

Saint Joseph Catholic Church

P. O. Box 365 117 South Main St.

Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

(337) 229-4254

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Rev. Barry F. Crochet, Pastor

Rev. Godwin Nzeh CMF, Associate Pastor

Deacon Christopher Doumit, Pastoral Assistant

pastor@stjosephparishonline.org

stjosephparishonline.org



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m. [5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory]

Sunday — 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

[9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory]

Monday, Wednesday and Friday — 6:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Tuesday and Thursday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

First Saturday — 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. [5:00 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory] and one-half hour before all weekday Masses, or by appointment during office hours.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER/CEMETERIAN

Mrs. Gail Borel — gail.borel@stjosephparishonline.org

RECORDS CLERK/PLANT MANAGER

Gladys Lasseigne

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Sherry Hebert — sherry.hebert@stjosephparishonline.org

YOUTH MINISTRY/CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR

Mrs. Jeanne Stiles — jstiles@diolaf.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

Mrs. Janice Carboni (4:00 p.m.)

Mrs. Jeanne Stiles and Mr. Dro Gondron (10:30 a.m.)

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Mr. Ken Theriot and John Thomas Neuville

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The chapel is open every day from 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

FUNERALS

Please contact the parish office prior to contacting the funeral home. Funerals are celebrated in the morning of Tuesdays through Saturdays no later than 11:00 a.m.

A Funeral Vigil is celebrated on the preceding evening at 6:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism classes are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m. in the rectory. Baptism are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Please contact the parish office for scheduling.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples must contact the pastor at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Contact the parish office to schedule a pastoral visit.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT


Contact the parish office.



O God, Who have commanded us to listen to Your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by Your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold Your glory.

Please pray for our parish family members who are sick:

We invite you to submit the names of people who are in need of our prayers.



Jess Koch, Lisa Adcock, Kendall Romero, Alicia Durand, Janice Stacy, Joseph Huval, Marie Lee Prioux, Troy Barras, Kelly Ransonet, Jessica Scott, Mary Smith, Brian Thibodeaux, Cora Laviolette, Jackie Savoy, Barry Thibodeaux, Doris "Boutte" Barras, Michele Dugas Burke, Paul Crochet, Craig Breaux, Helen Simon, Ross Rouly, Jamie Brady, Holly LeBlanc, Faye Gary, Tony Berard, Glenn Romero, Stuart Sandoz, Duffy Domingue, Eric Clements, David Louviere, Judy Judice, Hayden Ransonet, Trevor Louviere, Vanessa Courville, Rita and Wayne Louviere, Austin

Willett, Willey Poirrier, Inez Barras, Dennis and Helen Bastian, Butch and Debbie White, Gwen Borel, Guy Thibodeaux, Lydia May, Louis "CoCo" Landry Jr., Jerry Fruge, Jimmy Clifton, Michelle Breaux, Rowena Borel, Megan Scully, Terrel Dressel, Maxine Latiolais, Dawn Derouen, Deacon Chris Doumit, Matil Lasalle Romero, Falyn Sonnier, Rickey Sonnier, Caline Provost., Katie Boutte, Patricia Freyou, Lecia Broussard, Jason Walker, Ronald Albert Sr.

Please note that our office will purge the names on our sick list every quarter. We ask anyone who lists someone's name to please call the parish office to add or remove a name.

Collection for March 10, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering Envelopes (60%)	\$ 4,152.00
Regular Sunday Offering Loose (40%)	\$ 2,822.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 9,136.00
Regular Collection Total	\$ 6,974.00
Difference	-\$ 2,162.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,522.00
Catholic Charities of Acadiana	\$ 821.00
Completion Loan Balance	\$ 106,698.25
Completion Collection	\$ 66.00
Insurance Balance 2018-2019	\$ 30,055.70
Insurance Collection	\$ 7.00

127 of 1314 families used collection envelopes (10% participation).
 213 of 1314 families attended Mass this weekend (16% attendance).
Thanks to those who practice Sacrificial Giving and give of their time, talent and treasure as an act of profound Christian stewardship.

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning for:

Mr. and Mrs. Collins Louviere and Kerney
 Mr. and Mrs. Will Roberts, Claude and Nola Dugas

The Vocation Chalice is in the Adoration Chapel

Please pray for vocations. If you would like to have the vocation chalice in your home please call the rectory office at 229-4254.

