

St. Joseph
CATHOLIC CHURCH



300 S Cleveland Street
Fayette, Missouri 65248
(660)248-2439

WEBSITE: stjosephfayette.diojeffcity.org



St. Joseph's Catholic Church



[st.joecatholicchurch](https://www.instagram.com/st.joecatholicchurch)

Email: stjosephfayette@outlook.com

ST. JOSEPH PARISH STAFF:

FATHER JOSHUA DUNCAN

Parochial Administrator

jduncan@diojeffcity.org

BEVERLY MARKLAND

& JULIA PARKER

Secretary

secretary-sjf@outlook.com

KAYLYNN HILDERBRAND

Bookkeeper

bookkeeper-sjf@outlook.com

AMY NATION

Director of Religious Education

dre-sjf@outlook.com

ST. JOSEPH HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 23rd at 8:00 AM

People of St. Joseph & St. Mary

Tuesday, February 25th

No Mass

Sunday, March 2nd at 8:00 AM

Joan Kueckelhan

Confessions:

St. Joseph – Tuesday: 5:15 to 5:45 PM

Sunday: 7:30 AM

St. Mary – Saturdays: 4:00 to 5:15 PM

St. Mary, Glasgow, Holy Mass Schedule:

Saturday (vigil): 5:30 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM

Wednesday: 8:00 AM

Thursday: 8:00 AM

Friday: 8:00 AM

PARISH COUNCILS:

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Beth Lammers, Chair

FINANCE COUNCIL

Father Duncan, Chair

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Roger Dorson, Chair

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

St. Joseph – Wednesdays 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

St. Mary – Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Adoration:

St. Joseph – First Tuesday-2:00 PM to 5:45 PM

St. Mary – First Friday after AM Mass to 11 PM

Holy Rosary:

St. Joseph – Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 7:00 AM

St. Joseph – Sunday morning at 7:40 AM, before Mass

St. Mary – Saturdays 5:05 PM

Mission Statement – St. Joseph Catholic Church seeks to be an actively visible faith community that works to make disciples of Jesus Christ through our hospitality, education, sacraments, & service.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: If you know of anyone needing the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or Last Rites, please let Father know. If it is an emergency, please call the office phone or send Father an email. If a family member is in a neighboring hospital (Columbia, etc.) and it is an emergency, please let your doctor or nurse know to contact a Priest – they have priests on-call every day of the week at the larger hospitals. If it is not an emergency but you'd like Father to visit in the hospital, please talk to him to arrange a time for a visit.

Sacraments of Baptism or Marriage: a preparation process is required before either of these Sacraments is celebrated. Please contact Father or Parish Secretary at least 6 months before a wedding is planned or as soon as the pregnancy is known so that proper arrangements may be made for the spiritual preparations.

St. Joseph Parish Tithing Stewardship

Bishop McKnight's **February prayer intention** for our Local Church. For mutual respect of the unique roles and responsibilities we are given as members of the Body of Christ. May we recognize and draw strength from the distinctive gifts God has given each of us with a spirit of co-responsibility. We pray to the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Marjorie Koenig*	Mike Vroman
Linda Wallace*	Eula Kempf*
Amy Shook (cancer)	Mary Jarboe
Tom Boss	Blake Wies (healing)
Adrienne Thies (healing)*	Steve Kempf (cancer)*
Steven John (cancer)	Richard Eiken family
Jim Murphy family	Wilma Liley
Steven Thies	Mark Monnig
Carolyn Polson*	Dottie Gerlt (healing)
Becky Streff (cancer)	Tess Hayes (healing)*
Thad Prinster	Lou Thompson (healing)*
Genny Meyer	Terrie Young
Joe Bonnema (B. Sullivan's uncle)	
Dallas & Erma Wasson (B. Witte parents)	

* = Parishioner of St. Joseph

Keep St. Joseph kids that are preparing for First Communion and/or Confirmation in your prayers: Finley Asher, Cayle Ballew, Abigail Crowley, Cayden De La Torre, Karolyn De La Torre, Elliot Parker, Raylee Stockhorst, and Talon Stockhorst.

