

From the Heart of Fr. Jim
January 19, 2020
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Thank you for your prayers this week as the priests of the diocese met to learn more about Marriage and Family Life. It was a good education topic and will help me to promote further the dignity of Marriage, along with its sacramental graces, and talk about the gift and role family has for the Church. There will be insights shared with everyone in future homilies. Let us make a great effort to pray for families: your personal family, our church family and the universal church family.
- Beginning Feb 1st, we will be collecting used palms to burn for Ash Wednesday. There will be a basket in Church to place all Palms to be burned.
- Daily Mass will be on regular schedule this week
- Scripture Study will continue at I C Hall beginning at 6 PM on Thursday. It is on the Book of Revelation. All are welcome.
- SAVE THE DATE - On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the next Work Day will be held at Clear Creek Abbey. Mark your calendars now and more information will be forthcoming. The website is open for registrations at www.abbeyworkday.com.
- If you would like a copy of your yearly donations for 2019, please sign the sheet in front of the Church.
- Looking for a licensed welder to complete a project at Immaculate Conception. If you know of someone licensed and who does good work, please have them call the office at 918.647.3475
- Fr the next few weekends at all our Masses at I C, our Confirmation students will be helping us to update our database. They will be at the doors of the Church asking you

for your name, address, city, state, zip and cell phone/home phone number. In addition, they will be asking if you receive texts, and for your email. Please be assured that we will not be selling any of this information. We need to update our database for all the parishes. In addition, the Diocese is participating in a “Call for More” program that will help the diocese with short and long term goals for growth, and for clergy placement as well. More information will be forthcoming, but first and foremost, I need your basic information to help with our database. Your help, patience and kindness will be greatly appreciated.

- I will be asking families to take home the Vocation Crosses to pray for vocations. Instead of asking at the end of Mass for volunteers. I will individually ask a different family each week to take a cross home, and return it to Church the following week. This way, no one is embarrassed to come forward in the Church.
- Please remember a few things: When coming up for communion, please extend your hands out, one on top of the other, if you wish to receive Communion in your hand. In addition, please respond with “AMEN” loud enough so the Minister can hear it prior to receiving the Body of Christ in your hand or on your tongue. Please do not take the host from the Priest or minister.
- Secondly, the Sanctuary of the Church is sacred space. This means that we all should treat this area with respect and sacred silence. Conversations should be kept to a minimum and unnecessary conversation should be moved to the vestibule or outside. This should start from the moment we enter church and continue until we step outside the Church. Let us all work to keep silence sacred in the Church in order to adore our Lord always.
- At the Our Father, remember that holding hands across the aisle is not permitted. The same at the Sign of Peace. Please

give to those closest around you. We do not walk around the Church giving everyone a sign of peace.

- Please continue to pray for all our homebound members and all our parishioners who are sick and suffering.
- Catholic Charities needs Jelly, tuna fish and personal hygiene products. Plastic bags are also needed.
- Remember that Baptisms, Presentations, Weddings and Quincineras need a minimum of 6 months before they can happen. Please contact Fr. Jim for more information before you schedule your date.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available ½ hour before Mass and from 3:30 – 4:30 in Church on Saturday's and by appointment.
- Fr. Jim has two trips planned this fall: First trip is September 28th through October 7, 2020 to Medjugorje. Cost is \$3000. More information available at trinitypilgrimage.com
- Second trip is to the Holy Land, November 4th through the 14th. Cost is \$3600 per person. If interested, please Fr. Jim for flyer and more information.

God Bless Each of you!

Fr. Jim

Reflections: **Virtue for January: Perfection**

Be ye perfect as your Heavenly Father is Perfect.

Matthew 5:48

From January 21st:

Humility and Charity are the two master-chords: one, the lowest,; the other, the highest. All others are dependent on them. Therefore it is necessary, above all, to maintain ourselves in these two virtues; for observe well that the preservation of the whole edifice depends on the foundation and the roof. **St. Frances De Sales**

Although there never was or can be any Saint destitute of these two most necessary virtues, yet there have ben some who, in our eyes at least, have seemed to excel in their brightness. One of these was certainly St. Francis di Paula. Through his great humility, he was not contented with considering himself the least of all men, but he also desired that this should be the mark distinguishing his order from all others; and as to charity, he was so inflamed with love that he sometimes lit a candle by touching them with his fingers, just as if he had applied to them a burning torch.

Jesus Always: Embracing joy in His Presence: January 21st:

To enjoy my presence more fully, you need to think less and less about yourself. This is not an arbitrary demand; it is the secret to living more abundantly. Self-forgetfulness is a delightful way to live!

Try to become aware of how much time you spend thinking about yourself. Take a look at your mind's contents. Though your thoughts are not visible to other people unless you choose to share them, I see each and every one. When you realize your thinking is unworthy of Me, make every effort to change the subject. If you are struggling with a self-centered idea that recurs again and again, try connecting it to a favorite scripture or a brief prayer. This forms a bridge for your attention—away from yourself and toward Me. For example, praying “I love You, Lord” can quickly direct your focus to Me.

If you have to repeat this process many times,

don't be discouraged. You are training your mind to seek My Face, and this endeavor is pleasing to me. Seek Me, beloved, and live abundantly.

(helpful Scripture passages: Psalm John 10:10, Psalm 27:8, Amos 5:4)

JANUARY 2020 CALENDAR

Jan 18 th :	3:30 PM Confessions 5 PM Mass
Jan 19 th :	8:30 Confessions 9 AM Mass at I C 10:30 Religious Education 12 Noon Mass at St. Elizabeth No Scripture Study 2 PM Spanish Mass at I C 5 PM Mass at St. Joseph 6 pm Scripture Study
Jan 21 st :	8 am Mass in Chapel
Jan 22 nd :	12 Noon Mass in Chapel
Jan 23 rd :	8 am Mass in Chapel 6 pm Scripture Study in Hall at I C
Jan 24 th :	8 am Mass in Chapel
Jan 25 th :	3:30 PM Confessions 5 PM Mass
Jan 26 th :	8:30 Confessions 9 AM Mass at I C 10:30 Religious Education

12 Noon Mass at St. Elizabeth
1 PM Scripture Study

5 PM Mass at St. Joseph
6 pm Scripture Study

Five Keys to freedom from sexual sin:

1. Desire Change -with the help of God
2. Change your habits -be transparent
3. Get accountable: with confessor, with a recovery group
4. Prayer: with the help of Jesus, our Divine Healer: Trust in HIM
5. Learn more

Surrender Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I desire the desire to surrender my heart and my entire being to you, but I cannot do it, for I fear the abandonment of losing control of who I am. I ask that you take what little space I can open to you, use it and invade my heart, take it captive and protect it from all evil I beg for your help in my complete surrender to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Battle Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ; I cannot fight this battle any more. I am done. I hand you the dragon to slay. I hand you the lizard of lust to slay. I hand you the battle and walk away, it is yours. I'm done. I cannot do this anymore. It's not my battle anymore. Amen