The Bi-Monthly Statue is in the home of:

Donald and Sharon Solar

The Weekly Statue is in the home of:

Tim and Donna Allen

Saint Joseph Altar Candles are burning for:

Chad Romero and Deyna Champagne
 Poirrier Family, Sharon S. Burke

A donation was made to the Flower Fund in loving memory of:

Levie, Gladys and Dickie Ronsonet and Loto Louviere, Jr.

MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Date and Time	Readers	Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
March 23 4:00 p.m.	Roberta Degeyter	Margaret Bonin Janet Thibodeaux	Noah Smith Bella Smith Dominic Smith
March 24 7:00 a.m.	Kim Landry	Virginia Pommier Lottie Frioux	Kylie Kay Mestayer
10:30 a.m.	Emily Bonin	Beth Mora Fran Dugas Joel Dugas	William Stiles David Devillier Brynn Adcock

Please pray for our priests, seminarians, deacons and religious

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these special sons and daughters. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

March 16	Rev. Michael Sucharski, SVD/Joshua LaFleur Dcn. Ron Chauvin/Sr. Mary Lucille Stelley, SSF
March 17	Very Rev. Jared Suire, VE/Alex Lancon Dcn. Jerome Collins/Sr. Martha Readore, SHSp
March 18	Rev. Brian Taylor/Cole Laurents Dcn. Frank Cormier/Sr. Pius Blanchard, MHS
March 19	Rev. Joseph A. Tetlow, SJ/Jacob LeBlanc Dcn. James Cormier/Sr. Hilda Mallet, MHS
March 20	Rev. Mark Thibodeaux, SJ/Brett Lee Dcn. Mike Crain/Sr. Diane Dornan, MHS
March 21	Rev. Jude Thierry/Calvin LeMaire Dcn. Harry Darce/Sr. Micha DeHart, MHS
March 22	Rev. Charles Nicholas Trahan/Seth Lemaire Dcn. Kenneth David/Sr. Clare Aucoin, MHS

Mass Intentions — 3/9-3/15

Saturday 4:00 p.m. StJo — Ken Schneider, Lolly Harbin, Breaux and Segura, Kerney and Mr. and Mrs. Delcambre Families, Lenwood Collins Louviere and Mr. and Mrs. Will Roberts, Alton Louviere, Wayne LeBlanc, Lily Mae and Alvin LeBlanc, Sam and Glo Delcambre and Family,

Tasey Eldridge, Clarence Champagne Family, Robert Prados Family and Breaux Family, Chad Romero, Deyna Champagne, Audrey Crochet, Jordan Prince and Special Intention, Joseph Dressel, Kimberly Decuir, Decuir and Dugas Family, J.O. Sr. and Marie Neuville and Ted Neuville Family, Barry Eldridge and Ned Broussard Families, Melvin Dugas, Roy Sr. and Gladys Berard, Forbus Mestayer Sr., Granger and Mestayer Family, Ronald, Sr. and Mildred Gonsoulin, Leed and Mabel Gondron, Fred Laviolette, Louis and Grace Moran, Virginia Frioux, Lennet and Marie Antoinette Crochet, Dorothy T. Latiolais and Kathy Latiolais Holtzclaw, Clenie and Eve Segura and Billie, Sally Domingue, Cabrol and Domingue Family, Lorraine Huval, Preston and Agnes Huval, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Lloyd Broussard, Claude and Felicie Granger, Nancy Broussard, Clarence and Hilda Landry, Otto Sr. and Laurence Girouard, Terradot Family, Theresa Girouard Allen, Antoine Judice Families, Suzette B. Judice, Kelly Louviere, Sylvia Thibodeaux, Francis and Art Mazerole, Billie and Armance Barrilleaux, Herman Walet, Oneil and June Landry, Al Broussard Jr. Family and Abby Dugas Broussard Family, Will and Lily Roberts, Collins and Doris Louviere, Earl Mestayer, Kay Dooley and William and Dolores Dooley, Aymar and Beulah Dugas, Ide Dugas Family, Alexis Laviolette Family, Sue Crochet.

Monday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Ernest and Rita Migues, Simon and Rose Migues, Gabriella Sayour, Kayla Bonner, Georgian Marin, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Sue Crochet.

Solemnity of Saint Joseph Tuesday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Jenny Myers, Verla Mae Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hebert, Glenn and Sandra Sandi Angelle, Lucien and Lorena Angelle, Georgean Babin, Katie Magar Family, Vickie Fontenot Family, Lydia May Family, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Sue Crochet.