Pray for our Seminarians –2024-2025 school year

We currently have nine seminarians studying in our Diocese. Please pray for an increase in Holy Vocations to the Priesthood so that the Sacraments & Holy Mass may continue in our parishes.

Jacob Hartman	Gage Neisen
Shane Kliethermes	Gabriel Eckstein
Bryce Smith	David Cahill
John Paul McGuire	Samuel Cramer
Luke Dalton	

Birthdays

Carolyn Hustedde	Feb. 23
Bella Haas	Feb. 25
Nancy Holtwick	March 3
Kaleigh Sullivan	March 4
Leah Thies	March 10
Alexandra Spielbauer	March 12

Anniversaries

Alex & Kaylynn Hildebrand	Feb. 27 (9 yrs)
Steve & Eula Kempf	March 9 (47 yrs)

TITHING STATEMENTS – Your end of year giving statements are available. They are on the table at the front of church. If you don't see yours, please contact Kaylynn.

Items for the March 2nd bulletin need to be turned in by Tuesday, February 25th. If you have items for the bulletin, send to secretary email: secretary-sjf@outlook.com.

Feb. 2, 2025	\$	3,677.00
Feb. 9, 2025	\$	2,573.00
Feb. 16, 2025	\$	1,902.40
Feb. 23, 2025	\$	

(below – accrued totals for the month)

<u>ACH Deposits / Blackbaud</u>	\$	<u>2,214.30</u>
Total for month	\$	10,366.70

Weekly Goal / Jan. 2025 **\$3,100.00**
('24-25 Budget Goal) / Jan. **\$12,400.00**

Offertory Goal YTD *\$105,400.00*
Offertory YTD Actuals ***\$ 92,510.50***
Surplus/(Shortage) YTD ***\$(12,889.50)***

Calendar of events

Today	Fellowship Breakfast after Mass
Today	PSR after Mass
Tues. Feb. 25	6:30 pm Deanery Meeting
Sun. March 2	7:30 am Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Tues. March 4	2:00 pm Adoration
Tues. March 4	6:30 pm Pastoral Council Meeting

FELLOWSHIP & BEVERLY MARKLAND'S

RETIREMENT RECEPTION! - Please be sure to head over to the church hall right after Mass today for a very special Fellowship Sunday (homemade breakfast dishes!) to celebrate Beverly and thank her for the exceptional and wonderful 15+ years of service as our church secretary.

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament is Tuesday, March 4th from 2:00 pm to 5:45 pm. Benediction and Mass will follow. We would like at least two people to be in the church at all times with the Blessed Sacrament. There are sign-up sheets at each entrance of church. Times are broken down in hour increments, but please know that you may come and spend any time with the Blessed Sacrament.

SAVE THE DATE(S) – COMING UP!

- **St. Joseph Pancake/Sausage Breakfast** is March 2nd from 7:30 am to 12:00 pm.
- **LENT / Ash Wednesday** – **March 5** – *day of Fasting and Abstaining from Meat.*
 - St. Mary – 6:30 AM and 8:00 AM
 - St. Joseph – 6:00 PM
- **LENTEN MISSION** – **March 6 & March 7** at 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Church. Donna Cori will be the speaker and will also sing the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. **FREE** to attend!
- **Lenten Stations of the Cross** – Fridays at 2:30pm during Lent at St. Mary & 6:00pm at St. Joseph, Fayette. **No 2:30 pm stations during 1st Friday Adoration (March 7 or April 4).*
- **KofC Fish Fry's** – Fridays during Lent (March 7 – April 11)
 - St. Mary = Mar. 7, Mar. 21st (Shrimp Boil), April 4
 - St. Joseph = Mar. 14th, Mar. 28th
- **1st Friday Adoration** – **March 7th**, after mass to 11pm.
- **A Biblical Walk Through THE MASS** – **Saturday, March 22nd** – 9:00am to 2:30pm; Lunch provided; St. Joseph Parish Hall. Check out the back of church for details & registration!

