



St. Joseph's

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Founded 1875

255 North 8th St. (P. O. Box 368) Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Church Phone Number: (985) 386-3749

Church Web site: www.stjosephsonline.com

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Suspension of Public Celebrations

Bishop Michael Duca of the Diocese of Baton Rouge has announced the suspension of public celebrations of Sunday and daily Masses in all parishes and Catholic institutions in the diocese effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

The suspension is in effect until further notice. There are over seventy church parishes and other Catholic institutions in the 12 civil parishes that comprise the boundaries of the diocese. Additional details on how this decision will affect the celebrations of sacraments and other aspects of parish life will be determined and communicated in the next few days. As always, priority consideration will be given to the directives of Governor Edwards and to public health officials who have our best interests in mind. The Bishop said, "Let us pray that the Holy Spirit gives us a spirit of Hope in the Lord, who will sustain us even in these unprecedented times."

St. Joseph's Church is Open for Individual Prayer

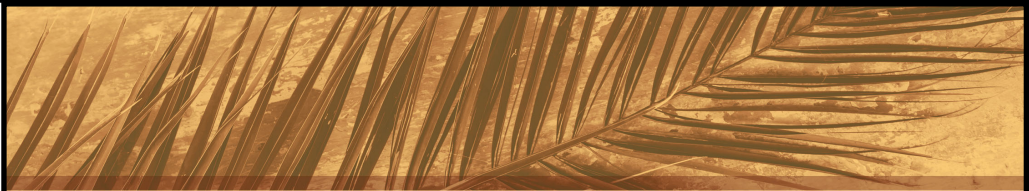
Monday – Friday:
9am– Noon & 5pm–7pm
Saturday & Sunday: 9am–Noon
NO MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE AT A TIME

Church Office

Closed for ALL OUTSIDE BUSINESS. Effective Tuesday, 3/24/2020



April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



At the name of Jesus every knee should bend... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:10, 11



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Staff

Rev. Paul A. McDuffie, *Pastor*
Larry J. Melancon, *Deacon*
Michael A. Agnello, *Deacon*
Angela Perrin, *Business Manager*
Stacy Randazzo, *Director of Ministries*
Paige Bacile, *PSR Coordinator*
Sarah Stoehr, *Youth Minister*
Rhonda Rossano, *Music Director*

Ramona Folsie, *Receptionist/Data Entry*
Kathleen Phillips, *Bookkeeper/Receptionist*
St. Joseph School
Mrs. Danette Ragusa, *Principal*
Phone Number, 985-386-6421
Website: www.sjscrusaders.org

Mission Statement

St. Joseph's Parish is a rapidly growing faith community that serves the spiritual and temporal needs of Southernmost Tangipahoa Parish through its various ministries.

St. Joseph's develops, supports, nurtures and educates Catholic Christians while offering to this entire expanding community a caring environment and a welcoming spirit of Christ present.

Parish Ministries and Contact Persons

Altar Servers: Michele & Glen Ernst, 985-386-6618. sj_altar_server@bellsouth.net
Bible Studies: Monday at 6 p.m.—Stephanie Waguespack, 985-981-9859
Children's Liturgy Ministry: Paige Bacile 985-386-3749.
Cooking Ministry: Cook a plate of food for our Priest one day each month, call Linda Guagliardo 985-345-8409.
Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion: Angela Pevey (Call / text) 985-507-5757.
Readers: Larry Ernst, 985-386-5731. lernst1@bellsouth.net
Marriage Ministry: Ed & Julie Hanks, 985-351-3143.
Mass Greeters: Barbara Martino, 985-386-3622.
Music Ministry: Rhonda Rossano 985-386-3749 - Choir Practice-Wednesday's at 6:30 pm.
Parish School of Religion: Grades K-12; Paige Bacile 985-386-3749
Special Education PSR: B. J. Nepveux, 985-370-7548.
RCIA: Ed or Julie Hanks, 985-351-3143.
Small Christian Community: Clay Nepveux at 985-634-8805.
St. Joseph Bereavement Food Ministry: Cheryl Laiche, 985-386-2033 or Ann Phillips, 985-969-2700
Stephen Ministry: Anita or Ronnie Perrin, 985-687-4458 or 985-386-3016.
Ushers: Contact Joseph Jason, 985-386-8639.
Widowed Friends of St. Joseph: Barbara Guy at 985-507-9966.
Word & Worship Prayer Ministry: Fernando Morales: 985-662-2844.
Women's Ministry: Mary Vedeckis, 225-294-6631.
Youth Ministry: Sarah Stoehr, 504-270-3451.

