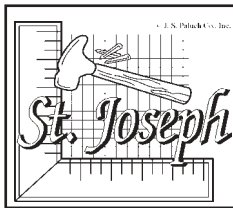


QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH



FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH - MARCH 19

Matthew's gospel describes Joseph as "a just man." In Bible times, the most beautiful compliment one person could give another was to call him or her a *tzaddik*, a person of justice and virtue.

Mary and Joseph were engaged to get married. Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant, and he knew that he was not the father of the baby. But an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child is from the Holy Spirit." The angel told Joseph to name the baby "Jesus," which means "God saves."

After Jesus was born, Joseph had another dream. He was warned of King Herod's plan to kill Jesus. That very night Joseph and Mary and Jesus fled to Egypt to hide from Herod's soldiers.

People in many countries honor St. Joseph. His day always falls in Lent, and he is considered the patron saint of the poor. Many Sicilian people combine all three lenten disciplines — prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — by inviting the poor to a special banquet called a "St. Joseph's table."

Lenten dishes such as meatless pastas are served, along with wine and fruit. Italian and sometimes Polish parishes in the United States sponsor St. Joseph's tables. The custom includes prayers and songs for Joseph and for Lent.

In Spain, the city of Valencia hosts fireworks and parades to celebrate the week between St. Joseph's Day and Annunciation Day, March 25. The streets are decorated with papier-mache figures of Joseph and Mary and other saints.

Joseph is a patron saint of Mexico, Canada, Bohemia (in the Czech Republic) and Belgium, too. He has become known as the patron saint of the church, of fathers, of a happy death and of prayer. (This year we observe the feast of St. Joseph on Monday, March 20)

THE PATH TO FREEDOM

Most of us, if we were asked "Does the phrase 'the Ten Commandments' appear in the Bible?" would likely get it wrong, because the answer is "no." "The Ten Commandments" is a post-biblical, phrase that developed along with an image of God as police officer that is not found in today's passage from Exodus. The first phrase is the key: God is the one who brings us out of slavery; following God's law or commands is our path to freedom. The moneychangers whom Jesus drove from the temple were not explicitly breaking any of the commandments, but neither were they helping people to find God's path to freedom as they came to worship at the Temple. This is an important Lenten lesson for us. We need to stop asking ourselves whether or not we are breaking specific rules or regulations and instead examine our lives to see if we are truly following a path to God's freedom through Christ. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, May 28
12noon — Solemn Mass
Celebrating
The 15th Anniversary of the
Founding of the Parish
The 35th Ordination Anniversary of
Father Merold
The Completion of Father Merold's
Pastorate

Reception and Dinner will follow the Mass.

A TEACHING MASS

Ever wondered why we do what we do in Mass? Celebrate a real Mass with Father Merold as he explains The Various "Whys" of what we do when we celebrate Mass together. This Teaching Mass will take place on Monday, March 27 at 7pm, in the Church. Our RCIA candidates will attend this Mass as part of their instruction in the Catholic faith. You are most welcome to attend and participate.

WELCOME TO FATHER DELICH

This weekend we welcome Father David Delich of the Dominican Fathers to our parish. Father Delich will speak to us about Food for the Poor -- an international effort to combat poverty and hunger throughout the world. Father Delich will also be conducting a Preaching Mission for us on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings (March 19-22) at 6:30pm. Please plan on attending as part of your Lenten observance. (On Monday and Tuesday there will be Mass with the Mission at 6:30pm. There will be NO 8am Mass on Monday and Tuesday this week.)

A LENTEN MEDITATION

God is always sending us people to disturb us - to wake us up - because about the worst thing that can happen to us, religiously speaking, is for us to hold perfectly still without changing a thing until we become fossils. . . God is all around us, speaking to us through the most unlikely people.

Sometimes it is a mysterious stranger, but more often, I suspect, it is people so familiar to us that we simply overlook them - our own children and parents, our own friends and neighbors - all of those hometown prophets who challenge us and love us and tell us who we are.

Barbara Brown Taylor

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

queenofpeacecatholicchurch.org

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

Of course, I'm talking about your personal Lenten discipline. Lenten Checklist:

- Attending one or more daily Masses
- Spending time at Eucharist Adoration on Wednesdays
- Stations of the Cross on Saturdays at 3:15pm
- Planning on coming to the Lenten movie night on Wednesday, April 5 after the 6:30pm Mass