Parish Stewardship – Liturgical Ministries

February Eucharistic Ministers: Beth Lammers, Mary Hrdina, Sandy Dorson

March Eucharistic Ministers: Brittany Sullivan, Frank Flaspohler, Joe Geist

Sunday, February 23 – Lectors: Roger Dorson, Finley Stallo; **Gift Bearers:** Larry & Colleen Wies;
Servers: Frank Flaspohler, Gracie Flaspohler; **Music:** Nancy Anderson, Glenn Ludtke; **Sacristan:** Sally Coats;
Greeters: Pat Merk, Jane Weiland; **Ushers:** Cris R., Ron A., Casey B., Tim C., Steve W., Bill S.

Sunday, March 2 – Lectors: Frank W & Frank K Flaspohler; **Gift Bearers:** Dick Wies, Lu Brunello;
Servers: Gracie Flaspohler, Anne Crowley; **Music:** Kellie Asher, Glenn Ludtke; **Sacristan:** Kathy Dorson;
Greeters: Ron & Nancy Anderson; **Ushers:** Larry F., Benji D., Ryder D., Gerald H., Charlie F., Jerry E.

Ministers taking Communion to shut ins: Week of February 23 (Susan F.) Week of March 2 (Beth L.)

Church cleaning: Feb. 23 to March 1 (Nan Geha) March 2 to March 8 (Sally Coats)

FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Good and gracious God, thank you for the new day you have given me; a new day in a month that seems to be the bleakest time of the year. Yet in what may appear bleak your goodness is everywhere. It remains only for me to see Your divine abundance before me. Help me be a better steward of this time of grace: to experience your world with gratitude and open my heart to the opportunities you have given me to shine your light on a world desperate for your loving presence. On this day, in this “ordinary time,” give me the courage not to hide my own light under a bushel basket, but to shine my light before others, so that they may see my good works and thus give you glory. I ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

STEUBENVILLE SOUP & CHILI SUPPER - There is a soup & chili supper (w/ cinnamon rolls!) TODAY, from 4-7 PM in the Glasgow KofC Hall. It is a free will donation.

PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST is Sunday, March 2nd, 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM

- Donations for the processing of the hog are appreciated. Put in an envelope marked "hog processing" and put in the collection basket.
- Donations of baked goods and craft items are needed for our Country Store. Contact Angie Mateu with questions.
- Sign-up sheets for workers are on the bulletin board at the front of church.
- Help us advertise our breakfast - pick up flyers to post at local businesses you frequent.
- Pick up raffle tickets to sell.
- Proceeds from this year's breakfast will be used for electronic fob locks for the church and hall.

LENT IS COMING -- Catholic Relief Services - RICE BOWL – We are participating in CRS’ Rice Bowl this Lenten season. Rooted in the history of the Eucharistic Congress, CRS Rice Bowl invites Catholic families in the United States to encounter God and our global family throughout Lent by practicing the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As you and your family experience deeper communion with the Eucharist during this sacred season, may this encounter with the Bread of Life lead you to share bread for life with our sisters and brothers most in need around the world. All of the money collected is to be used to feed the poor and help them rise from their poverty. Rice bowls will be available on the tables at each entrance beginning on Ash Wednesday. Your Lenten alms help people experiencing hunger and poverty in our local community and in more than 120 countries around the world.

FISH FRY HELP – The Knights of Columbus are looking for help in providing homemade desserts for their fish fries. Fish Frys are on Friday, March 14th and Friday, March 28th. Contact Chuck Thompson (chuckthompson75@gmail.com) and let him know what you can help the Knights with.

