

Love your Priests

According to recent studies... a great number of priests quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they don't believe in the calling God has placed on their life. Most don't even quit because of financial reasons.

Priests quit because they are overwhelmed with mental exhaustion.

Until you're a priest you'll never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of night, praying for your family of faith. Awakened in the middle of night with someone on your heart. Overwhelmed with concern by a persons absence or distance.

Your mind continually occupied with the presentation of the upcoming Sunday message - how to preach it, what to teach on, how do we apply it? Getting critiqued on a continual basis.

Being told you need to do better or that some areas of the church simply need to be better.

Priests invest their whole life into people and yet people will turn their backs on their pastor at the first sign of a storm, usually without a conversation. Priests stand in the middle of disputes.

Priests stand in the middle of gossip.

Priests council broken marriages.

Priests comfort those who have suffered loss.

Priests navigate the waters of imperfect people with a desire to see each one thrive in their faith.

They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your priest craves the very best for you. All of this, while trying to battle their own flesh and grow in their own relationship with God.

Priests see the posts.

Priests hear the whispers.

Priests endure the negativity.

Priests are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves.

Priest pour out and pour out - rarely being poured into.

What keeps a priest going? **YOU!**

You - the person who is genuinely hungry.

You - the person who worships with passion and freedom.

You - the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus.

You - the single mom who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ.

You - the one who walks through the door for the first time because you're in search of peace, hope, and community.

Pray for your priest. Serve with your priest.

Talk with your priest. Encourage your priest.

They are human. They need You more than you think!

Financial Stewardship

When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, they offered a sacrificial gift "in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord." An offering of a specific size or kind is not "dictated" when we bring our gifts to the altar at Mass. Is my gift reflective of the many blessings I have received?

Jan 25th

St Joseph \$ 2,123.00

St James \$ 323.00

Mission of the Month - Womens Care Center



St Joseph	Lector
Sat. Feb 1st	Burns
Sun. Feb 2nd	Wilbur
Sat. Feb 8th	Seaborn
Sun. Feb 9th	Chastain

SAINT JOSEPH, BRIMFIELD - SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD



Father Deogratias Mpewo, Pastor Deacon Ray Burton
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www.stjosephbrimfield.org and www.stjameswilliamsfield.org

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time Feb 2nd 2025

The Presentation of the Lord

"Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." – Hebrews 2:18

When we join a support group, there is comfort in sharing our pain with people who have experienced the same thing; they understand what we are going through. The next time you experience suffering, talk to Jesus. He has experienced more suffering than most of us, He understands. Plus, Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Only He can fill the hole you feel in your heart.

St. Joseph		St. James
Sat. Feb 1st	9:00am Holy Souls in Purgatory 3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm Bud Stobough+	Sunday Confessions 8:00 — 8:25 am
Sun. Feb 2nd	10:30am Celine Estes & Family	Sun, Feb 2nd 8:30am
Mon. Feb 3rd	8:00 am Francis & Fredrick Carroll+	Ben & Mary German
Tues. Feb 4th	8:00am Denny Porter+	Offered by
Wed. Feb 5th	8:00 am Special Intention (Fr Deo) 5:00pm-6:45pm Adoration /Confession	Bonnie Strom
Thurs Feb 6th	8:00 am People of St James	Sun, Feb 9th 8:30am
Fri. Feb 7th	8:00 am People of the Parish	People of the Parish
Sat. Feb 8th	3:30pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm Fabian & Dorothy Cahill+	
Sun. Feb 9th	10:30am Richard Wilbur+	

Dear Catholics of Bradford, Brimfield, Princeville and Wyoming, Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Parish Transition Team, those representatives for whom you voted as we take on the work of merging into one new parish, has been hard at work now for five months. One of our tasks is to choose a new name for the parish. We have looked for a name that unites our four parishes and we have come up with four options. We now ask you to vote on the name you like the best. Each church will maintain its own name, but one name will unite us as a new parish. Your church might become "Saint Joseph of Incarnation Parish" or "Saint Dominic of Saint Isidore Parish." Please read each description as a family and list in order of preference 1-4 submit per household family. **The votes will be counted after the Masses on February 2.**

Thank you for your help and your continued prayers, Fr. Corey

**IT'S PARTY TIME!
EVERYONE IS INVITED**

Please join us at Harrison Hall after Mass on Sunday, February 16, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Fr. Deo's ordination.