Download Our New Parish App!

Our new St. Joseph's app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more.

Help foster a stronger parish life at St. Joseph's and better engage the New Evangelization.

Download our app today at myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for my parish.



Organizations

Ancient Order of Hibernians: Ronnie Crimmins 985-773-8965.
Kaycee Auxiliary: Maureen Felder 225-294-3092 or maureenfelder75@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus: Buddy Williams, 504-252-2031 (Application for new members)
Rosary Altar Society: Evelyn Lavigne 985-386-6732
St. Vincent de Paul Society: For membership contact the church office, 985-386-3749. For assistance call 985-370-5459.
Core Group: Ronnie Perrin (Chairman), Lawton Hotard, Barbara Martino, Larry Melancon, Rebecca Smith, Larry Wilson
Finance Committee: Dennis James (Chairman) Michelle Ernst, Mike Fulmer, Larry Melancon, Brian Steib, Barbara Theriot .
Council of Ministries: Vance Balado, Melissa Henderson, Lisa Kennedy, Harry LeBlanc, Rachael Perrin, Stephanie Reggio, Rodney Schmaltz, Mary Threton, Wayne Vedeckis, Stephanie Waguespack, Tom Waller, Bill Wheat. Ad Hoc Council Members: Fr. McDuffie, Deacon Larry Melancon, Danette Ragusa. Stacy Randazzo.

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ZION GATE
Jerusalem

Blessed is he who
comes in the name
of the Lord!
Matthew 21:9

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

The journey of Lent brings us to an encounter with the cross. During Lent, we have been led more deeply into questions at the heart of our faith: Who is God? And who are we, the Church? The Gospel of Matthew indicates that, in the crucifixion, God's true nature is most fully revealed in Jesus. In Jesus, God is the self-emptying One, who embraces humility and suffers rejection, as Paul tells the Philippians. God's power is redefined, present not in coercion and violence, but in Jesus' unbounded love. We the Church can learn who we are, the followers of the Crucified One, when we bear crosses that offer life and hope to the world. We more fully become the Church when we empty ourselves by sharing in others' sufferings, rejecting violence, and taking risks for justice and reconciliation. Like Jesus, we may reveal God's power as compassion and mercy.

Enduring Hope

Today's passage from Isaiah presents us with a common human dilemma: what do we do with our suffering? The speaker describes himself as God's faithful servant, who suffers beatings and mockery. We can't be sure who the speaker is, but we can see his extraordinary response. He chooses not to fight back, not to respond to violence with violence. He chooses to endure with hope that God, in God's own way, will deliver and vindicate him. Christians later saw this passage as a poignant description of Jesus' suffering in his passion.

We all have many experiences of tragic or undeserved suffering. We might desire to run from our pain, or to inflict suffering upon others, or to live in despair. In faith, we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus, sharing also with all who suffer similarly. We can place our wounds in God's hands. We may live in enduring hope that Christ is indeed present and accompanies us in our pain. In God's own way, our suffering may be transformed, so to serve God's purposes.

