

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

APRIL 2, 2017

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Devotions to the Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph Part I

On March 19th, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph the Husband of Mary and on May 1st the Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Saint John Paul II saw in St. Joseph the

powerful intercessor our modern world needed when he declared: "Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the

upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families." To guide our reflections about Saint Joseph this month, I will be turning to the spiritual tradition of meditating on the Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph.

Sorrow #1. The Doubt of St. Joseph. (Matthew 1:19)

This first sorrow asks us to focus our attention on St. Joseph at the moment he discovered that Mary was pregnant and how he must have felt believing that Mary had betrayed him. As I reflect on this moment, I do not think that I can truly imagine the pain and heartbreak Saint Joseph must have felt at the moment. St. Joseph was, after all, a young man filled with many hopes, dreams,

and expectations for his future and since he was betrothed to Mary, we can be assured that she played an important part in many if not all of those hopes, dreams, and expectations. The

The first virtue Saint Joseph models for us is the virtue of patience. Despite the pain and suffering he is feeling and the (presumed) absurdity of Mary's story, Saint Joseph does not act rashly or in haste. He stops and thinks and ponders all options that lay before him.

pain of the moment was probably magnified by the fact that Mary was probably the last person on

earth that Joseph would have expected to betray him in the way he thought. Pain is always magnified when it is inflicted intentionally or accidentally by a love one than if it had been inflicted by a complete stranger.

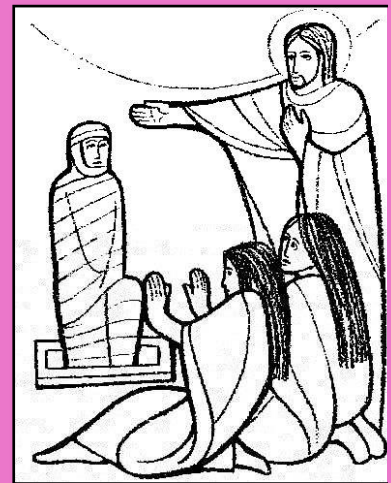
In this devastatingly sad moment in Saint Joseph's life, Saint Joseph models for us some different virtues that we should incorporate into our lives. The first virtue Saint Joseph models for us is the virtue of patience. Despite the pain and suffering he is feeling and the (presumed) absurdity of Mary's story, Saint Joseph does not act rashly or in haste. He stops and thinks and ponders all options that lay before him.

5th Sun. Lent Lectionary: 34
Gospel JN 11:1-45

Spiritual Reflection: If Jesus had not known the end of the story, His delay would have been cruel but Jesus did know the end of the story. When we don't know how something ends, it is important that we have faith and trust because God knows the end of the story.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What do you do when it seems like God does not hear your prayers?
2. How does God knowing everything help you have faith?
3. How was Martha changed by the story?
4. How was Mary changed by the story?
5. How was the bystanders changed?



He chose therefore the least emotional and the most rational option of planning to divorce Mary quietly. Saint Joseph could have acted without thinking, while being motivated by anger and rage and had Mary stoned to death. Instead St. Joseph practices the virtue of patience. He allows time for God to unfold his plan. I guess you can say he decided to "sleep on it". His practice of the virtue of patience allows God plan of salvation to continue.

The second virtue St. Joseph demonstrates for us is that of mercy. At this moment, Saint Joseph literally has Mary's life in his hands. It was the law of the land at the time that a woman could be stoned to death for infidelity.

Saint Joseph, probably still feeling hurt from Mary's perceived betrayal, chooses to have mercy on

her. The decision to have mercy on Mary comes before Saint

Joseph knows that Mary's story is true. Saint Joseph's mercy therefore is unconditional.

The third virtue that St. Joseph teaches us is the virtue best called "respect for life." Joseph has the legal right to have Mary killed but he chooses not to. I think this is an important lesson for people in the world today because many of us spend a lot of time focusing on our rights instead of helping other people. The government, society, and culture would have applauded and probably participated in Mary's demise but Saint Joseph new life was more precious than what the rest of the world thought it was.

Thank God, that Joseph did not

choose this option because that choice would have affected history in such a negative

way that Joseph could ever imagine. I think it is interesting

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that Adam and Eve brought sin into the world by doing something that they were not supposed to and Joseph allows our savior to come into the world by not doing something he had the legal right to do. I cannot help that he chose to divorce Mary quietly was because Joseph had a deep respect for life. Could we bring Christ's presence into the world by following St. Joseph's example and not claiming our rights that our government gives us but at the same time show no respect for life?

