

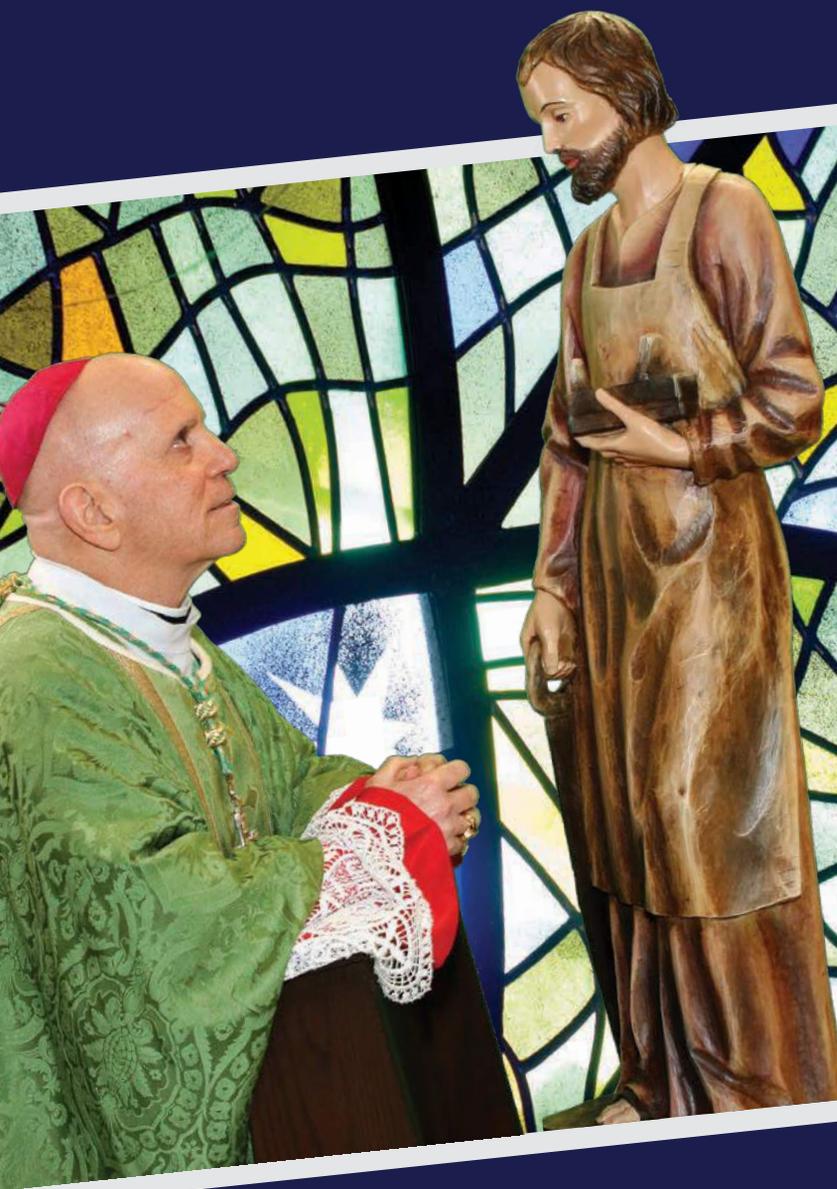
— THE YEAR OF —
ST. JOSEPH

COMMEMORATIVE MAGAZINE PROVIDED TO YOU BY THE
ARCHBISHOP'S CATHOLIC APPEAL



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

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YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH
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BY ARCHBISHOP SAMUEL J. AQUILA

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What can we learn from silent St. Joseph?

It seems like a paradox to say we can learn from St. Joseph, a man who does not have a single word attributed to him in the Scriptures, but the Church is currently spending a year doing just that. The secret to learning from St. Joseph is to look at his actions, not his words.

Pope Francis created this year, which started on December 8, 2020, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being declared the patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. To help you enter this celebration, this edition of the Denver Catholic contains articles about St. Joseph's spiritual fatherhood, his role in salvation history and stories of people who strive to imitate St. Joseph's virtues in their lives.

We also have decided to dedicate the 2021 Archbishop's Catholic Appeal to highlighting St. Joseph's virtues. We invite people to express their faith with action by donating to the largest annual fundraiser that results in touching the most lives in the Archdiocese of Denver.

So, what can we learn from silent St. Joseph? I would like to offer a starting point for your reflection by highlighting a few insights that Pope Francis shared about St. Joseph in his apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (A Father's Heart), although they will by no means exhaust what can be said about him.

For me, my devotion to St. Joseph did not really begin

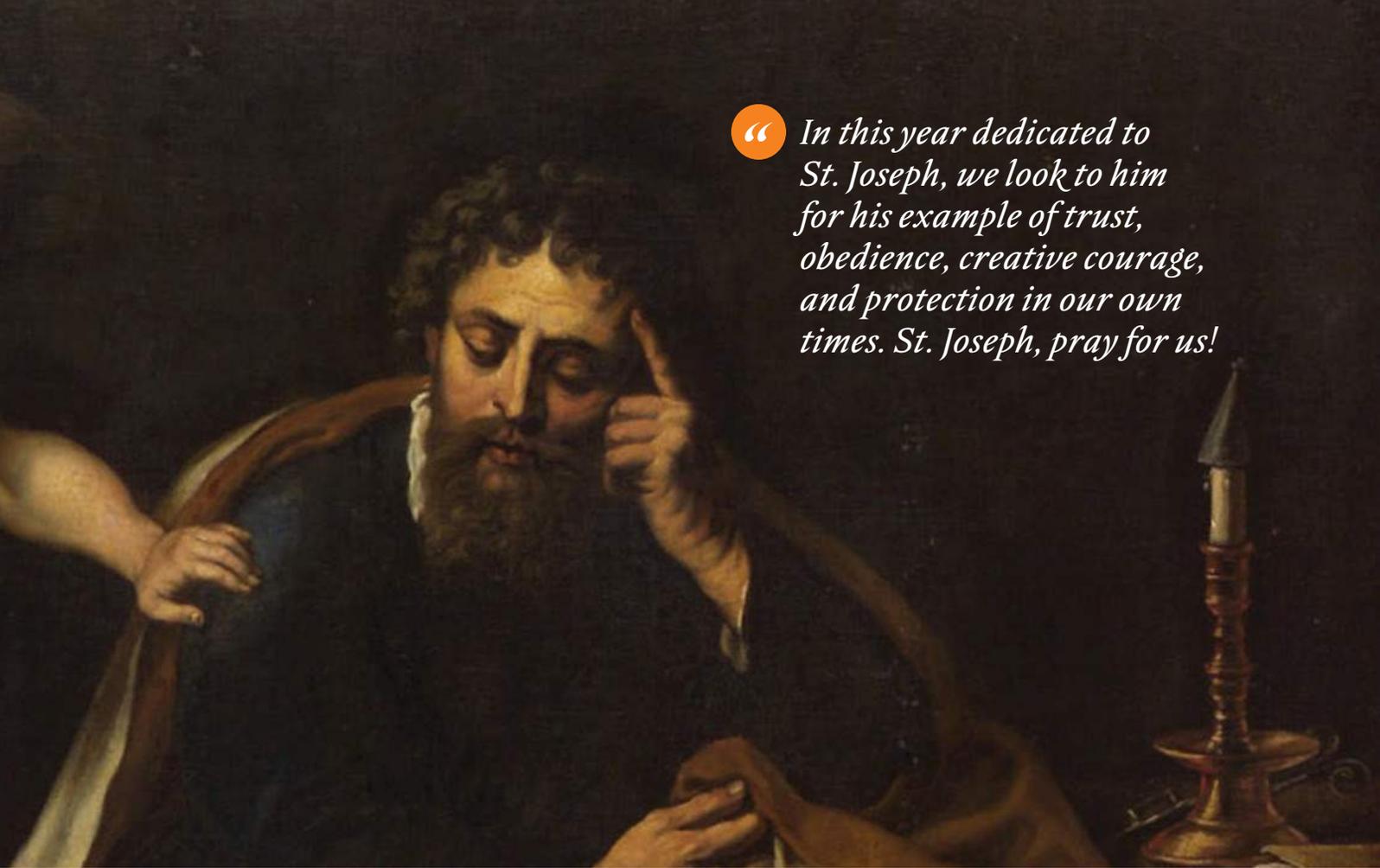
until I became a bishop. My mother's name was Josephine, and she had a strong devotion to her namesake, but for me it was the duty of watching over a flock as a bishop that sparked a deeper connection with the man who helped protect and raise Jesus. In prayer I turned to Joseph to learn what it means to be entrusted by the Father to be a father for the faithful I shepherd.

Pope Francis speaks of Joseph's trust and obedience as leading him to accept God's plan as better than what he had in mind. Though he was afraid at times, "God's will, his history and his plan were at work" (PC, 2).

Whether it was the decision to marry the Blessed Mother, packing up the family and fleeing to Egypt in the night, or responding to the angel's call to return to Israel once Herod had died, Joseph trusted in the Lord's guidance. When we are fearful, we should ask St. Joseph to teach us to trust in the Father's loving care and provision for us.

In addition to his trust, Joseph was obedient. At every crucial decision point of God's plan to save us, "Joseph declared his own 'fiat,' like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane," Pope Francis notes (PC, 3). And St. Joseph imparted that obedience to Jesus as well, such that "Even at the most difficult moment of his life, in Gethsemane, Jesus chose to do the Father's will rather than his own, becoming 'obedient to death, even death on a cross'" (PC, 3).

You may discover inspiration in the pages of this special



“ *In this year dedicated to St. Joseph, we look to him for his example of trust, obedience, creative courage, and protection in our own times. St. Joseph, pray for us!* ”

edition of the Denver Catholic for your own life as you contemplate St. Joseph’s actions. The Holy Father observes that “Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true ‘miracle’ by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage” to find a place for Mary to give birth, to provide for the family in Egypt and certainly numerous other instances the Scriptures did not record (Cf. PC, 4).

I hope you use the articles in this magazine to contemplate how St. Joseph was “creatively courageous” in the face of difficulty, as Pope Francis puts it. This beautiful tribute magazine can be read and reread throughout this year. Let it sit on your coffee table and encourage others to pick it up, read, pray and reflect with it.

Please also consider putting your own courage into action, like St. Joseph, and make a gift to the Archbishop’s Catholic Appeal that introduces Christ into the lives of the people of northern Colorado. The appeal feeds those who are hungry for both food and spiritual nourishment. It also shelters those in need of a safe place to sleep like our Holy Family sought protection in Bethlehem. Your gift funds more than 40 ministries that help secure our faith for the future and keep Christ’s message alive with action.

And so, in this year dedicated to St. Joseph, we look to him for his example of trust, obedience, creative courage, and protection in our own times. St. Joseph, pray for us! ●

RETURN TO MASS

Reencounter
THE MASS

MAY 23, 2021

ARCHDEN.ORG/RETURN

ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

Our strong and silent spiritual father



BY DR. R. JARED STAUDT

Director of Formation for the Archdiocese of Denver
An Office funded by the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal

Joseph — son of David, husband of Mary, the humble builder, and adoptive father of the Messiah — stands as one of the greatest saints in the life of the Church. Throughout history, we, as members of God's family, have realized more and more the crucial role that Joseph plays as “the wise steward the Lord has placed over his household” (Mt 24:45). It can be easy to overlook Joseph — he doesn't even say a word in the gospels, and it appears that he died before Jesus's public ministry — but he played a pivotal role in Jesus's life and mission. It is through Joseph that Jesus inherits the throne of David. Joseph leads the Holy Family and, amazingly, the Son of God obeyed the man Joseph as his father (Lk 2:51). ▶





And Joseph continues to watch over the family of the Church, serving as guardian and protector of the Body of Christ — the reason he has been named the patron of the universal Church. It can be hard to comprehend how much we, as Christians, share in the life and prerogatives of Jesus. Joan of Arc said it best during her trial: “About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they’re just one thing, and we shouldn’t complicate the matter” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, §795). In this close identity of the believer with Christ, he gives us everything he has, even his divine life: his Father becomes our Father, he gives us his own spirit and life — the Holy Spirit, we receive the fruits of his victory over death, and on the Cross he gave his mother to be our mother too (Jn 19:26-27). Likewise, as members of Jesus’s own body, Joseph becomes our own protector and guardian, taking on a fatherly role in our growth as Christians.

