

March 1, 2026

HERCULE

PREP

SAINTH

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1795 Columbia Avenue, Warrington, PA 18976



**MAKING CHRIST A REALITY IN THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE**

**Pastor:** Rev. Michael J. Pawelko  
**School:** 850 Euclid Avenue, Warrington  
**Principal:** Mrs. Jennifer Durkin  
**Religious Education:** Mrs. Danielle Staffieri  
**PREP Office:** 215-672-3020  
**Music Director:** Mrs. Maria Lennon  
[mariaalennon@gmail.com](mailto:mariaalennon@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.saintjosephchurch.us](http://www.saintjosephchurch.us)  
**RECTORY:** 215-672-3020 (9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon. - Thur.) (9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri.)  
**EMAIL:** [sjc18976@verizon.net](mailto:sjc18976@verizon.net)  
**SCHOOL:** 215-343-5100

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Mass Schedule:**  
 Daily Mass (Mon.-Sat.) 8:00 a.m.  
 Saturday Vigil Mass **4:00 p.m.**  
 Sunday Masses 7:30 a.m.  
 9:30 a.m.  
 & 11:30 a.m.

Holy Day Masses:  
 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
*(Christmas and New Year's have special schedules)*

**CONFESSIONS: Saturdays:** 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  
 & 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**MASS FOR SHUT-INS:**

TV - Sunday, 5:30 a.m. WPVI Channel 6,  
 Daily & Sunday, 8:00 a.m. EWTN

**BAPTISMS:** Parents should make arrangements with the Pastor at least one month before the requested date. Baptism is usually celebrated on Sundays at 12:30 pm (following 11:30 am Mass). Please contact Rev. Michael J. Pawelko for Pre-Jordan preparations. Godparents must be practicing the faith and present a Letter of Eligibility from their parish. No date can be set for baptism until parents have fulfilled these responsibilities.

**MATRIMONY:** To set a date for a wedding, couples must make an appointment at the Rectory at least 6 months prior to the wedding date. Weddings can be scheduled for most Saturdays, at 12:00 Noon or 2:00 p.m., or on Friday afternoons.

**SICK CALLS:** Phone the Rectory,  
 215-672-3020.

**REGISTRATION:** All Catholics who live within the parish boundaries should register. Boundaries: South of Street Road from Lower State Rd., to Norristown Rd., to County Line, to Blair Mill Rd., to Moreland Rd., to Maple Ave., to Horsham Rd., to Limekiln Pike, to Lower State Rd. & back to Street Road. If you are not registered, we cannot serve you in ways that require us to know you. Please call the Rectory (215-672-3020.) We will welcome you as part of our community of faith.

**PARISH ACTIVITIES:** Catholic Youth Organization, PREP (Parish Religious Education Program), Choir (Adult and Children's), Home & School Association, Men's Group, Rosary, Respect Life Committee, OCIA, Catholic in Recovery, Women's Group, Charismatic Prayer Group, Hospitality, Hope Committee, Health & Help Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Legion of Mary.

## *From the Desk of Father Pawelko*



My Dear Parishioners,

It is always such a Blessing and a true Grace that we are able to gather together and to pray together and praise the Blessed Trinity together in our beautiful church. *Praised be Jesus Christ now and forever!*

The Ashes we received on Ash Wednesday were a reminder to us of our mortality. Those Ashes were also a reminder to us that sin is the cause of our mortality. Thankfully though, those Ashes were imposed in the Sign of the Cross, to remind us that we really do have a Savior, and that through His Holy Cross He has redeemed that world.

Those Ashes, as we know, were made from palms from last year's Palm Sunday. This is also a reminder that those who praised Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on that very first Palm Sunday were also the same people who condemned Him to death on that very first Good Friday. As the old African spiritual asks: *were you there when they crucified my Lord?* If we acknowledge our sinfulness, we can then acknowledge that Jesus died for us.

