

St. Joseph's Workshop
1st Quarter 2018 – Show Notes

January 2, 2018

January 3, 2018

- Youtube personality Logan Paul gets into hot water. Internet culture. Asking for forgiveness, suicide.
- Today's feast - the Most Holy Name of Jesus. The love of Jesus.
- Today's men - longing for authentic relationships.
- Silicon Valley's bizarre 'raw water' trend has Father shaking his head. This reminds us to come to the Living Water.

January 4, 2018

- Smartphone payment apps track your purchases, and anticipate your next move. Can we be as transparent with our spiritual plans?
- Pope Francis' recent general audience address regarding the penitential act.
- How to improve your Reconciliation. Confess *your* sins, not those of your neighbor.
- Today's Gospel, John 1:35 - a new paradigm for sharing the Good News. By the holiness of your life, people are drawn to faith.

January 8, 2018

- Father speaks about the Epiphany. Father discusses how “King Herod was troubled as well as *all in Jerusalem*” when the Magi came to see the newborn King.
- Father shares an article titled, “There’s never been a better time to be single.” [Link](#)
- One gym has stopped displaying cable news networks for the health of their patrons. When I am done watching the news, do I take it into prayer with God, or does it just leave me frustrated? Am I more charitable after watching the news?
- Father Matthew discusses the building up of self-esteem. Why was Jesus baptized?

January 9, 2018

- Freedom from vice is not enough, if we don’t also seek out God. [Link](#)

- Father makes an observation about his catechism. After some use, it opens to a certain part. The role of your conscience is essential in your life. If it is not well formed, you will not make good decisions.
- Lying in children can be a sign of intelligence. How do we evaluate our children? Is it by intelligence, or virtue? [Link](#)

January 10, 2018

- Father Matthew reviews the neuroscience of decision making and vice. This reveals why we want to avoid the “near occasion of sin.” Discipline in one moment effects how you will decide in the future. [Link](#)
- Pope Francis speaks about the importance of silence before Mass. Father Matthew reflects on a loud beginning to one of the Christmas Masses.
- Father discusses the Mantis Shrimp and their ability to see different colors. He analyzes Enchroma glasses and how they help colorblind people to appreciate different colors. We are not able to see the full spectrum of the spiritual life by ourselves. The Sacraments help us to see what is happening invisibly. [Link](#)
- Father discusses Samuel’s call in today’s readings, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20.

January 11, 2018

- Father discusses the physical benefits of fasting. Even if there were no good physical benefits, our true goals are the spiritual benefits.
- Father discusses the Manchester United Football Club, and the Catholics on the team. One Catholic player was accused of practicing Voodoo. Father speaks about the religious authorities trying to discredit Jesus.
- Father Matthew discusses the humblebrag and Philippians 2. We have a God who has humbled himself.
- Father discusses 1 Samuel 4:1-11 and the defeat of the Israelites. Jesus’ life seemed like a failure by human standards.

January 12, 2018

- Why are millennials upset with the show “Friends?” Father analyzes. Have we become completely desensitized to sin?
- What is the difference between our work and our life in Christ? Why do people quit their jobs? Why do people leave the Church? Every one of us is responsible for helping others to grow.

- Special Guests: Father Dave Heney, Joe Sikorra and Karen Moran. The crew reveals a new program, the “Family Rosary across America,” a live interactive rosary broadcast Across the United States.

January 15, 2018

- Father discusses the backlash against Chip and Joanna Gaines for having a fifth child. Father points out the irony of Kristen Pyszczyk of CBC News telling us that as a feminist, she opposes “any conversation telling a woman what to do with her body” but also advocates “calling out people who have kids like they’re going out of style.” ([Link](#))
- Father discusses the homeless problem in San Francisco and the efforts to discourage homeless people from squatting in certain areas. ([Link](#)) How are we dealing with humanitarian struggles in our time?
- Father discusses the “president” and the “first presidency” of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
- Father shares about how he was introduced to the Rosary.

January 16, 2018

- Father discusses Aziz Ansari and consent. Father discusses the “legal consent” app called “legal fling.” We will fix the culture by transforming the hearts and minds of young people and helping them to realize God’s plan.
- Father discusses a new technique to wean yourself off of your smartphone. Turning your phone to monochrome mode.
- Pope Francis speaks about our woundedness due to sin. In our weakness, God’s strength can shine. Christ carried his wounds in his Glorified Body.
- Father mentions that Saul was described as the most handsome man in all of Israel. King David is described differently. Jesus was not described as the most handsome in Nazareth, but he lived perfection in his moral life. Have we gone back to the Old Covenant perspective, that physical beauty shows our favor with God and our value?

January 17, 2018

- In Perris, California, 13 children were chained and locked in a house by Louise and David Turpin. Evil actions can be hidden right in our midst. Evil hides behind a thin veneer in our lives.
- Father mentions “The Last Jedi” and Don and Timmerie calling it the “Protestant Reformation” of the Jedi on their show #Trending. Father discusses the “defeminized” edit of “The Last Jedi.”
- Father tells the story of the missing Pot Roast.

- Evil has nothing over the Power of Jesus. Father discusses the story of David and Goliath. David did not have the battle experience that Goliath had, but David brought to battle his relationship with God.

January 18, 2018

- Pope Francis stops to help police officer that fell off her horse during his South America visit. ([Link](#)) Pope Francis also marries a flight attendant couple on a plane during his trip. ([Link](#)) Father discusses the usual form of Marriage and dispensations. Pope Francis is not changing the Church by giving a dispensation
- Father discusses a trend in the UK and he attempts to pronounce a Danish word. ([Link](#))
- Father discusses the false missile alert in Hawaii. The Bishop of Hawaii at the moment was meeting with Deacon candidates. ([Link](#)) He gave general absolution. Father answers an email question about general absolution.
- Father discusses the daily reading and the relationship between Saul and David.

January 19, 2018

- Father shares a story from a fan of St. Joseph's Workshop about a difficult co-worker named Dave. He discusses the March for Life speech by Sister Bethy Madonna.
- God desires life for all of us. Father shares about a drone project that has saved two people at sea.
- Father interviews Eva Muntean, one of the founders of the Walk for Life, West Coast.
- Father discusses a Texas judge who apparently listened to God. ([Link](#))

January 22, 2018

- Father shares a story about a pancake breakfast. A parishioner tells Father that it is about time that he be allowed to marry. Father discusses Bill Gates' rules about phones for his children. Most tech executives consider the exposure of their children to technology a serious matter. As parents, your whole vocation is counter cultural.
- 33% of college students suffer from "perfectionism." Jesus calls us to perfection, but some can suffer from scrupulosity in the spiritual life.
- Father prays for a change in law to protect the unborn. Father discusses Secularization Theory, the notion that since people are becoming more educated, and science is explaining more and more, there will soon be no need for religion. The percentage of Americans that go to church more than once a week, and see scripture as important in life, has not budged. The study shows that religion that has changed values tend to lose members. Father analyzes the data.

- Father discusses the daily gospel. “By the prince of demons he drives out demons.” Even when doing good work, you will be accused of doing evil. When we try to do OUR will by sin, it will never lead to true happiness or a good relationship with God. You can NEVER commit evil to do good.

January 23, 2018

- Father leads a prayer thanking God for this day. Father discusses an article on Natural Family Planning Apps. ([Link](#)) Wired.com looks at NFP Apps as “Contraceptive Technology.” This article, “In Contraceptive Tech, the App’s Guess Is As Good As Yours.” NFP requires discipline and is NOT just the rhythm method. If you rely on technology to plan out your life for you, you will be disappointed.
- If you could choose your boss, how would that person be? Father cites a study in which favorability ratings by employees seemed to peak when the managers had IQs around 120. ([Link](#)) Father discusses the importance of virtue in management and leadership. You don’t have to be a genius to be a parent, but you DO have to cultivate virtue.
- Father discusses his reading habits. He compares 4 recent headlines, “Adopting this simple habit will make you insanely wealthy and happy, according to studies,” “The creepiest thing about you according to your Meyers-Briggs test.” “The one thing you need to know to achieve your dreams.” Your life is not just missing a simple element. A blog post will not help you help you achieve all your dreams, unless it says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Becoming a Saint comes with hard work and dedication.
- Father summarizes the history of the Feast of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph. The Oblates of St. Joseph petitioned the Vatican to celebrate a solemnity of the Holy Spouses and permission was granted. This solemnity comes a day after the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision. Father discusses the 100 Million Memorares for the end of Abortion.

January 24, 2018

- Father unpacks a mistaken understanding about Christianity and St. Francis de Sales. Do you believe holiness is only for the Clergy and Religious? St. Francis de Sales was named a doctor of the Church because he communicates the mysteries of the faith in a way that enlightens us. He says that it is a heresy to believe that devotion to Jesus is incompatible with your life. Father outlines some essential elements of St. Francis de Sales’ teachings: the universal call to Holiness, mental prayer is the universal means of perfection, and three ways to obey God’s commands (frequently, carefully, and promptly).
- Father shares the story of a statue of St. Joseph, at Mount St. Joseph, the Seminary of the Oblates of St. Joseph in Northern California. A friend and benefactor of the community offered to donate

a statue. Father discusses his nervousness when going to see the statue. It turns out to be beautiful. It was just installed today. Father reflects on being worried about how the statue would turn out, and analyzes his own moments of distrust in Divine Providence. St. Joseph himself had to trust in God when fleeing with his family to Egypt.

