



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

LUKE 6:20

## It's All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**here we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage "Bloom where you are planted" may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won't do much blooming. We'll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week's gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What's so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that's where we put down our roots. In other words, if that's what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn't come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream" (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

### Reflect

***Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?***





**St. Thomas More**

302 Chestnut Street

Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-663-6201

Email: thomasmore32@gmail.com

**Adoration Room at STM**

Open Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

**Holy Trinity Catholic Church**

212 S Main Street

PO Box 159

Cherry IL 61317

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com



**Church Office Info**

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

**Emergency Number: 779-248-2164**

**Confession Info**

Confessions: Saturday morning, alternating between STM & HT 10:30 am-11:15

**Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events**

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag



**CCD Classes**

Sunday, February 16th - 6 & 7th Grade

Sunday, February 23rd - K-5th Grade

@ the Church

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 17, 2025**

Monday	2/17			† No Mass
Tuesday	2/18	9:00 am	STM	† Derek Baird
Wednesday	2/19	5:30 pm	HT	† Jack & Theresa McCallum
Thursday	2/20	9:00 am	HT	† Leo & Darlene Greskiwcz
Friday	2/21	9:00 am	STM	† Robert Magnani

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 22-23, 2025**

Saturday	2/22	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	2/23	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Jim Smith

# THE FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER

(Feast Day February 22, 2025)



The concept of "Chair" has been understood through the ages as the symbol of authority and power. The power of kings or top executive leaders is reflected in their seating. In those days, sitting was not for reasons of comfort, but to convey authority. The word "chairman" springs from this idea; this is so because he is the executive leader and chief of a particular group or organization; thus, occupying the "chair," demonstrates his position of authority.

In the scriptural context, this idea reflects itself. Our Lord referred to the "chair of Moses" (Mt 23:2) as a way of criticizing the religious leaders of his time for their hypocrisy, who were the occupants of that "seat". Because of their hypocrisy, Christ admonished that they should not be imitated (Mt 23:3). Here, it is pertinent to note that "seat" is both a metaphor for judicial authority and a reference to a literal chair. Technically, we can say that the "chair of Moses" signifies the place of authority that the Scribes and Pharisees had in interpreting the Law and exercising their authority over the Jewish people.

Holy Mother Church celebrates today, the feast of the "Chair of Saint Peter". In line with the preceding, we can say that the "Chair of St Peter" is a metaphor for the Petrine ministry or the service the Pope offers as an authoritative leader of the Church. In Matthew's Gospel, Christ is understood as the "New Moses"; 'who has come not to abolish the Law, but to fulfil it' (Matt. 5:17). In Jesus lies 'all authority in heaven and on earth' (Mat 28:18); however, He gave this authority to Peter, as we see in today's Gospel Reading: **"...So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church... I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."** (Mt 16:13-19) In saying this, Jesus made St. Peter the head of the entire community of believers and placed the spiritual guidance of the faithful in St. Peter's hands.

This feast (celebrated in the Church as far back as the fourth century) brings to mind the mission of teacher and pastor conferred by Christ on Peter (also see John 21:15-17) and continued in an unbroken line down to the present Pope.

(Excerpted from [www.chinakareflections.com](http://www.chinakareflections.com))

## Church Announcements

**ADA Update**-The 2024-2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal is still going on, and there is still time if you haven't made a pledge for it. A gift to the ADA, large or small, can go a long way. Consider a one-time gift or a monthly pledge. Every dollar raised to make our goal supports important diocesan ministries. To date, we have received the following totals, along with the church goals. To those who have pledged, Thank you!

HT - \$5,660.00 - Goal \$13,852.00

SP - \$670.00 - Goal \$9,257.00

STM \$4,123.95 - Goal \$10,663.00

**TEC- Teens Encounter Christ** - For more information please visit [peterstowntec.com](http://peterstowntec.com) or by contacting Jim Hoscheid 815-228-2525  
Next event: TEC #230 (Boys) March 1-3, 2025

**STM Rav Group**- The Rav/Tort Fundraiser will be ending for the year at the end of March or beginning of April. Please place order **By March 15<sup>th</sup>**

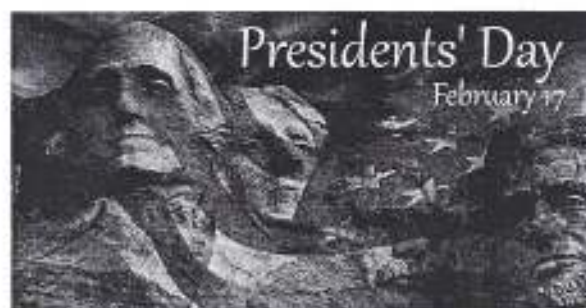
### Latest Offering's

Feb. 9th Weekend

HT - \$1353.05

STM - \$917

SP- \$205



### Confessions

Sat. Feb. 22th

10:30 am-11:15 am

Holy Trinity

in the confessional



# Dear Padre,

*I have always been an "every Sunday" Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn't feel that special. I believe that it's the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels "routine." Sometimes I'm even distracted while receiving. Help?*

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don't always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don't feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other's company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don't already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

*The Redemptorists / 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*.



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus' disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.*

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

### Monday

February 17

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday

February 18

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday

February 19

Weekday

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22

Mk 8:22–26

### Thursday

February 20

Weekday

Gn 9:1–13

Mk 8:27–33

### Friday

February 21

Weekday

Gn 11:1–9

Mk 8:34–9:1

### Saturday

February 22

*The Chair of Saint*

*Peter the Apostle*

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

### Sunday

February 23

*Seventh Sunday*

*in Ordinary Time*

1 Sm 26:2, 7–9,

12–13, 22–23

1 Cor 15:45–49

Lk 6:27–38