As with past years, the Stations of the Cross are in our beautiful church on Fridays at 7:30 PM. The Stations of the Cross allow us to walk in the footsteps of Our Blessed Savior from His condemnation under Pontius Pilot through His Crucifixion and His placing into the Holy Sepulcher.

The Stations of the Cross are another opportunity to thank Him and to acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior as we begin each Station with the invocation, *we adore You, Oh Christ, and we bless You, because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

As we gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and remember the Stations of the Cross, we really are so Blessed and Graced to be able to give back just a small portion of Jesus's Love for us. We are truly Blessed and Graced, moreover, because He has promised infinite rewards for those who open their hearts to Him.

I have included two very interesting articles in this week's letter. The first explains why Elijah was the one to represent all of the Prophets at the Transfiguration. The second article is from a Protestant Website on Abstaining from meat on Fridays of Lent. While not offering the fullest of explanations, I thought that it offered a pretty good overview on why we avoid meat on Fridays of Lent. I hope that you enjoy these articles.

St. Joseph, Patron of the Church, and our Patron, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J Pawelko, Pastor



*We are collecting the following items:*

**Non-perishables only:**

Foods currently requested at this time include: Vegetable Soup, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Salad Dressing, Chili, Pasta Sauce, Beef Stew, Peanut Butter, Salsa, Stuffing Mix, Gravy Packets.

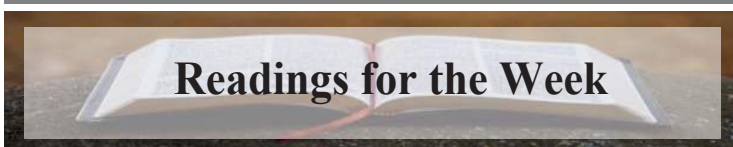
**Non Food items:**

Store Gift Cards, Laundry Detergent (liquid or pods), Household Cleaning Supplies, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Oral Care, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, and gently used grocery size paper bags.

**In Partnership with**  **Warminster Food Bank**

**MARCH 7 & 8**

**NO EXPIRED FOOD PLEASE**



- Mon:** Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
- Tues:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
- Wed:** Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
- Thurs:** Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
- Fri:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Sat:** Mt 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Sun:** Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

**Please Pray For Those Who Are Ill**  
 Paula Bielecki, Lillian Cannon, Deborah Ciavola, Josh Craft, Robert Fisher, Jim Gordon, Paul Han, Dee Hottinger, Emery Kutney, Dolores Krysztopowicz, Irene Lennon, Dominic Lightcap, Patricia McCloskey, Dave McKay, Joseph McNamara, Moira Merritt, Suzi Molz, Laura Masorli Nardone, Gertrude Nelson, Lilla Palfy, Michael K. Pham, Sarah Rank, Joseph Ranweiler, Michael Tashjian, Gino, Theresa, Dean, & Rick Romaniello, William Sparke, Rob Skalski, Stanley Travis, III, Patricia True, Jack Wilhelm, Joan Winterborne, Edward White, John Zerbe.



<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb. 28</b> 4:00 pm	Jack Ford
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar. 01</b> 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Catherine Dudas Ciso Muser
<b>Monday</b>	8:00 am	St. Joseph Memorial Society
<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 am	Richard Pancoast
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 am	Patricia Ann White
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 am	Michael & Margaret McCloskey
<b>Friday</b>	8:00 am	Dale Cain
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 am	Frank Olson
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mar. 07</b> 4:00 pm	Marie & Elmer Grossman
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar. 08</b> 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	People of the Parish Joseph Anamlayil Frances Cerritelli

*Let us Remember and Pray for Our Dead*





**St. Joseph Church  
Parish Religious Education  
Program News/Updates**



**St. Joseph / St. Robert School Update**

Mrs. Danielle Staffieri, Coordinator  
[Stjosephccd.warrington@yahoo.com](mailto:Stjosephccd.warrington@yahoo.com)  
Tuesdays ~ 6:00 – 7:15 PM

