

CHRISTMAS PARTY



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2026 LENTEN RETREAT

Please join us for our 3 day retreat from March 13th to March 15th.

This 3 day retreat will be led by Dr. Devadar Jayanand, an internationally renowned Catholic Evangelist.

Dr. Devadar Jayanand leads the Jesus Cares Ministry, in Bangalore, India. The evangelist has preached the Gospel throughout the world for more than 45 years, presenting inspirational retreats and healing services to tens of thousands of people in India, Sri Lanka, several countries in Europe, South America and Africa, communist Russia and China, the United Kingdom, Canada, Israel and coast to coast across the United States, including at the National Charismatic Conference. He truly is an inspiring speaker, filled with the Holy Spirit, enabling him to bring the truth of the Gospel to people of all walks of life, all ages, and all cultures.

St Michael the Archangel Church
1212 Kelly Street, Union, NJ 07085

2026 LENTEN RETREAT

**FINDING BALANCE
& MEANING IN A CHAOTIC WORLD**

Guest Speaker:
DR. DEVADAR JAYANAND
*International Catholic Evangelist | Founder
of Jesus Cares Ministry*

3-Day Retreat beginning **Friday, March 13, 2026**
After the Way of the Cross, starting at 7:00 pm

- **Saturday, March 14, 2026**
Retreat sessions from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- **Saturday, March 14 & Sunday, March 15, 2026**
Dr. Jayanand will offer retreat reflections at all Masses

Free Admission | All Are Welcome | No Registration Required
For more information contact: Parish Office (908) 688-1232
Maria Edmond (908) 591-1170

ADULT FORMATION

What is Your One Thing

One Saturday in October 1998, I was praying before the Blessed Sacrament. My focus was petition, asking our Lord to adopt a baby. My wife, Joyce and I began the adoption process over a year before then. On Ash Wednesday 1999, we received a call to adopt our son, Phillip. About 17 years later, I went for spiritual direction. I asked my director how should I approach Lent. He said 'do one thing.'

So where does A One Thing Lenten theme originate? First, Psalms 27:4 mentions asking and seeking the Lord and dwelling in His house. Perhaps our one thing is Jesus always abiding in our hearts, in our homes, and in church through our constant prayers and worship. Second, Philippians 3:13 states that Saint Paul's single purpose was forgetting what lies behind and striving what lies ahead. His actions emphasize the removal of sin-guilt and the pursuit of eternal life. We can experience the same in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Gary Keller, co-founder of the real estate firm, Keller Williams indicated in his book **The One Thing**, Jesus had 12, I have 14. The training of 14 key employees turned around his business. Jesus transformed his apostles by discipling them. So, will we be changed this Lent by our one thing?

By Chuck Cababe

4TH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

The Transfiguration

Passages to reflect on:

Mt 17:1-9: "While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.'" **Mk 9:2-10:** "And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them." **Lk 9:28-36:** "Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory."

Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to a mountain by themselves. While they were there, Jesus was transfigured. His clothes became sparkling white and He shone like the sun. Elijah and Moses appeared. A voice came down from heaven and said that Jesus was God's beloved Son and to listen to Him. The disciples were filled with fear.

Peter, James, and John witnessed one of the most miraculous moments in history. They were able to get a glimpse of God in His glory. They saw Moses and Elijah who had been long gone from this earth. What was their reaction? Fear. They did not know what to say or do. How often does God give us a glimpse of His glory in our lives and our reaction is to be afraid? How often are we asleep in our lives and God tells us to wake up and hear His call? Where are the places in our lives that we can let God's light shine through us? Where will we be if we listen to Jesus's command to "Rise, and do not be afraid?"

SAINTS & US TODAY

St. Polycarp



In the season of Lent, we are called to examine our lives, become repentant for our sins, and renew our hope in and commitment to Jesus Christ.

One of the saints who taught the importance of finding "hope and peace" in Christ, as his disciples, was St. Polycarp.

St. Polycarp, born in the Roman province of Asia in the year 69AD was one of the most important leaders of the early Church. He was one of the first disciples inspired by the words of the apostles.

He first heard the words of the Gospel of Jesus by sitting at the feet of St. John the Evangelist.

He is known for squelching heresies that cropped up in the new Church. He devoted his life to writing many letters to early Church members, encouraging them to persevere "in hope and patience." He taught that hope, anchored in the resurrection of Jesus, provides the confident expectation of eternal life, while patience is the active and loving endurance of suffering while waiting for that hope to be fulfilled.

St. Polycarp was martyred for his faith in Jesus. On the day of his martyrdom, he refused to denounce Jesus, saying: "How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" We celebrate his feast day on February 23rd.

St. Polycarp, pray for us. Teach us the lessons of hope and a growing trust in Jesus Christ during this Lenten season and throughout the year.

By Deacon Michael Alfano

WORD SEARCH

Ash Wednesday

Almsgiving
And To Dust You Shall Return
Ash Wednesday
Beginning of Lent
Burned Palm Fronds
Change of Heart
Conversion of Heart
Fasting
Foreheads
Humility Before God

Passion, Death, and Resurrection
Pope Urban II
Prayer
Purple
Remember You are Dust
Repent and Believe in the Gospel
Repentance for Sins
Shape of Cross
St. Gregory the Great
Turn Back to God

S I W A P X G O D E A Y R H O B X Z Q V S L G D S T C
T I S K I L G Z V D L U N D B U S Y V N Y B J N S G O
G Y D U G I I C K V W P P Q X S Z Y I T D V P A O D N
R S N Z T V H S R F M O R T V S Q S F Q K M L E R V
E K G E N N M D M S P I S U Z T R Q A Z H M L G C L E
G I Y A D S E N D E W H S A P O X U S M S S B G F E R
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S D N O R F M L A P D E N R R U B X S B C M O E N P F C
T S U D E R A U O Y R E B M E M E R J A I N C L A D B
V V W G L N Y R R L Q M P N Q M Y J F P Z J Q K C H S
C H Z O Y V W Y R L W T U R N B A C K T O G O D N Q C
A N D T O D U S T Y O U S H A L L R E T U R N K N S
K Q L W E S E C T H O D U O B Y Z J T X Q K R G K N G
P A S S I O N D E A T H A N D R E S U R R E C T I O N
H P H C J E A Q R A A D G R W V J R L O R M S A T F L
L E P S O G E H T N I E V E I L E B D N A T N E P E R