- Sexual Assault is so rampant in certain parts of Mexico that police were not doing anything about it. A reporter who was assaulted, Andrea Noel, posted a video of her assault to find the perpetrator. ([Link](#)) In this investigation, she finds a strange network within social media interactions. People were being paid to distract others on social media by a certain political party in Mexico. Father discusses Pope Francis' comments on "Fake News." The Devil is the one distracting us from the true "Good News."
- Father discusses the Denver Day Works Program, a day-labor program that employed the homeless for the day. Among them, 110 (about 1/3 of the day workers) found full time work. Our worth does not come from work, but we can rediscover that dignity when we cooperate with what God has asked of us and work hard at it. There is dignity itself in work. In today's gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the Sower of the Seeds.

January 25, 2018

- Father reflects on St Paul and his vision of Christ. There is a temptation to want what St. Paul had in his conversion because it was a direct vision of Jesus. Even in his past life, he was zealous for what he believed was true. God can use this much more than apathy. If you are not open to the truth, will it really matter to you if Jesus appears to you directly? If you want a Masters' course in theology and Christology, read the letters of St. Paul. Father gives a special prayer intention for someone who has contacted him and is losing hope.
- Father discusses a Fr. Pat Collins in Ireland says that demonic activity has increased in recent years and has called on Bishops to train more exorcists. This priest observes that evil is having a deeper impact in people's lives and people tend not to come to the church until evil has entrenched itself. Fr. Gabriele Amorth, former chief exorcist, told us the power of preaching and that just proclaiming the word can expel demons.
- Father discusses a recent tweet about the devil's attack on the unborn in the midst of the Pro-Life marches across the country. The results of a study show that Catholics seem to be split in support of Abortion. When the numbers are broken down, it shows that frequency of Mass attendance is negatively correlated with support for Abortion. The more one goes to Mass, the less a Catholic tends to support Abortion. Father was disheartened not only by Catholics showing support for Abortion, but also Christians saying that they hope Cecile Richards (who stepped down as CEO of Planned Parenthood) would rot in hell. God desires the conversion of everyone. Father hopes that Cecile Richards has stepped down because something has convicted her.
- Father discusses a disturbing message he received through Facebook. Someone may be trying to impersonate him. Father discusses the New York Times reporting on a Doomsday Clock. ([Link](#))

How close am I to ultimate despair, and how close am I to allowing the Spirit within me to be quenched? The crux of the matter is that you and I have forgotten about our eternal life.

January 26, 2018

- Father discusses an experiment that took place about 5 years ago. A Russian gentleman decided to go out into the wilderness with no technology that did not exist in the 10th and 11th Centuries. ([Link](#)) He survived and met with the documentary team once a month. The gentleman speaks about an event that he was remorseful about. His goats got into his house and started destroying things. In a rage, he slaughtered one of the goats. Our spiritual lives are sometimes desolate like the Northern part of Russia. We've entered into a dark part of our spiritual lives without being ready for the winter.
- Father shares a conversation with a young man about his discernment of vocation. Why are we not open to discern God's will sometimes? We may not trust the specific call from God, and may not truly believe that He has the thing that will make us happy. Father discusses marrying someone who is not "approved" by your parents or the disapproval of parents who do not approve of a religious vocation. Father discusses some of the concerns a parent might have with a candidate entering religious life.
- Father discusses the Walk for Life and the importance of this event. Every single human person is called to create in the world. It may be to foster warmth and love in your neighbor, or create an environment of welcome in your parish. Father discusses a study that conducted MRI scans while people were creating. Father discusses a group of wealthy innovators who are trying to create the technology to live forever. God allows us to create and participate in His creation, but after Sin, He has also allowed us to die. Are you cooperating with God in creating a better world.
- In today's Gospel, Jesus describes the Kingdom of God. Father discusses the way St. Francis de Sales also uses analogies for the spiritual life. In the Gospel, the Kingdom of God is described as like a man spreading seed and waiting for the seed to grow and mature. The man doesn't understand the mechanism that causes the seeds to grow. We want to penetrate all the mysteries of God's plan. Our world has become almost self-righteous in its appreciation of knowledge as if we deserve to know how everything works. Sometimes we look at our spiritual lives in the same way in that we believe we deserve to know all of the future details of God's specific plan for us. We don't need to know all of God's workings to know that He loves us.

January 29, 2018

- Father discusses his participation in the Walk for Life West Coast and something that stands out to him at each of the Walk for Life. Father describes those "counter-protestors" that are not speaking about abortion, but condemning the Catholic Church. Father recalls Jesus speaking with authority in yesterday's readings. The authority in the Catholic Church is based on Jesus' authority. Jesus demonstrated his authority by expelling demons, and showing He has power of sin, death, and nature. Ultimately, every time we sin, it is a crisis of faith, because in those moments we are not fully seeing God as worth following. .

- Assuming you do the best preparation possible, you're married in the Church, you avail of the Sacraments regularly; do these things mean that your marriage will not fail? The couples that seem like perfect Catholic couples, may be the ones seriously struggling. Father T.G. Morrow wrote a book, "Overcoming Sinful Anger." Anger is something that couples might slowly allow into their relationship in small ways. This can enter into relationships that are doing many things right. When you start cultivating anger, it will break down other things in your relationship. Father discusses Larry Nassar (the USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University Physician that abused many young gymnasts) and a victim who was angry, but was able to forgive him.
- Father discusses Chad England, who got into a bad accident and flipped his truck 5 times. In his car, they found an empty bottle of Crown Royal, marijuana, and cocaine. He survived. The police report stated, "He said that Jesus was calling him and advised him to let go of the wheel, and that's what he did." Father discusses that he will pray with people in the hospital, but he also wants to doctors to do their job as well. As Catholics we know that the spiritual and natural go hand in hand. Do we blame Jesus for things that have causes in our own actions? Are you taking responsibility for your sins and going to confession?
- Father Matthew discusses today's first reading, 2 Samuel 15. Shimei hurls insults at King David. David stops his Guard from killing the man. David speculates that perhaps Shimei is speaking for God in that moment, and acts with humility. Ask yourself, "am I doing this because I want truth to prevail, or because of my wounded pride? "

January 31, 2018

- Father begins with a prayer. Father speaks about the amount of Latin found in old Catholic universities, and points out a more rare Latin phrase found in Jesuit Universities, "Age quod agis" meaning "Do what you are doing." It refers to focusing on the task at hand. Father speaks about "multi-tasking" computers and how "multi-tasking" has become part of our lexicon. People equate multi-tasking with efficiency, but it is just not true. Multi-tasking can actually reduce your IQ. ([Link](#)) Father tells a story about a fellow priest giving a homily. After the priest sat down, an elderly woman, who thought she was whispering, said, "WE NEED TO PICK UP MILK ON THE WAY HOME." Age quod agis reminds us that we need to focus on the present task we are doing, and do it well.
- Father speaks about a listener email about yesterday's show segment about Dan Brown. She says that her faith has actually grown because of the Dan Brown novels. There are many things God can use to form us in faith, but we should be responsible to use the time that God gives us in the best way possible.
- Father discusses a study which reviewed loneliness' effect on illness. ([Link](#)) The people that reported more loneliness before becoming sick, reported and experienced worse symptoms than those reporting less loneliness. Not only are we called to relationship with God primarily, but we are also called to relationship with others. We need others. Our Church encompasses all of us, and part of our responsibility is to reach out to others at the appropriate times.

- Let's imagine that everything is going right in your life, and you've received a mission to share the Good News with others. What do you do when the Message is rejected? The same thing happened to Jesus. Father shares a story about going back to the parish of his youth and preaching there. He compares the experience with Mark 6. People will not always accept the messenger, but do not return the feeling of offense. The point of my life is not to receive honor from others, but to continue to share the Good News.

February 1, 2018

- Father recalls the story of Willie Grimes who was convicted of rape and kidnapping. The victim picked him out of a lineup and a questionable practice of hair analysis was used. But eight witnesses corroborated his alibis and 4 people attested to being with him while the crime was happening. The North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence helped to release him from prison. His lawyer tells us that he had to let go of his anger in prison in order to survive. Willie Grimes realized that his anger would have destroyed him if he held on to it. In prison there is nothing to distract from your thoughts. All of your feelings and regrets are so prominent that they must be faced. If I am holding on to anger, I am the one that is losing out on life. Father gives a "shoutout" to a young fan of St. Joseph's Workshop.
- Father speaks about King David receiving insults by one of his subject, and David reacting with humility even when his guard wanted to kill the man. Pope Francis points out that being humble requires being humiliated. Look at the saints that have been humiliated. Do people think less of you when you are doing the right thing? God recognizes that we need humiliation sometimes. Pope Francis says it is easy to be tempted to put on a shell, counter-slander, and oppose anything that shames us. Let's pray for the small humiliations that will help us to grow.
- Facebook daily active users have declined in the US and Canada. Father remembers when Instagram was introduced and how fast it grew. We are very quick to jump on new ways of connecting with people, but ignore the tried and true ways of connecting with our God and others.
- Father discusses today's gospel, Mark 6:7. Father focuses on the fact that Jesus tells them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick. We would like to go through life with all the accessories that we might ever possibly need so that we are comfortable. Providence means that God provides. Father discusses Joseph and the Holy Family.