Mrs. Jennifer Durkin ~ Principal  
850 Euclid Avenue, Warrington, PA  
(215) 343-5100 | [www.sjstr.org](http://www.sjstr.org)

- TUESDAY, March 3** All grades in session.
- TUESDAY, March 10** Stations of the Cross for All Students. This is mandatory. All families are welcome to join. Students will report to the Church and be dismissed from the Church.
- TUESDAY, March 17** All grades in session.
- TUESDAY, March 24** All grades in session. Lenten Penance Service for All Students (family Catechesis and in-person). All families are welcome to participate in Penance. Drop off and pick up from the school building. Family Catechesis and SJR students please report directly to the Church at 6:15 PM.

Enrollment season is always an exciting time at SJR! It's a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with our current families and to warmly welcome new families to experience all that makes our school so special.

We've been hosting our "Get the Scoop on Kindergarten" program, inviting families with preschoolers — both from our school community and the broader community — to visit our kindergarten classrooms and see firsthand what a day at SJR looks like. It's been a joy to open our doors and share the energy, structure, and care that define our early elementary program. This program will continue if you would like to join us.

We also recently welcomed prospective students for a Shadow Day, giving them the chance to spend the day alongside our students, meet teachers, and experience life at SJR.

If you — or someone you know — would like to learn more about SJR, please reach out to our Director of Enrollment, Kathy Williamson, at [kwilliamson@sjstr.org](mailto:kwilliamson@sjstr.org). We would love the opportunity to connect and share more about our vibrant school community!

**Reminder:** *If public schools are closed due to inclement weather, PREP will also be canceled. If you have provided us with your Email address, we will notify you via Email.*

Mrs. Durkin

St. Joseph/St. Robert School does not discriminate in admissions or hiring based on race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin, age, or sex.



**Sunday, March 1:**

- Hospitality Sunday (Room 18)
- Baptisms ~ 12:30 pm

**Monday, March 2:**

- Adoration ~ 8:30 am -7:30 pm
- Communion Service/Rosary @ Christ Home ~ 2:30 pm
- Rosary & Benediction ~ 7:30 pm

**Tuesday, March 3:**

- PREP ~ 6:00 pm

**Wednesday, March 4:**

- Communion Service @ Luther Woods ~ 2:30 pm
- Catholic in Recovery ~ 7:00 pm
- Adult Choir Practice ~ 7:00 pm

**Thursday, March 5:**

- Children's Choir Practice ~ 5:15 pm – 6:30 pm
- OCIA ~ 7:00 pm (Room 18)
- Charismatic Prayer Group ~ 7:00 pm

**Friday, March 6:**

- Stations of the Cross + Benediction ~ 7:30 pm

**Sunday, March 8:**

- Food Drive



Registration must be done online. Football is: 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> grades are JV and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades are Varsity, the grades are per Sept., 2026. There is no weight limit. Cheerleading is grades K-8 grades in Sept., 2026. The registration fee for football is \$200 and for cheerleading the fee is \$75. Late fees will apply starting May 15<sup>th</sup> and increase monthly. You must be enrolled in the parish, and, either attend catholic school or be registered in your respective Parish PREP program. For more info please contact us at [saintscyogmail.com](mailto:saintscyogmail.com) or call Dave Armstrong @ (215) 783-3587. For cheerleading email [saintscyocherleading@gmail.com](mailto:saintscyocherleading@gmail.com) or call Catie Messina @ (267) 575-4151.

Register at [www.saintscyogmail.com](http://www.saintscyogmail.com)



**Moses, Elijah, and Jesus:  
Why are they all together at the Transfiguration?**  
By Daniel Esparza ~ Published Mar. 17, 2019 | Updated Feb. 28, 2021  
[www.aleteia.org](http://www.aleteia.org)

*This unusual “gathering” has deep eschatological meaning. And looking at a single word in the original Greek can help decipher it.*

The Transfiguration, the singular event in which Jesus appears radiant in glory upon the mountain.....is minutely described in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), mentioned in the second Epistle of Peter and, according to some, discreetly alluded to in John’s Gospel (“We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son”), John being one of the three apostles who witnessed (with Peter and James) this miracle.