A New Kingdom

The Gospel of Matthew, using various symbols from scripture, presents Jesus as the true and victorious king who begins a new kingdom. After his royal entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus ascends his scandalous and paradoxical throne, the cross. The cross reveals the nature of his kingdom, based on God's forgiveness and sacrificial love. Evil forces thrive when violence stirs even more violence. By accepting his suffering and offering forgiveness, Jesus broke the primary cycle of violence. The Gospels proclaim that the powers of evil, though continuing their effects today, were decisively defeated on the cross.

The resurrection of Jesus launches the reign of God, which will be fully complete upon Jesus' return. We are now offered a new path for being human by which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may partner with God to create new cycles of life and hope.

Today's Readings: Mt 21:1-11; Isa 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

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Monday – Friday: 9am– Noon, 5pm-7pm

Saturday & Sunday: 9am –Noon

NO MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE AT A TIME





Stabat Mater: Hymn to the Most Sorrowful Mother

“Stabat Mater dolorosa,” the opening words of this familiar Latin hymn, literally translate, “The sorrowful Mother was standing.” Sung most often during the praying of the Stations of the Cross, this is considered to be the most tender and mournful hymn of the Middle Ages. “In the simplest, and at the same time in the most vivid manner, it represents the Blessed Mother of God plunged in grief and weeping beneath the Cross on which her beloved Son was suffering so unmerited and so painful a death” (Britt).

Although authorship is not certain, the hymn may have been written by Pope Innocent III in the 12th century and translated by Fr. Caswall in the 1800’s. There are at least sixty translations of the hymn, but Fr. Caswall’s is by far the most widely used.

The first, second, and fourth verses narrate the Passion (John 19). The remaining verses are composed of reflections, petitions, resolutions, and affectations arising from contemplating the suffering and death of our Lord. The beauty of this hymn is in its perfect match of language and melody found in the original Latin. In fact, Dr. Philip Schaff (in "Literature and Poetry", 191) says: "The secret of the power of the 'Mater Dolorosa' lies in the intensity of feeling with which the poet identifies himself with his theme, and in the soft, plaintive melody of its Latin rhythm and rhyme, which cannot be transferred to any other language."

The hymn has been arranged by many composers into many different settings—a testament to its power to move listeners and the faithful who sing it to turn mind and heart to the Paschal Mystery and to Mary’s total surrender to the will of God. Listen to Pergolesi’s arrangement on YouTube at https://youtu.be/qzOmPUu-F_M of which the German poet Tieck confesses: "I had to turn away to hide my tears, especially at the place, 'Vidit suum dulcem natum'":

Vidit suum dulcem natum
moriētem desolātum,
dum emisit spīritum.

She saw her tender Child,
hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth sent.
<https://lyricstranslate.com>

The music crescendos with the agony that Mother Mary must have experienced, unable to relieve the suffering of her only child.

To hear and/or sing this hymn as we commonly know it, see YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4US4PSZF278> and contemplate the Passion of the Lord and Mary’s great sorrow. As we join our voices with others in singing the *Stabat Mater*, we share her sorrow and may experience a most sublime connection to all of the ages of disciples who have stood at the foot of the Cross with her in mourning the death of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

St. Joseph's Family Rosary

Let us join in prayer as a community and Church family during this time we cannot gather together. We are asking that each **Sunday at 8pm** families and individuals pray the Rosary in their own homes. Together we will storm the heavens with our prayers, as we offer intentions for our families, protection from the Coronavirus and all illnesses, healing of those affected and restoration of our Holy Mass.



“We cannot underestimate the power of prayer and the difference it will make in our world” Mother Theresa

Hosanna!

“Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest” (Matthew 21:9). With these words the Church enters the holiest of weeks, commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. When the people of Jerusalem cried out with their “hosannas,” they were using an ancient Hebrew shout of acclamation that meant “Pray, save us.” The king to whom they were shouting eventually would save them, but in a way that would be far from what they expected. Salvation would come from the wood of the cross as Jesus hung there to bring freedom from sin and life through death, opening the gates of heaven for all who put their faith and trust in him.