February 2, 2018

- Today is a very special day in the Church. Today is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and Candlemas. Pope St. John Paul II declared this day as the World Day of Consecrated Life. Consecrated life is usually characterized by vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Father tells about the rich young man and Jesus' response. Jesus wanted to share the beauty of poverty with the rich young man, but at that moment, he walked away. Do we try to justify ourselves like the rich young man?

- Father discusses the quote, “When one door closes, another opens” and reveals the FULL quote. “...but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which opens for us.” God wants us to recognize the ways in which he is opening doors for us. Father reflects on his past life and sees how he was putting his plan before God’s plan.
- Father discusses an article sent in by Craig about how pro-lifers have been using science to advocate for their cause. ([Link](#)) Catholic Scientist, Jerome Lejeune discovered the cause of Down Syndrome, but he was horrified to see that the world used his science to destroy children in the womb who were determined to have Down Syndrome. Christians are not afraid of science. We embrace science, but we also recognize the limits of science. Father discusses Vincent Reid’s findings that show fetuses inside the womb turn to follow faces just as a newborn does. Mr. Reid does not say whether he is pro-life or not.
- Father discusses the readings at mass today and walks us through the morning prayers for the liturgy of the hours. “Christ Jesus in obedience to the law, you desired to be presented to Your Father in the Temple. “ “Teach us to offer ourselves with you in Your Church’s Sacrifice.” “Lord Jesus, Cornerstone of God’s Kingdom, You were destined to be a Sign that was rejected...” Father discusses the line from Simeon that strikes him, “...and a sword will pierce through your heart also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

February 5, 2018

- Father discusses watching the Super Bowl with his community. He mentions #SuperbowlintheConvent and how much fun the Nuns on twitter were having. He reflects briefly on the number of times “Hail Mary” is mentioned and the number of times players thanked God.
- Father discusses Christian Pastors and a Rabbi “blessing” an abortion clinic in Bethesda, MD ([Link](#)). One of the prayers was, “God of grace and God of glory, in whom we move and live, keep them safe and keep them strong. And may they always know that all that they do is for Thy glory.” Without the guidance of the Church, we run the risk of starting to call evil, good. The Rabbi stated that “Judaism has always said abortion is never murder.” Father leads us in a Memorare, part of the 100 Million Memorare campaign for the end of abortion.
- Esmond Allcock of Saskatchewan, Canada says the key to a long and happy life is choosing a good spouse. ([Link](#)) He turned 108 years old on January 26, 2018. Are you preparing yourself for the task and the next moment, or are you worrying about the far future and how things will work out? We don’t know that we will live that long, but we do know that those around can help us live for God in this present moment.
- Father discusses commercials during the superbowl. It seems that there is almost a tradition to sell something superficial by portraying something solemn. Father specifically points out a Dodge commercial using Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech. Father also describes a commercial from Jeep (both Dodge and Jeep are owned by Chrysler). Father also describes Hyundai commercial that highlighted cancer survivors. Jesus messages touches people like nothing else will. When Jesus comes, He is continually surrounded by people who recognize who He is. Let’s not seek out

what the world offers us in advertisement which promises things it cannot deliver, let's seek out Jesus.

February 6, 2018

- Father recalls his time in Rome – and the fact that he's never seen the Sistine Chapel. Saint John Paul II and the Theology of the Body. The Manchester Art Gallery removes "Hylas and the Nymphs" – and turns it into a publicity stunt.
- The Litany of Humility – a powerful tool for spiritual growth. Freedom from fear and vice. Conquering ego and love of self.
- Retirement: Joy or tragedy? Retirement ages are getting older – and maybe that's a good thing. Brain function diminishes rapidly upon retirement: U.K. research finding. Man is meant for work/contribution.
- Are you doing penance this Lent? Is penance really necessary today? The beauty of Catholic Tradition, and the helps it gives us. The role of the Ten Commandments, and the "New Law" of love.

February 7, 2018

- Father Matthew speaks about the regular emails asking about Mount St. Joseph's feral cats. Don't worry, the cats are fine. Father speaks about anthropomorphizing pets, or seeing human qualities in your pets. Father discusses the trend of people posting pictures of their pets with signs revealing what offense of which the pets are guilty. A study in 2009 conducted by Alexander Horowitz, a dog cognition expert, revealed that dogs do not feel guilt. A dog was commanded not to eat a treat by the owner. Some were given the treat, some treats were taken away by researchers before the owners returned. The dogs that were punished, but did not eat the treat were the ones appearing much more "guilty" which is not how humans would react. We also tend to project feelings onto other people. Our misinterpretation leads to judge people, or maybe become doormats. We also start doing this with God. We imagine that we know the fullness of God's plan.
- Father speaks about protections against false priests.
- Father speaks about a church that purported to be Catholic, but was invalid. ([Link](#))
- Sometimes what is getting in the way of our relationships is welling up within us from our brokenness. Father discusses the daily Gospel. Mark 7:14-23, "nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile."

February 8, 2018 (Encore of January 15, 2018)

February 9, 2018 (Encore of January 10, 2018)

February 12, 2018

- Father discusses his visit to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It has seating for 10,000 people. Father was stopped by a young man describing his views and the story of his journey. Father recounts his frustration because the time he wanted to see the Basilica of the

Immaculate Conception was being "taken up" by this young man. An insight from the Holy Spirit showed him that the beloved child of God was more beautiful than anything he would have seen in the Basilica. Construction of the Basilica was started in the early 1900s. The last construction was just finished, a 24 ton mosaic in the dome.

- Father Igbo, a priest in Australia (originally from Nigeria) was accused of 2015 of violating the seal of the confessional (meaning he was revealing the sins confessed in the confessional). On February 7th, 2018 the excommunication of this priest was confirmed. He is still denying his guilt. There are 2 actions that carry with it automatic excommunication: revealing the sins of a penitent in the confessional, and abortion. Father reminds us that any priest can now lift excommunication on anyone who has had an abortion since the Year of Mercy. Penitents come to the priest with trust, and that tremendous trust is broken when the seal of the confessional is broken.
- Father recalls his time in Italy for a spirituality course and the Asti Spumonte release parties during that time. After finishing for the day, they walked by a Asti Spumonte release party. He and his brother priests were featured in a local magazine. Michele Ferrero is from the same area, inventor of Nutella and the Ferrero Rocher candies. He is a devotee to Our Lady of Lourdes and visits Lourdes regularly. He has a picture of Our Lady in each of his offices. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is this Sunday. Father prays a Hail Mary to ask Our Lady of Lourdes to intercede for our healing.
- Father discusses the Letter of James. James tells us that suffering produces perseverance. Father Matthew notices that when we ask for perseverance, what we get are difficult circumstances. St. Monica is a Saint precisely because of her perseverance and did not lose hope. Her son didn't just come back to the Church, but became a doctor of the Church, St. Augustine of Hippo. Solomon asked for wisdom instead of power and money, and God gave him not only wisdom, but also gave him power and money. Let us recognize the opportunity for conversion in our lives, and the trials that will produce in us perseverance.

February 14, 2018

- Father begins the show praying for the Parkland, FL school shooting. Tragedies like this one remind us how fragile life is. Father discusses a plane crash in Russia. He also discusses flight UA1175 in which an engine disintegrated over the Pacific Ocean. Passengers recorded it and posted it online via the in flight wifi. No one was hurt. We do not know when God will take us. We live our lives presuming that everything will be fine. We should make sure our lives are running well like a plane worthy of flight. We look at Lent not just about being somber, but a chance for reconciliation.
- Father says a word you are not supposed to say during Lent. Father observes that fasting from that word interrupts our normal rhythm. There are good things that come from habit. Lent comes along and forces us to re-examine our habits. We are called to abstain from meat every Friday in Lent, but we know some people are going to forget. Most people are used to eating whatever they want on Fridays and this also interrupts their rhythm. Father speaks about the widow's mite.
- Father recalls his first Ash Wednesday Mass. He was feeling comfortable celebrating Mass after almost a year of being a priest. Normally you would give ashes right after the homily. Half of the

congregation left after receiving their ashes. More people found their way in, filling up the church again. One woman, instead of accepting the Body of Christ in the Eucharist, she said she wanted ashes instead. Many times we will our designs over God's designs. We might choose dirt instead of God Himself. St. Paul tells that, "...now is the day of salvation..."

- Pope Francis highlights areas we need to work on. "How many of God's children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves and end up entrapped by loneliness!" Father discusses "24 hours for the Lord." This is a movement in which a church is open for confessions for a full 24 hours. Father discusses taking the early morning hours because he was one of the younger priests participating. Surprisingly there were many people coming for confession at 3 am. In the Gospel today, "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them." Make sure that you are doing this disciplines for the right reasons. There is a balance between witnessing through our disciplines and showing off. Our whole spiritual life needs to be ordered properly.