But Jesus and these three apostles (John, Peter, and James) are not the only characters involved in this scene. What are Moses and Elijah doing here, talking with Jesus?

We can somehow easily understand Moses’ presence. On the one hand, the Transfiguration occurs after Jesus feeds the hungry multitude, multiplying the loaves and fishes, which reminds us of the Israelites being fed with manna while led by Moses in the wilderness. Also, the Book of Exodus (34:29-35) tells us that when Moses came down from Sinai with the Ten Commandments “his face was radiant” (in fact, this passage is often referred to as “the radiant face of Moses”) just as Jesus’ face “shone like the sun” during his Transfiguration. These parallels would have surely been deeply and evidently meaningful not only for the authors of the gospels, but also for their early readers.

But there is one more interesting detail here: Luke’s Gospel (9:28-36) adds that Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were speaking about his departure (that is, Jesus’), “which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.” The Greek word Luke uses for “departure” in the original is *exodos*, an obvious allusion to Moses’ exodus out of Egypt. Here, the author is offering a clear reading of the history of salvation as going from Moses’ liberation to that offered by Jesus. But what about Elijah, then?

Here’s a hint: Elijah also “*departed*.”

Traditionally, the presence of Moses and Elijah in the Transfiguration has been read as summarizing “the Law and the Prophets” now being fulfilled in and by Jesus’ life, the Messiah. Moses is obviously representing the Law, while the Prophets are represented by Elijah. But why Elijah and not, let’s say, Isaiah, Hosea, or even John the Baptist, often referred to as “the last prophet of the Old Testament”?

Actually, according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, John the Baptist is “more than a prophet.” In him, the Catechism continues, “the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah.” This is precisely what we find in the Gospel of Matthew (11:13-14): “For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.” But why was Elijah yet “to come,” if the Baptist is the “new” Elijah who already came? And why is he talking to Jesus?

The second book of Kings tells us the prophet did not die, but rather entered heaven alive “by fire,” “in a whirlwind,” carried away in a chariot of fire. Alongside Enoch and the Virgin Mary, he is the only other biblical character taken bodily into heaven. This passage is known as “Elijah’s departure,” and is also interpreted as a prefiguration of Jesus’ own Ascension into Heaven alive, once resurrected. It makes sense Elijah and Moses are then the two characters discussing Jesus’ own departure (exodos) as well.

But also, Elijah’s coming back has a deep eschatological meaning (both in the Hebrew and in the Christian Bibles) on its own, as his presence precedes that of the Messiah, and his “departure” prefigures Jesus’: the book of the prophet Malachi (the last prophet in the Old Testament in the Christian Bible, the book that closes prophetic literature) says Elijah will be sent back to earth “before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.” It has been traditionally assumed, then, that the presence of Elijah in the Transfiguration reinforces the fulfilling of Malachi’s prophecy that had already been fulfilled with the Baptist, as if sealing it.



## The Reason Behind No-Meat Fridays During Lent, and Why Fish Is Okay

April 10, 2020 | Universal Life Church  
[www.ulg.org](http://www.ulg.org)

Lent comes with a lot of rules, especially if you're a devout Catholic. One such rule is that you may not eat meat on Fridays. However, you can replace the meat in your diet with fish, but why is that? The rules may seem arbitrary, but per the Church and the Bible, there is actually sound reasoning behind each one.

### ***Why Friday?***

First, let's address the Friday issue. For the majority of the world, Friday is a day of happiness, celebration and freedom from the nine-to-five. For Catholics, however, Friday is a day of suffering.