Sunday 7:00 a.m. StJo — Maude Granger and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Granger, S.J. "Bute" Granger and Junius & Mary Hebert, Suzette Judice, Jay Gonsoulin Family, Paul Sonnier Family and Clyde Warfel Family, Sandra P. Horton, John Michael Steiner, Joe and Rita Habetz, Kay Habetz and Thomas Voorhies, Howard and Irene Duplantis, Louis Landry, Loto and Leah Louviere, Bobby Braquet, Cathy Braquet Latiolais, Mark Braquet, Antoine "Boy" LeBlanc Family, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Albert Sr., Champagne and Landry Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Maude Granger and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Granger, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Granger, Maurice and Mary Ann Provost, David Provost, Dr. Raymond Schneider, Elaine Schneider, Skip

Wednesday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Sue Crochet.

Thursday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Walet and Judice Family, Sue Crochet.

Friday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Gam and Velma Gondron, Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Walet and Judice Family, Sue Crochet.
5:30 p.m. OLV — Special Intention, Sue Crochet.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DURING LENT

Thursday Evenings at 6:30 p.m.
in Saint Theresa Hall

March 21, 2019 — Fr. Godwin

March 28, 2019 — Fr. Crochet

April 4, 2019 — Fr. Godwin

April 11, 2019 — Deacon Jeanlouis

Events Calendar

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph
Saint Joseph Church

Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Mission with Confessions — Chad Justice
Saint Joseph Church

Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Mission with Confessions — Chad Justice
Saint Joseph Church

Thursday, March 21, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Mass with Way of the Cross at Saint Joseph Church

Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Adult Religious Education Class at Saint Theresa Hall

Friday, March 22, 2019, 3:30 p.m.

Youth Way of the Cross at Saint Joseph Church

Friday, March 22, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Mass with Way of the Cross at Our Lady of Victory Church

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 5:00 p.m.

Saint Joseph Altar and Supper at Saint Theresa Hall

Sunday, March 24, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Youth Group Meeting
Saint Theresa Hall

Monday, March 25, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Patriotic Rosary at Saint Joseph Church

Monday, March 25, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Meeting at Saint Theresa Hall

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

First Communion Preparation at Saint Theresa Hall

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Extra Confession Time at Saint Joseph Church

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Mass with Way of the Cross at Saint Joseph Church

Thursday, March 28, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Adult Religious Education Class at Saint Theresa Hall

Please check back weekly
as this calendar is updated



Youth Way of the Cross
Fridays During Lent
3:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph Church



Lenten Mission

Tuesday, March 19 and
Wednesday, March 20
Saint Joseph Church
6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker — Chad Justice



Confessions will be heard each evening

Men of St. Joseph's Church

This Lent can be the best ever for you if you attend a retreat at Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House in Grand Coteau with other men of New Iberia. Take some important time away to get closer to Jesus Christ. Join us March 21-24. For more information about retreats or to reserve your spot call or text Wayne Delcambre at 337.519.0462.



Vocation Chalice Signup

All families and members of our parish family are invited to contact the parish office at 229-4254 to signup to receive the Vocation Chalice for one week each year. The Vocation Chalice is our contribution in asking the Lord to inspire those He calls to be able to hear that call to send laborers into His harvest. It is always a privilege to be part of this endeavor.



Youth Group Meeting

Sunday, March 24, 2019, 11:30 a.m., Saint Theresa Hall



The Light is On for You Extra Confession Times for the Wednesdays of Lent

March 27 and April 3, 10, 17
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Saint Joseph Church

[Also during the Mission on March 20, 6:30 p.m.]



The children and family of Beulah L. Dugas would like to express their deep appreciation to the following people on the occasion of the death of their beloved mother, Beulah: Father Crochet, for visiting Mom and initiating the last rites, Father Bill Melancon, for officiating at the funeral mass and burial, The Catholic Daughters, especially those present at our mother's funeral (she loved every one of you), and, to all family and friends, near and far, who attended the services and offered their prayers and condolences. God bless you all!!!

On the Divine “Plan” by James V. Schall, S.J.

Scripture and Mass Canon No. 4 speak of a Divine Plan for Creation, Redemption, and bringing all things to an End Time. Then any pending issues between God, man, and the world will be settled.

