



## Once Upon a Mountaintop

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

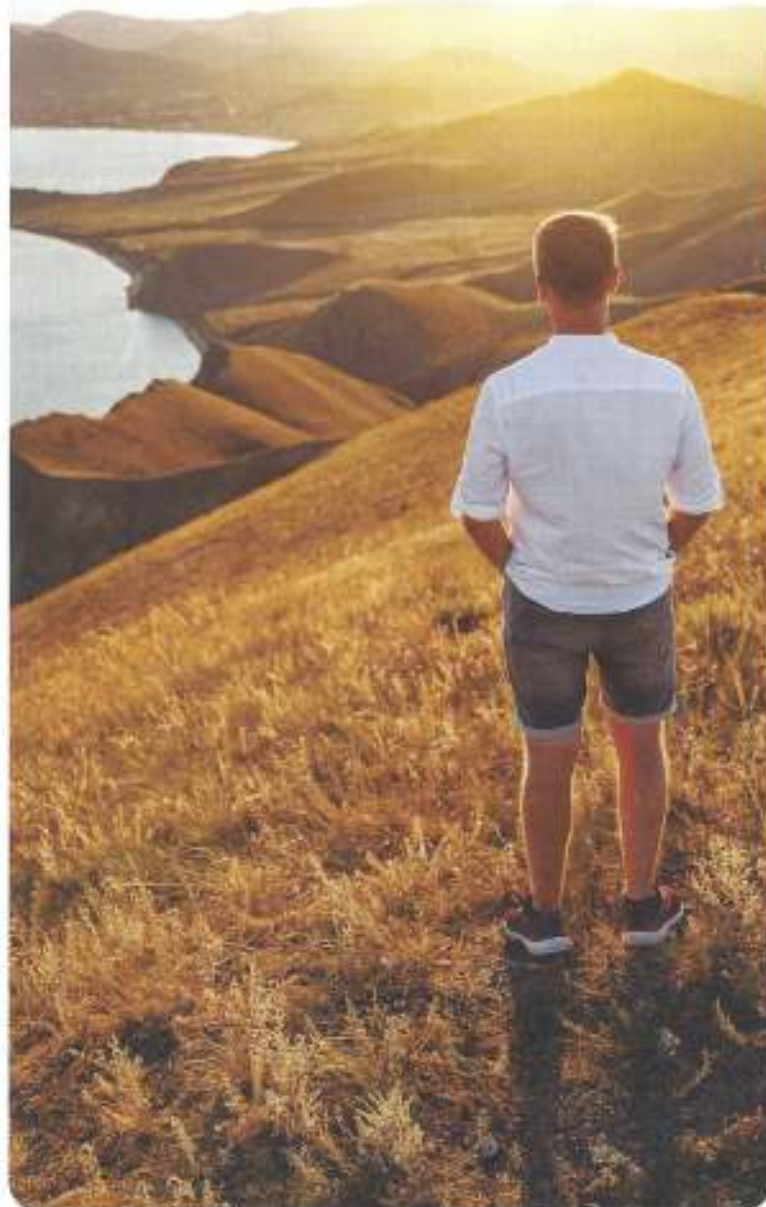
**M**any people, perhaps most people, have had a religious experience of some sort, something akin to that of Peter, James, and John atop the mountain with Jesus. It may or may not have included hearing a voice. Most often it is a deep sense of God's presence beyond anything they have ever known, like a profound realization of what life is about or how it is laced through and through with God. It usually occurs as we are idle, not doing anything in particular, and often when we are younger, yet it is also something that changes our understanding of what life and God are about.

Most people do not talk about such experiences for any number of reasons, partly because there do not seem to be words to describe such a moment in a way anyone would understand, like trying to describe falling in love. Partly because if we tried, we fear others would think us strange. And partly because we can find ourselves wondering whether it was real or simply our imagination. Yet always we remember the moment and know it to be true.

One additional characteristic of such moments is that they tend to take us to a new place in life, as with Abram in the first reading. For him it was to pack up his life and move. More likely for us it is to a life of service, caring, and treasuring all of life now in a new way. ●

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am  
well pleased; listen to him."

MATTHEW 17:5B



### Reflect

*If you've had a religious experience,  
is there someone you can talk to about  
how it changed your faith?*



**Holy Trinity**



**St. Thomas More**



**St. Patrick**

Holy Trinity Catholic Church  
212 S. Main St. PO Box 159  
Cherry, IL 61317-0159  
Phone 815-894-2006  
Office Email  
HolyTSP@gmail.com

**Pastor of the Three Churches**  
Fr. Thaddeus Tran

**Main Office: Holy Trinity Rectory**  
Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger  
Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

St Thomas More Catholic Church  
302 Chestnut St.  
Dalzell, IL 61320  
Phone 815-663-6201  
Email  
thomasmore32@gmail.com

**Adoration Room at STM**  
Open Monday - Sunday  
Regular Hours  
9 am - 6 pm

**Events at St Thomas More**  
Rav Group is taking orders thru March 15  
Call 815-252-2215 to place an order

St. Patrick Catholic Church  
106 Church St.  
Arlington, IL 61312  
Phone 815-894-2006  
Mail: PO Box 159 Cherry IL 61317

