



SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH

13301 PROCTOR ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19116

2021 Summer Faith Formation Series: The Year of Saint Joseph

Session 2 – Thursday, July 15, 2021

Father Steve

I.) Opening Prayer

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary,
be with us this day.
You protected and cherished the Virgin;
loving the Child Jesus as your Son,
you rescued Him from the danger of death.
Defend the Church, the household of God,
purchased by the Blood of Christ.

Guardian of the Holy Family,
be with us in our trials.
May your prayers obtain for us
the strength to flee from error
and wrestle with the powers of corruption
so that in life we may grow in holiness
and in death rejoice in the crown of victory.
Amen.

II.) St. Joseph: Light of Patriarchs

- St. Joseph, as the foster father of Jesus, becomes a reflection of “The Light” – Christ
- St. Joseph becomes for us a reflection of the “Father of Lights”
- St. Joseph as the “Light of the Patriarchs” becomes a reflection of the faith that we see in the lives of the Patriarchs of the Old Testament
- St. Joseph is there for us, standing as a steady lighthouse on the shores of a tumultuous sea, calling us to a calming harbor

III.) St. Joseph: Head of the Holy Family

- St. Joseph provides an example of selflessness and protection
- Contrasting Mary & Joseph at The Annunciation to Adam and Eve in The Garden of Eden
- St. Joseph is a model of “Heroic Manhood” in his role as Head of the Holy Family

IV.) St. Joseph: Zealous Defender of Christ

- St. Joseph wants to protect us, just as he offered protection to Mary and Jesus in fleeing to Egypt for safety from death
- St. Joseph wants to ensure that we make it “safely home” to the “Kingdom of Heaven”
- As we become aware of the protection that St. Joseph provides for us, we can become more and more zealous for Christ
- As disciples, we find ourselves in situations where we feel the need to defend our faith
- “Ite ad Joseph” = “Go to Joseph”

V.) Conclusion

- St. Joseph stands for us as a reminder that we are called to perfectly reflect the Light of Christ, shining through our lives
- He shows us an example of what it means to lead, and to provide for the needs of others, even if it means to disregard our own wants, needs, and desires, to show what true love is
- And St. Joseph helps us to rediscover the zeal that we are all called to live with as Disciples of the Lord; ready to defend the truth that is found only in Christ; and to be fed and strengthened by the Bread of Life

VI.) Closing Prayer – Praises of St. Joseph by St. John Eudes

Hail Joseph, image of God the Father.

Hail Joseph, father of God the Son.

Hail Joseph, temple of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Joseph, beloved of the Most Holy Trinity.

Hail Joseph, most faithful coadjutor of the great counsel.

Hail Joseph, most worthy spouse of the Virgin Mary.

Hail Joseph, father of all the faithful.

Hail Joseph, guardian of all those who have embraced holy virginity.

Hail Joseph, faithful observer of holy silence.

Hail Joseph, lover of holy poverty.

Hail Joseph, model of meekness and patience.

Hail Joseph, mirror of humility and obedience.

Blessed art thou above all men.

Blessed thine eyes, which have seen the things which thou hast seen.

Blessed thine ears, which have heard the things which thou hast heard.

Blessed thy hands, which have touched and handled the Incarnate Word.

Blessed thine arms, which have borne him who bears all things.

Blessed thy bosom, on which the Son of God fondly rested.

Blessed thy heart, inflamed with burning love.

Blessed be the Eternal Father, who chose thee.

Blessed be the Son, who loved thee.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, who sanctified thee.

Blessed be Mary, thy spouse, who cherished thee as her spouse and brother.

Blessed be the angel who served thee as a guardian,

And blessed forever be all who love and bless thee. Amen.

Excerpts from “Consecration to St. Joseph” by: Rev. Donald H. Calloway

- “Saint Joseph and his fatherhood play a very important role in God’s wonderful plan. Saint Joseph is the perfect reflection of the Father of Lights, and he helps us to receive the light of Christ. Saint Joseph is a bearer of light. He brings Jesus, the true Light of the World, to us. Saint Joseph will help you live in the light of God. You are a child of the light. As a Christian, Jesus gives you a share in his light. He makes you the light of the world (Mt 5:14-16). All of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness (1 Thess 5:5). For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. (Eph 5:8-9)” (pp. 37-38)
- “The Devil hates St. Joseph and his light. Satan’s other name is Lucifer, which means “light bearer.” Lucifer lost the light because of his pride and disobedience to God. Now, Satan lives in perpetual darkness and abhors the light. Satan fears your spiritual father because St. Joseph is a humble creature of flesh and blood, the perfect reflection of the Father of Lights. Saint Joseph is a true and everlasting light bearer, an icon of God the Father. After Jesus and Mary, there is no person that Satan detests more than St. Joseph. Stay close to St. Joseph and walk in the light!” (p.38)
- “There is no father or husband who knows more about the sacredness of marriage and the family or the self-sacrificing love required of fathers and husbands than St. Joseph. His paternal mission continues from heaven. He is our guardian, loving protector, and fearless defender. He is the model of saintly fatherhood. After Christ, St. Joseph is the model of heroic manhood and the defender of marriage, chastity, and life itself.” (p. 25)
- “Real men are true gentlemen, at the service of others. Real men love. Real men protect women and children against any and all threats. Real men are willing to die for their wives and children. Holy priests and bishops are willing to suffer and die for the souls entrusted to their care. Priests and bishops of this caliber are not afraid of ridicule, slander, poverty, or imprisonment. Men like St. Joseph are willing to fight for what they love, what is good, true, and beautiful. May the Church and families once again be filled with such men!” (p. 40)
- “The paternal mission of St. Joseph is not finished. A father’s work is never finished until his children are safely home. In heaven, St. Joseph no longer needs to watch over and protect Jesus. You, however, are not yet in heaven. You need the protection of St. Joseph. Your spiritual father knows what is harmful to your soul, and he wants to watch over you and help you arrive safely home. Saint Joseph will never abandon you. Your role is to entrust yourself to his diligent care and never look back.” (p. 45)
- “You should always strive to defend the person and name of Jesus Christ against all blasphemy, insult, and sacrilege. You must defend the Church, as well as her teachings and Sacraments, from all attacks, heresies, and falsehoods. To defend the Church is to defend Christ. You must resemble your spiritual father, always willing to sacrifice yourself for love of truth. Like St. Joseph, you, too, can bring many souls to Jesus.” (p. 46)
- “God sent St. Joseph to Egypt so that, out of Egypt, St. Joseph could bring the Bread of Life to the nations. Saint Joseph saved our Bread from Herod; he protected and preserved him in Egypt; and he now desires that we receive the Bread of Life at Holy Mass. Unlike the Joseph of the Old Testament, St. Joseph’s Heavenly Bread is more numerous than the sands of the sea. This Heavenly Bread is able to feed all the multitudes and satisfy every soul.” (p. 116)

- “Today, there is a worldwide spiritual and moral famine on the earth. Souls are dying because of a lack of spiritual nourishment. Hearts are broken; marriages are ruined; lives are destroyed; children are murdered in the womb; and truth and common sense are in short supply. The spiritual and moral famine in the world is devastating every nation, laying waste to humanity. There is not a single country left that has not been affected by it. What are we to do? To whom can we go to find nourishment for our souls?” (p. 117)