The gist of this “Plan” is already in Genesis. In the “beginning,” we see manifested a definite order. Genesis is about God’s putting order into an initial abyss. Things are created. They do not just “happen.” A considerable amount of chance is found within the existing Plan. Chance results from the crossing of two or more things, each with its own purpose. Chance presupposes purpose. Chance events fall within the overall order of things.

In the Prologue to Saint John’s Gospel, even before Creation itself, the Plan had an earlier “beginning” in a Word that was with God; that was God. Within this Plan, the race of men was given “dominion” over other existing things. That precise word, “dominion,” did not mean some fancy ecological enterprise to save the planet for as long as possible from the activities of men themselves.

The world was not made complete from the beginning. The world was not complete without man in it. It could only be what it was intended to be with the addition of man’s use of the earth, water, and sky. Abundant riches were stored on the planet from the eons before man appeared on this planet.

Man did not exist solely in order to use the earth’s resources for his good. He existed in order to see how he stood with God, Who had created him, male and female, with a destiny that elevated him beyond his natural capacities. The classic end of all man’s strivings, his happiness, is not found in any existing thing that he knows or encounters in this world. Yet the good

things that he does come across and use are not illusions. Things less than God are not evil. We are not Gnostics.

Still, we find that no finite thing makes us finally happy. We become aware that something more is offered to us within or through the good things that we do come across in our passing lives. From the beginning, God’s Plan included what alone would make happy the rational creature that God did create in His image. God, in fact, created no man who had a merely natural destiny, one properly due to the level of its being, “a little less than the angels,” as the Psalmist put it.

To understand what goes on here, we need to recall what a final cause is. It is the first cause, the one that initially identifies the “what” we are intending to do. God did not “need” the world or anyone in it. Creation carries the mark of freedom, not of necessity. Many possible purposes can be given as logical reasons why God might create something from nothing.

The main reason, however, that God created a vast cosmos with a race of finite rational beings in it was twofold. The first reason was that the universe would not be complete unless, within it, someone could understand it. The universe as such bears signs of order, but of an order that the universe itself did not put there. It was a given order, a natural order.

This rational being within the universe, not outside of it like God, can return honor and glory to God in the conscious form of praise and thanksgiving. In this sense, the universe has a liturgical function. The universe, through man’s knowledge, now returns to God in the form of a wakeful awe over its beauty and over how things harmoniously fit together.

The second, and ultimately more important, reason for God’s creation was God’s invitation to each existing

person, not to a collectivity, to live within His own Trinitarian eternal life. Each human person is invited into the divine friendship as an adopted son or daughter. The universe exists in order that this invitation might be freely reciprocated by man. His existence in time is essentially concerned with how he will respond to this divine invitation.

In 1989, the then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger wrote: “Concern for the salvation of others must not lead us to ignore ... the particularism of God; salvation history and world history must not be regarded as identical entities just because God’s concern for them must be extended to all. Such direct universalism would destroy the true totality of God’s action which becomes whole precisely through the process of selection and election.” (*Co-Workers of the Truth*, 75)

The nature of friendship, divine or human, means that it cannot be forced. The last drama of the universe is seen in the Last Judgment. Our brief lives in time and space constitute the stage on which we decide whether we accept or reject God’s final cause in creating us, that of welcoming us into the friendship we call the Trinity.

James V. Schall, S.J., who served as a professor at Georgetown University for thirty-five years, is one of the most prolific Catholic writers in America. Among his many books are **The Mind That Is Catholic**, **The Modern Age**, **Political Philosophy and Revelation: A Catholic Reading**, **Reasonable Pleasures**, **Docilitas: On Teaching and Being Taught**, **Catholicism and Intelligence**, and, most recently, **On Islam: A Chronological Record, 2002-2018**.



The Sacrament of the Present Moment

by Fr. Jeffrey Kirby

As we started the penitential season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, we heard the solemn words: “Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.” To be frank, there’s not a whole lot of wiggle room in that admonition. It’s stark – and sobering.

Life has come and life will go. We are dust and we’re going to return to dust. What does that mean for us? Are the ashes just some morbid way to make fun about death? Or is there something deeper – and even charitable – in the devotional practice of ashes during Lent?

These questions beg for candor. And so, we’re called to examine the placement of ashes and the internal logic of Lent. What is it all about? A casual observation of most contemporary believers would seem to indicate that the ashes have become a kind of bizarre religious jewelry, largely devoid of meaning and worn by the most shameless among us. Meanwhile, Lent itself has become one big project in self-improvement or self-actualization.