**Website for the Three Churches**  
www.bureaucatholic.org  
and on Facebook at  
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

**Facebook for the Three Churches**  
Use Link on Home Page  
www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



9:30 am - 10:30 am at Cherry Church Hall  
Sunday, March 5th - 5th thru 8th Grades  
Sunday, March 12th - K thru 4th Grades  
CCD email address is holytrinitycherry@gmail.com

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of March 6, 2023**

Monday	3/6			† No Mass
Tuesday	3/7	9:00 am	STM	† Bernard Schwamberger
Wednesday	3/8	5:30 pm	HT	† John Hanck
Thursday	3/9	9:00 am	HT	† Beatrice Verucchi
Friday	3/10	9:00 am	STM	† Annie Bukovic
		6:00 pm	SP (Stations of the Cross)	

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 11-12, 2023**

Saturday	3/11	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Dennis & Lori Domkuski
Sunday	3/12	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Joyce Gillan
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† Berneice Kenny
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For the Parishioners



## THE THREE LENTEN PILLARS

In last Sunday's Lenten article, we took a closer look at the first pillar, PRAYING. Let's now look at the second one - FASTING, which is especially relevant to the Lenten season.

**The Second Pillar - Fasting:** Each year, when the Lenten season approaches, we immediately think of fasting. In fact, the two main days of fasting occur during Lent: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Abstaining from meat on every Lenten Friday can also be seen as another act of fasting. Also, Catholics should observe a "One Hour" of fasting before receiving communion, a traditional requirement which is still valid. The two main days of fasting aforementioned are known as "total fast", which, in ancient times, acted as a means of watching or waiting for some important events to happen in a near future, and as means of self-purification. In the bygone Oriental world, emperors and kings, before major feasts or special acts of worship, would observe a three days of "total fasting," including abstaining from usual relationship with their wives and concubines.

There is one important aspect that can't be ignored when it comes to fasting- the spiritual aspect, and a proper inner disposition. Hence, Christians should see Lenten fast as what it truly is: self-denial; self-purification; sacrifice, penance, and so on. It should not be seen as a means to "shedding a few extra pounds of fat". If it's done properly, fasting and praying will help us stay closer and being united to Christ, who underwent 40 long days and nights of prayer and fast before commencing His saving mission for our sake.



Easter flower envelopes will be available next weekend. A \$25 donation may be made for each of the deceased family members that you would like to donate Easter flowers in remembrance of.



### What happens on the second Sunday of Lent?

Jesus took Peter, James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shown like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him.



**Pancake Breakfast**  
St Patrick's ~ Arlington  
Sunday, March 12th  
8:00 am - 1:00 pm  
\$10 adults  
\$5 children 6 yrs-10yrs  
Children under 5 Free

### Parishioner Update Form

We are asking all our parishioners to take a couple of minutes and complete a parishioner update form. If you are a new member, please be sure to check the new member box so we can provide you with additional information. Forms will be passed out at the end of masses. If you need one mailed, please contact the church office at 815-894-2006. Forms can be placed in an envelope marked Church Office and dropped in the collection basket or mailed to Holy Trinity Church, PO Box 159, Cherry IL 61317. Thank you for your help.

Update  
your  
Information



### LATEST OFFERING'S

ASH WEDNESDAY AND  
WEEKEND FEB 26TH

HT- \$1,358.00  
SP- \$648.00  
STM- \$891.00



STM Ravs and Tortellini  
Final orders due March 15  
Call 815-252-2215 to order

### CONFESSIONS

THE NEXT CONFESSIONS  
WILL BE SAT. MAR 11TH  
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT  
ST THOMAS MORE  
IN THE HALL



# Dear Padre,

## What is the value of lighting a candle in church?

Lighting candles is one of many customs that can be found in most of the world's religions. Lit candles, in church or at home, in front of a picture or statue of a favorite saint, serve a symbolic function. The light of the candle represents our desire that our prayer may be constant, as St. Paul urged (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The candle burns while we go about our daily tasks, symbolizing our desire to be at prayer with God. Similarly, Tibetan Buddhists spin prayer wheels and believe that as long as the wheels spin, a prayer is offered. Candles give light and banish the darkness. For Catholics they symbolize the light of Christ, by whose death and resurrection we are saved.

Lighting a candle isn't a required act. You can pray without lighting candles, without statues, without anything but your faith in God. However, we Catholics love our symbols. We like to engage all of our senses in our prayer experience: beautiful churches, colored light, incense, great music and, yes, candles.

One extreme position to avoid is lighting a candle hoping it will cause something else to happen, like the sudden cure of a loved one or relief from financial ruin. We are to avoid all appearance of using candles as if they have an untapped, magical power. Nevertheless, lighting a candle as a part of our prayer is a comforting custom and most things (and people?) look lovelier by candlelight. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4,	Mt 7:14-15,	Ex 17:3-7
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	12-13a, 17-28	18-20	Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
				Mt 21:33-43,	Lk 15:1-3,	Jn 4:5-42
				45-46	11-32	



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy, ... "The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint."*

**GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD), MARCH 19, 2018**