

+++ *From the Pastor* +++

*The Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 15, 2015*

**Sacrament of Penance: Perfect Way to Prepare for the Paschal Mysteries**

Throughout this holy season of Lent, this time of renewal and repentance, I am endeavoring to offer the Sacrament of Penance as often as I can. Please note the schedule for the times for this sacrament on the inside cover of our parish bulletin.

**Also, this Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the cathedral, visiting priests from neighboring parishes will be available to hear confessions.**

Receiving the Sacrament of Penance during Lent is one of the greatest of ways that we can prepare our souls to celebrate our Blessed Savior's Resurrection at Easter.

*Saint Joseph, The Husband of Mary: The Holy and Just Man*

The Church joyfully celebrates the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the Husband of Mary on Thursday, March 19. Holy Mass will be offered on that day at 7:30 a.m. followed by the rosary and devotions to Saint Joseph.

After the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph is honored above all of the angels and saints for his cooperation in God's plan for our salvation as he said yes to becoming the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Guardian of our Lord Jesus Christ. Chosen from all of the men of the world to be the head of the Holy Family, St. Joseph tenderly loved Jesus and Mary and worked hard, as a carpenter, to provide a home and refuge for them in Nazareth. On earth, St. Joseph was everything a good husband and father should be. In heaven, he continues to watch over and assist the Church, the Bride of Christ, with his prayers. St. Joseph is the patron of the Universal Church, the patron of fathers, the patron of carpenters and he is the patron of a happy death. May St. Joseph pray for us and lead us to the Sacred Heart of his Son, Jesus Christ.

**A Prayer to Saint Joseph**

Oh Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. Oh Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath.

Dear Saint Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me.