February 15, 2018

- Father Matthew prays for all of those grieving, especially those related to the recent shooting at a Florida school. One of the grieving women photographed after the tragedy is shown with ashes on her forehead. ([Link](#)) Father also mentions Aaron Feis and Christopher Hixon who acted to save others during the Florida school shooting and are now deceased. We look at examples like this, and we can have hope. The mother of Mr. Rogers would tell him to "look for the helpers." Even in the darkest of circumstances we find those willing help others.
- Some Olympic announcers have gotten in trouble for their commentating. Bodie Miller speculates that one of the competitors in the Slalom might be having a poor performance because she got married. "It might be her husband's fault." This was a joke. He might have been referring to his own performance after he got married. He was scolded by others for stating this inappropriate comment, and has apologized. But why don't we react the same way when marriage is attacked in other, deeper ways? Many seem to think marrying a robot, a pet, or even yourself is alright. Father mentions foryourmarriage.org which encourages couples to live marriage well.
- Father discusses some fake news. It was reported that Pope Emeritus Benedict has a degenerative disease. The Vatican has denied this. Father mentions a book called "Self Driven Children." He does not recommend this book one way or the other. Father also recalls a "tweetstorm" regarding a mother letting children run wild at a park. The premise of the book is that children in our time are not given enough control in their own lives. Anxiety, Depression and virtually all mental health problems are associated very highly with a low sense of control. We have to recognize that God is in control. When we let go of the sense of control, often times we find freedom. Lent is about surrendering to God as Jesus in His Passion surrendered himself to the will of the Father.
- Father discusses the first reading at Mass today in Deuteronomy 30. Moses says to the people, "today i have set before you life and prosperity, death and doom." He tells the Isralites they have a choice to go with God or against God. Going with God requires keeping his commandments and will live and grow numerous. He also warns that they will surely perish if they do not follow

God. Moses tells them to "choose life." Some Christians will say that you only have to choose Jesus at one moment in your life (i.e. the sinner's prayer) but the Catholic position is that we must "choose life" each day and every moment. Lent is a time to recognize that we must live our lives seriously and choose life.

February 16, 2018

- Father and listeners pray a Memorare for the world, and for those that are suffering and lonely. Father speaks about an incident in the Philippines. Those receiving ashes were surprised to find rashes on their foreheads. Some thought the cause might be spiritual. It turns out the ashes were overcooked. Yes! It is possible. Pope Francis issues a new motu proprio called *Imparare a congedarsi* which means "Learning to Say Goodbye." Bishops are required to submit their resignation at the age of 75.
- Father Matthew mentions a tweet by @BoardOpJames regarding Lent. He left a Lenten surprise for the staff of the Relevant Radio California Studios. Father speaks the work environment and about the company "WeWork." They offer trendy office spaces for a fraction of the price of leasing a space. Father speculates about the productivity of those who use WeWork. Sometimes we imagine that when we create the perfect environment in our lives, our spiritual life will finally start growing tremendously. It is not artwork and ambiance that will cultivate virtue in your life.
- Father mentions the book "Render Unto Cesar" by Archbishop Chaput. It talks about the interplay between spiritual life and our life as citizens. He also speaks about Archbishop Chaput's new book, "Strangers in a Strange Land." "If you sup with the Devil, you'd better bring a long spoon." If you try to make an agreement with something that is evil, you're in for trouble. As soon as we make arrangements with evil, our conscience is damaged. Lent is a time to be uncomfortable with those arrangements and therefore change our lives.
- When Jesus comes along and confronts the Pharisees, he tells them they are performing rituals for the wrong reasons. Jesus tells us about how to fast and give alms. Some today will fast to lose weight. Also, some will give alms, to feel better about themselves. Father attributes this to our cultural moves toward utilitarianism. There are many different ways we can do good things for the wrong reasons. Right from the beginning of Lent, the Church gives us these readings and today's reading in Isaiah to challenge us to fast for the right reasons, "then you shall call, and the LORD will answer. You will cry for help and He will say, 'Here I am.'"

February 19, 2018

- Father begins with a Memorare and speaks about praying for your loved ones at Mass today. Father got an email about Fergie, formerly of the group "The Black Eyed Peas" at the NBA All Star Game. She sang the national anthem "horribly" and was excoriated by the Washington Post, Roseanne Bar, and many others. Jennifer Fulweiler saw something else.
- Father discusses the youtube channel "Lizzie Answers." She posted about misconceptions that Protestants have about Catholics, then about the unbiblical nature of Sola Fide, then she announced she did not want to become Catholic, but she came to an intellectual conversion. Father credits her faithfulness to the Truth.

- Father discusses a new word that is hard for him to embrace. The word is “non-monogamous.” This refers to so many different types of relationships. Father refers to a Vox article in which Carrie Jenkins tells us that there is no reason that monogamy is the way that everyone should live. ([Link](#)) She lives in a polyamorous relationship. “I’m arguing that everybody should be able to do whatever they want.” Even while society is fighting against marriage, they tend to want to retain the Christian notions of fidelity and even monogamy.
- Father discusses Anthony, a young man who holds a door shut to protect his fellow classmates during the Parkland, Florida shooting.

February 20, 2018

- Father tells about a listener who feels bad for James the Board Op when Father ribs him. Father discusses an Olympian, Miki Ando, who discovered she was pregnant. ([Live](#)) She decided to withdraw from international competitions and focus on being a mom. "I chose the baby's life over skating. I made the decision naturally as a woman."
- Elizabeth Swaney, a halfpipe skier for Hungary, skis the most relaxing trick-free halfpipe performance during the 2018 Winter Olympics. Hungary didn't know that she was competing for the country. Father speaks about “gaming the system.” The system of the Church was brought to us by Christ to help us get to Heaven. Father speaks about the parable of the unjust manager who forgave much debt when he found out charges were being brought up against him. The master commended him for his shrewdness. If only we could have this kind of shrewdness in our spiritual lives.
- Father speaks about Relevant Radio and it's potential to reach souls. Father speaks about a Nigerian diocese in which Pope Benedict appointed a Bishop from a minority tribe. There were troubles with priests in the diocese not being obedient to the Bishop even when called out by the successor of St. Peter. Pope Francis called for the priests' obedience but there were still problems, some citing that they could not psychologically accept it. The Bishop himself resigned and the Pope accepted his resignation. It is not clear why he resigned.
- Father shares a story about when he was a seminarian and participated in a interfaith prayer service. His prayer was very subdued and superficial. He was worried about what other people would say.

February 21, 2018

- Father discusses the “Hollywood Exorcist.” She is not a male or priest, but feels that she is called to help people get rid of their demons. Protip from Father Matthew: If you are getting charged for an Exorcism, you might be getting played. Nowhere in scripture will you see Jesus teaching that once you follow Him, everything will be easy.
- Father continues with the Hollywood Exorcist. One of the Exorcists friends', Megan Duffy credits her success to the ‘exorcism.’ You might fail several times in your Lenten promises because we don't like sacrifice. Lent always precedes Easter. It is about preparing ourselves through self-denial and suffering, but it is always meant to lead us to New Life. Oregon State University published a small study which reveals that the way different people cope with

experiences in their lives affects their growth in wisdom. Jesus tells us to pick up our cross and follow Him.

- Father discusses his brother who did 3 tours in the Middle East with the Army. Reflecting on the Parkland shooting, Father tells the story of Peter Wang, a member of the JROTC, who held the door for others as they escaped the shooter. He died defending his friends. It is natural to save our own lives, but it is supernatural to put others first. Would we be ready to lay down our lives if Jesus asked it of us? Father discusses the death of Billy Graham. Are we living with zeal?
- Father speaks about the reluctant prophet Jonah.

February 22, 2018

- Father reflects on lent and asks you, "How is your Lent going? Are you allowing the fasting and disciplines of Lent to change your life?" Many perform some of the practices of Lent (fasting, almsgiving, etc.) as a chance to change their lives. Kirsten Chaplain, last year gave up alcohol. She did not mention Christ at all in her reflections, but she realized she may have been an alcoholic. She gave it up for 40 days, and then gave up alcohol for a year. [Link](#)
- Father prays for those in Parkland, Florida victimized by the school shooting, and for communities across the country who are afraid it might happen in their schools. Father also brings up the Florida legislature declaring Pornography as a "public health risk."
- Father discusses Google's Project Oxygen. Google evaluated their management and work relationships. One example from this study: When managers are more interested in the personal lives of their subordinates, productivity improves. When you care about your neighbors' lives, they are more inclined to help you out. Don't we already know this as Christians? [Link](#) Then why is it we are not always considerate of others, or why are we embarrassed by our beliefs? Father realizes that it is the Mass that helps us to be compassionate, grateful and have a healthy pride in our Faith.
- Why do Catholics celebrate a piece of furniture today? Father discusses the Chair of St. Peter. Each Bishop has a chair that is only for the Bishop. Father discusses Matthew 16, and the profession of faith of St. Peter.

February 26, 2018

- Father discusses the recent pledge drive, and points out the average gift amount. Relevant Radio isn't funded by a few millionaires, but is funded by everyday people. Jacob Rees-Mogg, a British politician, expresses his pro-life views and says that he is "completely opposed" to abortion. He later said that most people disagreed with him, but were appreciative of his honest and public views. People of good will appreciate it when we are people of integrity. He says, "If any of you Catholics are thinking about going into the public service be reassured that society is willing to accept your fundamental beliefs and allow you to advance your arguments." [Link](#) Father speaks about the call to contact Congress today from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to find a compassionate solution to the plight of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

- Father speaks about one of our own DACA recipients here in the studio. President Xi Jinping is being allowed to stay in office indefinitely as China moves to abolishing presidential term limits. Father discussing the abolishment of the 1 child policy in China. The Chinese government is enacting a eugenics policy under the guise of promoting children. They are coercing some women to have children while restricting others from having children. The intrusion of the government into family planning is taking the God-given responsibility away from Mothers and Fathers and creating societal, spiritual and psychological problems. This must be pushed back and fought against.
- March 14, 2016 was a terrible day in Yemen. Father discusses the kidnapping of Father Thomas Uzhunnalil, a Salesian Priest, and how he apologized for some things he said under duress while a prisoner of ISIS. Father compares this with the times he tries to justify things that he says of his own free will.
- Father discusses a listener email: How can you forgive yourself of the sins of your past life? I understand that Christ has forgiven me, but I suffer greatly when I remember them. Father speaks about St. Augustine recalling how he stole bushels of pears from a neighbor's tree "not to eat them ourselves, but simply to throw them to the pigs." Jesus said to St. Faustina that His greatest attribute is his mercy. Where in scripture does it tell us to forget the sins of our past? IF you are still feeling enslaved by those sins, it might indicate that you haven't opened font of God's Mercy. Confession doesn't flash your memory like Men in Black. God wants us to live in the present moment, and realize that in His Love and Mercy we can heal. Are we willing to be as gracious and merciful to others and we expect God to be to us?