Through the Gospels, we see clearly how Joseph models the virtues, particularly obedience, courage, silence, and humility. Matthew’s Gospel in particular gives us the story of Jesus’s birth from Joseph’s perspective. Despite his fears, Joseph immediately obeyed the voice of the angel who spoke to him in a dream: “When Joseph woke from sleep,

he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Mt 1:24). Joseph had to exercise radical trust in God’s plan even when it didn’t seem to make sense. When his sleep was interrupted again, he showed his courage in setting out for Egypt at a moment’s notice, leaving everything behind, to protect his family. Joseph’s ongoing readiness to do whatever was expected of him can be seen in the angel’s words, “remain there till I tell you” (Mt 2:13). Joseph was a perfect Dad — always available, even in the night, and ready to do whatever his family needed.

He epitomized the strong and silent type. Despite his crucial role in salvation history, Joseph remained silent in the Gospels. His silence manifests his humility, as an acknowledgment that his life was not focused on himself. He served the Holy Family devotedly and quietly, modeling daily faithfulness through work and prayer. Although in the kingly line, he was not ambitious, remaining a poor builder focused more on his family than anything else. He taught Jesus and invited him into his work. He lived chastely with Our Lady, achieving the true goal of marriage — a deep spiritual union ordered toward heaven. Joseph shows us that true happiness comes from giving of ourselves sacrificially for others. With Jesus and Mary, he had all he needed!



“ *Likewise, as members of Jesus’s own body, Joseph becomes our own protector and guardian, taking on a fatherly role in our growth as Christians.* ”

The witness of Joseph has become even more relevant in the modern world. Our individualistic culture embraces values directly opposed to his witness. As we’ve been drawn into rebellion, noise, distractions, and pleasure, a great spiritual famine has resulted. Just as during the seven-year famine that struck Egypt in the book of Genesis, “Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, ‘Go to Joseph and do what he tells you’” (Gen 41:55), so God has sent us another Joseph. Popes have told us continually over the last 150 years, “Go to Joseph, Son of David,” as in our current year dedicated to St. Joseph. Now truly is the time of St. Joseph — calling forth faithful fathers, humble workers, and silent contemplatives. He inspires us to take up our own simple daily tasks for the renewal of our family, the Church, and society.

The Church proposes Joseph as a “pillar of families” in the litany dedicated to him. He continues to oversee the household of the Church and provides a fatherly model for leading the Christian home. Fathers, in particular, have the greatest influence on the faith of their children, as many studies have demonstrated. Fathers can learn through Joseph the courage and sacrifice needed to steer their families away from the threats that seek to harm their children. Just as Joseph had to make great sacrifices to keep

his family safe from Herod, so do fathers have to prioritize the safety of their families from the many dangers that constantly assault their children, be they clear physical threats or insidious risks such as those presented through technology and media. Hard decisions have to be made to ensure purity and a greater peace and silence in the home, prioritizing people over things and clearing out the family’s schedule for what is most important— time for God and for each other.

The Year of St. Joseph gives us an opportunity to develop a stronger relationship with our adoptive spiritual father. By sharing in Jesus’s life, he draws us into his own relationship with his close family and friends — who will, in turn, draw us into deeper friendship with Jesus. As the patron of the Church and families, we need to turn to Joseph for help. Here is a great prayer from St. John Henry Newman that we could add to our daily prayers: “God, who in your ineffable Providence did choose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of your most holy Mother, grant, we beseech you, that we may be made worthy to receive him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy Protector: who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.” ●

Finding Courage and Inspiration in St. Joseph



A humble servant who can be trusted to raise the divine being who will save humanity from original sin.

DUTIES INCLUDE: loving and protecting him and his mother from great danger.

SPECIAL SKILLS: must be a proficient carpenter.



BY AMY BRYER BRUMLEY

Mission Advancement

An Office funded by the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal

Few people would readily apply for the job that St. Joseph faithfully accepted — adopted father of Jesus. But, if we look, we see people all around us every day who are taking on great risks for God's will.

"To be entrusted by God to raise up God's son was *no small task*," said Mike W., a Catholic Charities employee.

Nearly 26 years ago, Mike accepted God's will into his life when he and his wife Diane started

their family of six children, four of whom are adopted, both domestically and abroad. "No small task," indeed.

When the couple got married, they didn't set out to have a large adoptive family. They got pregnant right away with their daughter Maggie, but then couldn't get pregnant again for four years. They had friends who had adopted children and they encouraged Mike and Diane to consider it. ▶



“

I think of St. Joseph as someone who is sacrificial, obedient to God and committed to doing His will whatever that looked like.

MIKE W.





I remember St. Joseph as someone who trusted God even when at times things didn't make sense around him.

MIKE W.

"I was apprehensive at first," Mike said. "Though there were examples of other families around us and we had even talked about the idea of adopting while we were dating, making the decision for our own family at that moment was a process."

"However, we realized God looks for a willing heart. We saw where God was at work and we wanted to join Him in what He cares about, bringing the orphan into a family."

The couple opened their hearts to God's will and interracial adoption when they adopted Ian. Two years after God blessed them with Ian, they welcomed Jaden, who is their biological son. The two boys are best buddies, both tall and enjoy sports together.

Diane befriended the pregnant mother of their fourth child at church when the mom decided she was not in a place in her life to parent her child. Diane was able to be at the birth of Olivia. Before her birth, the nurse asked the birth mom what she wanted to name the baby and her birth mom said it wasn't really her place because she was Mike and Diane's child. After some coaxing from Diane, the birth mother said she wanted to name the baby Olivia. Diane stood in disbelief as this was the very name she and Mike had chosen weeks before. It was a moment of confirmation for everyone that this was God's will too. Mike said it reminds him of the powerful moment God told adoptive father Joseph that Mary would have a son and she should call him Jesus.

"Giving the adoptive father that power to name the Son was meaningful," Mike said.

At this point, Mike and Diane had four children under the age of eight — two biological and two adopted — but Mike said God wasn't done with them yet. The couple decided they would adopt internationally two more times, so Nikki and Jaxian were adopted from the same orphanage in China.

The kids are thriving, and a listener can hear the proud father smiling when he talks about his kids and their interests — whether it's playing piano, soccer or football, or singing in concert, or mission work, or coffee barista work.

That's not to say their lives aren't complicated. At one point the kids attended five different schools and during COVID homeschooling, the family had five teenagers in

the house at once. The challenges that come with a large adoptive family means there is a demand for a supportive network of friends and family.

The family takes in all that life brings as part of the adventure and the parents don't shy away from challenges. Four years ago, they purchased a piece of land in Arvada with a run-down home that could have been featured on a TV renovation show.

The realtor tried repeatedly to talk the couple out of buying the home and Diane's father, a construction framer by trade, walked in the home and turned right back around and walked out, Mike said. But the couple saw great potential and could envision turning it into a wonderful home for the family of eight.

Everyone in the family has played a role in the transformation from wielding the sledgehammers for demolition to moving rocks in the yard and planting a garden. That willingness to take risks to follow God's will is a spirit that is shared among the family. Mike sees it reflected in Joseph's faith and actions as he took on the risk of God's will, brought Jesus into his household and taught him a skill as a carpenter — all just to please the Lord.

"We have a saying in our family, 'see the need, meet the need,'" Mike said. "There is a need for adoption and orphan care and we are thankful the circumstances in our lives led us in this direction. Some aren't called to adoption, but we were called to it personally. God showered us with grace that we could feel, that this is what God called us to do and we are beyond grateful for the opportunity to be family for each of our kids." ●



COURAGE IN ACTION

Mike and his family try to live out the virtues of St. Joseph. When you listen to the Lord for your calling, please consider that the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal helps fund more than 40 ministries, like Catholic Charities, to help bring Christ to those in need. Put your courage into action with the appeal: archden.org/givenow

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Pilgrimage

During this year of St. Joseph, the faithful have the opportunity to gain a partial indulgence by making a brief pilgrimage and fulfilling certain conditions.

To gain the indulgence, visit one of the five churches in the Archdiocese of Denver named after St. Joseph (Golden, Ft. Collins, Akron, Denver [historic], or Denver [Polish]). Moreover, the conditions to gain the indulgence include being in the state of grace and completing the work with the intention of gaining the partial indulgence.

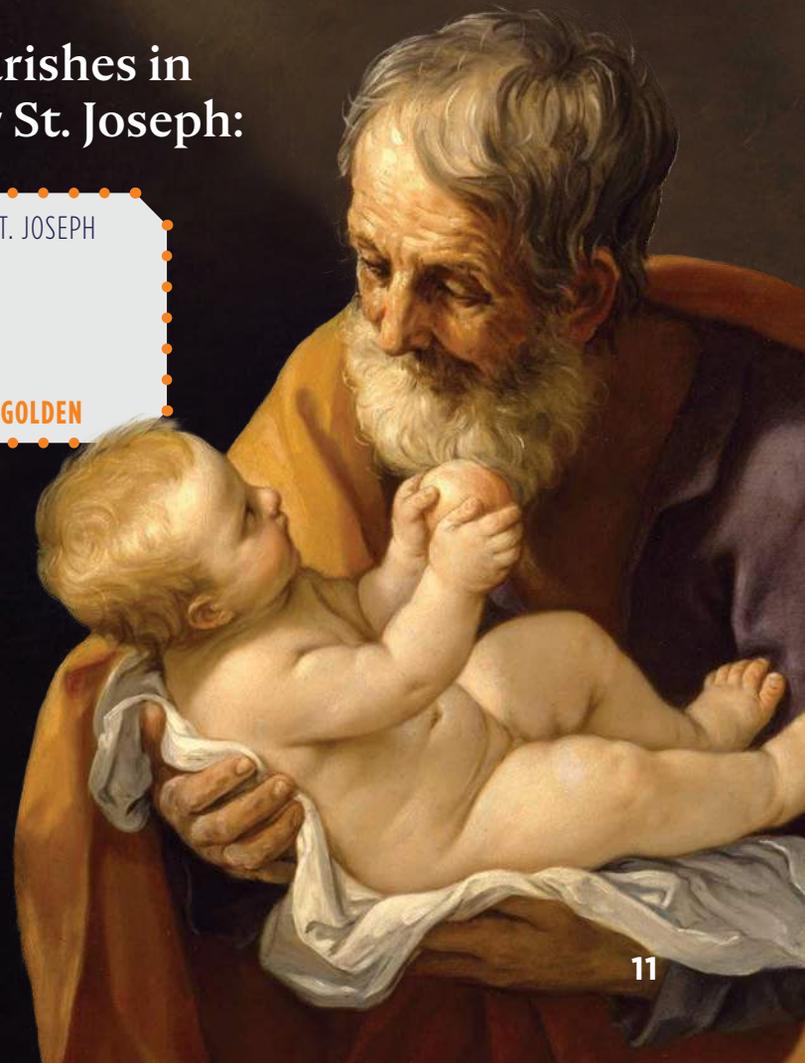
A partial indulgence frees the pardoned sinner from

some of the residue left by the consequences of sin, enabling him to act with charity, and to grow in love rather than fall back into sin. The granting of indulgences is rooted in Jesus' response to Peter's declaration that Jesus was "the Messiah, the son of the living God." Jesus replied, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mt. 16:18-19). ●

Pilgrimage entails the five parishes in the archdiocese named after St. Joseph:

ST. JOSEPH AKRON	ST. JOSEPH FORT COLLINS	ST. JOSEPH GOLDEN
ST. JOSEPH DENVER - POLISH	ST. JOSEPH DENVER - HISTORIC	

Bring this magazine to receive a stamp of each parish's official seal in the corresponding space upon your visit.