Hot soups, cold drinks, and, of course, **CAKE**, will be provided! Come help us celebrate and enjoy some fellowship.

We are taking donations for the hospital in Uganda in Fr. Deo Name in thanksgiving of his 30 years as a priest. There will be collection basket at the hall.

MASS INTENTIONS

We are in need of Mass intentions. If you are looking for a way to remember a deceased loved one, honor a birthday or special event, or pray for a special need, having a Mass said may be the perfect answer.

Mass Intention envelopes can be found in the back of church and there is a form in the bulletin.

Server Training



Anyone who would like to serve come on any Saturday at 4pm. You will meet with Deacon Ray for training.

Thanks for volunteering.

CCD and Confirmation Schedule

St Mary—Princeville

Feb 2nd—Class
Feb 16th—No Class
Feb 23rd—Class
March 2nd—Class

**Youth Group Schedule
for 7-12th graders**

February 2nd
February 16th March 16th
March 30th April 13th
April 27th (Starved Rock)
If you want to join the Youth Group
or have questions please call 309-231-8064

NOTICE

The Parish of St Joseph
Brimfield is **not** closing.

The parish of St Joseph will become part of a larger parish. We are merging with Princeville, Wyoming and Bradford to become a larger Catholic Community.

We are voting as a catholic community as to the name of the newly formed parish with locations in Brimfield, Princeville and Wyoming.

Please vote with your preference of name of our new parish.

Label them #1—#4 as to your families choice.

Make sure it is in this Sunday FEB 2nd after Mass.

Bishops original letter is in the back of the church and on the parish website for you to read about the merging of our parishes.

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time—Year C—Homily

Today is the Feast day of the presentation of the Lord in the temple and world day of Consecrated life. As Christ was presented in the temple today, Holy Mother Church invites us to continually offer ourselves "as a living, holy, and pleasing sacrifice to God" Rm 12:1.

In last week's Gospel reading, Jesus was speaking to the same crowd in his own hometown and they loved what he said because he said things that made them feel good. But today, suddenly they have moved on to driving him out of town and wanting to kill Him. He told them that the people they considered their enemies, the worst kind of outsiders, were not enemies that God was going to come in and defeat. In fact, Jesus tells them stories about God particularly caring for those outsiders, loving them as much as anyone. Not only were they equal, but sometimes they were more deserving of God's grace than the people who felt that they were God's chosen ones, the only chosen ones.

Telling the story of Naaman the Syrian, Jesus was pointing out that even someone from a country that had once occupied yours, someone of a different nationality and a different religion, even someone in addition completely unclean because of a disease, God brings blessings to them. The implication was that his listeners also have to be prepared to see them the way God sees them, and to treat them the same way, too. This was apparently news to them. They up to this day thought that whenever the messiah came he would defeat their enemies, not serve them. They were enraged and wanted to kill Him.

We live in an age when anger and resentment seem to be everywhere. Some of that anger is provoked the same way Jesus provoked it, by stirring up feelings about people who seem like enemies, getting people angry about other people somehow getting more than they deserve. Jesus, however, is demonstrating that all anger isn't righteous anger. Anger is rarely the answer. The prophets are preaching a God who is nothing but love, and who therefore is always pushing us to our limits with how limitless and indiscriminating that love is. Our God is a God of the broken and the cast aside, the God of our enemies and those we don't like or trust. Their fate matters to God, and so maybe, it should matter to us. God stands up for them, and we need to, ourselves.

***MAY WE ALWAYS SOW LOVE EVERYWHERE TO EVERYONE AND AVOID STIRRING UP ANGER. LOVING THE PEOPLE YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO LOVE IS ALWAYS THE NEXT STEP, AND IT'S A HARD ONE.
MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED AND PEACEFUL WEEK. FR DEO.***

Mass Intention Request

Mass for _____

1st Choice of Date _____ 2nd _____

Place of Mass: St. Joseph St. James

Day of Week Preference: _____

From: _____ Phone: _____

**Return to Parish office or place in collection basket. (suggested donation of \$10.00)
Please give phone number so that if the date is not available the office may contact you.
Mass intention envelopes are available in the back of the church.**