February 27, 2018

- Father speaks about the show "Living Biblically" This is based on a book called, "The Year of Living Biblically" by AJ Jacob. In the Pilot Episode, the main character loses a friend and finds out his wife is pregnant, and decides to do something radical and decides to "live biblically." One of the disturbing problems with the Pilot Episode, was the character wondering whether or not he should stone his friend, who had committed adultery. The episode ends with conversion, but the irreverence and lack of good Theology was disturbing to Father Matthew. Are you getting your theology for TV shows?
- Father discusses the trending hashtag #nobrainerwaytohappiness and some of the responses from Christians. Do we go through our lives not focusing on what we should be grateful for? Supported by science, those that are gratitude end up being happier in their lives. Gratitude might not come easily to you right now, but with deliberate practice it can become a good habit. Father gives the four steps important to happiness.
- We know that evil exists. The source of the evil can come from the Evil One himself, but sometimes it comes from the human heart. Father reflects on the evil that human beings are able to do to one another even without the influence of the Evil One. He mentions Richard "The Iceman" Kuklinski, a contract killer/mass murderer who worked with the Mafia. Dr. Park Dietz, a forensic psychiatrist, interviews Mr. Kuklinski in prison, and analyzes his condition. Mr Kuklinski's response is chilling.

- Father discusses disobedience and when it may manifest in our lives. “The Scribes and Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach, but do not practice.” Jesus reinforces their authority even though they are not living as they should. Where do you put conditions on your obedience to legitimate authority?

February 28, 2018

- Father tells a story of a fateful morning that occurred 5 years ago. Father speaks about intercessory prayer with his community. One of the priests added his own intention to pray for Pope Benedict and his resignation that morning. Father was stunned because he had not heard that news. Father describes the long papacy of St. Pope John Paul II. Pope Benedict cited his deteriorating strength, and decided that it was God calling him to resign from the papacy. Father remembers wondering what this meant, but still saw God’s providential hand.
- Father answers a listener email about prayer. The listener is committed to spending time in Adoration, but he finds himself having a difficult time focusing on Jesus. Father: There are many devotionals that will guide our time before the Blessed Sacrament. Father suggests spending as much time as you can in quiet prayer, but then when you start getting distracted, use these resources to refocus. Father also goes over 4 traditional forms of prayer: Blessing /Adoration, Asking/Petition, Intercession (praying on behalf of others), and Thanksgiving (Gratitude). Father suggests that you can spend your Holy Hour praying each of these ways for 15 minutes each.
- Father talks about an article from Italy by Father Padilla that states that there have been half a million reported exorcisms in Italy. They are training more exorcist, there is a workshop that will take place inside of the Vatican in April.
- Be careful what you pray for because you might get it. Take a moment to think about what is the last thing you asked god for, imagine if god answered that prayer in the many different ways. Father Mathew prayed that gods will would be made clear to him, and god made his vocation known to him. Mathew 20 beginning in verse 17. Jesus describes to His disciples his gruesome and humiliating death, though they saw him as the Hope of Jewish People. Right after, the Mother of the sons of Thunder asks for places of honor for her sons. Not all of us will suffer a martyrdom of blood, but we are all called to give our lives for the Gospel. Am I ready to take a position of service and humility?

March 1, 2018

- Finish
- Finish
- Father discusses an unusual wedding in Oaxaca, Mexico. Women are marrying trees. Yes, you read that correctly....trees. Father discusses the degradation of marriage in the culture and the use of marriage for other purposes.
- Father discusses the parable of Lazarus and the rich man beginning at Luke 16:19. Purple garments were very expensive because of the dye, and was a sign of royalty. Father recalls wearing the purple vestments and reading this passage. “There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day.” Father wondered whether he was more like Lazarus, or more like the rich man. Perhaps this Lent we need to look outside and

see the need that exists in the world, while we have what we need. Look at the need that may be right at our doorstep. “Then Abraham said, ‘If they will not be persuaded by Moses and the Prophets, neither will they listen if someone should rise from the dead.’” This parable was directed to the Pharisees. He is telling the Pharisees that they can’t recognize Him even though they have the prophets and Moses, and they won’t recognize him even when He rises from the dead. If we harden our hearts, this is what happens. However when we soften our hearts, we see Jesus in the poor, our fellow parishioners, and others.

March 2, 2018

- Father describes meeting with old friends for coffee. One is an ex-Mormon and one is a lapsed Catholic. The lapsed Catholic had the impression that Creationism was a dogma of the Catholic Church. Father realizes that it takes a long time to communicate the depth of Catholic Theology. We cannot water down the faith. Father himself was transformed by Jesus’ high standards. But realize that God’s mercy is without bounds. The fact that there is still room in our Catholic Churches means that there is a lot of work that we have to do to communicate what we actually believe as Catholics.
- Father tells a cursory personal history with cell phones. Father discusses the “Lightphone” an ultra-minimalist phone. What is the most important relationship in your life? There is no tool that can replace the pursuit of virtue and holiness in the Christian life, and it costs way less than the Lightphone. You can do this without an internet connection or even a degree in Theology. You don’t have to wait for the perfect device or app.
- Father discusses a quintessentially Catholic topic. Business Insider ran an article, “A secret lurking in some fast-food fish sandwiches could compromise no-meat diets during Lent” about some fast food chains using beef tallow in the oil. [Link](#) Father discusses a post by Fr. Z discussing Paul VI teaching on abstinence on Fridays. [Link](#) The reason we have specificity in the law in the Church is for our benefit. It is not that we should become Pharisaical, but recognizing how God makes provisions for us. God wants clarity in your life, but He also wants you to be generous in your response. Be a minimalist with the phone you use, or how you live. Don’t be a minimalist when it comes to your response to the Lord.
- Father responds to a tweet. He cites the USCCB website containing a FAQ on Lent. [Link](#) We have many allusions in the Old Testament for future events in the New Testament. Just as Joseph of Egypt was entrusted with all of Pharaoh’s reign, Joseph of Nazareth was entrusted with all the riches of God. Joseph was entrusted with what God the Father treasured in Jesus the Son. If God the Father trusted Joseph enough to take care of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, St. Joseph can also protect you and be your guide in this life.

March 5, 2018

- Father discusses the Ten Commandments during yesterday’s Mass readings. We have regulations anywhere that we go. Father discusses the Gospel, where Jesus makes a whip out of cords and drives merchants out of the Temple area. We allow things to creep into the temples of our body

and minds and we become comfortable with it. Jesus drives them out, and then makes room for Himself to reside.

- Father discusses Amazon “Alexa’s” new Relevant Radio skills. [Link](#) Father discusses the declining Catholic Marriages in England and Wales. This decline in marriage is not just happening in the UK. We need commitment to life and becoming the best version of ourselves. This doesn’t happen by just following our whims at any given moment, but by committing to a trajectory. Father discusses proper discernment for marriage.
- Father discusses a new document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith that addresses Pelagianism and Gnosticism([Link](#)). Pelagianism is the heresy that states that we can save ourselves. Gnosticism covers a broad manifestation of different erroneous theological concepts. One example is: If you have the right “secret” knowledge, you can be saved. The Gospel makes it plain to all of us what it takes to get to Heaven. It is not proprietary knowledge. Although these are ancient heresies, we are seeing this in today’s culture, confusing people around the world.
- Father discusses Naaman in the daily readings today, 2 Kings 5:1-15. He was surprised by the simple response from the prophet of God. Father refers to Saint Joseph’s faithful witness by simply living his Vocation. Many times we cry out for an extraordinary experience when more often than not, God is inviting us to experience and change in the ORDINARY circumstances of life.

March 6, 2018

- Father reflects on the way his roman collar witnesses to others. Would you act differently if you had to wear a huge sign that said, “Hey! I’m Catholic!” Father has noticed that more people have struck up with him than before he started wearing the habit. The most common question is, “What’s your take on Pope Francis?” Father discusses a new poll about how Catholics in the US view Pope Francis. 94% say that he is compassionate, and 91% say that he is humble. These are the same as a previous study in 2015. Many spoke about the “Francis Effect” which was speculation of how many people would come back to the Church because of Pope Francis’ style. The numbers haven’t moved with any statistical significance, but our faith is not a cult of personality.
- Father discusses the show, “Friends.” A study states that 5-6 people is the ideal circle of close friends that we should have. Friends are essential not only in your social life, but also in your walk with Jesus. Friends are not just people who share our common interests, but they lead us to Christ. Father remembers entering his religious community and looking at the other oblates thinking, “I wouldn’t be hanging out with these guys outside the seminary.” Yet, our faith is so central to our lives that it forms the bond. Do you have Christian accountability with your friends? You know and love Jesus, and your friends learn about what you love. Are you presenting Jesus to them revealing the source of your joy?
- Father mentions a listener, Derrick, who loves St. Joseph’s Workshop, and listens to the show at 2x speed. Father speaks about how bad we are at seeing ourselves objectively. We are usually have better insight to our emotions because it is more internal. With the more external qualities, we are not as good at being objective. Who knows better if you are generous, your friends or yourself? Father discusses the first reading of Lent from Matthew 6. “When you pray, do not be

like the hypocrites...” Allow God to be the judge of your generosity or holiness. Ask God what He thinks of you.