Ask the Readers

How does St. Joseph inspire you?

In honor of this Year of St. Joseph, we asked readers to share how St. Joseph has inspired them in their own lives. Here are some of the responses we received.
St. Joseph, pray for us!

St. Joseph inspires me because even as he worked, he was in the presence of God. He reminds me that work can be a time of grace and that God can meet me even in the stresses and joys of daily tasks.

- CHELSEA M., BOULDER, CO

Joseph inspires me through his lack of words. To me, his actions are demonstrated through the virtues of faith, hope and love. The Feast of St. Joseph offers a wonderful reminder for me to be the best husband, father, son, brother and neighbor that I can be. I petition to St. Joseph that he hear the prayers of all fathers as they strive to live virtuous lives in defense of their faith, family and neighbor.

- ROB T., ARVADA, CO

St. Joseph is that kind of unsung hero to me, working hard to protect and provide for Jesus and Mary, not seeking his own glory, but providing and sharing in theirs. It doesn't say how St. Joseph died, but I'm sure he gave every bit of his life in love and service to God. It is fitting that we have this year to honor him.

- JOHN E.

I love that it is very clear in scripture how he respected the dignity of Mary in that he initially wanted to divorce her quietly for this reason. Also in following God's plan, it likely was perceived poorly that he married her and the timing of her pregnancy/birth. It's a hard thing to do God's will when how others perceive you is at stake. Joseph inspires me to remember God's love for me and my family and not let the manner in which others may perceive me hinder my judgement.

- JESSICA B.

*St. Joseph loved us "behind-the-scenes."
He inspired me to be of service to my wife and kids and to be an active Knight of Columbus who has worked behind-the-scenes helping countless others and the Catholic Church. In March, I was "the stranger" at Visionworks who paid for a poor mother's new eyeglasses after she had fallen and broken her prescription glasses, badly bruising her face. Medicaid would only pay for the eye examination.*

- JOSEPH THE HELPER,
WESTMINSTER, CO

Shortly after I entered the Church in the 80's, I found in the back of our missalette the prayer by

St. Pope Pius X to Saint Joseph the worker ("...obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance..."). I liked it so much that it became my daily prayer. I have long since memorized it. This prayer to St. Joseph has been a constant guide in my further spiritual development.

- DAVID P., BOULDER, CO

The Saint of All Saints! The Terror of Demons!

Learning to be prayerfully "lost in the litany" of St. Joseph has made our family life complete. I feel as if the whole treasury of our beautiful faith and Holy Catholic Church is amplified, and has been missing for so long, the full figure of St. Joseph. We've watched St. Joseph work so quickly in our lives. I am so thankful to know him more and his vital role in the Holy Family; his vital role in the hearts of our world. Ite

Ad Joseph!

- JACLYN, FORT COLLINS

St. Joseph is completely silent in the New Testament. Although it seems like God threw him a few curveballs, he silently obeyed. Even Moses had "conversations" with God. St. Joseph did not. Without comment, without argument, St. Joseph did God's will. I pray to St. Joseph every day for help in becoming a better husband and father (and I need a lot of help!).

- PETE K., REDMOND, WA

As a man, sometimes I need someone to talk to about how I'm feeling.

I don't want to say anything disparaging to any of my friends/family about my wife, but I need to express what I'm going through or thinking. This is where St. Joseph comes in for me. I can talk to him about anything, as he understands being married and some of the challenges that it brings. Thank you, St. Joseph, for listening and thank you Jesus for your example of how to love others.

- DAVID G.

St. Joseph has been an inspiration to me because he was a

"stepfather" to Jesus. He treated Jesus as his earthly son. He fed and clothed Him and he taught Him his trade of being a carpenter. St. Joseph loved Jesus as his own flesh and blood. I too am a stepparent. I raised three stepsons. I did my best to show them how to be loving and kind and how to be Christlike. Whenever I felt like I was failing as a mother I would ask for St. Joseph's guidance. He gave me peace and encouragement.

- ANN MARIE J.

St. Joseph took on his responsibilities of fatherhood simply by relying on FAITH. St.

Joseph's faith was based upon his BELIEF that all which was revealed to him and Mary was through DIVINE revelations from God our Father. St. Joseph's faith inspires me in my BELIEF AND FAITH in the one and same true God. I also have been blessed with fatherhood and I proudly take on this responsibility to my last breath of this earthly life.

- DAVID N.

Lessons from St. Joseph: A special class for a special year



BY DANIEL CAMPBELL

Director of the St. John Vianney Theological Seminary Lay Division
A division funded by the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal
sjvlaydivision.org

This “Year of Saint Joseph” presents us with an opportunity to draw deeper into union with Joseph. To that end, I’d like to introduce you to a six-week course about Joseph that I’ll be teaching online this summer for anybody, anywhere in the world.

Firstly, let me mention who we are and what we do. While most people affectionately know us as the “Biblical School,” we are more than that; we are the Lay Division at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary for the Archdiocese of Denver. This makes our seminary unique; not just for the formation of future clerics, but also a division dedicated to the formation of the laity. Our mission is to put people in contact and communion with Jesus, who alone leads us to the heart of the Father in the Spirit. We do this through various offerings that study God’s call to each and every person

to have a personal relationship with Him in the Church that He established with the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Our two flagship programs are the Denver Catholic Biblical School, a four-year study of the Sacred Scriptures, and the Denver Catholic Catechetical School, a two-year study of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. We also offer various other programs of study – year-long “Enrichment Courses” in different topics of the faith, short courses throughout the year, lecture series throughout the liturgical seasons, and day-long workshops. Wherever you’re at in your ▶



faith, we have something for everybody! That includes my summer class on St. Joseph, in which we will dive into his life to learn everything from the narrative story and theological significance of all of the passages in Scripture involving Joseph, to why he is the Patron of the Universal Church, to his moral life and what he teaches us about virtue, to his interior life and what he teaches us about prayer, and much more.

I invite you to join the Lay Division in learning about the man that Mary called her beloved husband and Jesus his loving foster-father. However, as we anticipate the course starting in July, and in honor of this Year of St. Joseph, I offer you the following reflection on this most important saint. Read it, pray with it and allow yourself to grow in deeper devotion to St. Joseph the Great!

A father chosen by God

In choosing to redeem us, God could have chosen any number of means of doing so, but he chose to become man and die on the cross. Yet if God is to become man, then he must have a mother to come to us in the womb of. For this is not a hero sent from beyond, but a real man of flesh and blood. True God and true man, as we say. This is thus a mother whom God had, from all of eternity, planned the creation of. A mother for whom he determined the graces that he would give her so that she could fulfill her role in salvation history as the Mother of God. And if you held the prerogative to consider how to create your own Mother, then wouldn't she be the most holy creature ever created? This is precisely how God created his mother, the immaculately conceived perpetual virgin that was assumed into heaven.

That God created his mother to be so leads to the next thought: what kind of man would you create to be her husband? To care for her needs? To protect her virginity, this mother who will remain a virgin before, during, and forever after the conception and birth of her Son? And if you'd chosen to be born of this mother in a dark, cold cave, then what sort of man would you create to rock you to sleep? And if a wicked king were to desire to kill you, and kill all of the two year old and younger children in your neighborhood, then what sort of man would you create to protect you? To carry your life in his arms to safety in Egypt? What sort of man could dare stand before God Incarnate and the Mother of God to lead the Holy Family in prayer?

Just as it is obvious that Mary would be specially created by God, so it should be as obvious that St. Joseph was not an afterthought, but the man whom God had specially created for his unique role in salvation history. For of all of the ways that we may consider Joseph, of all of the things that he is the patron of, there is no greater description of his role in salvation history than spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus. God gratuitously chose to redeem us and to do so by becoming man and dying on the cross. Yet the first step was to be conceived in the womb and born of a virgin who was wedded to the great Joseph.

But why did Mary need a spouse and Jesus a foster-father to begin with? To answer, we refer to St. Thomas Aquinas that "grace perfects nature." In other words, while Jesus and Mary are full of grace, this doesn't negate their natural human needs – the need for a husband and father-figure to provide for material needs of food, drink, and shelter, to safeguard the child's Messianic claims, which would've been dismissed were he conceived out of wedlock, or to protect the mother and child against the devil, which comes, for example, in the form of Herod and the Massacre of the Innocents.

Furthermore, this husband and father-figure provides exalted testimony for us, as well: by cloaking Mary's virginity, we see the virginal state honored, while through Joseph's marriage to Mary, we likewise see matrimony honored. It was a marriage as true as any other, even if virginal, for the two spouses attained an inseparable union of souls and embraced the duties of spouses and parents by tending to one another and rearing the Christ child. Their union of souls and fulfillment of duties constitute the perfection of marriage.

Joseph is the spouse of Mary and foster-father of Jesus, which means that he is the head of the Holy Family. And as head of the Holy Family, Joseph is, therefore, the Patron of the Universal Church, the Holy Family being the prototype of the Church, itself the perpetuation of the Incarnation in time. This Patronage of the Universal Church was declared by Pope Pius IX in 1870 in his decree *Quemadmodum Deus*, a declaration that the Church is celebrating the 150th anniversary of with this current "Year of Saint Joseph."

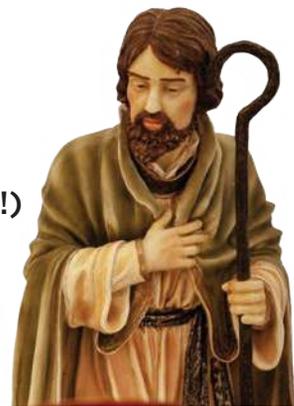
The relevance of this for us is simple: if Joseph is the head of the Holy Family and Patron of the Universal Church, then we ought to take him as our patron, as well. And as St. Aquinas writes, "Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron Saint Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking." Devotion to Joseph is as necessary today as ever, all the moreso given this year dedicated to his Patronage! ●



Lessons from St. Joseph: Husband, Father, Saint

6-week online course taught live (no pre-recorded lectures!)
by Daniel Campbell, Director of the Lay Division.

Class sessions are Tuesdays and Thursdays,
9:30-11:30am MDT and 6:30-8:30pm MDT.



TUESDAYS

July 13

July 20

July 27

Aug 10

Aug 17

Aug 24

THURSDAYS

July 15

July 22

July 29

Aug 12

Aug 19

Aug 26

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PROFILES OF COURAGE: Reflections on St. Joseph

If Hollywood makes a movie about the life of St. Joseph, the lead character would have a non-speaking role based upon his dialogue in the Bible. He is never quoted, but readers can garner much about this holy man of few words based on his actions.

This significant silent partner in raising the Savior of the world exhibited courage in the Lord and his decisions to obey are observed several times in the gospel.

Beyond those stories, modern day Christians are left to fill in the blanks. Believers can find inspiration in his

obedient courage and find ways to emulate him. This year, the **Archbishop's Catholic Appeal** is highlighting St. Joseph's virtues and inviting people to put their own courage into action and donate to the largest fundraiser of the year that results in touching the most lives.

The following are personal reflections on St. Joseph by fellow Archdiocese members. As a reader, please consider your own answers to these questions and how you might want to put your own courage into action, like St. Joseph.



FATHER JOSEPH MCLAGAN
Pastor of St. Bernadette Parish

What do you remember learning about, or thinking about, St. Joseph when you were a child?

I didn't learn much of St. Joseph growing up as a young boy. I got to learn more about him later in my life around my 20s. I learned only what were the peculiarities of him. That he was father to Jesus, a carpenter, there was no recorded words of his in Sacred Scripture.

Have you ever prayed specifically to St. Joseph about something?

All the time. Specifically for patience, to terrorize demons, for chastity, humility, diligence to responsibilities without boasting and for a happy death.

How would you describe St. Joseph to someone unfamiliar with his story?

He was a man through and through, masculine without compromise and loving to those in his care and concern. Diligent to tasks and formative for Jesus in his humanity.

What words come to mind when you think of St. Joseph?