Per the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Catholics have always set aside Friday as a day for special penitentiary observance during which they willingly suffer with Christ in the hope that they may one day revel in His glory.

Again, though, why Friday? It is believed that Friday is the day on which Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross. Traditionally, Christians have set aside Friday as a day to unite in their sufferings with Jesus. Catholics took this observance one step further by making every Friday a sort of "Good Friday" during which Christians can offer up a specific type of penance.

### ***Why Meat?***

For centuries, the Church has recognized meat as a worthy sacrifice because of its association with celebrations and feasts. In many ancient cultures, meat was considered a delicacy, and there were strict rules about only slaughtering a "fattened calf" when there was something to celebrate. Because of Friday's association with Christ's suffering and meat's connotation with celebration, it didn't seem right for devout Catholics to eat meat on a day of penance.

### ***Why Is Fish Acceptable?***

Per the USCCB, the Church's laws refer to abstaining from "land animals" only. This includes the meat from chickens, sheep, pigs, cows and other forms of livestock — any animal, really, that makes its home on land. This also includes birds. However, because fish make their home in the water, the Catholic Church does not consider fish a meat. In fact, the laws of the Church go on to explain that followers may eat "fresh and saltwater fish, reptiles, amphibians and shellfish" on Good Friday, as animals that fall into one of these categories are not "carnis."

It's important to note that the rules for Lent and Good Friday were developed centuries ago, when meat was the food of celebrations. Back then, fish was not considered a "celebratory" dish, and so was perfectly acceptable to eat on a day of penance.

In today's culture, however, the opposite is usually true. A hamburger or plate of chicken is almost always the cheaper option, especially when compared to seafood delicacies such as lobster, salmon and tuna. For many people, seafood is a treat, whereas the meat of a pig, cow or chicken is part of the everyday meal. This is why so many people, even Catholics, are confused about the rules of Lent.

### ***In the End, It's About Faith***

Despite how arbitrary the rules of the Catholic Church seem today, it's important to remember that the Church's intention is not to deprive followers of their favorite foods on their favorite day of the week. Rather, the Church upholds these ancient traditions in the hopes of encouraging the faithful to offer up a heartfelt sacrifice and to unite the suffering of followers with that of Christ on the cross.

Though giving up meat on Fridays may not seem like a big deal to you, it's the thought behind the sacrifice that counts. If every time you abstain from eating meat on a Friday night you think about Christ's sacrifice for you, the Church has achieved its purpose in upholding the ancient tradition.



# Parish Giving

St. Joseph Church is **NOW** offering Parish Giving. Parish Giving offers a simple and secure way to support St. Joseph Church through online donations using your credit/debit card or bank account—much like paying a monthly bill. Please visit our website at [www.saintjosephchurch.us](http://www.saintjosephchurch.us) and click on Parish Giving for more information.

## Weekly Offerings

	2026	2025
	<b>February 15</b>	<b>February 16</b>
Envelopes	\$ 6,728.00	\$ 6,425.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,008.97	\$ 1,897.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,736.97</b>	<b>\$ 8,322.01</b>

# LENTEN SCHEDULE 2026



*Fridays*

**Stations of  
the Cross  
&  
Benediction**

Time: 7:30 PM

FEB. 20 ~  
APR. 3

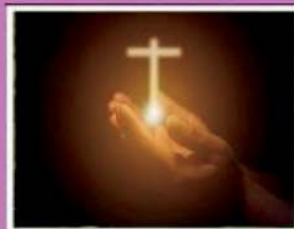


*Saturdays*

**Morning  
Confessions**

Times:  
8:30-9:00 AM

FEB. 21 ~  
MAR. 21



*Saturdays*

**Afternoon  
Confessions**

Times:  
3:00-3:45 PM

FEB. 21 ~  
MAR. 21



*Saturday*

**Last  
Confessions**

Times:  
8:30-9:30 AM  
2:45-3:45 PM

MAR. 28

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