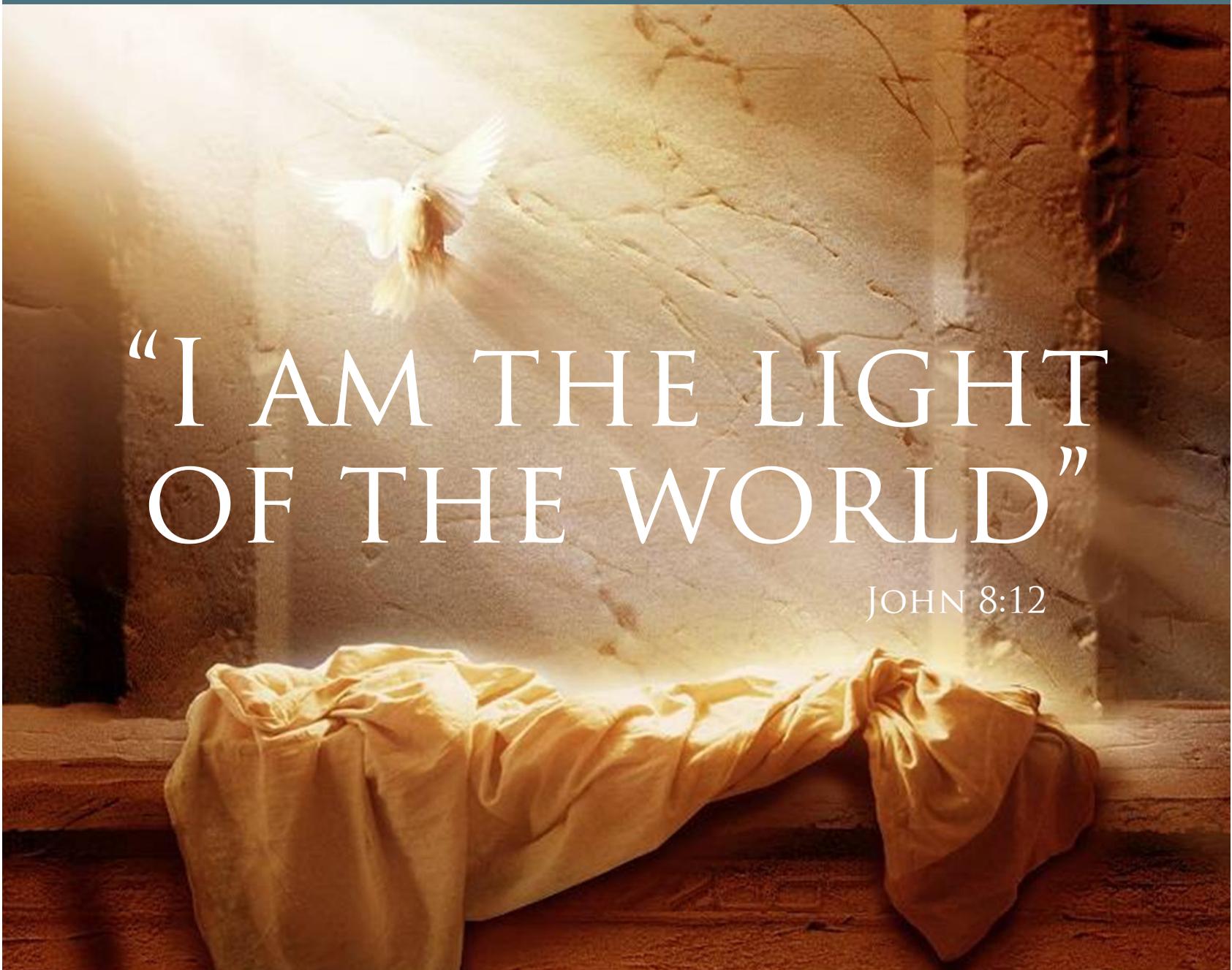


live  the  
faith

Pray Gratefully - Serve Responsibly - Give Generously



“I AM THE LIGHT  
OF THE WORLD”

JOHN 8:12

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

Volume 4, Issue 2 March & April 2016

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# Who is a



Who is a Christian and who is not? This question has been debated recently in the media because of a statement by Pope Francis in an impromptu interview. Here in the United States we live among people who have many different definitions of what it means to be a Christian. For some it just means

living a good life as they think Jesus would. For others, it means attending Christian services on Sunday. Catholics believe that we are the original Christian Church, established by Christ; however, we also believe that non-Catholics are also Christians as long as they are baptized. We try to live as good neighbors with non-Catholic Christians and we consider them to be our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*“We try to live as good neighbors with non-Catholic Christians and we consider them to be our brothers and sisters in Christ.”*

Unfortunately some people say that we Catholics are not Christians because we have traditions and rituals which seem strange to them. (They think that true Christians should rely solely on the Bible and faith.)