Simple, quiet, paternal, resolute, loving

If you could ask St. Joseph a question, what would you ask?

What was it like to teach Jesus? Also, tell me a joke.

How have you tried to live courageously like St. Joseph?

Often, and sometimes with evident failure, and but resolute to seek the grace of his Son and ask for his intercession.



LAUREN CASTILLO
*Director of Development
at Students for Life of
America*

What do you remember learning about, or thinking about, St. Joseph when you were a child?

When I was little, we had this beautiful very masculine, rugged looking St. Joseph statue at our parish, Notre Dame, and I was drawn to it for as long as I remember. I would always think that he had to have been such an incredible protector of the Holy Family, but he had a tenderness in his eyes. Growing up it reminded me of my dad, someone who would protect our family but was gentle and approachable at the same time.

Have you ever prayed specifically to St. Joseph about something?

All the time nowadays. After attending a women's retreat with the Sisters of Life, I left with a deep devotion to St. Joseph and since my husband chose him as his confirmation saint last year, we have entrusted many of our family prayer intentions to St. Joseph. We are starting the consecration to St. Joseph in a few weeks!

How would you describe St. Joseph to someone unfamiliar with his story?

St. Joseph is the best balance of strong, comforting, helpful, and devout. His love and faithfulness to the Lord enabled him to set a firm foundation for the Holy Family, have the courage to journey what were most likely dangerous and scary trips to keep his family safe from the time Mary was pregnant with Jesus and as he grew older, and embodies the definition of a hard worker. St. Joseph is such a relatable saint in that he worked a job like most of us and is an example for us to approach work with intentionality, care, and prayer. He is a heavy hitter when it comes to our prayer intentions.

What words come to mind when you think of St. Joseph?

Terror of Demons. I think it is such a powerful depiction of someone who is somewhat unexpected to have that title but is well deserving of it. He raised the Son of God and protected our mother Mary and continues to protect our own family as we orient our lives to Christ every day and work to build a holy family and sacred space in our home.

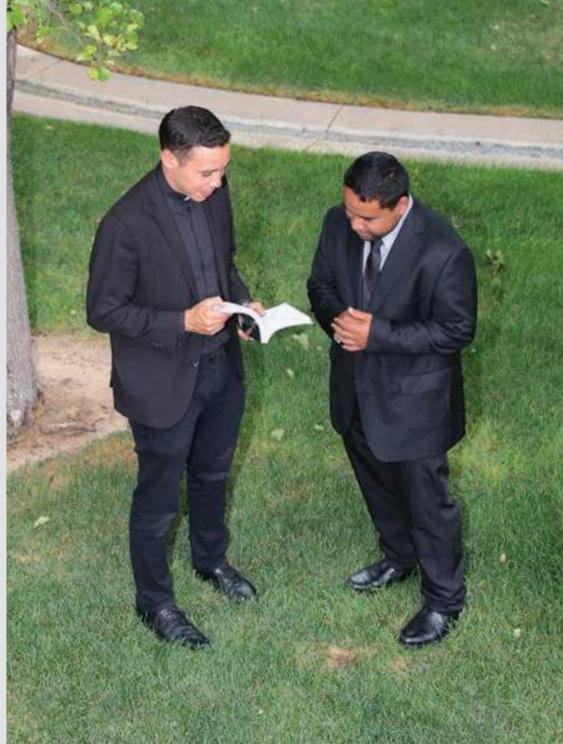
If you could ask St. Joseph a question, what would you ask?

What were your favorite memories of Jesus as he was growing up?

How have you tried to live courageously like St. Joseph?

I have tried to have his gumption when it comes to the unexpected moments in life. I strive to rise to the occasion of the challenges in life as St. Joseph did when he was visited by Archangel Gabriel, rather than living in worry and resentment. ▶

2021 **ARCHBISHOP'S**
CATHOLIC APPEAL



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JASON MARTINEZ
*Middle school science
and theology teacher*

What do you remember learning about, or thinking about, St. Joseph when you were a child?

I remember learning that St. Joseph was the earthly father of Christ. I don't remember learning much more about St. Joseph as a child.

Have you ever prayed specifically to St. Joseph about something?

In my adulthood I have found myself praying to St. Joseph with more frequency. I pray to Joseph for more patience and understanding.

How would you describe St. Joseph to someone unfamiliar with his story?

St. Joseph was the husband of Mary, the Mother of Christ. He was engaged to Mary when she was told she would give birth to the Son of God, and upon finding this news out Joseph chose to raise the child as his own son.

What words come to mind when you think of St. Joseph?

I think of the words patient and understanding. I can't imagine a more apt role model for patience and understanding than Joseph. I think it takes a very big person to put others before oneself, and I believe Joseph spent his life doing that as the earthly father of Christ.

How have you tried to live courageously like St. Joseph?

I try to approach every situation with an open mind and an open heart. I find courage in the act of subverting one's own desires for the benefit of others. I try to be honest and true to my students, and I try to show everyone I meet true Catholic Charity, even people who can be difficult.

If you could ask St. Joseph a question, what would you ask?

Were there times after you committed to raising Jesus as your own son that you felt your patience and understanding wear thin? I would also love to know what living with a teenage Jesus was like.



ANGELA URBAN
*St. Mary Catholic Church,
Littleton*

What do you remember learning about, or thinking about, St. Joseph when you were a child?

My grandmother had a beautiful love and devotion to St. Joseph. I remember her talking about his humility and obedience and his very important role in the Holy Family. She spoke so highly of him, even expressing her strong feelings that he should have more recognition and honor. I remember how excited she was when his name was added in the Eucharistic prayers of the Mass. She would do things like make sure her Christmas card had St. Joseph on it. Her love for him was infectious – it created a love in me too, and I ultimately chose him as my Confirmation saint.

What role/if any has St. Joseph played in your life?

We have claimed St. Joseph as patron of our family. Since I credit his intercession for finding my husband, who also chose St. Joseph as his Confirmation saint, I would say he plays a very big role. I am sincerely grateful and oftentimes amazed by my husband, who truly does exemplify so many of St. Joseph's virtues. When I pray for my husband, in gratitude for him or through difficult moments or big decisions in life, for his leadership of our family, and his vocation as husband to me, father of a large family and spiritual father to many, I pray specifically for St. Joseph's intercession.

How would you describe St. Joseph to someone unfamiliar with his story?

I would say that he was the husband of Mary, Mother of God, and the foster father of Jesus Christ, Son of God. His role was so important, overseeing our Lord's birth, the Incarnation, and protecting, guiding, and leading an immaculate Mary and the Messiah. I would give examples from what we know of Joseph's life that showed his attentiveness and obedience to God's will. I would point out something that has always struck me – that we don't have any record of his words, yet we can learn so much from him, easily recognizing his many virtues.

Have you ever prayed specifically to St. Joseph about something?

I have prayed for St. Joseph's intercession numerous times. Most notably, in my youth, I prayed for a husband who would be like St. Joseph. After each Mass that I attend, whether Sunday or weekday, I pray a St. Joseph prayer my grandmother taught me for his intercession for the holiness and vocations of my four sons.

What words come to mind when you think of St. Joseph?

So many words come to mind, mainly virtues – humility, silence, obedience, attentiveness to God's word and will, strength, courage, servant-leader, guardian, protector.

If you could ask St. Joseph a question, what would you ask?

I would ask two questions. One, I would ask him to pray for my husband's and my sons' holiness, and second, I would ask how I can be an aid in that as a wife and mother.

How have you tried to live courageously like St. Joseph?

I continually seek to have St. Joseph's attentiveness to God's will and his surrender to that holy will. There have been times in our lives that our Lord has asked us to do things that seem unreasonable and irrational. All those things in life we can't explain in the moment, but later we see the beautiful blessing of them. ●





St. Joseph’s many marvelous feasts



BY MARY FARROW
Contributing Writer

On March 19, less than four months after Pope Francis announced the celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the highest feast day dedicated to Jesus’ foster father and the head of the Holy Family.

But while Catholics may have eaten their fill of zeppole and other St. Joseph’s Day treats, they need not think that their only chance to celebrate this great saint has come and gone. There are many days throughout the liturgical year during which they can honor the

Guardian of Virgins, Hope of the Sick, Patron of the Dying, Terror of Demons – St. Joseph.

Most of the days included in this article can also be dates on which to conclude a Consecration to St. Joseph, using the recent book by Father Donald Calloway, MIC (see page 30 to learn more).

JANUARY 23

The Holy Spouses

In the 1400s, French theologian Jean Gerson proposed a feast day honoring the marriage of Joseph and Mary of the Holy Family.

The feast grew in popularity among certain regions and religious orders. St. Joseph Marello introduced the feast to the Oblates of St. Joseph in the 1800s because he “reflected upon the fact that the greatest saints of all time, Mary and Joseph, lived an ordinary, hidden life, and that sanctity therefore consisted in daily expressions of love in family life, work, and prayer,” the Oblates state on their website.

Where it is celebrated, the feast can be a time for couples to renew their marriage vows to one another. ▶



The Presentation of the Lord

The feast of the Presentation marks the day that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem, to consecrate him and offer sacrifices to God in the Jewish tradition.

During the Presentation, Simeon the prophet, who had been awaiting the Messiah, announced that he had now seen the salvation of the Lord. Simeon also prophesied to Mary: “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

While this was not directed at Joseph, he would have heard it and realized that he would not be alive for Jesus’ Passion and death, and Mary’s great sorrow.

Several saints have reflected on St. Joseph in this moment, including Blessed Concepcion Cabrera de Armida, a Mexican woman who established Religious of the Cross of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“And how greatly you (St. Joseph) suffered at the vision of her (Mary’s) martyrdom without you, the solitude of the wife whom you loved so well. Oh what martyrdom wracked your soul at the forevision of the Passion and the seven swords which would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. You dreamed of her alone, alone without Jesus - and this affliction embittered your happy life,” she wrote in a reflection included in Father Calloway’s Consecration to St. Joseph.

This feast day is traditionally celebrated by the blessing of candles and candlelit processions. It is also a good time to meditate on the devotion of St. Joseph’s Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys.



Solemnity of St. Joseph

This primary and highest feast of St. Joseph is celebrated annually on March 19. Because this feast is a solemnity, even though it falls during Lent, the faithful are dispensed of their Lenten obligations on this day.

Since the 10th century, several Western countries celebrated March 19 as the Feast of St. Joseph, with the feast day becoming the official practice of the Church in the 1500s.

Large celebrations of this feast are particularly popular in Italy, especially in the town of Sicily, of which St. Joseph is the patron saint. Italian-American celebrations of St. Joseph’s Day also grew in popularity as a point of Italian-American pride, following just two days after St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

Besides attending Mass and praying the St. Joseph novena, St. Joseph’s Day traditions include the making and eating of zeppole, an Italian cream puff-like pastry, and the decoration of large St. Joseph’s tables. These tables include a statue or icon of the saint, along with gifts and food to be eaten at feast day parties. Many cities also hold St. Joseph’s Day parades.

All Saint’s Day and All Soul’s Day

In November, the Church remembers the faithful who have passed on in a special way – both those who are known to be in heaven (the saints) and those who may still be in purgatory (the souls).

Both of these feast days are an excellent time to honor St. Joseph, who is called Patron of the Dying and Delight of the Saints. Additionally, the entire month of November is dedicated to praying for all those who have died and would be an ideal time to ask for the intercession of St. Joseph.

While the death of St. Joseph is not in the Bible, it is held by Church tradition, and confirmed in the visions of some saints, that St. Joseph would have died in the presence of Jesus and Mary, making him the patron of a happy death.

“Since we all must die, we should cherish a special devotion to St. Joseph that he may obtain for us a happy death,” St. Alphonsus Liguori said.

Our Lady of Loreto

The feast of Our Lady of Loreto celebrates the house of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Holy Family. This house is believed to be the site of the Annunciation, as well as the home where the Holy Family would have lived for many years after their return from Egypt.

This is where St. Joseph would have spent much of his life, loving and caring for Mary and Jesus.

