

# Pastor's Letter

June 28, 2026 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

I once saw a baptismal font in a church that was shaped like a coffin. This is a pretty graphic illustration of an important principal of the Christian life which is also the subject of both our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans and our Gospel reading from Matthew: if you want to receive a new and better life from God through Jesus Christ, you have to be willing to let go of your old life.

St. Paul puts it like this, "Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." Paul is reminding us that Jesus gave everything he had to win our freedom from sin and death. If we want to participate in his victory and share in the new life he won for us, we have to do the same and give everything we are over to him.

Likewise, Jesus says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Only if we love God first, will all our other loves be what they should be.

Here is another way to think about it: imagine you have a glass full of water. If you want to fill it with tea, what are you going to have to do first? Empty the water out of the glass. If you don't the tea is just going to run all over the floor. In the same way, if we are full of ourselves and our hearts and minds are bent on living our way instead of the way God wants us to live, we will not be able to receive the fullness of life that he wants to give us. If we want to be filled with the peace, love, and joy of the Lord, we have to make room in our hearts by letting go of things that are not good for us and allowing God to rearrange our priorities. If we make the space for him, he will give us all the blessings we can hold. That coffin-shaped baptismal font begins to make sense. When we go down into the font at baptism, we can bury all the old stuff of the world and rise to new life in Christ.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



## Summer Spirituality Series: Prayer

Fr. Scott Sill be offering two sessions on prayer using Bishop Robert Barron's book, "An Introduction to Prayer." The sessions will be held at St. Edward's at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8 and Wednesday, July 15. We will look at just what prayer is, how to develop your prayer life, and particular types of prayer. You can sign up and pick up a copy of Bishop Barron's book in the back of church or talk to Fr. Scott.

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
Enjoy our homemade ice cream!  
Sunday, July 12, 2026  
4 pm - 10 pm

Outside dining 4 - 9 p.m.  
Inside dining 4 - 7 p.m.

Sandwiches / Desserts / Ice Cream  
Kids Games / BINGO / Raffles

St. Joseph Church  
1435 E. 1500th St.  
Quincy, IL

The illustration shows two ice cream cups. The one on the left has green and pink ice cream, while the one on the right has vanilla and chocolate ice cream. They are set against a blue and white checkered background.