Francis challenges us: "In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself create... It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty." (Misericordiae Vultus #15)

I think what is most interesting about my scary childhood dream is that it is not recurring. It was the dream of a child who was afraid of being alone in big, cold clinical corridors. I still have a residual fear of hospital hallways, hypodermic needles and minor surgeries, but happily I no longer have this kind of bad dream. Now that I am an adult I am no longer afraid of the door to heaven. I have entered through the doors of so many beautiful churches and now I know that inside there is the warm joyful welcome of a heavenly home where no one is ever alone. I have my parish family and the saints of heaven who are always with me as I pass through this world into the next!

*Fr. Mark's*

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







# JANUARY: CLOTHE THE NAKED

## Events: Coats for Kids and Adults!

### Weekly Works !

#### Action for this month:

Take used clothing and donate it to Interfaith Ministries or the Society for Disabilities Clothes Closet and Thrift Stores.

#### Interfaith Ministries :

120 Kerr Ave  
Modesto CA 95354

209.572.3117



#### Society for Disabilities:

1129 8th Street  
Modesto, CA 95354

3124 McHenry Ave, Suite A  
Modesto, Ca 95350

700 Scenic Drive  
Modesto, CA 95350

209.524.3536



Bring your gently used or new jackets to the parish office or the Church vestibule.



201  
ST. JOSEPH  
CATHOLIC



- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead



PRAY GRATEFULLY  
SERVE RESPONSIBLY  
GIVE GENEROUSLY

www.STJM

# Year of Mercy

## FEBRUARY: ADMONISH THE SINNERS

### Action:

Explore being a  
Eucharistic Minister  
to the Homebound

for info call 551-4973 ext 202



2016  
ST. JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Year of Mercy  
Works!

- Counsel the doubtful
- Instruct the ignorant
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- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offenses
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead

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by: Joann  
McDonald,  
Ministry Leader

Saint Joseph's Parish has five facilities within their boundaries that are visited weekly. Individuals in their homes and people that live in

board and care homes are also visited. As Catholics, by our baptism, we are called to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Our parish has a dedicated group of men and women who are designated Eucharistic Ministers to the Home Bound. Some of these people have served in this capacity for over twenty five years. We recently lost one of our very dedicated Eucharistic Ministers, Jerry Oftring, who had to step down due to his own declining health. He served faithfully many years at Bethel Retirement Home.

The home bound eagerly await our visits as some have no one else that visits them. Our priests have Mass at the various facilities every other month as their schedules permit. When they go to say Mass they also hear confessions and anoint the residents. The Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound also alert the priests if they feel there is someone that they are visiting that needs to be anointed.

### Weekly Works!

Actions for this month:

Invite someone to the  
Lenten Mission

Save the date!  
February 20-25



Fr. Emmerich Vogt, O.P. is also an acclaimed speaker, and author of the book "The Freedom to Love."

Bring a friend or fallen away Catholic to Ash Wednesday on February 10th

ST. JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
ASH  
WEDNESDAY



## Practicals for Prayer

*How can you answer your call this Lent?*

You may have heard before of the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. So what is prayer? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: "Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for Him," (CCC 2560). Prayer is an essential element of Lent and to our lives. So how do we incorporate prayer into our already busy lives? Sometimes we can get overwhelmed, and think we need to spend four hours in prayer like a nun in a convent in order for God to love us. Sometimes we might not feel worthy enough, how can God love a sinner like me? Sometimes we say that we are going to pray and push it off until later, but then we get too tired or we forget and then later turns into tomorrow and tomorrow turns to next week. We just never get started. Becoming an intentional disciple involves having a prayer life and having a prayer life means forming a habit of praying. So instead of trying to do four hours, just start a habit of praying daily for 5-10 minutes right when you wake up (don't push it off until later). And God loves you right now as you are reading this as much as He will ever love you, because His love is constant and eternal. His love and mercy are stronger than any of your sins; we just need to trust in His divine mercy - go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So this Lent go deeper into prayer - start to form a good habit, become an intentional disciple and be prepared to see how your life will change. To the right are some ways to help...

### ST. JOSEPH'S PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Jesus said: "Could you not keep watch for one hour?" (Mark 14:37) This Lent consider signing up for a Holy Hour in our perpetual adoration chapel.