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Today's Readings

Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

Psalm — My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

Gospel — The account of Christ's passion according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Monica's Journey

“Monica's Journey” is a ministry of St. Joseph Catholic Church for women who struggle to find answers in the midst of difficult relationships or traumatic experiences in their lives. This ministry gives them a welcoming and non-judgmental place to find the hope and healing they need. Meetings are held in the evening during the week for 90 minutes. Members of other denominations are welcome. **This is a strictly confidential group and a confidentiality statement must be signed by all members.** The place and time of meetings will be disclosed after initial contact is made with the group facilitator. Voicemail: *Please leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible.* (985) 467-9520.

Healing Hearts

Healing Hearts: A Catholic support group for WOMEN, whose relationships have been negatively impacted by the pornography addiction or sexual addiction of a loved one. This may include a spouse, boyfriend, family member or friend. Strict confidentiality is observed by all members. Meetings are held on a weekly basis. Contact 985-401-2010 for more information and respond to the prompting.



Healing from Divorce Group

If you are separated or divorced, the Church cares about you. The loss of a relationship through separation or divorce poses one of the most difficult transitions a person can face. As people journey through a divorce, they face the stress of emotions, life changes, and developing a way to live a new life. As a Church, we are called to imitate Jesus Christ, who always sought to heal the brokenhearted. St. Joseph now has a new ministry for this purpose. For more information please contact Angela Perrin at 985-318-4927.

Please Pray for Sick and Shut-Ins

Jason Abernaghy, Deacon Mike Agnello, Stephanie Alexander, Ray Aleman, Ockie Baldassoro, Sr., Patrick Bailey, Gloria Bennett, Mildred Bittick, Ray Boihem, Michelle Bossier, Hazel Boudreaux, Larry Boudreaux, Ranice Bourg, Barbara Bourgeois, Angel Braun, JoAnne Brisset, Jeanette Brown, Baby David Burris, Eric Campos, Christine Castjohn, Carol Castle, Dennis Charbonnet, Rita Charbonnet, Julian Chiro, Gavin Cieutat, PJ Clause, Phillip Connelley, Ken Davidson, Lucille Davidson, Melissa Balado Dean, Kitty Derveloy, Larry Deslatte, Alexis Dionne, Stacey Dolan, Beverly Dominique, Carol Dominguez, John Dufreche, Andrew Dzuryachko, Pam Guichet Elder, Veronica Fannally, Joey Fortenberry, Marge Frahm, Eva Francois, Geraldine Freeman, Lenny George, Nittie Gilliland, Malissa Gonzalez, Joan Gurganus, Brian Guichet, Myrthus “Twinkle” Guichet, Anne Guidry, Sue Quave Guildner, Jean Guitreau, Katherine Harris, Warren Heckmann, Kalee Henderson, Sherry Hill, Elaine Hoover, Tammy Perrin Horn, Peggy Howes, Jimmy Hubert, Tara Huguet, Grace Innerarity, Joseph Jason, Jennifer Jernigan, Sena Kilbert, Ronnie Klug, Norma Kraemer, David Kraft, Charles Gregory Kraft, Sis Kyzar, Norma Larriue, Wayne Laurent, Doris Lavigne, Ruby Drude Lee, Sally LeJeune, Hilton Lloyd, IV, Elsie Major, Mary Twickler Mann, Francis Martino, Caitlyn Matherne, Cole McMillion, Morris Meyer, Barry Mince Sr., Anna Mae Mixon, Patricia Monteleone, Andrew Morales, Ed Murray, Betty Olsen, CJ Otilio, Carol Ott, Ruth Ourso, Wanda Pandarvis, George Peltier, Bert Perilloux, Beverly Pinion, Fran Poche, Ann Prine, Mary Prine, Mike Raiford, Dale Roberts, Bryan Roddick, A. J. Roig, Jr., Linda Ryan, Rosa Maria Santos, Ernest Schenck, Bob Simoneaux, Bristol Rose Smith, Dale Allen Smith, Kayla Smith, Wylene Remy Taylor, Madeline Thibodeaux, Tracy Todd, Mike Tournillon, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tartamelia, Sam Vilardo, Sam Viola, Carla Van Vrancken, June Villa, Glen Walker, Danny Wall, Francis Waguespack, Rodney Wempren, Peggy West, Stanley Williams, Faith Rose Wiltz. **Names submitted will be included for 4 weeks. Please call the Church office to renew.**

