

At the Last Supper, on the night before Jesus poured out his life for us, He made a final prayer in which He prayed for “those who will believe in me through their [the Apostles] word, **that they may all be one**”. And then, in his next words, He explained to the Father *why He prayed this*: “As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me**.” Jesus prayed that every person who receives the saving words of Christ through the Apostles and their successors, the bishops, would be one so that the world would believe that Jesus had been sent from the Father. Today, the disunity of Christians and the lack of uniformity in Christian belief and practice causes many non-believers to remain non-believers. They wonder, rightfully so, why they should believe in Christianity when Christians themselves cannot even agree on what Jesus taught.

As we continue forward with the merger of our four parishes, I am very optimistic about the new potential we will have for reaching out to the non-believers around us. We will have strength in numbers and a new vision for what is possible as we unite our energies and resources in evangelizing those who are not in our pews. But, there is one thing that concerns me: possible fighting amongst ourselves. As Mass schedules change and things start to become less convenient for all of us, there is a danger of pride, envy, and bitterness that can lead to “murmuring” and “in-fighting”. If we allow this to happen, we will lose the battle for souls before it even begins, because no one will want to join a church full of people who are fighting with each other. On the other hand, “They will know we are Christians by our love.” If we can navigate this great change peacefully, in unity and charity, it will be a great witness to the power of Jesus Christ in our midst.

Therefore, **I am asking every parishioner at each of the four parishes to commit themselves to praying at least one decade of the Rosary every day during Lent for the success of the merger.** I have written a prayer for all of us to pray for each other and for our shared mission to souls. I have created a pledge card for every parishioner to pledge Rosaries to this cause. And on Ash Wednesday, we will post the total number of decades that will be prayed during Lent as a community. Please fill out a pledge card by Sunday, March 2, and take a copy of the prayer to pray each day of Lent. We also have instructions on how to pray the Rosary for anyone who has never learned. Thank you!

Mass Intention Request

Mass for _____

1st Choice of Date _____ 2nd _____

Place of Mass: St. Joseph St. James

Day of Week Preference: _____ Deceased _____ Living _____

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.**

SAINT JOSEPH, BRIMFIELD - SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD



Father Deogratias Mpewo, Pastor Deacon Ray Burton
314 W. Clay St., P.O. Box 199, Brimfield, Illinois 61517
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Parish Office : Parishoffice@stjosephbrimfield.org
Fr. Deogratias: Frdeo@stjosephbrimfield.org
www.stjosephbrimfield.org and www.stjameswilliamsfield.org

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time March 2nd, 2025

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.” - LUKE 6:43
Are you using your gifts in the way God intended? Have you asked God how He would like you to use them? Do you compare yourself to others and complain about what you don't have instead of being thankful for what you do have? God gives each of us unique gifts and a unique plan. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.

St. Joseph		St. James
Sat. Mar 1st	9:00 am Holy Souls of Purgatory 3:30 pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm Megan & Thompson Families	Sunday Confessions 8:00 — 8:25 am
Sun. Mar 2nd	10:30am Anniv. Randy & Kim Hunzeker	Sun, Mar 2nd 8:30am People of the Parish
Mon. Mar 3rd	8:00 am Special Intention (Fr Deo)	
Tues. Mar 4th	8:00 am Francis & Fredrick Carroll+	
Wed. Mar 5th	8:00 am People of the Parish	Wed, Mar 5th 5:00pm Murdock's Special Intention
Ash Wednesday	6:30 pm Denny Porter+	
Thurs Mar 6th	8:00 am Daily Mass Saints	
Fri. Mar 7th	8:00 am Audrey Arnold Family	Fri, Mar 7th 5:30-6:20 Confessions 6:30pm Stations of the Cross
Sat. Mar 8th	3:30 pm—4:45pm Confessions 5:00 pm Tom & Ann Maher +	
Sun. Mar 9th	10:30am Paul Gilles+	Sun, Mar 9th 8:30am Rev. John C Collopy Offered by Collopy and Doubet families

Lenten Mass & Stations of the Cross Schedule
in the back of the church

Ash Wednesday always begins the 40 days of the sacred season of Lent, culminating with Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter. Lent is most profoundly a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, as described in the Gospel according to Matthew read on Ash Wednesday. As Jesus Himself journeyed alone in the desert for 40 days and nights, so we too spend some of this Lenten time with Christ alone in the sanctuary of our souls. He was tempted by Satan to sin, but never fell. We also are tempted and fallen at times; but Jesus is always present to lift us up with His Cross. Please encourage all in the community to receive this blessed sign of penance and conversion: the sign of the cross in ashes on your forehead or sprinkled on top of your head.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday March 2nd

7:30am-11:30am

Harrison hall

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with Fr. Deo for his anniversary party.