# Christian and who is not?

We who are Catholics don't like it when people accuse us of not being Christian, and that is why we usually avoid accusing others of not being Christian. We all share the desire of Our Lord Himself: that all Christians would be gathered into one fold with one shepherd (John 10:16), instead of having many flocks and many different pastors. I am the pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. My main task is to shepherd the Catholic sheep, but I am also concerned about the "other sheep." I want to convince them that we are good people and that that we are good Christians and good neighbors, who are interested in equal rights, fair laws, and safe borders; and that we are good law-abiding Americans.

This year we are trying to show the community that we are good Christians who practice works of mercy. Pope Francis has declared 2016 to be a "Year of Mercy," and we are practicing both Corporal and Spiritual "works of mercy" in our community. We have shown that we "feed the hungry" by distributing over 500 Christmas food baskets and "clothe the naked" by collecting and distributing 1,000 jackets for the needy. During this holy season of Lent, our focus is on the Spiritual "works of mercy," such as "Admonish the sinners," "Forgive offenses willingly," Bear wrongs patiently," and "Console the doubtful." By these works, we hope that we will be seen as people of mercy who care about the welfare of every human person.

We hope that people will see that the teachings of our Catholic Church are all about love and mercy. We do not believe that abortion is good for women; we disagree that euthanasia is merciful; we do not believe that the gay lifestyle is healthy. We point to scientific research, which shows that sex-change operations are not good therapy, and to statistics that prove that same-sex marriage is not good for raising children. Some people disagree with our Church teachings and they say that we are not merciful, and that we do not love our neighbors. This is not true. We worry about people who do things that are really harmful to themselves and others. We believe that our merciful God guides our Church to always teach the truths which will benefit humanity.



St. Joseph's at the Walk for Life 2016

One thing that must definitely be said about being a Christian is that we are Pro-Life. From the very beginning, Christians were known for protecting all human life. If people saw a family walking in the street with a child with a birth disability, they would say: "Look, there's a Christian family." This is because at that time infanticide was widely practiced by everyone except Christians. Pagan families disposed of newborn babies with disabilities by drowning them in water or by exposing them in the sun.

As Catholic Christians we try to love all people in the best way we know how. We try to show gentle mercy toward every person and toward all human life. We try to walk in harmony with all those who call themselves Christians, even when they disagree with us about what that means.

*Fr. Mark's*

Visit Fr. Mark's blog...

[www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-blog.html](http://www.stjmod.com/fr-marks-blog.html)





# Year of Mercy

## Works for this month:

Don't let old wounds ruin a relationship. Resentment is like a poison that eats us up inside. Don't lose a friendship because of something stupid.

Forgiveness is difficult. C.S. Lewis wrote: "Everyone says that forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive."

Forgiving is a decision, not a feeling. It doesn't mean that you have to have positive feelings toward the person (you don't need to feel warm tummy feelings!). You might continue to feel angry for the rest of your life, but this does not necessarily mean that you have not forgiven the person. Just try!

Abused people often become abusers. Hurt people hurt others. Break the cycle by letting go of resentment and praying for the person who offended you!



## MARCH:

### Forgive Offenses Willingly

Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent

8:45am English, 6:30pm en Espanol and 7:30pm English

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

live the faith

PRAY GRATEFULLY  
SERVE RESPONSIBLY  
GIVE GENEROUSLY

www.STJMOD.com

## Works for this month:

Pray for people who are sad and full of doubt and indecision regarding their Catholic faith.

Pray for Catholic college students who are confused and scandalized by atheistic professors

Pray for the priests and bishops whose task it is to counsel the doubtful by means of preaching.

Pray for the catechists and Catholic teachers and professors whose task it is to counsel the doubtful by means of teaching.

Commit yourself to learning about the Catholic faith so that you can share your understanding of the faith with others.

Offer words of encouragement to those who are uneducated about their Catholic religion.