Please pray for members of our parish family serving our country in the armed forces and remember also their families:

CM Sgt Christopher Castle, Col. Brad Duplessis, Col. Brian Duplessis, Col. David, Duplessis- Commander, Mason Joiner Sgt Major in Army, Capt. Kathleen Keller, Jacob Milton, Commander Eric Olsen, US Navy. **Names submitted will be included for 4 weeks. Please call the Church office to renew.**

Saints and Special Observations

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Monday: Monday of Holy Week
Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week
Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week; Passover begins
Thursday: Holy Thursday; The Sacred Paschal Triduum
Friday: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence
Saturday: The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night;



PAL (Parents of Addicted Loved-ones) is a support group of parents helping parents. PAL is also open to spouses and other family members and friends (18 or older) who have a loved one struggling with addiction. .

A local PAL group meets in the St. Dominic room of St. Joseph's Ministry Building on the corner of 8th and Pine St. every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 6-7:30 pm.

We look forward to sharing this program of hope and support with you. For questions or information contact Mary Jo B. at 985-320-3010 or Paige B. 985-981-8010 or review the website www.palgroup.org. All inquiries are held in strict confidence. **You are not alone There is HOPE.**

Readings for the Week of

April 6, 2020

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: **Christm Mass:** Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9;
 Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21
Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;
 Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
 Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25;
 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
 Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10,
 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22;
 b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11;
 c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18;
 d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6;
 f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11;
 g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or
 Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19;
 h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10

Next Sunday Readings (April 12, 2020)

First Reading.....Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43
 Second Reading.....Colossians 3:1-4, or 1 Corinthians 5: 6b-8
 Gospel.....John 20: 1-9
 Psalm.....118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Mass Intentions

Fr. McDuffie will offer his private daily Mass for the following Intentions:

Monday, April 6, 2020

Ella Mae Melancon

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Lillian Foret

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

For the People of the Parish

Thursday, April 9, 2020

Susan Klar

Saturday, April 11, 2020

Dudley & Geraldine Berthelot

Geraldine Desplas

Ted & Nancy Dupont

(L) Ed Hanks

Bill Perrin

Rufus Poche

Jan Ripberger

Liz Sanderson

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Living & Deceased Members of the Bates & Gregoire Family

Earl Baudin, Sr.

(L) Deacons & Wives & Families

Mary Sue Drude

Richard & Clotilde Drude

Noel Dzuryachko

Francis Garaudy

Dorothy Hotard

Patricia D. Kimbrough

Ella Mae Melancon

Rose Pompeo Mitchell

Ronald Steib

(L) Mary & Wayne Vedeckis

Bobby Wolfe

(L) Indicates Living

Widowed Friends

Because of the virus, we are not going to meet again until April 28th. Stay healthy. Use an abundance of health safeguards. Hope to see you soon and God Bless.

Stewardship

"Ready, at the Hour of Need"

"Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, 'My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.' He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.' When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, 'So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, 'My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!' Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.'"

There are times when it is almost impossible to imagine ourselves in the middle of a Bible story. Walking across the Red Sea on dry ground. Swallowed by a whale. Walking on water. Seeing thousands fed from a single picnic basket. The miraculous can be a little difficult to process at times. That isn't true of the altogether human failures with which we all identify. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was in anguish. Thankfully, he wasn't alone. However, we read the story and think, "Well, he might as well have been," and we readily identify with the apostles' failure to support him in his need. Oh, that we might be ready, willing, and listening when the Lord calls to us.