This feast day could be an opportunity to meditate more deeply on one of the titles of St. Joseph, which is Glory of Domestic life. This house is also believed to be the place where St. Joseph died, surrounded by the loving presence of Jesus and Mary.

The house, now located in Loreto, Italy, is believed by some to have been magically transported by angels from Nazareth in the 1200s – first to a spot in Croatia, and then to Loreto. The holy site draws many pilgrims every year.



MAY 1

St. Joseph the Worker

Besides March 19, this is perhaps the most widely known and celebrated feast honoring the foster father of Jesus. While St. Joseph was always known to the Church as a carpenter, the idea of Joseph as a patron of workers took on added significance in the 20th century, when the Church spent much effort combating the atheistic ideas of the communist movement.

According to Franciscan media, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker was instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955 as a counter to Communist May Day celebrations honoring workers. He likely took his cue from his predecessor, Pope Pius XI, who upheld St. Joseph as a counter to the Communist worker ideal in his encyclical on atheistic communism.



“Along with the humanity of the Son of God, work too has been taken up in the mystery of the Incarnation, and has also been redeemed in a special way. At the workbench where he plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the Redemption,” Pope John Paul II, also a staunch opponent of communism, wrote in *Guardian of the Redeemer*, an apostolic exhortation on St. Joseph.

MAY 13

Our Lady of Fatima

While most Catholics likely think of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima primarily as a Marian feast, marking the appearances of Mary to the three shepherd children at Fatima, St. Joseph also appeared during the final apparition, on the day of the famous “dancing sun.”

St. Joseph appeared to the children on October 13, 1917, next to Mary, holding the Child Jesus and appearing to bless the world with the sign of the Cross, according to Sister Lucia, one of the shepherd children to whom Mary appeared.

“The Oct. 13 vision reminds us that in these troublesome times, we can and should turn to the Holy Family to reorder our own lives. Like the Holy Family, we are to define our lives by humble and trusting commitment to God and self-sacrifice to one another,” wrote Father Dan Cambra, MIC, in a 2019 post for the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

AUGUST 17

Our Lady of Knock

St. Joseph also appeared next to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Irish apparition of Our Lady of Knock. According to the Knock shrine, alongside Mary, St. John the Evangelist and the Lamb on the altar, St. Joseph appeared, standing to Mary’s right, with his head bowed as if in prayer.

“There at Our Lady’s side, was her spouse, his head bent in prayer and support. St. Joseph, in his own quiet way, points each of us in the direction of Our Blessed Mother. He invites us to place all our prayers and intercessions in Her care,” the Knock Shrine in Ireland said in a statement following the announcement of the Year of St. Joseph.

DECEMBER 26

The Holy Family

Because the seasons of Advent and Christmas center around the Holy Family, they are good times to remember and celebrate St. Joseph, who was the head of the Holy Family and is known among his many titles as the Pillar of Families.

In December 2006, Pope Benedict XVI offered a reflection on the Holy Family: “Mary and Joseph taught Jesus primarily by their example: in his parents he came to know the full beauty of faith, of love for God and for his Law, as well as the demands of justice, which is totally fulfilled in love,” he said.

“The Holy Family of Nazareth is truly the ‘prototype’ of every Christian family which, united in the Sacrament of Marriage and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, is called to carry out the wonderful vocation and mission of being the living cell not only of society but also of the Church, a sign and instrument of unity for the entire human race,” he added.

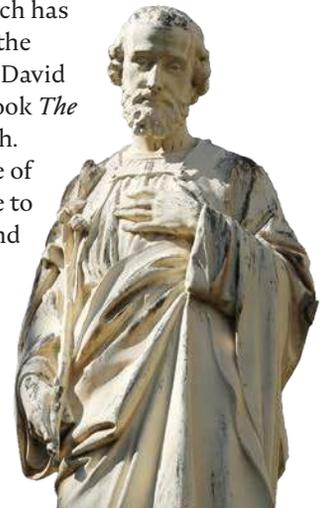


EVERY WEDNESDAY

St. Joseph

Finally, just as the Church has dedicated particular days of the week to particular devotions – Sundays to the Resurrection of the Lord, Mondays to the Holy Spirit, Saturdays to Our Lady, and so on – Wednesdays are devoted to St. Joseph.

According to the Diocese of Charlotte’s website dedicated to the Year of St. Joseph, “Holy Mother Church has given Wednesday, ‘the day the week turns on’ – as author David Clayton highlights in his book *The Little Oratory* – to St. Joseph. This means that the middle of the week is the perfect time to reflect on, be grateful for, and intercede on behalf of holy fatherhood, both spiritual and biological.” ●



The 10 Wonders of St. Joseph

AND HIS MANY TITLES

At first glance, St. Joseph is a man shrouded in mystery. However, through private revelation and by reading deeper into what is written about St. Joseph in the Gospels, the Church has been able to reveal more about the power of St. Joseph throughout her history.

Father Donald Calloway's Consecration to St. Joseph describes him as the greatest saint after Mary, and there is truth in this! The book also outlines 10 wonders of St. Joseph that can help us grow in deeper devotion to him. Learn more about each of the 10 wonders wonder and the many titles that have been bestowed upon St. Joseph over the years.



What is "Sleeping Joseph?"

A recent devotion to St. Joseph has become more popular in the Church called "Sleeping St. Joseph." This devotion involves obtaining a statue depicting St. Joseph asleep, asking his intercession for a particular intention, and then writing that intention on a piece of paper and placing it underneath the statue. By doing this, you are invoking the power of St. Joseph's silence and asking him to take the intention to God while he sleeps. It is a great way to bring prayer intentions to St. Joseph while growing in devotion to him.

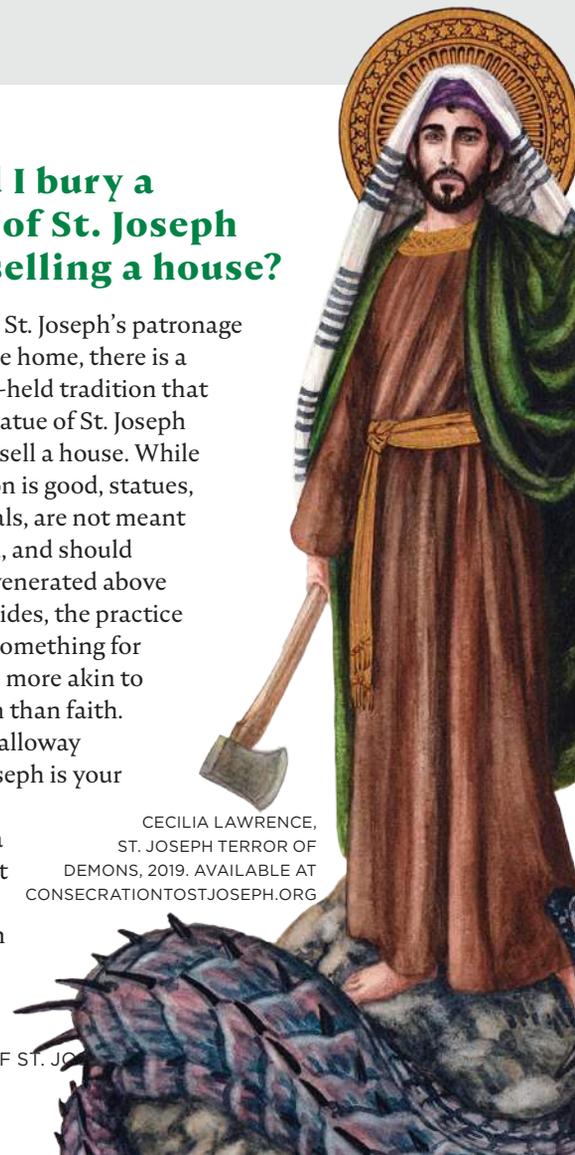
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Should I bury a statue of St. Joseph when selling a house?

Under St. Joseph's patronage of the home, there is a long-held tradition that burying a statue of St. Joseph will help to sell a house. While the intention is good, statues, unlike medals, are not meant to be buried, and should instead be venerated above ground. Besides, the practice of burying something for good luck is more akin to superstition than faith. As Father Calloway says, "St. Joseph is your spiritual father, not a trinket." Just ask for his intercession instead!

CECILIA LAWRENCE,
ST. JOSEPH TERROR OF
DEMONS, 2019. AVAILABLE AT
CONSECRATIONTOSTJOSEPH.ORG

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH



DELIGHT OF SAINTS

St. Joseph has been revered by many saints throughout the ages. They all attest to the power of devotion to him and their delight in praying for his intercession.



OUR SPIRITUAL FATHER

St. Joseph was declared patron of the universal church in 1870. Just as Mary is the spiritual mother of the Church, St. Joseph is the spiritual father of the Church.



YOUNG HUSBAND OF MARY

While the Church has no official teaching on the age of St. Joseph, it is likely that St. Joseph was not the old man that many pieces of classical art depict him as. In fact, in being depicted as a younger man, his heroic sacrifices and virtues shine through all the more.



VIRGINAL FATHER OF JESUS

Just as the Church teaches that Mary was a perpetual virgin, it can be surmised that St. Joseph, too, remained a virgin all his life. He safeguarded both Mary's and his own virtue for the sake of their son.



JUST AND REVERENT MAN

Through his actions, whether it be seeking to quietly divorce Mary to maintain her dignity or serving as the foster-father of the Son of God, St. Joseph embodied perfect justice and reverence throughout his life.



SAVIOR OF THE SAVIOR

When King Herod sent out his soldiers to kill every newborn baby in the land upon hearing news of Jesus' birth, St. Joseph didn't hesitate to scoop up his wife and child in the middle of the night and make the long journey to safety in Egypt. Simply put, he protected Jesus and Mary with his life.



ADORER OF CHRIST

St. Joseph raised Jesus and lived with him for 30 years. He lived in perpetual adoration of the Savior of the World. Wherever he traveled with Jesus and Mary, their home became an adoration chapel.



SILENT WITNESS

St. Joseph spoke not a single word in the Gospels, yet he was witness to the miraculous lives of Jesus and Mary. Even in sleep, St. Joseph's intercession contains immense power.



PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH

Mystics have seen visions of St. Joseph dying peacefully with Jesus and Mary at his side. In his holiness, it has even been speculated that St. Joseph was assumed into Heaven. St. Joseph spent his life in sacrificial love for Jesus and Mary, and on his deathbed, God allowed him to die happily.



TERROR OF DEMONS

Demons fear St. Joseph. He terrorizes Satan and all of his minions through his virtue and all of the other wonders he epitomizes. St. Joseph is a dragon slayer!

St. Joseph's other titles

*Light of Patriarchs
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin
Zealous Defender of Christ
Mirror of Patience
Lover of Poverty
Model of Workmen*

*Glory of Domestic Life
Guardian of Virgins
Pillar of Families
Comfort of the Afflicted
Hope of the Sick
Protector of the Holy Church*



St. Joseph: The Church's secret weapon



BY AARON LAMBERT

Managing Editor of the Denver Catholic
Publication supported by the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal

In his groundbreaking book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* (Marian Press), Father Calloway dives into some of the lesser-known and extraordinary qualities of the oft-underrated father of Jesus. It culminates in a consecration to St. Joseph, who, whether we realize it or not, is our spiritual father. This year especially marks an opportune time to renew and strengthen our devotion to St. Joseph, considering that Pope Francis proclaimed it as the Year of St. Joseph. For the book, Father Calloway also commissioned several artists to create beautiful, updated depictions of St. Joseph.

We chatted with Father Calloway about his new book and why a consecration to St. Joseph might just be exactly what our society and Church needs in these modern times.



DENVER CATHOLIC: Why did you want to write this book?