A special thank you to everyone who attended.

Thank you for the generous donations for Uganda.

It is greatly appreciated.

St Joseph is not closing 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. If you hear this rumor—please tell them it is not true.

PILGRIMAGE SITES

The faithful will be able to obtain the 150th Anniversary indulgence granted by the

Holy Father if they partake in a pious pilgrimage to any sacred pilgrimage site.

Receive a stamp in your pilgrimage site PASSPORT as you visit each location!

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

March 2nd—Class

March 9th—Class

March 16th—Class

Youth Group Schedule for 7-12th graders

5:30pm—7:30pm

March 16th

March 30th April 13th

April 27th (Starved Rock)

If you want to join the Youth Group

or have questions please call

Annie Bosch 309-231-8084

150th Anniversary Prayer
Heavenly Father, we praise You for the gift of faith in Your Son, Jesus.

We thank you for the gift of the Church in the Diocese of Peoria.

As we celebrate 150 years as this local Church, we are grateful for all who have come before us laying the foundations and building up the community of faith.

In this moment, we pray that the grace of the Holy Spirit renews our own witnessing to Jesus, so that in all our words and deeds we will move forward together on the way to God's kingdom.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us.

May St. Joseph, protector of the Church, watch over us.

May Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen, inspire us to Proclaim Christ, yesterday, today, forever!

BISHOP LOUIS TYLKA

Diocese of Peoria

Go to www.cdop150.org to check out all the happenings with the 150th celebration. This site will be updated Pilgrimage sites and the indulgence.

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time Homily

We all have grown up being taught that Jesus died on the cross to save the world. However, looking around us everyday, we see things are still pretty messed up. Everyday on our television sets, there's always something going wrong. As we read and watch the news, it's easy to begin to say, 'No, the world will change when we implement a better government. The world will change when we finally have the right person in that position, the world will change once people stop racism, the world will change once abortion is illegal and so on and so on. But in reality, will these large-scale legal or power changes truly change the world? God chose the scandalous method to transform the world. This guy, Christ, in the 1st century, in the most insignificant colony of the greatest empire of the world, and his biggest fan was his mom, and his friends were pretty unreliable, and his country ended up putting him to death. The guy never traveled to Rome to confront the leaders of the world, he never fought a battle, he never had any kind of political power- what's he doing? Doesn't he know how to change things? Get power, get into politics, start imposing better laws, fight the battles, destroy evil and injustice on a global scale. That's how the world thinks and acts but that's 'the blind leading the blind' Lk 6:39.

But here's the thing: Jesus saves the world by changing, by transforming the human heart. What changes the world and history is what changes the human heart- and that's Christ. When your heart is changed, when your heart is transformed, the world begins to transform. The world changes when you and I allow Christ to transform our hearts, our lives. The saving Jesus does, the victory Jesus wins, isn't some broad-scale social change, no. It's a victory within the human heart and it's what we truly need. The transformation Jesus desires is when you start to love your worst enemy, the person you disagree with, the person who annoys you, the one you are indifferent about. Let our hearts be transformed, and we will change the world.

Allow Jesus to transform your heart this Lent, and that will change the world. Spend time praying, in adoration, in silence- listen and beg the Lord to transform your life, and He will open the door, He will use you and I to change the world.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK AND A FRUITFUL LENTEN SEASON, FR DEO.

St James Parish Status

The bishops letter stated that the parish of St James was in the 3 year group. We have time before we need to start the processes of merging. There is nothing to report at this time.

St Joseph is on the 2 year and its already almost a year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Fr. Deo or Pauline.

St Joseph Lector

Sat. Mar 1st Seaborn
Sun. Mar 2nd Wilbur

Sat. Mar 8th Kelch
Sun. Mar 9th Harmon

Financial Stewardship

Feb 16th

St Joseph \$ 1625.00

St James \$ 856.00

Feb 23rd

St Joseph \$ 2259.00

St James \$ 421.00



Mission of the Month - Womens Care Center