Financial News

YTD	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
3/22/2020	\$767,780.37	\$722,000.00	\$ +45,780.37
Church Support	\$ 6,150.15		
St. Joseph School	\$ 57.00		
Misc. Collections	\$ 50.00		
	\$ 6,257.15		

Collection Totals for 3/29/2020 will be in the April 12th bulletin.

GIVE ONLINE

Easy. Safe. Convenient.



SIGN UP
TODAY!

Now available for Apple and Android devices!

Find more information on our website.

Rosary Altar Society

The April meeting has been cancelled.

Pelican – More Than Our State Bird



Have you ever wondered why we have two images of a mother pelican feeding her baby birds in our Church at St. Joseph's? It is not because we live in Louisiana, where the pelican is our state bird. Rather, the pelican feeding her young from her breast is a symbol of our Lord sustaining us with his flesh and blood in the Eucharist.

I discovered this when I was in the Holy Land and noticed several pelican images, including one carved at the top of a column in the upper room, where Jesus shared the Last Supper with his apostles and instituted the Eucharist.

Here is an excerpt of the article <https://thecatholicspirit.com/faith/focus-on-faith/faith-fundamentals/why-the-pelican-with-chicks-is-a-symbol-of-the-eucharist/> posted by Father Van Sloun a pastor of St. Bartholomew in Wayzata:

Christians see parallels between the mother pelican and her chicks and Jesus and his followers. The mother pelican represents Jesus, the chicks represent us. The chicks dwell in the safety of the nest, believers dwell in the safety of the Church. The mother is the head of the nest, and Jesus is the head of the Church (Eph 1:22). The mother has an intense concern for her chicks and it goes against her nature to allow any of them to perish, and Jesus has a great love for us and wants none of us to perish.

When food is in short supply, the pelican pierces its breast with its sharp, pointed beak, and the side of Jesus was pierced by a sharp, pointed lance (Jn 19:34a). Blood flows from the pelican's breast, and blood flowed from Jesus' side (Jn 19:34b). The mother's blood is drink for her chicks, and the blood of Jesus is "true drink" (Jn 6:55b). The mother gives her life that her chicks might live, and Jesus laid down his life that we might live (Jn 15:13). The mother's blood saves the lives of the chicks, and the blood of Jesus is salvation and eternal life (Jn 6:54) for those who receive it. Because of these striking similarities, the mother pelican and her chicks have come to represent the Eucharist, as well as redemption and salvation.

One of our pelican images is in the chapel below the altar, above which hangs our Lord on the cross. I like to spend time in prayer there reflecting on the immense love Jesus has for me, the suffering he chose to endure for me, the suffering God must have gone through in giving his only Son for me. This love that manifests itself in the sacrifice which takes place at every Holy Mass.

I think about the pelican hurting herself for the sake of her children and reflect on the pain I feel when my children are hurting and how I would gladly take on their pain if I could. I find peace knowing that Jesus loves them more than I do, and I place them at the foot of the cross asking Jesus to comfort them to nourish them and to sustain them as the mother pelican sustains her young.

Paige Bacile, PSR Coordinator



Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Stressed? Discouraged? Lonely? Sad? Don't Suffer Alone. Help is Available.

Sometimes we fall into a trap where we think it's a sign of weakness to ask for help. So when we're stressed, discouraged, lonely, or sad, we try to keep our struggles hidden and are reluctant to ask for help. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephens Ministers who are ready to provide confidential one to one care, encouragement, and support to help you through a tough time. Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Anita Perrin (985) 687-4458 or Ronnie Perrin (985) 507-9765. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care into your life.



LN Hughes
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LISA NATA HUGHES, CFSP, CPC
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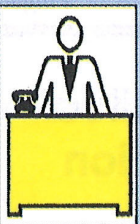
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