LENTEN SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS – Walking with Mary to Jerusalem - Mary saw Jesus growing into his identity. During Lent you can see Mary's perspective on Jesus's journey to the Cross. You may do this program privately or you may want to gather several fellow parishioners to take this Lenten journey with. We are forming two small groups at St. Joseph. These groups will meet for seven weeks, beginning the first week of March. Beverly Markland (beverly.markland@sbcglobal.net) will facilitate a group on Tuesday mornings at 10:00. Jennifer Spielbauer (jbspiel41@gmail.com) will facilitate a group on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. Contact Beverly or Jennifer to join our groups as soon as possible so that we will have materials available.

ST. MARY SCHOOL NEWS

- + **PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION & Pre/Kinder Screenings** Informational packets are available in the back of church or by request from the school. *We are currently at capacity with our Preschool Program, with a waiting list that has 3 potential students on it.* Our PreK & Kindergarten Screenings will be on Fri., March 21st.
- + **School Play** Our school musical, ROCK BOTTOM, is THIS WEEKEND! This fun "Prehistoric" musical showcases our 3rd - 8th graders! Performances will be at Bramble Hall, Sunday, the 23rd at 2:00pm. No ticket sales, but we are asking for a free-will offering at the door.
- + **Snow Days** We've had quite an interesting winter between the weather and sickness. Due to weather, February 24 will be a regular school day.

SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

The Diocese is pleased to offer **our parish families** the following summer opportunities, *mark your calendars now!* More information on each of these opportunities can be found at: www.diojefcity.org/youth-ministry

- * **TOTUS TUUS:** Held *at St. Mary Parish.* -- **June 8 to June 14, 2025.** Open to kids in grades 1 to 12. The morning session will be for grades 1-7 and the evening session will be for grades 8-12. **The cost is free!** Save the date and plan to attend this great summer opportunity held **locally!**
- * **CAMP LOLEK:** for Jr. High students (incoming 6th to 8th).
 - Boys Session: June 8-12, 2025
 - Girls Session: June 15-19, 2025
- * **CAMP MACCABEE:** 5-day adventure camp for (High School) incoming Freshman to incoming Senior guys.
 - Two Sessions: July 6-11... or July 13-18, 2025
- * **CAMP SIENA:** 5-day adventure camp for (High School) incoming Freshman to incoming Senior women.
 - Two Sessions: July 6-11... or July 13-18, 2025

MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL – COLUMBIA, MO – Newman Parish is hosting the 4th Annual Mardi Gras Festival on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 602 Turner Ave on Mizzou’s campus. The event will kick off with a parade at 11 a.m. followed by hot drinks, music, and king cake. Zydecos Food Truck will be there to provide Cajun inspired food! This is a free event for everyone. Anyone can participate in the parade. To learn more about this event visit: comonewman.org/mardigras.

		 <p style="font-size: small;">Phone (660)248-2800 Sunday 11:00 am to 9:00 pm Monday - Wednesday 11:00 am to 9:30 pm Thursday - Saturday 11:00 am to 10:00 pm</p>		
<p>Fayette License Fee Office 106 E. Davis, Fayette 660-248-1107 M-F 8:30 am-5:00 pm</p>	<p>GEHA REALTY JOHN GEHA 573-424-3300 john@johngeha.com www.geharealty.com</p>	<p>The Rhodes Advantage Books & Tax Service Lisa Asbury – Owner 106 East Davis St., Fayette, MO 65248 660-248-1700 /660-248-2696 asburyhocopa@yahoo.com</p>		
	<p>2531 Main Street Boonville, MO 660-882-2055 Open Daily 6am – 2pm All you can eat: Breakfast Bar – Saturdays Lunch Buffet – Sundays Come join us!</p>	<p>SPONSOR A SPACE IN OUR BULLETIN! <i>Support St. Joseph Parish!</i> Contact the Parish Office 660-248-2439</p>	 <p>LIVE WELL TRANSFORMATIONAL COACHING AMY NATION, CERTIFIED HEALTH COACH #660-815-2296</p>	<p>FRINK ELECTRIC 573-489-8384 FRINKELECTRIC@GMAIL.COM 20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE!</p> 
	 <p>ebmo.com info@ebmo.com 24 hr voicemail 866.642.4144 <i>Banking Made for You</i> Member FDIC</p>	 <p>Pray the Rosary</p>		

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-3, 22-23 • 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 • Luke 6:27-38



Love the Haters!

