

+++ *From the Pastor* +++  
*The Third Sunday of Lent, March 8, 2015*

**Saint Joseph Honored by the Church Throughout March**

Saint Joseph, the Chaste Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Foster-Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is honored by the Church throughout the month of March. After our Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph is the greatest of the saints in heaven. He holds a most revered place in our Savior's Sacred Heart because Saint Joseph was chosen by Almighty God from all of the men of the world to be the Guardian of Jesus and the Husband of the Mother of God.

Saint Joseph is the patron of husbands and fathers; of carpenters and of all who work for a living. He is the Patron of the Universal Church and the Patron of a Happy Death.

Throughout the centuries many great people, saints in the own right, have developed a strong devotion to Saint Joseph. Saint Teresa of Avila was someone for whom Saint Joseph became very special. She maintained that whenever she went to Saint Joseph with any difficulty or problem he never ceased to assist and guide her.

There are many wonderful prayers and litanies to Saint Joseph which can help us to develop, like the saints, a lively devotion to this most holy, just and chaste man. The universal Church will celebrate the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on March 19. May Saint Joseph watch over you and guide you now and always and lead you ever more closely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

***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, on 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 possible of ways that we can prepare our souls to celebrate our Blessed Savior's Resurrection at Easter.

