

## **Be There - Lenten Study**

*Join the saints this Lent on the road to the cross.*

Jesus, the Son of God, saved you in love and for love. He desires, above all else, to be united with you in a close and loving relationship. Throughout His time on earth, Jesus pursued this loving union with everyone He encountered. And this remains true of how He suffered and died. Christ invited His apostles to be united with Him at the Last Supper. He prays during the first Mass that the Father's love "may be in them and I in them" (Jn 17:26). He asks His friends to stay awake and pray with Him during the Agony in the Garden. And from the cross, He forgave us, declared His thirst for our love, gave us our Mother, and opened heaven to sinners: all for the sake of unity. Jesus' life and death are a testament to the greatest desire of God: to be with us.

Do we desire unity with Jesus above all else? This Lent, we have the opportunity to respond more completely to Jesus' desire for unity. We can eat of His Passover, keep watch in His Agony, and walk with Him to Calvary. And in doing so, our thirst for Him will be quenched, our sins forgiven, a mother gained, and heaven promised. This Lent, be with Him. Be there.

### **In the words of our parishioners...**

Are you looking for a Lenten sacrifice, one that will bring you closer to Jesus, rather than just avoiding chocolate? I invite you to join me and so many of your fellow parishioners as we embark on a journey together this Lent to be present with Christ in His Passion. I even encourage you to participate in this Lenten study as *your Lenten sacrifice*. In doing so, you will find a chance to surround yourself with others who are striving for the same goal, as well as immerse yourself in the unfathomable love that Jesus has for you.

- Josh Burks (Instructor at Emmaus Institute, teacher for the parish-wide group)

It has taken me a long time to realize why we "give up things" for Lent. I think we all know that being detached from *things* is good. But now, I have realized that the real reason we work on detachment during Lent is so that we can attach ourselves more securely to the *one thing* that truly matters at the end of our lives, a relationship with Jesus Christ. Meditating on Jesus' Passion this Lent with our entire parish will help us all do just that. Encounter Jesus' love and mercy and cling more closely to Him; in the end, this is all that truly matters.

- Megan McDermott (Member of St. Joseph Prayer Team)

Catholics know that Lent is a penitential season for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. But imagine a Lent where our entire parish is *united* in one study that focuses on growing closer to Jesus. Please, join St. Joseph's parishioners as we embark on this journey together. We have before us a unique opportunity to be intentional. Invite your friends, spouse, or that person you always see across the pews, to grow in relationship with Christ, and therefore, each other. Imagine what joy and family unity will be present on Easter Sunday at our parish, as we come together to celebrate Jesus' triumph!

- Drew Hines (Member of St. Joseph Prayer Team)

As a convert, the saints have been a wonderful surprise. I remember thinking they would be a distraction in my relationship with Jesus. The opposite has been true. Each time I've gotten to know a saint, I've also grown closer to Christ. This year's Lenten Study is a great opportunity to love Jesus more through the guidance of the saints who were by His side.

- Kara Kohel (Member of St. Joseph Prayer Team)

## **If You Are Interested...**

### **Options to Complete the Study**

*\*With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, consider what is the best option(s) for you this Lent.*

1. Resource Guide (Be with Him in His Word and in personal prayer.)
2. Small Groups (Join a small group, lead a small group, or join the parish group.)
  1. Weekly Priest Videos (Receive encouragement and tips on the week's theme.)
  2. Mass/Adoration (Attend daily Mass. Commit to visiting church. Spend time in Adoration.)

### **Individuals**

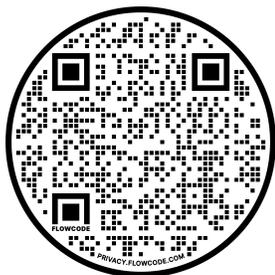
1. Use the QR code to register your book OR contact [stjoelent@gmail.com](mailto:stjoelent@gmail.com).
2. Work through the materials throughout the week. (A series of options are provided, so pick what is best for you.)
3. *Optional:* Share thoughts and personal reflection with [stjoelent@gmail.com](mailto:stjoelent@gmail.com). (Clarify if you prefer these kept anonymous when shared with the parish community.)

### **Small Groups/Small Group Leaders**

1. Choose your "group." (This could include the following: a spouse, your family, friends, another family, other parishioners, people in your ministry, a men's group, a women's group.)
2. Use the QR code to register your book OR contact [stjoelent@gmail.com](mailto:stjoelent@gmail.com). If you are the group leader, register your small group as well. (Materials will be located in the Narthex to collect at any time.)
3. Distribute materials and set up meeting times. (Clarify how many times you will meet, what time, and where.)
4. Attend group meetings. (The appendix provides tips and questions.)
5. *Optional:* Share reflections, quotes, and thoughts with [stjoelent@gmail.com](mailto:stjoelent@gmail.com). (Be sure to have permission to share. Keep the source anonymous if they so choose.)

### **Parish-Wide Group**

1. Use the QR code to register your book and to register for the class OR contact [stjoelent@gmail.com](mailto:stjoelent@gmail.com).
2. Work through the material.
3. Attend the meetings
  - a. Thursday mornings, 9:00 am, Heritage Room
  - b. Dates: 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31, 4/7
  - c. A recording will be provided for those who cannot attend in person or that particular week.
4. *Optional:* Share reflections, quotes, and thoughts with [stjoelent@gmail.com](mailto:stjoelent@gmail.com). (Clarify if you prefer these kept anonymous when shared with the parish community.)



Use this QR code to register OR contact [stjoelent@gmail.com](mailto:stjoelent@gmail.com).