David exhibits exemplary behavior while fleeing persecution from King Saul in our first reading from 1 Samuel.

One night, David—a skillful soldier—snuck into the place where King Saul was sleeping. But instead of ending his life, he did nothing to the Lord’s anointed. David was more concerned about acting against God than saving his life and securing a path to the throne. His decision probably left his companions perplexed. But David was no ordinary man. Scripture describes him as a man “after [God’s] own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14).

Those who heard Jesus speak the words from today’s Gospel likely were confused, too. He said, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” His directions are the opposite of how most people behave when they’re abused. But God and Jesus did these things, which reveal God’s heart, and the Lord wants us to follow his example.

Jesus invites his disciples to avoid the “easy” road, the one that leads to an endless cycle of violence and destruction. He wants us to elevate our desires and passions to the level of his own “merciful and gracious” Sacred Heart (Psalm 103:8a). Jesus knows such a transformation is impossible without his grace. So, he shares his Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts so we can be reborn as spiritual men and women, leaving our earthly way of thinking behind.

In Baptism, we have been transformed to bear the image of the “heavenly” Adam (as St. Paul calls Jesus). Let’s be confident that, with the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we can love as Jesus does.



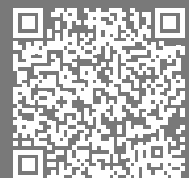
Illustration of Jesus preaching in Galilee

Live the Gospel

Forgiving and loving those who mistreat us today or who have wounded us in the past is not easy, but it can be a liberating experience that brings about healing. I encourage you to approach Jesus in prayer and ask him to give you the strength to forgive those who have hurt you. You can pray the Litany to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, or you can simply say, “Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours!”

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to read:



Or go to:

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2018/11/08/how-to-pray-for-your-enemies-and-forgive/>

Ponder and Pray

» Which of the teachings from today's Gospel do you find most difficult to follow?

» Think of a time when you received God's forgiveness. Can you, in turn, extend forgiveness to others?

» When do you find it hardest to forgive? When easiest? What is different between them?

Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today's Mass. Your view of Jeff Cavins's reflection, your priest's homily, your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most out of today's Mass.

“

**Be merciful, just as your
Father is merciful.**

-Luke 6:36

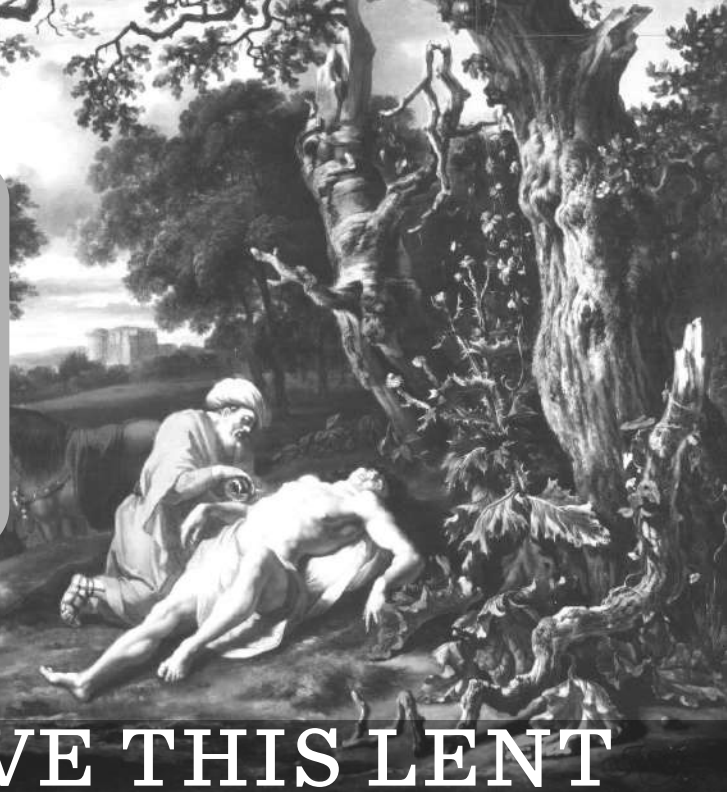
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Jeff Cavins is the author of *The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation* and the creator of the video series *Sundays with Ascension*, from which this reflection was adapted.