- Father mentions the litany of St. Joseph every day. Father will tweet it from his twitter: [@frmatthewosj](https://twitter.com/frmatthewosj) HYPERLINK "<http://www.twitter.com/frmatthewosj>" HYPERLINK "<http://www.twitter.com/frmatthewosj>" HYPERLINK "<http://www.twitter.com/frmatthewosj>". Father discusses 6 titles of St. Joseph: Joseph most just, Joseph most chaste, Joseph most prudent, Joseph most strong, Joseph most obedient, Joseph most faithful. Just because like the patriarchs before him he was in right relationship with God. Chaste because he protected the virginity of the Blessed Mother. Prudent because he is careful in how he discerns God’s will and faithful in following. Strong because he is strong spiritually and in qualities of character. Obedient and Faithful because in grand and even small moments he is obedient and faithful. Father speaks about the “Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor.”

March 7, 2018

- Father discusses dieting and Jane Brody’s journey back to health. Jane was 40 pounds overweight and realized she had to lose weight. [Link](#) She tried many many diets, including fasting, and exercise. In a country of abundance, overindulgence is a danger. When we experience hunger, we can realize, that we need God all the more. Jane Brody said she doesn’t diet, but eventually started eating “whatever she wants” in moderation. She stressed the importance of choosing nutritious food every day. Ongoing vigilance is required for a healthy lifestyle. Do you crave junk food in the spiritual life? Are you not choosing the right spiritual things to “eat” each day? There is no trendy, fad solution to the spiritual life. Father speaks about St. Joseph’s faithfulness in every moment.
- Father speaks about programming competitions, something that computer nerds find satisfying. Some find joy in writing elegant programming solutions to problems. Father discusses a programming competition put on by the Vatican. The Church wants to help us understand the world better. They are bringing 120 students there for a “hack-a-thon.” [Link](#) Father also discusses a new Marian feast declared by Pope Francis, “Mary, Mother of the Church,” on the Monday after Pentecost. [Link](#) On the Cross, Jesus entrusted His Mother and His Church to each other.
- Father discusses the need for a well-formed conscience, and the danger of people just doing what they want to do and appealing to their conscience to justify it. Father realized that a well-formed conscience calls us to more and challenges us. Following conscience doesn’t mean being more “permissive,” but it means that I will be more demanding of myself. Father reflects on the violations of rights that have happened against conscience. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages us to call your congressmen this Monday to enact the “Conscience Protection Act.” [Link](#)
- Father discusses the Gospel reading for the day. Jesus did not come to abolish the law to fulfill it. “Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter (sometimes translated as iota) will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.” Father discusses the meaning of “iota.” Jesus perfects the law. Some parts of the law are fulfilling and beautiful to us, but some are more challenging. Maybe there is an opportunity to learn from St. Joseph. It is through the beauty of the completion of the law that we come to know Christ more, and not to be

March 8, 2018

- Father speaks about the upcoming press conference from South Korea's National Security Advisor on North Korea. Father speaks about the offer of North Korea to suspend its nuclear missile testing and a handwritten note to President Trump from Kim Jong Un of North Korea inviting him to meet. Father leads us in a Hail Mary for peace. Father discusses 24 hours for the Lord, an initiative to have 24 hours at a parish in the diocese. Father discusses the different programs around the country making confession more widely available. Take advantage of these opportunities!
- Father updates us on the press conference by South Korea's National Security Advisor, Chung Eui-Yong. Father discusses the "internal forum" relating to Priests and Bishops meeting with Pope Francis. This can include formal spiritual direction, confession, etc. Pope Francis wanted to speak with them about three qualities of a good confessor: a true friend of Jesus the Good Shepherd, a man of the spirit (discernment), and evangelizing (sharing the good news) inside of the confessional itself.
- Father discusses the general manager of the Kansas City Royals who suggested that there was a link between viewing pornography and domestic abuse. Matt Fradd presents the research showing the ways porn hurts people. <https://lovepeopleusethings.fm/season-2/2018/2/13/porn-harms-heres-the-research> If you are not healthy in any area of your life, the Body of Christ is affected. When you are not trapped by compulsions and sin, you are free to discover a full human life. Don't let your own struggle with sin cloud God's Grace. Don't despair that you can't root out these sins right away. Jesus wants you to learn from this and not imagine that you can overcome this solely by your own power.
- Father discusses a recent study out of Notre Dame of young former Catholics. One of the results from this study shows that those that leave the faith don't usually become "militant atheists." Many of the teachings of the Catholic Church are not sitting comfortably with our young people. Father speculates that young people are uncomfortable with some teachings because they haven't plumbed the depths of those teachings. Many of the young Catholics who have left the Church in recent years are from families where one is not Catholic. Those with both parents Catholic tend to stay in the Church. The Church cautions mixed faith marriages and it is not an accident. The study also shows that emotional closeness (especially fathers) has a huge influence whether or not your teenagers will remain Catholic.

March 9, 2018

- Father discusses the roots of "International Women's Day" and its relation to women in Socialist countries. Father discusses an article in L'Osservatore Romano that highlighted some religious sisters. Some media outlets are suggesting that the problems of the sisters is a systemic problem in the Church. Father points out the fact that although he has an advanced education, he still has to wash the dishes, change the oil in his car, and be obedient to superiors. Father points to another article in which other sisters respond to the accusations that sisters are systemically being exploited by the Church. [Link](#) Mother Marie Julie is the Superior General of the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church. She states, "So by our charism, we're not looking to

get our name in lights, we're not looking for adulation or praise or notice even, we just want to be in the heart of the Church, and I think that's pretty much the feeling of most religious congregations and their members." Is this a systemic problem in the Church? No! Father tells us that he knows many women in high positions in the Church, but also women in the humble and hidden positions.

- Father discusses sainthood in relation to being an authentic person and an article from "psych-central." One point in the article: Words and actions are congruent. Jesus continuously pointed out hypocrisy. Another: Honesty, Transparency and Assertiveness. Father discusses how assertiveness can be a positive. Father discusses how St. Joseph, instead of being indecisive, he immediately followed what the angel of God told him to do. Another: They are not driven by ego. Joseph was not driven by ego.
- Father discusses 3 different stories from different sources that converge to tell us something about evangelization. Father discusses futurist Richard Watson telling us not to be so concerned by getting news immediately because it can distract us from the present moment. . A New York Times journalist, Farhad Manjoo, decided to cut out non-print news sources for a period of time. Manjoo noticed he wasn't as concerned about up to the minute news and found the news more consistent. Manjoo also realized how much more time he had. The last story is a study published today through Science Magazine. They found that fake news stories were 70% more likely to be spread on twitter than true stories. Father speculates that this is due to sensational headlines of fake news that grab attention. Doesn't the fake news of evil and lies of the evil one spread more quickly than the Good News of Jesus? The Good News isn't immediately attractive, but it is so much more substantive. Good News will always prevail, but it is important for us to be instruments of truth, goodness and beauty.
- Father discusses, Mark 12:28-34. 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Father points that the scribes get a bad rap in the Gospels. Jesus does not try to "trap" him even though the man is a Scribe. Do we see some pharisaical people in our lives and whom we don't give a chance even when they accept the truth? This scribe broke the mold of the stereotype of the other religious leaders in Jesus' time.

March 12, 2018

- Father has been thinking about a question spurred by an email he received. "How do you know if what you're doing is 'worth it' in the spiritual life and your relationship with God." Are you being faithful to what God expects of you? As mundane and ordinary as it might seem, God's will can be found in the small things you do to live out your vocation. Father reflects on how many people are turning to Jesus and making it to Mass because of his show and his interactions with people. Thinking about that is concerning. Are people seeing Jesus in me and you? If they are, then it is worth it. "Every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit." However, we won't always be able to see the fruit that we bear, but you may notice others changing around you.
- About 6 weeks ago, the Church celebrated the World Day of Consecrated Life. All are called to give themselves to Christ, but some are called in a special way. Father recalls wondering why

people would do this before he became a religious. Father discusses “National Catholic Sisters Week.” He remembers being educated by religious sisters. Over 2/3 of women who became religious sisters were considering religious life at a young age (before 21). Many parents are not talking about this as an option with their daughters.

- Father discusses a new job title in the UK. Simon Ben is the UK’s first “Children’s Happiness Coach.” He helps build emotional maturity in 7-11 year olds. At first it seemed like a silly position, but Father considered the need in today’s society.
- Father reflects on the way that the secular media treats Popes Francis and Benedict. These are two men chosen by the Holy Spirit to lead the Church of Jesus. They have different gifts. Father discusses a letter from Pope Benedict describing the “foolish prejudice” that portrays Pope Francis as someone without theological/philosophical foundation. Pope Pius XII said that Joseph showed Jesus, “all the natural love and all the affectionate solicitude that a father’s heart can know.” Joseph is a living sacrifice for his child Jesus and wife Mary.