Is this the Lent of our Sacred Tradition? Are these the best answers to the questions about Lent?

No, these are not Christian answers. These are counterfeits – false answers that reflect the transvaluation and selling out of the spiritual treasury of the Church and Western civilization. These compromised answers reflect a raw domestication of the intensely Christ-centered and profoundly penitential season of holy Lent.

The Sacred Tradition of the Church, going back millennia to the time of the apostles and other disciples, has provided us with an annual call to re-focus our lives on the Paschal Mystery, namely, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And to use the gift of time – called “the

sacrament of the present moment” by Father Jean Pierre de Caussade – to cooperate with grace, work out our salvation with “fear and trembling,” and be made fit for the kingdom of God. (cf. Philippians 2:12) This is Lent.

In our practices during the sacred season, we can appropriate for ourselves the fact that Lent has been catechetically designed by the ancient tradition of the Church to give each believer wisdom that is both immanent and eternal. It is a yearly exhortation about appreciating the shortness of life and the promise of glory in Jesus Christ. It shows us, with ashes and ascetical practices, that, as the psalmist observes: “The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.” (Psalm 90:10)

And yet, it is precisely the sense of the shortness of our lives that spurs us to discern eternity. It summons us beyond the malaise and busyness of life, to see the urgency and grace of each moment, here and now. The brevity of our lives provokes us to use each moment, intentionally and purposefully, to fight vice, nurture virtue, deepen prayer, serve those in need – and so draw closer to Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. (cf. John 11:25)

With this temporal and eternal wisdom in mind, Lent moves us from Ash Wednesday to its First Sunday. In the Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent, the Church takes us to the desert. In such a place of solitude, the deception of our minds and the fallenness of our hearts are exposed to the light and heat of truth.

The various temptations to comfort, vanity, and power are unmasked and we are shown the harm they do in our souls. The desert provides no hiding place. We have to claim each moment, choose or lose its grace, and allow the

particular moments and specifics acts of our lives to lead us closer to the riches of the glory.

It should be no surprise, therefore, that the ecclesial curriculum of Lent would lead us from the desert in its First Sunday to Mount Tabor and the manifestation of the Lord’s divinity in its Second Sunday. The Gospel account of the desert leads to the Gospel account of the glory. But this is not a set path. It’s not an entitlement or a given. If we want the glory, we must labor and persevere through the desert.

Lent is a reminder of this desert, indeed it becomes a small desert itself. It’s a renewed call to our hearts. It’s a prompting to live each moment is an opportunity where our definitive “yes” to the Lord Jesus can be played out in a thousand different yeses of mercy, patience, integrity, charity, and kindness.

In revering the present moment, and cooperating with God’s grace here and now, we are formed and fashioned for the everlasting kingdom of light and goodness. Properly understood, the ashes and ascetical practices of Lent are not empty rituals or exercises in self-improvement, let alone self-aggrandizement. They are an annual gift from the Church. They’re an invitation for us to live this passing life well so that eternal life with God can be ours.

Fr. Jeffrey Kirby, STD is an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Belmont Abbey College and the Pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Indian Land, SC. His newest book is **Be Not Troubled: A 6-Day Personal Retreat with Fr. Jean-Pierre de Caussade**.



The Holy See and Cardinal Pell by George Weigel

Cardinal George Pell's December 2018 conviction on charges of "historic sexual abuse" was a travesty of justice, thanks in part to a public atmosphere of hysterical anti-Catholicism—a fetid climate that had a devastating impact on the possibility of his receiving a fair trial. How else does one explain how 12 jurors, presented with uncorroborated charges refuted by overwhelming evidence that the alleged crimes could not have happened, completely reversed the overwhelming pro-acquittal vote delivered by a hung jury in the cardinal's first trial last year?

Cardinal Pell knew from hard personal experience how virulent the anti-Catholic atmosphere in Australia had become. As a member of the College of Cardinals and a senior Vatican official, Pell enjoyed Vatican citizenship and held a Vatican diplomatic passport; he could have stayed put, untouchable by the Australian authorities. Yet he freely decided to submit himself to his country's criminal justice system. He knew he was innocent; he was determined to defend his honor and that of the Church; and he believed in the rectitude of the Australian courts. So he went home.