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Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus



NEW WAYS TO GIVE THIS LENT

What should I do this Lent?

In addition to fasting and sacrifice, the Church invites us to pray, give, and fast in new ways during the Lenten season. Colin MacIver gives us seven ideas we can try:

1. Daily Mass ... With a Twist

Whether you are already a daily Mass-goer or not, resolve to go during Lent. To add an element of specific intercession and self-gift, pick someone in your life to offer up your Mass for each time you go. Afterward, send that person a simple, personalized note or text letting her or him know about it.

2. Pray It Forward

Pray the Rosary daily (or on specific set days) for the intentions of someone in your life and give the person you prayed for the rosary beads you used. Invite him or her to do the same.

3. “Staycation” Pilgrimage

Maybe you can't get to the Holy Land or to a major shrine during Lent, but consider taking a trip to your diocesan cathedral or setting aside a day to visit a series of churches, chapels, and holy places near your community.

4. “I Was in Prison ...”

Christ directly prescribes ministry to those in prison. Find a way to get involved. It might begin with a call to your parish and lead to having a pen pal, prayer partner, or even visiting a prison.

5. Tithe Time

We are all busy, and time is at a premium. What about making a specific weekly service commitment for the season of Lent? It could be in your parish, at a nursing home, or at a local outreach. Make a specific commitment and, if possible, actually sign up so you will be held accountable.

6. Good Samaritan Bags

Get twenty to thirty reusable bags and pack them with healthy snacks, toiletries, socks, and other helpful items. Keep them in your car and make it a goal to hand them out to people in your community who could use them.

7. Stay Awake and Keep Watch

Want to get serious about your Holy Hour? Consider signing up for a slot at midnight or later at your local Adoration chapel for one night a week during Lent.

Ponder and Pray

- Which idea sticks out and appeals to you?
- What Lenten practices from past years have been helpful? Which ones haven't been that impactful?
- What do you sense God is calling you to do this Lent?



Tip of the Week

Make time this week to write down and commit to Lenten practices to begin on Ash Wednesday.



Dive Deeper

For more ideas for Lent, scan the code or visit <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2020/02/14/20-out-of-the-box-things-to-do-for-lent-2020/>





Start Lent off strong with a 2-night Lenten Catholic Concert Mission!

DONNA CORI... an "OUR CATHOLIC FAITH" CONCERT and a "WAY OF THE CROSS" CONCERT IS COMING TO ST. MARY CHURCH, GLASGOW, MO; ON MARCH 6TH & 7TH 2025!

Our Catholic Faith

Our awesome Faith, a beautiful voice, brought together to draw you closer to God.