To sign up, please contact David & Monica at 527-4920. If you can't do an hour, at least stop by on your way to work or on your way home for 10-20 minutes. Stop by the parish office to get the code to let you in the door. You will receive many blessings from Our Lord!

### 9 Days for Life January 16- 24, 2016



Join the bishops and thousands of Catholics across the country for a nine day novena, to promote a "culture of life." You can register to receive daily prayer intercessions and reflections via the App, Text Message, Email or Online.

**Go to:**

**<http://www.usccb.org/9days>  
for more information.**

# St. Joseph's Events Calendar

## January Events

**January 9, 2016  
10am**



Pray together with and for our Fire, Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Service First Responders of Stanislaus County

## January 23

St. Joseph's is taking six buses to participate in the Walk for Life West Coast. St. Joseph's Respect Life Committee coordinates this effort and will be

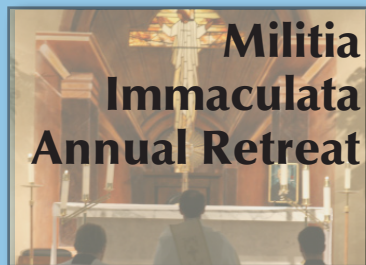


taking sign-ups on the plaza after Masses in January. Don't miss out!

## February Events

**February 6**

Join us for our 10th annual Marian retreat. It will be a day of reflection, prayer, Adoration, Benediction and Consecration to Our Lady. Don't miss it! The day begins with



Mass at 8am followed by the retreat in Fr. O'Hare Hall. As the date approaches visit our parish website: [www.stjmod.com](http://www.stjmod.com) or contact the parish office for more information and to register.

## February Events

### Lent 2016

**Feb 10 Ash Wednesday**

**Mass Times:**

**7am, 8am, 9:30am, 12noon (Latin),  
5:45pm (church), 6pm (hall),  
7:30pm (Hall/English),  
7:30pm (Church/Español)**

**Stations of the Cross:**

**Every Friday of Lent**

**8:45am, 6:30pm (Español),  
7:30pm (all in the church)**

**Confessions: 5:00pm**

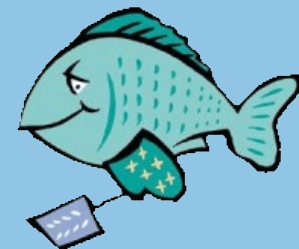
**No Holy Hour during Lent**



**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 12, 19 and 26**

**March 4, 11 and concluding with a  
March 18 Soup Dinner**



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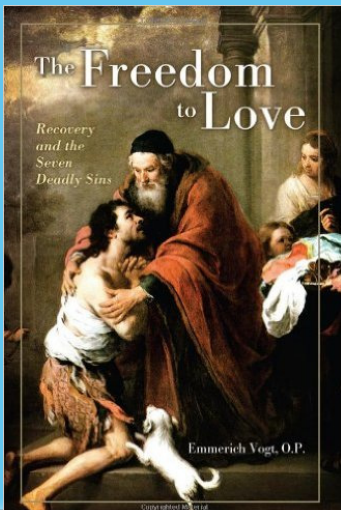
## Lenten Mission 2016

### Founder of the "12 Step Review"



Fr. Emmerich Vogt, O.P. is a Dominican priest of the Western Dominican Province. Educated by the Dominican Order at its seminary in California, Fr. Emmerich went on to receive a MA degree in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, and a graduate degree in Near Eastern Religions from University of California.

Save the date!  
February 20-25



Fr. Emmerich Vogt, O.P. is also an acclaimed author of the book "The Freedom to Love."

4.9 - 5  
Star Review  
"Great Read!"  
"Very clear points"

[www.stjmod.com](http://www.stjmod.com)  
(209)551-4973

### WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY OF FAMILIES

Scan this image with your smart phone and go directly to St. Joseph's web page to view upcoming events and the latest blogs.



Visit: [www.getscanlife.com](http://www.getscanlife.com) for a free QR Scanner

### 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

*Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30am Sunday Mass, and 1:30pm Mass Sunday en Español*

#### DAILY MASS

Monday - Friday 8am & 5:45pm; 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*