

# Pastor's Letter

June 21, 2026 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

There is probably only one thing that every human being that ever lived has experienced or will experience. And that one thing is what many people fear the most: death. The one thing we most dread is the one thing that none of us will escape. It's understandable. Death means separation from the ones we love and leaving the beautiful things in life behind.

But Jesus tells us in our Gospel reading for today that the fear of physical death is misplaced. He says, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." While the death of the body may separate us from the good things of this life, it can also be a door that opens up for us a new kind of life that is infinitely more beautiful and happy than anything we have ever known. For those who believe in Jesus and walk in his ways there is life after death that has none of the sadness, conflict, or pain that we experience in this world. Those who live out Christ's call to love God and neighbor in this world can expect to receive the unimaginable love of God in the next.

That doesn't mean, however, that we have nothing to be concerned about. Jesus also says, "Be afraid of the one who can kill both body and soul in Gehenna." It is possible that I could miss out on the joys of heaven. Who is the one who could bring this tragedy about? The only one I really need to be afraid of is myself.

Each of us is free to choose whether we will follow Jesus or not. He has shown us what we have to do. He has given us the gifts and graces to get there. In the sacrament of Confession he has even given us a way to get back on track if we wander from the path. Nothing that we need to achieve our goal has been hidden or held back from us. The only question that remains is whether I will stick to God's plan for me so that he can give me eternal life. That's what God wants. He loves us so much he wants us to be with him forever. He wants us to never have to be afraid of anything, not even death. We're all going to pass through it. If we acknowledge Christ as Lord we can come to it and pass through it with hope, not fear.

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 image is a promotional poster for an 'Ice Cream Social' at St. Joseph Catholic Church. It features a blue and white checkered border. At the top, the church name is written in orange. Below that, 'ICE CREAM SOCIAL' is written in large, colorful letters (green for 'ICE CREAM' and blue for 'SOCIAL'). The text 'Enjoy our homemade ice cream!' is in a pink banner. The date and time are listed below. There are two illustrations of ice cream cones at the bottom, one with green and pink swirls and another with chocolate and vanilla. The church's address is at the bottom.