## APRIL: Counsel the Doubtful

### Divine Mercy Sunday April 3

Join us on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3 for the following activities,

**All Masses**

Prayers for the Year of Mercy

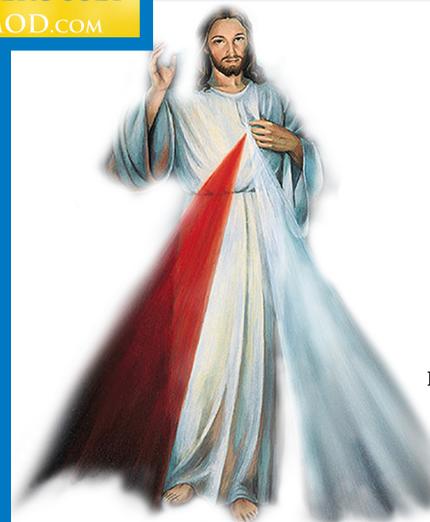
**10:30 Mass**

**3:00pm**

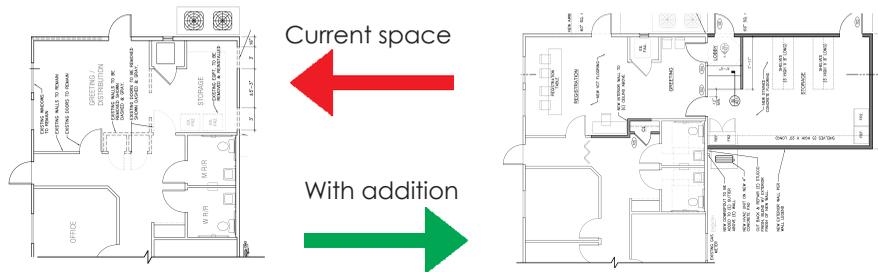
Divine Mercy Chaplet and Holy Hour in the church

**5:30 Mass**

Past and present WYD pilgrims will participate in the Liturgy



## St. Vincent de Paul/Parish Office Addition Update



As a result of the generous donors and hard work of the Many Hands, Many Hearts, One Mission Committee, construction drawings were submitted to the City of Modesto for review and approval. Above is the current floorplan, as well as what the addition will look like. Our SVDP volunteers are very excited about this much needed space for food pantry operations. How can you help? Prayers for those who labor to provide emergency food assistance, and financial support to help us achieve this goal, as we still need approximately \$15,000 to finish. You can offer support through E-giving (SVDP; please note in comments for addition) or the parish office. For more information call Tammy Menezes at 551-4973.



Over 300 St. Joseph's parishioners are now using E-giving for their offertory and other gifts! Make 2016 the year you and your family begin giving with E-giving; just use the laminated E-giving cards in the pews during the offertory.

For more information, please call 551-4973, ext. 202

## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CENTRAL VALLEY MEN'S CONFERENCE SATURDAY, JUNE 11



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Deacon Alex  
Jones

Deacon Harold  
Burke-Sivers

“BE STRONG  
AND  
SHOW YOURSELF A  
MAN”

1 KINGS 2:2

ADDITIONAL  
SPEAKERS:



RICHARD  
BRAUN



JOHN  
SABLAN

PHONE: 209-551-4973  
1813 OAKDALE RD. MODESTO, CA  
WWW.STJMOD.COM/MENSCONFERENCE

8:30am - 6:30pm  
Register at:  
[www.stjmod.com/  
MensConference](http://www.stjmod.com/MensConference)



Sponsors:



# St. Joseph's Events Calendar

## March Events



ST. JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
*Parish Family Events*  
THURSDAY, MARCH 19

**ST. JOSEPH'S  
FEAST DAY**

8am Mass  
followed by light  
brunch provided by our  
Indian Ministry

Who will receive the  
St. Joseph's Award  
during Mass?

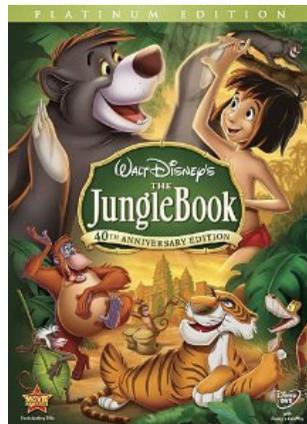
**All are  
welcome!**




## Parish Lenten Penance Service

Wednesday  
March 16  
7pm

## April Events



**FREE Parish  
Movie Night  
Saturday,  
April 9  
7pm in Fr.  
O'Hare Hall**

Bring your family and friends to see the family movie "Jungle Book" on the big screen in the hall. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided. Bring cookies to share.