FR. DONALD CALLOWAY: Right now in the world, we've got what I call an anthropological crisis. People are confused about their sexuality, about what it means to be a man, what it means to be a woman. Marriage has been redefined in many countries. People don't even know what it means to be a family anymore. You know, we've got modern families and we've got people identifying as cats. It's crazy. So, I thought to myself about three years ago, what are we doing here as Christians? We belong to Jesus Christ by our baptism and many of us have done a Marian consecration, which is phenomenal. It's one of the best things you can do. Still, we don't seem to be making much ground when it comes to this crisis today. Sister Lucia dos Santos of Fatima said that the final battle between good and evil would be over marriage and the family. So I thought to myself, I wonder if there's anything about St. Joseph, like a Saint Louis de Montfort-type consecration program, because when a house is in disorder, and by that I mean society and even the Church, it takes a father to restore order in a house. I thought, does this thing exist out there? Is there some gem hiding in Poland or Croatia or something that nobody knows about that we can get out there? I know a lot of people around the world, so I contacted them. I said, hey, have you guys got anything like this in your country, like a Saint Louis Montfort-type consecration, not to Our Lady, but to St. Joseph? Everybody said no, and everybody also said, 'Father, that's brilliant.' They said this is exactly what the Church needs right now in the midst of this crisis and confusion. We need St. Joseph as a good, loving father. And so I said, 'you know what, I'm going to do it then.' So I spent three years doing all the research and writing and putting it together. ▶

DC: Very little is known about St. Joseph. How did you conduct research and learn more about who he was?

FDC: That's a great point. First, I wanted to clear up a whole bunch of misconceptions about St. Joseph, since we don't have much about him — we don't even have one word in the New Testament. Most people over the centuries have just thought that he was some old geezer who God used and basically was a nobody and really is not that important. And even in art, he's shown as old and almost headed for the nursing home. So I asked, 'was this guy old? What is the reality here?' I did a lot of digging, a lot of research. I went to the Fathers of the Church. I went to St. Jerome and St. Augustine, and I went to all these scholars and saints and then also writings of mystics and popes. And lo and behold, none of this stuff is true. The Church has no teaching on his age whatsoever. In all likelihood, he couldn't have been old because of the rigors demanded by him with all the walking they did back then. I did the math: for the 30 years that they walked to Jerusalem three times a year, which they were required to do from Nazareth, Joseph and Jesus basically walked around the planet. There's no way an old man could do that. There's just no way. And so I just explored all these writings and things from the time of Jewish culture and customs and everything to really get a fuller picture of who he is.

DC: What are some qualities of St. Joseph that you uncovered in writing this book?

FDC: That he's the greatest saint after the Blessed Virgin Mary! A lot of people don't realize that. They think it's Saint Francis of Assisi or the Little Flower or something. And look, they're awesome, but they've got nothing on this dude. I mean, he is so holy that only he and Our Lady have the privilege of referring to God as their son. You and I can't invoke Jesus and say a prayer and say, 'Jesus, my lord and son.' That's weird, right? But Mary and Joseph can. Joseph has a paternal relationship with Jesus. And he has power. He has intercessory ability that is unparalleled after Our Lady. That, to me, is extraordinary. And that's why one of his titles in particular that I talk about in the book is Terror of Demons, because that's the money title. That's the big gun title. A lot of people would not think of him like that because they see images where he's old, got a cane and he's about to die. If you know who he is and the power and the authority and the influence that he has with God, it's unbelievable. He is the untapped treasure, the secret mega weapon that the Catholic Church has had in the background for 2,000 years. And now, in light of the crisis, we need to bring out the big guns. This is the man.

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CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

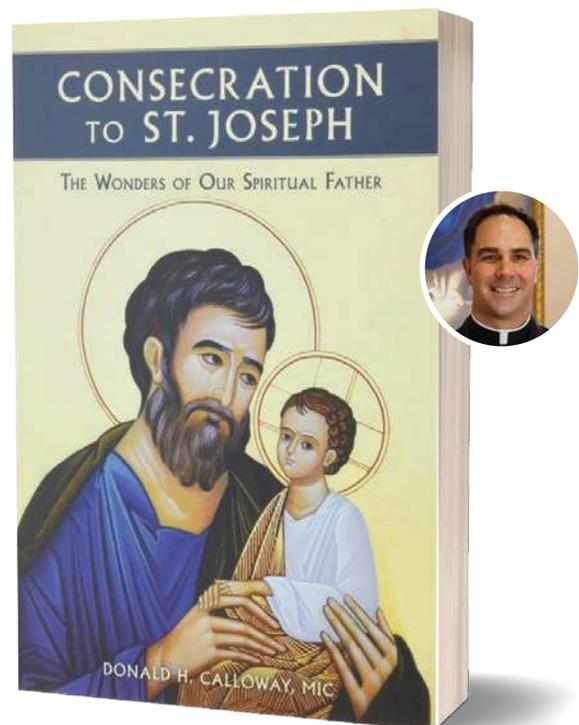
For more info, visit consecrationtostjoseph.org

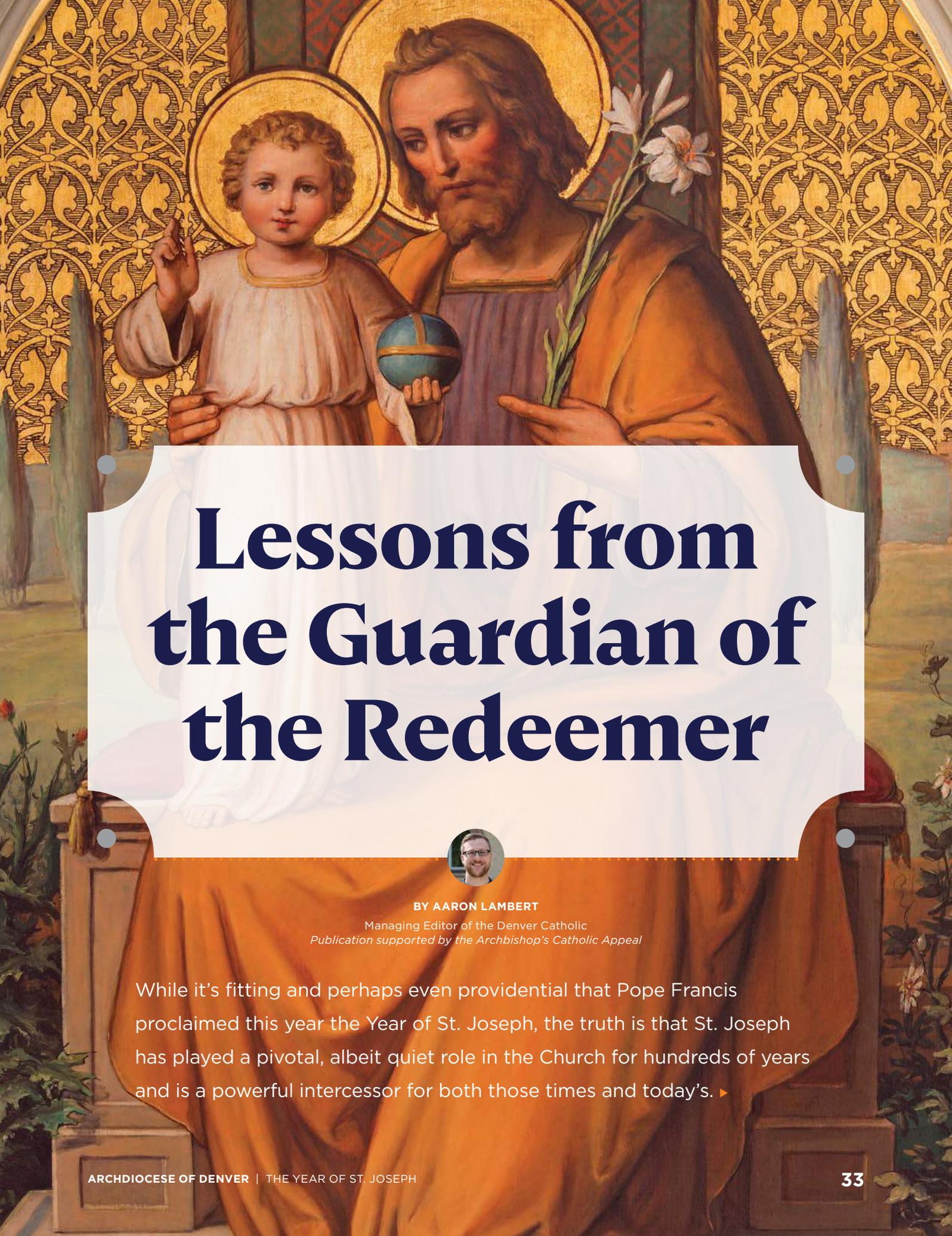
DC: Why does St. Joseph make a good patron of the Universal Church? Why is his intercession so important right now?

FDC: It goes basically to the roots of what that patronage means. The root word of patron is *pater*, which means father. That was declared in 1870, and since that time we have consistently seen divorce rates go up as well as fatherless families. Right now, statistics are saying something like 52 percent of all modern families do not have a father — that's more than half. We've known about the spiritual motherhood of Mary for a very long time. And it's wonderful. But in order to close the gap and to help with this crisis in families, we need to look to THE family, and especially the head of the Holy Family and his patronage and ability to help us. That's why I think ever since that declaration was made in 1870, we have seen a nonstop increase in emphasizing the importance of St. Joseph.

DC: Why should people read this book and engage in this consecration?

FDC: Ultimately, it's to lead them closer to Jesus. Just like Marian consecration, ultimately it's to lead us closer to Christ. That's the same with this. And it's really to imitate our Lord himself. In the New Testament, we read that Jesus increased in wisdom and stature before God and man under the watchful care of his parents in his human nature, of course. We need to do the same. We're not members of a single-parent spiritual family. We need to recognize that Mary is our spiritual mother and St. Joseph is our spiritual father. And it's time now for St. Joseph. It's his time. ●





Lessons from the Guardian of the Redeemer



BY AARON LAMBERT

Managing Editor of the Denver Catholic
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While it's fitting and perhaps even providential that Pope Francis proclaimed this year the Year of St. Joseph, the truth is that St. Joseph has played a pivotal, albeit quiet role in the Church for hundreds of years and is a powerful intercessor for both those times and today's. ▶

In more recent times, leaders of the Church have recognized the importance of St. Joseph and have sought to bring devotion to him to the forefront of the faithful's hearts and minds. In 1870, Blessed Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, and it was for the 150th anniversary of this occasion that Pope Francis declared a Year of St. Joseph in the first place. In 1889, Pope Leo XIII released *Quamquam Pluries*, an encyclical in which he presented St. Joseph as a model of virtue while dealing with the challenges of modernity at the turn of the century. From this, he began to delineate a theology of St. Joseph that

has since developed and been carried into today's world.

Then, in 1989, for the centenary of *Quamquam Pluries*, Pope St. John Paul II released his own Apostolic Exhortation on St. Joseph, *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer). The exhortation drew upon the wisdom of St. John Paul II's predecessors but also offered his own wisdom on St. Joseph and how both the Church and individuals can learn from his powerful example.

The following five key insights from *Redemptoris Custos* remain strikingly relevant to the modern world, especially as we honor St. Joseph in this year dedicated to him.

1

ST. JOSEPH IS A MODEL OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITHFULNESS

Let's face it: Nobody likes to do hard things, let alone something like agreeing to raise a child who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and marrying the holy woman who bore him. You can't fault St. Joseph for seeking an out; but when the Lord's messenger appeared and told him to take Mary as his wife, he obeyed.

Like Mary's "fiat," St. Joseph's "yes" is an oft-overlooked yet critical detail in the story of Jesus. As St. John Paul II writes, "He took her in all the mystery of her motherhood. He took her together with the Son who had come into the world by the power of the Holy Spirit. In this way he showed a readiness of will like Mary's with regard to what God asked of him through the angel" (RC, 3).

In today's world, the only rules people like to obey are their own, but Christians are called to something far more fulfilling. St. Joseph beautifully exemplifies how obedience to God's will first and foremost is what bears the greatest fruits.