It is not unreasonable to suggest that the Australian justice system has thus far failed one of Australia's most distinguished sons, who had put his trust in it. The police went on a tawdry fishing expedition for something-on-Pell. (Who, one wonders, set that in motion? And why?) A preliminary hearing sent the subsequent charges to trial, although the hearing magistrate said that, were she a juror, she wouldn't vote for conviction

on several of the alleged crimes. The first trial proved the cardinal innocent, and the re-trial returned an irrational verdict unsupported by any evidence, corroborating or otherwise. The media gag order placed on both trials, although likely intended to dampen the circus atmosphere surrounding the case, in fact relieved the prosecution of having to defend its weird and salacious charges in public.

So as of early March, the cardinal is in jail, in solitary confinement, allowed a few visitors a week, as well as a half-dozen books and magazines at a time. But he is not permitted to say Mass in his cell, on the bizarre grounds that prisoners are not allowed to lead religious services in prisons in the State of Victoria and wine is not permitted in cells.

Given all this, it is not easy to understand why, the day after the conviction was announced publicly, the interim Vatican press spokesman, Alessandro Gisotti, reiterated the mantra that has become habitual in Vatican commentary on the Pell case: the Holy See, Gisotti said, has "maximum respect for the Australian judicial authorities."

Why say this? It is precisely the Australian judiciary (and the lynch-mob atmospherics in Melbourne and elsewhere) that is on trial today in the global court of public opinion. There was no need for such gratuitous puffery. Mr. Gisotti could have, and should have, said that the Holy See awaits with interest and concern the results of the appeal process, and hopes that justice will be done. Period. Full stop. No flattery. Above all, no hint of a suggestion that the Holy See believes that the Australian police and judicial authorities have done

their job fairly, impartially, and respectfully thus far.

Shortly after Mr. Gisotti's comment, it was announced that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was beginning its own canonical inquiry into the Pell case. In theory, and one hopes in practice, the CDF investigation can be helpful: properly conducted, it will exonerate Cardinal Pell of the preposterous charges on which he was convicted, because there is zero evidence that the cardinal abused two choirboys and ample evidence that the abuse could not have occurred in the circumstances in which it allegedly happened. So justice can be done by the Holy See, whatever the ultimate outcome in Australia.

For the sake of an old friend, but also for the sake of Australia's reputation in the world, I hope that the appeal process, which begins in early June, will vindicate Cardinal Pell—and the faith he has put in his countrymen and the Australian judicial system. The latter is and should be under the closest scrutiny by fair-minded people, however. The Holy See should take note of that, and should therefore resist any further temptations to render a gauzy, and certainly premature, verdict on "the Australian judicial authorities."

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of Washington, D.C.'s Ethics and Public Policy Center, where he holds the William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies.



Patriotic Rosary

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a Patriotic Rosary on Monday evening, March 25, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph Church.

This event is another great idea to add to your list of Lenten activities.



The Knights of Columbus will meet on Monday, March 25, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Theresa Hall.



SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY “EQUIPPING THE FAMILY, SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN”

Safe Haven Sunday is for the purpose of raising awareness throughout dioceses and parishes in the United States regarding the negative impacts of pornography on individuals, marriages, families and society.

Safe Haven Sunday is inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ formal statement *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*, where they explain, “The use of pornography by anyone in the home deprives the home of its role as a safe haven and has negative effects throughout a family’s life and across generations.” This is an annual weekend set aside to directly address the harms of pornography in an appropriate way. Dioceses and parishes are providing teaching and resources that will support and protect individuals, marriages and families in making all homes a safe haven.

A resource page is available at:

<https://www.diola.org/marriage>

<https://www.learn.covenanteyes.com/takeaction>



✠ Prayer for Individuals and Families

Loving Father, thank You for the gift of marriage and family life. We entrust to You our home, where our marriage and family lives and grows. We ask You to make it a safe haven for all who live and enter these walls. May our home truly be a holy place for both young and old to be formed in the truth regarding life, love, sex, and marriage. May each of our members be protected from and guided in seeking to avoid pornography, while embracing the freedom and purity of life in Christ.

If there are past wounds that have occurred due to the availability of pornography on our family’s devices, lack of awareness of parents, or because of indifference, we ask you to send forth Your Spirit to heal, bless, renew, and consecrate this home as a safe haven with Your Son Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, today, tomorrow, and always.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Saints Joachim and Anne, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Amen.





DAVID FUNERAL HOMES

229-8338

www.davidfuneralhome.org



Dr. Gary J. Granger, O.D.
107 Centre Sarcelle Blvd.
Youngsville, LA 70592
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