*In May don't forget to join us for our...*

**Annual Blessings Breakfast on Saturday, May 7 from 8-11am in Fr. O'Hare Hall.**

Come enjoy a **FREE** pancake breakfast provided by St. Joseph's Development Committee and be greeted by parish leadership. On display will be artwork created by our school-aged parishioners as they describe what blessings God has provided for them. Music will be provided by our Children's Cherubim Choir.

## April Events



**Saturday,  
April 2  
Fr. O'Hare  
Hall**

## K of C Tri Tip In the Rain Dinner

**International Dinner  
and Entertainment**

Fundraiser benefiting St. Joseph's WYD Pilgrims

April 16, 5-7:30pm

Tickets: \$10 (complete international dinner buffet at Fr. O'Hare Hall)

www.stjmod.com 1813 Oakdale Rd. (209)551-4973

**Save the Date:  
Vacation Bible Retreat  
June 20-24**



# 2016 EASTER TRIDUUM

## Holy Thursday - March 24th

*No confessions*

Tenebrae, 8am;

Holy Thursday Concert, 6pm;

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper,

7:00 pm English in Church;

7:30pm *Español in Hall*

Washing of the Feet  
Holy Thursday



## Good Friday - March 25

*No confessions*

Modesto Walk for Life, 8am

*Begins at East Ridge Community Church  
(SE corner of Oakdale & Briggsmore);*

Tenebrae, 8am; Live Stations of the

Cross, 12noon; Commemoration of

the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross

and Holy Communion, 1:30pm;

Our Lady of Sorrows – *Español*, 6pm

Prayer around the Crosses, 7:30pm



## Holy Saturday - March 26th

*No confessions*

Tenebrae, 8am; Easter Vigil Mass, 8:30pm

Blessing of Paschal Fire; Easter Baptisms

and Mass,

*Español in the Hall,*

*English in the Church*



Live Stations of the Cross  
12Noon, Good Friday

## Easter Sunday - March 27th

Masses: 6am, 7:30am, 9am(TLF),

10:30am Church, 10:30am Hall,

12noon, 1:30pm (*Español*), and

5:30pm



Easter Sunrise  
Mass 6am



Visit our Easter page:  
[www.stjmod.com/easter](http://www.stjmod.com/easter)



St. Joseph's Catholic Church

1813 Oakdale Road  
Modesto, CA 95355

## New Director of Religious Education



I am a California native recently returned from a 15 year stint in North Carolina where I served as a professor of apologetics (the defense of the faith) at a small Evangelical seminary. Returning to California is a joy for me and my family (especially the grandparents of our four children!). How I came to be the DRE at St. Joseph's is a rather unusual story.

I became a Christian at the age of 18 just as I entered college. I spent several years working in sales and then married the most beautiful girl I had ever dated. Shortly thereafter, we moved to North Carolina to begin my graduate studies in Christian apologetics, theology, and philosophy. For the next ten years I was a dedicated Evangelical Christian – climbing the ministry ladder in my various roles as student, minister, professor, author, and speaker.

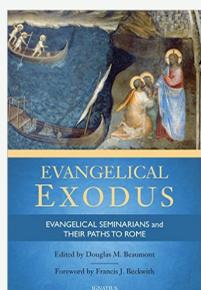
The more I learned, the more convinced I became that issues surrounding the biblical canon, Christian orthodoxy, and various theological disputes, were not resolvable on the Evangelical system. For five years I engaged in a serious, heart-wrenching, process of discernment during which I began to reconsider the historic Church. During this inquiry, I found it increasingly difficult to defend the anti-Catholic rhetoric I had been taught. I capped off this period by attending an excellent RCIA program at my local parish, resulting in my being received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

My passion now is to help others discover the truth of Catholicism from whatever starting point they are at - be they atheists, pagans, Protestants, or lapsed Catholics. To that end, I will be offering my support and guidance to the numerous educational offerings already in place at St. Joseph's, and also devoting energy to revamping the adult education component. So be on the lookout for new Adult Bible and Faith studies! It means so much to me to be back in California working for my Church! I look forward to meeting and working with you all.

God Bless!

*Doug Beaumont*

[www.douglasbeaumont.com/why-catholicism](http://www.douglasbeaumont.com/why-catholicism)  
<https://www.facebook.com/STJMODDirectorofReligiousEducation>



(You can read my story as well as other converts in more detail at my website, or in my new book "Evangelical Exodus" ([www.evangelicalexodus.com](http://www.evangelicalexodus.com)).



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



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

## 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  
1:30 (spanish) Sunday Mass*

### 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*

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