2

ST. JOSEPH WAS A TRUE FATHER TO JESUS

Yes, Jesus was the Son of God, but he was also son to St. Joseph. St. John Paul II aptly notes: "Joseph's marriage to Mary is the juridical basis of his fatherhood. It was to assure fatherly protection for Jesus that God chose Joseph to be Mary's spouse. It follows that Joseph's fatherhood [...] comes to pass through marriage to Mary, that is, through the family" (7). In fact, St. John Paul II argues that "while it is important for the Church to profess the virginal conception of Jesus, it is no less important to uphold Mary's marriage to Joseph, because juridically Joseph's fatherhood depends on it" (7).

It makes perfect sense when you think about it; St. Joseph merited fatherhood through his marriage to Mary, and as such, Jesus truly was his son: "The Son of Mary is also Joseph's Son by virtue of the marriage bond that unites them" (7). Would you call an adoptive father any less a father to his adopted children? Of course not! So, too, with Joseph and Jesus. Like a true father, St. Joseph rose to the challenge of raising Jesus and forming him into the man he became; it is so important and encouraging to remember this! Quoting St. Augustine, St. John Paul II continued: "Joseph is the one whom God chose to be the 'overseer of the Lord's birth,' the one who has the responsibility to look after the Son of God's 'ordained' entry into the world, in accordance with divine dispositions and human laws. All of the so-called 'private' or 'hidden' life of Jesus is entrusted to Joseph's guardianship."



3

ST. JOSEPH WAS SANCTIFIED THROUGH HIS WORK

The Gospels say very little about St. Joseph, so it can be reasonably surmised that what they do tell us about him is of the utmost importance. The Gospels explicitly state that St. Joseph was a carpenter, and in those days, it was common for carpenters to train up an apprentice in their craft. Indeed, during the “hidden” years of Jesus’ life, the Gospels imply that Jesus was St. Joseph’s apprentice; “Having learned the work of his presumed father, he was known as ‘the carpenter’s son,’” St. John Paul II writes (22).

In the case of the Holy Family, work was also an expression of love, St. John Paul II said, and in their work, they display yet another important paradigm for family life: “If the Family of Nazareth is an example and model for human families, in the order of salvation and holiness, so too, by analogy, is Jesus’ work at the side of Joseph the carpenter” (22).

In today’s world, a person’s work very much defines them, yet there can be a negative connotation associated with work; one that treats it as mundane and meaningless. However, there is a valuable lesson to be learned in the human work of St. Joseph, and by extension the human work of Jesus. “Human work, and especially manual labor, receive special prominence in the Gospel,” St. John Paul II writes. “Along with the humanity of the Son of God, work too has been taken up in the mystery of the Incarnation, and has also been redeemed in a special way. At the workbench where he plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the Redemption” (22).

Work, therefore, became sanctified; and just as St. Joseph was sanctified through his work, so, too, can all people be sanctified in their own daily labors.

4

ST. JOSEPH’S SILENCE EXEMPLIFIED HIS VIRTUE

Silence is hard to come by these days, with the hustle of daily life and the countless distractions of smartphones and social media and streaming services that exist in spades. It’s nothing more than human nature to converse and communicate and speak our minds to others, but is that always the most prudent thing to do? How many of us *talk* about doing something yet never actually *act* upon it?

Contrast this mentality with St. Joseph, who says nary a word in the Gospels but instead communicates through his actions. “It is, a silence that reveals in a special way the inner portrait of the man,” St. John Paul II writes. “The Gospels speak exclusively of what Joseph ‘did.’ Still, they allow us to discover in his ‘actions’ – shrouded in silence as they are – an aura of deep contemplation” (25).

In his silence, St. Joseph’s interior life cuts through the noise and reveals his strong virtue which empowered him to accept Mary as his wife and raise the Son of God: “The total sacrifice, whereby Joseph surrendered his whole existence to the demands of the Messiah’s coming into his home, becomes understandable only in the light of his profound interior life” (26).

5

ST. JOSEPH’S INTERCESSION IS POWERFUL

Blessed Pope Pius IX couldn’t have known how crucial St. Joseph’s intercession would be in the year 2021, when he declared him the patron of the universal Church, yet here we are. And although St. John Paul II delivered *Redemptoris Custos* over 30 years ago, its words are made all the more relevant now as we observe this Year of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph quietly watches over the Church here on earth, just as he did Jesus in his childhood. The Church cannot deny the need for St. Joseph as her guardian and protector. As St. John Paul II observes, “Besides trusting in Joseph’s sure protection, the Church also trusts in his noble example, which transcends all individual states of life and serves as a model for the entire Christian community, whatever the condition and duties of each of its members may be” (30).

As was intended by St. John Paul II and Pope Leo XIII before him, this Year of St. Joseph is an opportunity for renewed devotion to this most essential patron of the Church. Throughout the ages, many have attested to the power of St. Joseph’s intercession, and this same power can be ours if we simply ask. Today, as we stand at the precipice of modernity and the many challenges it brings, St. John Paul II’s closing words to *Redemptoris Custos* ring clear and true:

“This just man, who bore within himself the entire heritage of the Old Covenant, was also brought into the ‘beginning’ of the New and Eternal Covenant in Jesus Christ. May he show us the paths of this saving Covenant as we stand at the threshold of the next millennium, in which there must be a continuation and further development of the ‘fullness of time’ that belongs the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation of the Word” (32). ●

Honor St. Joseph with a tasty treat

Did you know that Father's Day in Italy falls on the Feast of St. Joseph? St. Joseph is actually the patron of Italy, and each year on his March 19 feast day, families bake the delicious traditional Italian pastry, Zeppole di San Giuseppe, to honor both him and all other fathers. However, now that you know there are several feasts where St. Joseph can be honored throughout the year, we'd say it would be acceptable – and indeed, pleasing to St. Joseph – to make these tasty treats more than once per year.

Zeppole di San Giuseppe

Ingredients

- 1 cup flour all-purpose
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup butter, unsalted room temperature
- 4 eggs room temperature
- 12 amarena cherries
- icing sugar

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Whisk together flour, salt and sugar. Set aside.
3. In a large, heavy saucepan, over medium-high heat, combine water and butter and bring to a boil.
4. Remove saucepan from heat.
5. Add flour mixture to the saucepan all at once and stir with a wooden spoon.
6. Lower heat to medium-low.
7. Return saucepan to the stove and continue to stir until mixture forms a smooth ball (1-2 minutes).
8. Remove from heat.
9. Transfer mixture to a stand mixer or large mixing bowl.
10. Let mixture cool for about 2 minutes.
11. Beat with the paddle attachment or handheld mixer for a few minutes in order to further cool down the mixture (1-2 minutes).
12. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition.
13. Spoon dough into a pastry bag fitted with an open star tip.
14. Squeeze dough into 2" nests on parchment paper.

Prep time
30 min.

Cook Time
35 min.

Yields 12
servings



15. Place in pre-heated oven on center rack for 35-40 minutes and bake until golden brown.
16. During the last 5 minutes of baking, pierce the outer shell with a sharp knife to allow the steam escape. Leave the oven door ajar.
17. Remove the pastry shells from the oven. Cut them in half or leave as is.
18. When shells are cool, use a pastry bag fitted with an open star tip to squeeze pastry cream onto the shells; cover with the top and squeeze another tablespoon or so over the top. You can also make a small hole and squeeze pastry cream directly in the cavity; top with more pastry cream.
19. Put an amarena cherry in the center of the cream and sprinkle with a dusting of icing sugar.
20. Say a prayer to St. Joseph and enjoy!

Source: shelovesbiscotti.com

QUIZ

How well do you know St. Joseph?

Test your knowledge of St. Joseph with this quiz. Hint: If you've read all the articles in this magazine up to this point, then you're at an advantage, because the answers can be found throughout!

1. What is the name of the apostolic letter Pope Francis released when he announced the Year of St. Joseph?
2. In what year was St. Joseph declared the Patron of the Universal Church?
3. True or False: St. Joseph is recorded as saying many words in the gospels.
4. Which day of the week is traditionally devoted to St. Joseph?
5. True or False: St. Joseph's profession was a fisherman.
6. True or False: St. Joseph was present at Christ's crucifixion.
7. Which of the following is NOT a title of St. Joseph?
 - A. Lover of Poverty
 - B. Pillar of Families
 - C. Terror of Demons
 - D. Father of the Ages
8. True or False: St. Joseph also appeared alongside Mary during the apparitions at Fatima in Portugal and Knock in Ireland.
9. What is the English translation of the title of St. John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on St. Joseph, *Redemptoris Custos*?
10. How many parishes in the Archdiocese of Denver are named after St. Joseph?

To check your answers, visit give.archden.org/st-joseph

St. Joseph through Mary's eyes



BY BISHOP JORGE H. RODRIGUEZ

Auxiliary Bishop of Denver

There are two people who could best provide a description of St. Joseph: Jesus, who always called him “dad” and experienced human fatherhood in his arms, and Mary, who called him “my husband Joseph.”

Mary does not mention Joseph explicitly in Scripture. She only refers to him after Jesus was lost and was found in the Temple: “Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.”

Joseph is always mentioned in the third person, which can lead us to perceive him more as a character in a chronicle than a living person, with feelings and experiences. But for Mary, Joseph was much more than what is written in the Gospels – he was her husband, Jesus’ adoptive father, the man who experienced with her the events of family life. She knew Joseph’s heart and feelings. She knew how he prayed, suffered, had fun, and even what his favorite meal was and the unique ways in which he treated her.

The Gospel tells us that Mary was a contemplative woman who would ponder things in her heart, constantly seeking to understand the deeper meaning of events (cf. Lk 2:19; 2,5,10). Mary’s perspective was based on God’s centeredness in her heart.

I picture Mary at home in Nazareth attentively looking at Joseph as he plays with the child Jesus, as he works hard in the woodshop or as he prays in the synagogue. Mary’s gaze was probably full of appreciation and gratitude for the man who accepted her, defended her, protected her and accompanied her in the

upheavals they experienced together.

She saw how Joseph was sorrowful, afflicted, humanly devastated and suffering in silence when he discovered that his betrothed was pregnant. She saw the peaceful look in his face as he told her what the Angel said to him in a dream. Mary silently saw the restlessness with which her young husband looked for an inn as his wife was about to give birth. Mary witnessed the fear and affliction in Joseph’s face when he realized that someone was out to kill the son he was entrusted to protect as a father. Needless to say, she also observed his frightened expression after hearing that their son would be a sign of contradiction and that she would be pierced with a sword. Likewise, she contemplated Joseph’s distress after losing their son in the crowd. Mary spent many days and many hours looking at Joseph, her husband, pondering in her heart the mystery of his soul. But none of her words about Joseph are recorded in the Gospels.