March 13, 2018

- Many are talking about the anniversary of Pope Francis’ papacy. Father reflects on Pope Francis telling young people to “make a mess” but then to clean it up. Father discusses the reason Pope Francis chose the name “Francis.” The pope states that it is because he felt a call to help the poor. Father speaks about his humility in paying his own hotel bill and driving around in a simple car. We need to pray for our Holy Father and realize the immense responsibility entrusted to him. Father reflects how he himself feels challenged by Pope Francis to live a joyful way, helping the poor, and evangelizing through humility.
- Father considers the fact that he has never heard anyone say that she did not want to win the lottery. Father discusses some sociological studies (particularly H. Roy Kaplan) from the 70’s. What happens to lottery winners? 85.5% of lottery winners continue to work after winning the lottery. Father discusses one winner who is suing her state lottery because she wanted to remain anonymous. For most of us, our happiness level would not change after winning the lottery. You and I have been the recipient of something worth much more than half a billion dollars. Do we want to remain private about our faith in Christ? We lose nothing when we share Jesus. How are YOU sharing Jesus?
- Father discusses Joy Behar, host on “The View” (a women’s panel discussion show) describing hearing Jesus as mental illness when describing Vice President Pence. Mike Pence defended his position, and Joy Behar apologized. VP Pence accepted this.
- Father discusses Pope Pius IX. He saw the Church beset by threats on all sides. In the 19th Century there were at least 3 petitions given to Pope Pius IX to name St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church. Father shares the statement of Pope Pius IX. ([Link](#)) As Pharoah entrusted Joseph of the old Testament with all of his possessions, God the Father entrusted St. Joseph with His most valued relationships.

March 14, 2018

- Father discusses “Pi Day” and the passing of Physicist Stephen Hawking. He was born on the day Galileo died, and died on the day Einstein was born. A Jesuit brother at the Vatican Observatory stated that the God that Stephen Hawking rejected” is not the God that I believe in.” Jennifer Fulwiler, a Catholic convert, author, and speaker, reflected in a tweet how her father would read to her from Stephen Hawking’s works. Stephen Hawking met four popes and became a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.
- Father again brings up the letter from Pope Benedict addressing continuity between his Papacy and Pope Francis’. Someone has released a doctored photograph of Pope Benedict’s letter. Would you say your time on social media is ‘time well spent?’ Charlie Warzel of BuzzFeed ([Link](#)) addresses the time spent on social media. Father presents it as a human problem, not a technology problem. Are you using your time well, or have you even become ‘comfortable’ with your Lenten sacrifices?
- Father discusses the charges of ‘massive fraud’ against Elizabeth Holmes, CEO of Theranos, a company which developed a way to test DNA with just a small drop of blood. The accusation is that they are just using conventional lab techniques in their analyses and are not able to deliver on their claims. How is it that they were able to gain so much money and deceive many people? The Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith’s Prefect, Archbishop Luis Ladaria Ferrer, discusses the pastoral component to apologetics. We are not just deceiving people promising to make them rich, and this is why many people walk away. We must be able to demonstrate why our faith is true and not pretend that we have something that we don’t.
- One of the most common questions that Father gets about St. Joseph, “When did St. Joseph die?” Father discusses St. Joseph’s purpose to protect and guide Jesus and Mary. At the Cross, Jesus entrusts Mary to John and gives the Church Mary as our Mother. Joseph would have been at the Cross too if he was alive. Joseph leads us to Jesus, and Jesus directs us to the Father. Jesus said, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does his son will do also.”

March 15, 2018

- Father discusses how he came out of college when the computer software industry was booming. He received a 6 figure salary right out of school. When people reach a certain level of yearly earnings, their happiness level is saturated.
- Father discusses how twitter was "abused" by the Russians. Or was it in fact used exactly how it was designed. What you read and see on social media is targetted to you. Your feed is changed based on advertising.
- Father discusses "preserving your brain."

March 16, 2018

- Father discusses the installation of Bishop Myron Cotta as Bishop of the Stockton Diocese in California. He was previously an Auxiliary Bishop in the Sacramento Diocese. Father offers a prayer for our Bishops. He reflects on learning about St. Patrick when he was younger, and discusses the tradition of green beer. One St Patrick’s Day tradition that amazed Fr. Matthew was the Chicago River dyed green. A local plumbers’ union uses a proprietary dye that was used to

find leaks in water pipes. Father discusses visiting Ireland and seeing the sites of St. Patrick. Climbing “Croagh Patrick” a rocky hill on which St. Patrick would retreat. As he struggled up the hill, he saw older Irish people climbing without shoes as a devotion to St. Patrick. St. Patrick’s day is not about debauchery and drinking.

- Father discusses how little he knows about Larry Kudlow, the new appointee by President Trump. Father discusses a clip from Larry Kudlow saying that whatever happens it is God’s will. Just from this simple phrase Father suspected he was Catholic. He then discusses MSNBC anchors laughing at Larry Kudlow seeing God’s providence. Father reflects on his own vow of obedience and it’s relation to Divine Providence.
- Father discusses the “Scarlett Letter” in which a character, Hester Prynne, who conceives the baby of an affair. She is forced to wear a scarlet letter on her clothing. Government has a role in preserving the common good. Father discusses a disturbing new law in China. They have enacted a “social score” which determines if you have certain restrictions or privileges. This score affects your ability to be educated or travel as well as your children. The government of China reviews your speech and scores you based on what you say also. Father discusses an episode of Black Mirror in which social status was determined by “upvotes.” What is the role of government? Protecting the common good and preserving the rights and freedom of the citizenry. Even in our own country, there are affronts to our values (i.e. abortion, euthanasia). All authority and all leadership on earth is granted to lead us to all Truth and eternal life.
- Father discusses two inquiries he has received from listeners. One is from a mother whose son is a practicing homosexual who lives with his partner and is still involved in Church. The priest at his parish allows him to receive Communion. The mother was confused and asked if the Church has changed her teaching. The Church has not changed her teaching. Father commended her on still speaking with her son. Father is more disturbed by the advice of the son’s priest. If you think that Father says is wrong, look to the Church and the catechism. Father recognizes that he needs to be called out in charity if he speaks error. Father discusses an email asking about the “Good news” from a listener, Michelle. Gospel means “The Good News.” The good news is a very broad thing. We are talking about Jesus himself in the scriptures, in the Church, in His preaching. Joseph proclaims the good news so strongly with his life and without any words in scripture.

March 19, 2018

- Father talks about how he was bothered by something that seemed inconsistent, to St. Joseph. In scripture he does not say a single word except, Jesus. We must wait for the church’s judgment. Father was able to visit Knock church in Ireland.
- Father tells us how so often we want lots of words, the amazing things about St. Joseph is his simplicity. Angels appeared to him in a dream, in a more humbling way. As much as we want to have extraordinary experiences we need to be content in silence. We need to listen to God and being obedient in ordinary circumstances. Trusting in God.
- Father hopes that we all went to mass today, we are able to go to mass every day. We celebrate with great joy, Today is St. Joseph’s feast day. First chapter of Matthew’s gospel Matthew 1:18 Joseph is already married to Mary. Mary was found pregnant, Joseph decided to divorce her quietly, Did he decide to do so because he was suspicious of her faithfulness. Or did he decide he

could not be apart of this because he thought he was not worthy. Joseph slept on making the decision. He takes his time and that allows him to make the right decision through God being able to redirect him. Father discusses Matthew 1:20. Joseph depended on Jesus too for his salvation.

- Father talks about a tragic story that happened in Tempe Arizona, Elaine Herzberg was struck by a car as she was walking her bike across the street by an Uber self driving car. What will happen in our society when technology tried to perform the same function as humans. Father had an experience over the weekend, He was driving through the Sierra Nevadas, there were seven feet of snow. He started out with plenty of time but the weather looked like it was going to get worse. He starts to realize that the cars around him start to slow down and the snow started to fall. He turns to GPS to find a quicker route, he knew if he did that he was going to be going on unsafe roads that have not been plowed. He decided to follow the GPS as well, but he notices that lot of other cars are getting all of the same information. He had to stop to put on chains but other cars did not stop to put on chains. CHP told everyone to turn around, there was a bad accident. He wonders if this was because of technology guiding us the wrong way. Technology is going to change the world, and it has already changed our lives. We must be able to recognize the responsibility to use technology wisely and well.
- Father talks about Farm-ville on Facebook, It grabs people's attention on social media. Facebook can tailor people's accounts. There was a psychology app that people using Facebook gave information about their personalities and friendships, and it would tell them what kind of friends they liked and things they liked to do with their friends. This allowed the app to gain information about not only people using it but also their friends. It had the user data of all of these people and they sold the information to Cambridge Analytica. Edward Snowden came out and said they used to call these people spies and now we just allow social media to do this. Facebook is down 4% because of this crisis. Social media companies have been selling information from users for a long time. How much information to social media but we do not communicate with God, he won't abuse that information. When was the last time you turned to St. Joseph and told him about all of the things in your life. We need to start turning to the saints, they want to help us in our needs.

