



**St. Michael Church**  
3 Holley Street  
Lyons, New York 14489

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
114 Sodus Street  
Clyde, New York 14433  
Cluster Parish Office  
43 West DeZeng Street  
Clyde, NY 14433

**St. Patrick Church**  
Grand Avenue

### **A Lenten Reflection by Father Joe**

In the gospel today “some people” tell Jesus about something that Pilate had done. Although it does not say in the story that these anonymous “people” were upset by the event, I get the impression that they may have been a bit on the upset side. It would seem that they would like Jesus to be just as upset as they are about this whole affair.

How many times does this happen in your life? Some perceived injustice happens, like the closing of a Catholic school or church or fill in the blank and an individual or group gets upset by this. They want you to be as upset as they are. Jesus, of course, gives us the perfect pastoral response. He does not join them in their vitriol but rather he listens to them and then challenges them about the human experience.

Bad things happen to good people in this world, but instead of playing the blame game, maybe we, disciples, should change our lives. Jesus says twice, “. . . If you do not repent, you will all perish . . .”

We should not worry about what others are doing; we should concentrate on changing ourselves. Never-you-mind about what others are doing. It is NOT our job to judge right and wrong (that’s God’s business). Our job, as disciples, is to repent - another word for that is to change, and not change anybody else, just ourselves! And we need the community to help us. We cannot change by ourselves. We cannot repent by ourselves. We don’t have the tools to do that. Jesus shows us that we do not have the ability to do this alone by teaching us through a parable.

Jesus tells a story about a person who had a fig tree planted in an orchard. For three years the tree did not bring forth any fruit and the person wanted to cut it down. But the gardener begged to give it one more chance. We are the tree; probably so preoccupied with what other “trees” are doing that we are not mindful of our own purpose to produce fruit. The gardener represents those who see the good in others and respect it. They say: “No, don’t cut it down. Let us cultivate and fertilize it (through good example, loving care, preaching, teaching) and it might bear fruit!” There is no guarantee that it will bear fruit; much depends on the receptivity of the tree.

Central to the story is that the trees (the people of God) need to bear fruit (make the kingdom present). The only way that these trees will bear fruit is to have a gardener (a loving parent, kind neighbor, parish staff person, member of the bereavement group, catechist, the person in the next pew) to cultivate and fertilize the trees. If we are to make God’s kingdom present (bear fruit) then we need each other to do it!

#### **Week-end Schedule**

**Saturday Mass**, 4:00 PM, St. Michael Church, Lyons

**Sunday Mass**, 8:30 AM, St. Patrick Church, Savannah

**Sunday Mass**, 10:30 AM, St. John Church, Clyde

**Reconciliation**: Anytime by appointment;

or at St. Michael Church, Sat. from 3:15-3:45

**Mission Statement of our Cluster Pastoral Council:** We, the Cluster Pastoral Council of St. Michael, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Patrick, are committed to creating one cooperative parish, with three worship sites, guided by the faith and wisdom of our Parishioners and through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

#### **Parish Staff and Phone Numbers:**

**Parish Office phone** 315-902-4130

**DeLisio, Kip** - Cemetery/Maintenance

**DeLisio, Mary** - Secretary-Bulletin Editor

**Dennie, SSJ, Sister Diane** - Pastoral Administrator,  
cell:585-704-0024

**Garofono, Gloria** - Cluster Bookkeeper

**Kiley, Gregory J.** - Deacon

**Marcoux, Father Joe** - Sacramental Minister,  
cell:585-747-3649, in case of pastoral emergency

**Sherman, June** - Catechetical Leader

**St. Michael Parish House:** 315-946-4182

to call Sister Elizabeth or Sister Diane at home