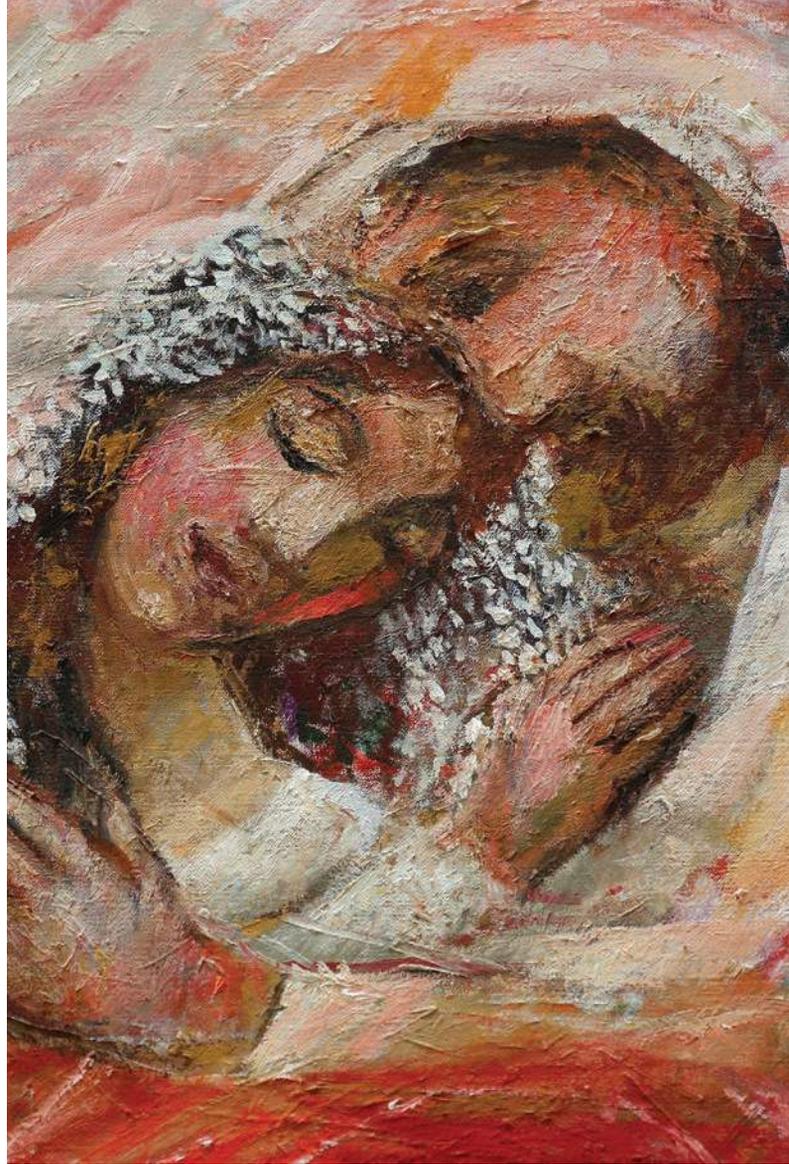
Thus, in order to discover the story of Joseph, as told by Mary, we must turn to her contemplative and quiet heart, which tells us about Joseph’s soul through the events they lived together. Mary was able to understand deeply the goodness and suffering of her betrothed, who had embraced her with respect and love, knowing that for him this involved the end of

the life he had dreamed of – a married life with children, like everyone else’s. In silence, she saw him accept with faith the God’s plan, by marrying a most pure wife and welcoming a divine adoptive child.

When a wife is asked to describe her husband, it’s not unusual for her to respond: “My husband? He’s a good man.” Perhaps Mary’s response wouldn’t have been very different: “My husband Joseph? He’s a good man.” This response may seem too simplistic and short, because we think Joseph should be described with more sophisticated adjectives: “holy, extraordinary, exceptional...” Yet Mary’s response, after contemplating Joseph for so long, would highlight what perhaps defines him best: his goodness. Jesus said, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone” (Lk 18:19). Mary experienced the goodness in Joseph’s heart through his embrace, his eyes, his words, his care, his natural tenderness towards her and the child. She could rightly say, “My husband is the best man in the world.” While this might seem like a very ordinary way of defining him, Mary’s words would fully echo God’s goodness present in the heart of a pure and sincere man. They lived a married life in the highest expression: in a most pure mutual self-gift, faithful to God’s plan.

If asked to elaborate, Mary would probably say that Joseph was a good father. During her pregnancy, at Jesus’ birth, at the Temple, and in the ordinary events and upheavals in life, Joseph was always present to his wife and child, with that constant and provident presence that denotes a true fatherhood. This is precisely how Jesus defines his heavenly Father when he says, “He who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone” (Jn 8:29). Jesus says that he and his Father are one. In his humanity, Jesus learned that being a father implies being always present for one’s children, protecting them and letting them know they are never alone in life. “With a father’s heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus” – thus Pope Francis begins his Apostolic Letter “With a Father’s Heart,” written for the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph’s declaration as Patron of the Universal Church. Jesus learned and experienced from Joseph what the heart feels when the word “father” is said.

Fatherhood creates a connection in which the child identifies with the father based on the time spent together and on the example that the father provides for the child and the child tries to imitate. The father achieves this connection through hard work and the attention and



the time he dedicates to his child.

Mary saw Joseph’s fortitude in spirit and maturity when, with a broken heart, he decided to leave in secret as to not put her to shame. He must have been a strong man, both physically and morally, in order to bear the demands that taking care of Mary and the child entailed: the mysterious pregnancy, the unexpected travels and their harshness, poverty, attacks from those in power, hard work, migration to an unknown land... Mary knew she could count on him, a man of deep integrity, a responsible, strong man. Perhaps she would have described Joseph as such.

While it’s true that Mary never said Joseph was a “good man,” a “good father,” a “strong man of deep integrity,” the Gospel story tells us that Mary felt cared for, understood, protected, defended, accompanied, sustained in life by Joseph, because of who he was; and that Jesus, his son, was the type of man that he was, precisely because of his fatherly presence, his example and the qualities Jesus learned from him. ▶

In the aforementioned letter, Pope Francis reminds us that “our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history.” Thus “each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

Joseph lived the mystery of his wife Mary and the mystery of his son Jesus without seeing wonders or witnessing miracles, praises and crowds. He lived in the presence of God, incarnate in his son, fulfilling his duties as a husband and father. This was his indispensable service to the work of salvation. St. Paul VI says that Joseph “made a total gift of himself, his life and his work, by making his human vocation of domestic love a total sacrifice of self, a sacrifice of his heart and of his full capability to love at the service the Messiah born under his care”

(Homily, March 19, 1966). His vocation was “domestic love,” that is, the vocation of loving the child who played and grew under his paternal gaze with his whole self.

Referring to the book *The Shadow of the Father* by Jan Dobraczyński, Pope Francis says that the author “uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way.” A shadow is not something that usually catches our attention – it’s simply something we enjoy. Rarely do we lift up our eyes to see where a pleasant shadow is coming from. But when a child lifts up his eyes, he notices that the shadow comes from his father.

Many of us love St. Joseph very much and have great devotion to him. Perhaps what the Gospel refers to when it describes Joseph as a just man (Mt 1:19) is precisely his humility, which defines him as a good man, an excellent husband and a wonderful father. St. Joseph is our brother, who, in the ordinary and everyday life, shows us the purity, beauty and holiness of fatherhood and married life in God’s plan. ●



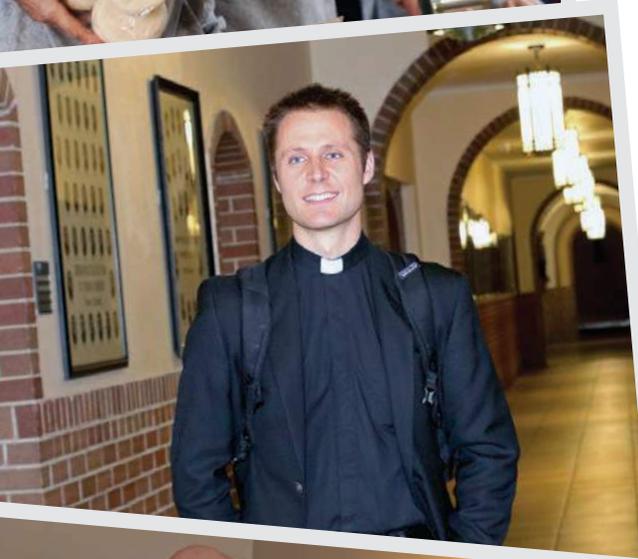
ENCOUNTER

THE RISEN JESUS

Archbishop Aquila is inviting you to pray with seven foundational Scripture passages. Each focuses on an encounter moment with Jesus Christ and captures key themes regarding our calling to build a culture of apostolic mission in our diocese.

Will you join us?

archden.org/easter2021



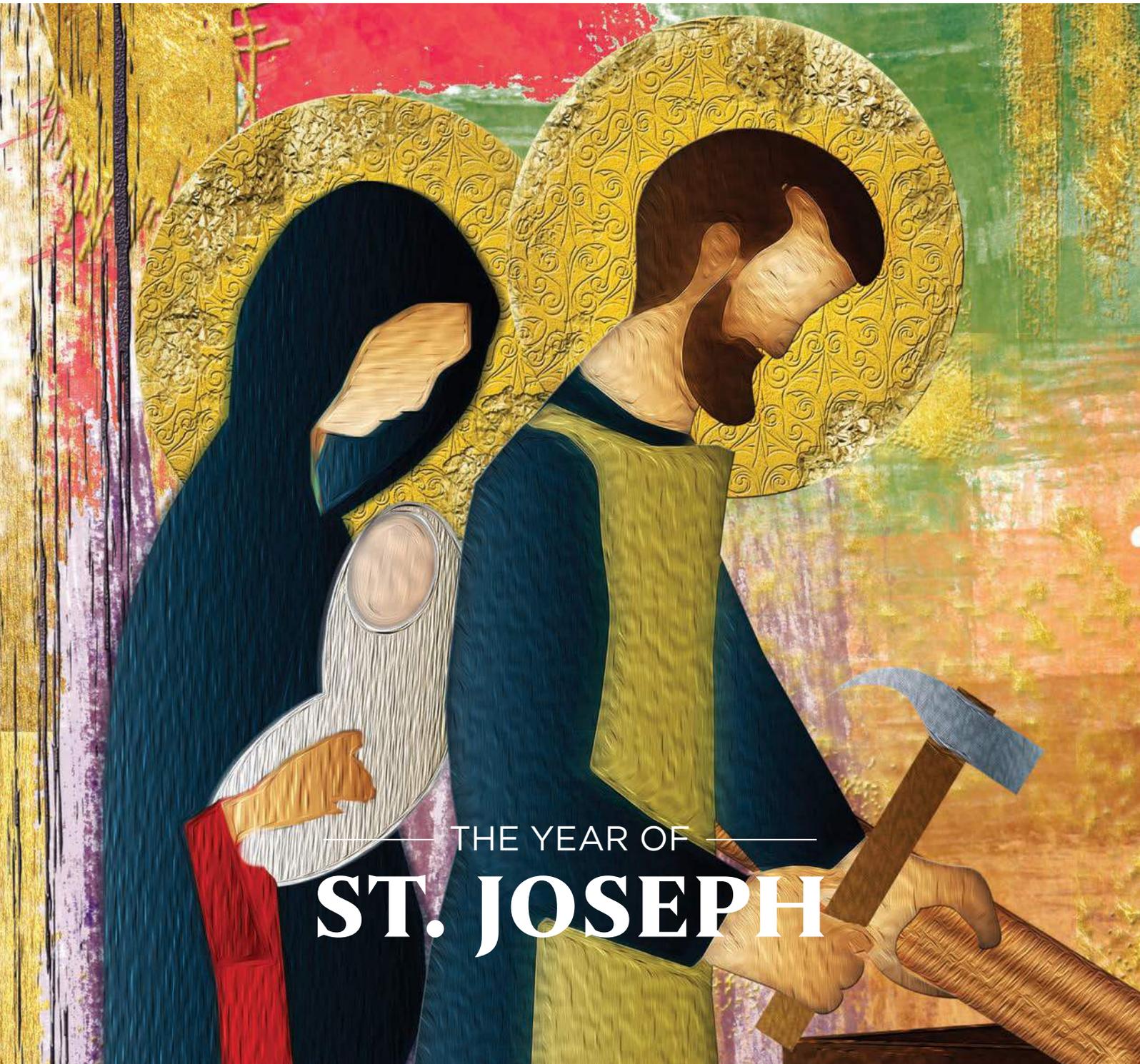
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As Catholics, we are called to share our blessings with others and to tithe. A tithe is a donation of 10% of one's annual earnings in support of the Church or other charitable causes. One formula suggests donating 5% of our annual income to our parish, 3% to other charities, and 2% to the archdiocese through a gift to the Archbishop's Catholic Appeal. Please use the table below as an initial step on the path to tithing.

Annual Family Income	2% Appeal Gift	12 Recurring Monthly Payments
\$25,000	\$500	\$42
\$50,000	\$1,000	\$84
\$75,000	\$1,500	\$125
\$100,000	\$2,000	\$167
\$125,000	\$2,500	\$209
\$150,000	\$3,000	\$250
\$175,000	\$3,500	\$292

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THE YEAR OF
ST. JOSEPH