March 20, 2018

- Father talks about a new trend writers use to sell books, using provocative titles and language, they use these to draw attention. He's getting more and more selective with his reading. Father does read for enjoyment. The self help section you will see lots of books that use profanity, in order to be able to sell them they hide the words with symbols. They're trying to get people to read their books, and trying to talk like the readers do and the authors are also trying to make the readers laugh. Why do publishers do this? Well yes, to sell books but it also has to do with the neuroscience. The parts of the brain that use profanity are different than the parts that do not. The writers are trying to appeal to people's passions. This is where we're at as a culture we are appealing more to our emotions.
- Pew research looks at millennials compared to the silent generation. The marriage statistics 57% has never been married and the silent generation 17% had never been married. 6% of millennials have been divorced. Millennials get a bad reputation. The world is a very different place, housing is more expensive as well as school is more costly. Today's young adults are a lot better educated, they value college educations. A greater share of women have a bachelor's degree. Today's young women are more likely to be working than 50 years ago. This is because of how society has

changed. The length and amount of marriages are decreasing. People are looking at marriage very differently, Father tells us from a spiritual standpoint what he sees. He thinks people are having a hard time finding people that have common values, they are also struggling to commit. We need to help individuals find the value of commitment. Father hopes and prays that young people follow their vocation, how best to serve God.

- Father tells us a story from pastor Williams, went off to an army chapel, he thought he understood what suffering was about. He had to give up being a pastor and he got PTSD. Who is helping the people who are helping our soldiers, priests are humans they suffer from the same struggles that all humans do. The hope is that they will have a solid relationship with God. Priests need prayer and the sacraments, but also they need other people. They need support and structure as well. What happens when they come across struggles and stress, what happens when a priest is seeing war and violence? This is the Institute of Saint Luke, they are there to help priests with different struggles. We need to be servants of Jesus and be focused on him. When we're focused on Christ other treatments and help can be there to assist us to get through them. Priests are not robots they are humans. Sometimes they make mistakes too and they are affected by dramatic things too. We just need to be aware of it. Father realizes how important it is to pray for priests. Father needs to pray for his brother priests.
- Father talks about Scripture, people don't understand Jesus. How many times his disciples don't understand him. People try to box Jesus in, it's so beyond their understanding that they have a hard time understanding. John 8 Jesus is predicting his death and resurrection. His own followers and disciples also don't understand. Jesus is the most important influential person to ever live. How long have you known Jesus. We miss the meaning and the message and it is because we have not been careful enough in following his voice. It might be because we are so focused on our own pursuits. This is one of the essential parts of Lent, have you been listening more closely to the shepherd, or have you been caught up in your own pursuits and missed his message. All salvation comes through Christ.

March 21, 2018

- It has been 5 weeks since Ash Wednesday, only one more week of Lent. Then Easter Sunday when Jesus himself rose from the dead. Father wants to ask how these five weeks have been. Father has been through 40 years of Lent, and he has said they have all been different. Father has had good Lents, but he also had Lents where he agreed to do far more than he could do. Father talks about how this year has been a good one. Father is wondering how yours is. Father says we have to keep going till the end. We have to give the past over to God, we have to focus on today. The Lord is asking you to live this Lent well. Father says in his 20's he had given up candy and he realized it was no big deal for him to do that, even though he was very successful it was not as good as it should have been, it's not always about fulfilling your commitment. The whole purpose of Lent is not only to give something up it goes back to being converted and being changed, are we better followers of Jesus or not? Has there been growth have you seen an increase in good habits and a greater participation, do you recognize that God loves you in a deeper way.
- Father talks about Influencers, they are people on social media especially Instagram who get paid by brands to post pictures with their merchandise. The FTC made guidelines that they must follow when posting these pictures they must let the people viewing them that they are being paid to post those pictures. Father talks about even though we may not have hundreds and thousands

of followers everyone's an influencer, people are influenced by people they see. Father talks about how he is a better driver after putting a relevant radio bumper sticker on his car, he knows people can see the sticker and will make judgments about the faith if he isn't a nice cautious driver.

- Father discussed that, you can start to discover God speaking to you. Father shares an example of a technical project that he has been involved in with his brother. They developed an app called Square note it has hundreds of chants, so that people can learn the chants. The app is 2.99\$ and it goes back to the community. The response has been very positive. the lesson father has been learning no matter how hard he works on it and how good the app is. People will always expect it to do something else that it never had a meaning to do. The lesson Father shares with us is that, no matter what someone will expect something else. people have expectations of you that are beyond reason. Everyone does this we look at people and think they could do something that we expect from them. We place unreasonable expectations of people and they place them on us. It is on us to how we react to these expectations. People are using the wrong criteria to evaluate us. We need to focus on fulfilling the will of the creator.
- Father talks about the most famous person on twitter over the weekend. Sister Jean is the chaplain for Loyola university of Chicago. She is a beloved person who shares her love of God and she is getting so much hatred online. David Haugh, he wanted to know why Cody McClure sports radio host would tweet out something so mean to Sister Jean and for what. Cody McClure responded by saying that it was only a joke, eh said he thought it was funny. Father has been thinking about we hear the story of three men who were thrown to be killed and burned alive, and of course they didn't die it was a foreshadowing of Christ. Jesus says don't be surprised when people don't treat you nicely. We need to realize were Christians were following Jesus we are going to be persecuted.

March 22, 2018

- Father speaks about meeting with his brother Oblates of St. Joseph. He mentions that he got an invitation to see Bishop Barron at Google. The irony is that Father didn't go to the Google campus as a software engineer, but now that he is a priest, he is going to the Google campus as a priest to see a bishop. The highlight of his time there was with the employees of Google (called Googlers). They spoke about being Catholic at Google. Father reflects on going to work in the tech industry as a lay Catholic compared to his life now as a priest. Father discusses the hope he sees that Catholics are living out their faith in a technological company. It will always be a struggle to be in the world but not of the world. It was a struggle 2000 years ago and it is a struggle today.
- Father discusses a new study published in December about a problem in the United States with plea bargains. By pleading guilty to something (whether you are guilty or not) you can simplify or lessen your sentence. This study shows how adolescents are making decisions with adolescent brains and tend to take plea bargains even if they are innocent. We can't "plea bargain" with God. He doesn't threaten us with a severe penalty in order to get us to plea because he is just. God is also merciful; he wants to free you. He also holds us accountable according to the brain that we have, whether wise or foolish. There is a limited time that we have access to His mercy. That is when our existence, to our deaths here on Earth. He wants nothing more than to save you from eternal punishment, but He is a just judge. Don't wait! Seek God's mercy today!

- Father discusses Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and an opinion piece in the New York Times, "How I Finally Kicked My O.C.D." [Link](#) The author speaks about how he equated listening to the same song each day at the same time was related to how his next day would go. He hid these compulsions from his relationships. As part of his therapy, he revealed his struggles and found that a big problem with this was shame. When he shared, others' reactions were not as judgmental as he thought. Those around him also shared some of their strange behaviors too. This helped heal him. Shame tends to dictate many things in your life. This is the result of original sin but also because of our own personal sin. How do we break out of our cycle of shame? We have to talk about it. Father touches on the success on Alcoholics Anonymous. Sometimes we have to share everything. Father speculates that this is why confession exists as a Sacrament instituted by Christ. In the confessional we can have an encounter with the invisible God in the visible Priest before us.
- Father discusses CS Lewis' trilemma. Jesus could not just be a good man or good teacher, because He made a claim of Divinity. He is either a lunatic, liar, or Lord (God). Father reflects on the John's Gospel today. "Are you greater than Abraham?" "...before Abraham came to be, I AM." They realized His claim and prepared to stone Him.

March 23, 2018

- Father asks, "What do you call a group of priests?" Father discusses the gathering of Priests to celebrate the Chrism Mass. Chrism comes from the Greek word for anointing. The Chrism Mass is the Mass where the Bishop will bless the Oil that will be used for the year for the Anointing of the Sick, the Baptism, and Confirmation. The Chrism is Olive Oil with perfumes. Only a bishop can bless this oil. Usually this mass is celebrated on Holy Thursday. During the Chrism Mass, Priests renew their vows to priestly service. Contained in the renewal are the words, "Are you resolved to be more united to the Lord Jesus?" This call is for everyone and makes you better at your vocation. At a certain point the Bishop turns to the Church and tells the Church to pray for its priests. When a priest falls in a serious way, ask yourself, "Was I praying enough for this priest?"
- Father mentions next week's programming in this hour, "Close to Jesus to the Last" a Holy Week Mission in 5 parts with Father Rocky. This weekend is Palm Sunday. Father discusses the superstition of some that if you don't get your palms on Palm Sunday, the rest of the year will not be good. Have you allowed superstition to enter into your life? You might even come to the Eucharist for the wrong reasons.
- Young people from all over are gathering for the Synod on the Youth. In a survey of those attending, youth were all over the map on the issues regarding sexual morality. Father is not surprised by this. We have many Catholics around the world, but the teachings are very clear. You just have to pick up a Catechism. The fact that the youth can't agree on Church teaching, shows the deficiencies in catechesis and evangelization. Father recalls his own time of rebellion. Even in the seminary it took many years to discover why we believe what we believe.
- Father discusses an irreversible decree expelling 9 Ukrainian monks from their monastery and defrocking them. At least one was a priest. They were taking instructions from a sister who was claimed to be a "prophetess." The bishop had to step in, but eventually it got all the way to the Pope. You must have strong evidence to expel someone from the "religious" state. They were practicing exorcisms rituals that they did not have the faculties to do. Jesus, by his own authority

could drive out demons and raise people from the dead, but He was also "obedient, even unto death." In His obedience He was able to demonstrate His authority.