

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
The Third Sunday of Lent, March 19, 2017

The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
Monday, March 20

The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be celebrated by the Church tomorrow, Monday, March 20. Holy Mass will be offered on that day in the cathedral at 7:30 AM followed by the praying of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and Devotions to Saint Joseph.

Saint Joseph was chosen by Almighty God from all of the men of the world to be the husband of the Mother of His Only-Begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was chosen by Almighty God to be the foster-father, the guardian and the protector of Jesus Christ.

On earth, he fully cooperated with God's mercy and grace and accepted with perfect obedience God's will for his life. Saint Joseph was the most kind, the most generous, and the most just of husbands and fathers. He protected his newborn son from the wickedness of Herod who sought to destroy Jesus and he made a secure and peaceful home for Jesus and Mary in Nazareth where he made his living as a carpenter. Working by Saint Joseph's side, the Word Made Flesh became a skilled carpenter, too.

In heaven, after the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph is the greatest of intercessors we have. There is nothing that Saint Joseph will not bring before his Son. He is always ready to hear our prayers and he is always ready to pray with and for us.

Fathers and husbands in particular will discover in Saint Joseph an admirable, strong and faithful friend. Any husband or father who begins to go to Saint Joseph on a daily basis will soon begin to realize that he is a true father for them and that he is concerned about their welfare and that of their wives and children. Saint Joseph, more than any man alive, knows that the extraordinary vocation, given to men by God the Father Himself, to serve Him on earth in the solemn and noble vocation of marriage as husband and father is not always easy. It requires everything a man has to give, a total and complete willingness to lay down his life in loving service to God and his wife and children.

The whole Church, all of God's people, will find in Saint Joseph the most kind, gentle, gracious, strong, brave and courageous of fathers. Saint Joseph is simply waiting for each one of us to come to him and give to him the deepest longings of our hearts. He stands before the very face of God in heaven Who is the Source of all that is beautiful, true and good. Saint Joseph is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of husbands and fathers and he is the patron of carpenters. Because Saint Joseph died in the company of Jesus and Mary he is the patron of the dying and of a happy death. Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pray For Us!