Come and sing and "pray twice" with Donna on **Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m.**

The Way of the Cross

-a song for each station

Take up your cross and follow Jesus with a moving concert presentation of the

Stations of the Cross

to include video by Donna on

Friday, March 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Popular Catholic music artist and singer/songwriter Donna Cori will be offering two spiritual music concerts. The first will be on Thursday, March 6th, the second will be on Friday, March 7th both at 7:00 p.m. They will be held at St. Mary Catholic Church, 421 3rd Street, Glasgow, MO 65254 For more info: 660-338-2053

A new concept for the Christian contemporary music market, "The Way of the Cross" offers a song and a video for each "station" of the cross of Christ. Devotion to the traditional 14 Stations of the Cross has been practiced by Christians for centuries. Each station revisits the events of the final hours of Jesus, much like what was represented visually in Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion." Donna's "musical visit" makes this pilgrimage possible for all Christians, anytime, anywhere. (*Tissues are passed out with every program.*)

Originally from New York's secular music market, Donna realized that the music she was producing and, in fact, most music heard in the world today only serves to distract people from life's true goal, which is to "love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and strength." Today she is committed to only creating music that will help listeners to reach that goal, setting traditional prayers to contemporary sounding music to help listeners get them "stuck" in their heads and, hopefully, their hearts.

Donna is offering free downloads from her CD "The Way of the Cross" on her website www.donnacori.com. It's been said of Donna, "*I don't know of one of her songs that I don't like. Her music really touches me and to hear her sing just makes me want to worship the Lord.*" (Jeff Cavins, TV host of EWTN's "Life on the Rock")

Donna Cori has been in Catholic music ministry for 26 years and has sold over 150,000 CDs. Her songs are sung by other parish ministries at Masses and gatherings across the nation. Most popular are her Sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Musical Rosary, and prayers of the saints. She can be heard in interview and song on radio stations nationally and even globally on Mother Angelica's EWTN Global Catholic Network and sister short-wave station WEWN.

For more information please visit: www.donnacori.com

Donna Cori, has been sharing her songs, sung prayers, and meditations for 24 years, via Golden Arrow Music in Catholic churches and prayer groups and on TV. She is a repeating guest at many conferences and events from coast to coast and can be heard in interview and song on Catholic radio stations across the nation and worldwide on Mother Angelica's EWTN Global Catholic Network and sister short-wave station WEWN, and on numerous internet podcasts.

"God does give us our heart's desire, just not in the way we often believe it to be nor at the time we think it should materialize." Donna Cori is doing exactly what she wanted to do since the time she was in grade school, but she never imagined it would be like this. She uncovers Catholic treasures hidden in the prayers of the saints, the tradition of the Church, as well as important passages from Scripture, and puts them to music. It is a unique gift which is only enhanced by the power and beauty of her voice.

After years of working in New York as a professional, singer, songwriter, and studio musician, she has moved to the midwest and now travels from St. Louis, MO. A lay Carmelite since 1999, Donna's music is focused on prayer and explaining the truths of the Catholic Church with Scripture. Songs include word for word prayers from the Bible (as singing makes for easy memorization) and well known prayers of the Church. Setting prayers to music is Donna's way of helping brothers and sisters in the Lord to "Pray to the Spirit on all occasions with all kind of prayers and requests" (Phil 6:18).

Donna's story begins in New York City where she was born, and then raised in Miami where she started studying music and performance at a young age. At age 9 in the school chorus, she was given many solos and with the group recorded an album. From 10-14 she was a member of the Miami Choral Society, learning music theory, and singing many styles of choral pieces. From here she was selected to appear at 13 in her first Opera, *Tosca*, starring Pavarotti. From 15 to 17 she attended the Miami Performing and Visual Arts Center (PAVAC) focusing on musical theater. At 16 she joined a punk rock band and recorded another album. While attending the University of Miami, studying jazz vocal, opera, engineering and business, she worked as an on-call studio vocalist, lending vocals on major label artist's albums, jingles, and even cartoons. She had her own band for a while and recorded her own songs, several of which were later published by NY publishing houses. While singing in a club in Coral Gables, she was "discovered" by an A&R representative for Arista records. He signed her to a recording deal which eased her transition to the big city of NY. She didn't find the songs she was asked to sing of very good quality and so she was allowed out of her contract. After that, singing every kind of venue and style was how she made a living - bands, clubs, studios, sessions, jingles, singer/songwriter and composer of jingles for major companies, and at one point, even received major financial backing to record her own songs with one of New York's largest studios, while working toward a major label recording contract.

Through the grace of God, Donna realized that the music she was recording and, in fact, most music heard in the world, only serves to distract us from the true goal, which is to "love God with your whole heart, soul, mind, and all your strength." Today's secular songs get us occupied with worldly thoughts, amusements, and feelings which are deterrents to the growth of the spiritual life, which is all that matters. She also figured, why sing love songs that are so idealistic that they can only find fulfillment in Jesus? Why not just sing about Jesus Christ? Not desiring to be the lukewarm that Jesus will "spit out of His mouth," she decided to sing for Him alone. "All is vanity." (Ecc.) Only what is done for Christ will last.

After realizing the emptiness of her "dream," she no longer desired fame and fortune. She sought only God, His ordaining Will, spending much time in prayer, studying His word, reading only spiritual books, and praying for direction. After attending her very first Marian Conference, she was inspired to combine her love of prayer with music. Her first recording, **Prayers from Heaven and to Heaven**, was the natural result of the endeavor. Golden Arrow Music, Donna's production company, is dedicated to setting prayers to music with the idea that "when we sing, we pray twice" (St. Augustine). If you are going to have a song "stuck" in your head, let it be a prayer that will effect all eternity instead of some trite pop ditty from the radio that doesn't really have much meaning anyway.

Donna has taken prayers word for word from the Bible, popular devotions of the Faith and prayers of the Saints and put them to music making them accessible and retainable for all ages. Prayer of reparation (praise) and for unity of Christians is the main focus of the ministry. If it was Jesus' prayer "that they all be one" (John 7), how much more should we pray in union with Christ for His very own intentions and desires of His heart. Hence, the song and title track of Donna's second album, **That We May Be One**, word for word in the first person tense from John 17:24-26. She now has 9 albums, with the last two, **The Way of the Cross** and **Sing of Mary**, having gigantic production and live orchestra, being entirely paid for by her fans. So much for the big city record company she always thought she needed. All glory to God!

"I will sing to the Lord all the days of my life. While I have breath, I will sing to HIS praise."
(Psalm 104:33) from the track "I Will Sing" from the album **That We May Be One**



SOMETIMES, LOVING IS HARD TO DO







1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 • 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 • Luke 6:27-38

Family Car Talk

Instructions: Jesus says, *“For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same.”*

In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives us many ways that his followers are called to be *different* from the rest of the world. Everything he said was hard for people to take in. Love your enemies. Turn the other cheek. Give those who ask the clothes off your back. But these are the unusual things Jesus calls us to do.

In what ways can you love your family in unusual ways this week? On your way home from Mass today, read these questions to your family and talk about how you can love each other the way Jesus calls us to.

-  **Which of the ways Jesus calls us to love surprises you the most? Which seems too difficult to do?**
-  **What are some ways you can love those who are unkind to you this week?**
-  **What do you think about Jesus asking us to love those who do not love us? Why does he want us to do that?**
-  **On your own, think of an unusual way to show your love to a family member. Then, do that this week.**

well



I UNSCRAMBLE THEM

Instructions: The Lord is kind and merciful, That's the line you say in today's Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 103). Words from that psalm are in the word bank. Use the bank to unscramble the words under it.

COMPASSION
KIND

GRACIOUS
BLESSING

MERCIFUL
REDEMPTION

IKDN _ _ _ _

CLEMUIRF _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

MNOSOAPICS _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

IBLESGNS _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

ETMENODRIP _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

RGUSICAO _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _



B WRITE A TABLET

Instructions: In the Alleluia verse from today's Mass we hear that Jesus gives us a new commandment. On the tablet, follow the lines to complete this new commandment from Jesus.