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR CHASTITY

Father and protector of chastity, glorious Saint Joseph, in whose faithful custody was entrusted the very Innocence, Jesus Christ and the Virgin of virgins, Mary; for this twofold and most loved token, Jesus and Mary, I pray and plead you to help me always to purely serve Jesus and Mary with an uncontaminated soul, pure heart and a chaste body. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayer For Healing

Since our Gospel was the Story of Lazarus, I thought this prayer for a deceased person and those who mourn for him or her would be appropriate.

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED PERSON AND FOR MOURNERS.

Lord Jesus, our Redeemer, You willingly gave Yourself up to death so that all people might be saved and pass from death into a new life. Listen to our prayers; look with love on Your people who mourn and pray for their dead brother/sister. Lord Jesus, You alone are holy and compassionate; forgive our

brother/sister his/her sins.

By dying You opened the gates of life for those who believe in You; do not let Your brother/sister be parted from You, but by Your glorious power give him/her light, joy, and peace in heaven where You live for ever and ever. Amen.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Last Week Answers:

1. After Jesus was arrested, which apostle disowned him three times? – St. Peter
2. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby? -Sts. Simeon and Anna
3. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion? – Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus
4. Paul was shipwrecked on what island? - Malta
5. What is the shortest book in the New Testament? -Third John

This Week's Trivia

1. Pope John Paul II instituted a new set of mysteries to the Rosary called the _____Mysteries.
2. It is suggested by the Church to say these above mysteries on _____ .
3. The 3rd Glorious Mystery of the Rosary is the _____.
4. Saul saw Jesus as a bright light on his way to _____.

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

The Ears Have It

This pastor joke might turn your stomach if you are not a hunter.

Three friends decided to go deer hunting together. One was a lawyer, one a doctor, and the other a preacher.

As they were walking, along came a big buck. The three of them shot simultaneously. Immediately the buck dropped to the ground and all three rushed up to see how big it actually was.

Upon reaching it they found out that it was dead but had only one bullet hole. Thus a debate followed concerning whose buck it was.

A few minutes later a game officer came by and asked what the problem was. The doctor told him their reason for the debate. The officer told them he would take a look and tell them who shot it.

Within a few seconds the game officer said with much confidence, "The pastor shot the buck!"

They all wondered how he knew that so quickly.

The officer said, "Easy. The bullet went in one ear and out the other."

CATHOLIC QUOTES

1. The cross is the school of love. – St. Maximilian Kolbe
2. Mount Calvary is the mount of lovers. All love that does not take its origin from the Savior's passion is foolish and perilous. Unhappy is love without the Savior's death. Love and death are so mingled in the Savior's passion that we cannot have one in our hearts without the other. Upon Calvary, we cannot have life without love, or love without the Redeemer's death. – St. Francis de Sales
3. Mount Calvary is the academy of love. – St. Francis de Sales
4. No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross. No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ. His prayer brought benefit to the multitude that raged against him. How much more does it bring to those who turn to him in repentance. – St. Leo the Great

Spiritual Adoption

MONTH 3 – Developing Baby
-- "I can suck my thumb!"






Spiritual Adoption Program
Your baby is quite active in the womb now - - although his mother won't feel him for another couple of months. If his mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow and move his tongue. He can make a tight fist if you touch his palm. He is breathing amniotic fluid which continues until birth, although he obtains the oxygen his body needs through the umbilical cord. The baby you are praying for weighs one ounce. Early this month – at just 9 weeks – he began to suck his thumb.

Special Lenten Holy Hour

I am also excited to announce that we will be having a special Holy Hour each Sunday of Lent at Epiphany from 6PM-7PM. These Holy Hours will carry with them a special reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Please see the schedule below.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Words of Christ</u>	<u>Meditation</u>
March 5th	Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. – Luke 23:34	Fr. Michael Rennie
March 12th	Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise. – Luke 23:43	Fr. Bill Kempf
March 19th	Woman, behold your son, Son behold your mother. – John 19:26-27	Msgr. Gregory Mikesch
March 26th	My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? – Matthew 27:46	Fr. Ralph Houlihan S. J.
April 2nd	I thirst -John 19:28	Fr. Tom Miller
April 9th	It is finished. - John 19:30 Father into your hands I commit my spirit -Luke 23:46	Msgr. John Borcic

Epiphany of Our Lord Holy Week Schedule

 <p>Palm Sunday</p>	 <p>Holy Thursday</p>	 <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p>	 <p>Holy Saturday</p>	 <p>Easter Sunday</p>
<p>April 8/9th 5PM MASS (Saturday) 8AM MASS (Sunday) 10:30 MASS (Sunday)</p>	<p>April 13, 2017 10AM CHRISM MASS @ New Cathedral 7PM MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER</p>	<p>April 14, 2017 7PM CELEBRATION OF LORD'S PASSION</p>	<p>April 15, 2017 8PM EASTER VIGIL</p>	<p>April 16, 2017 8AM MASS 10:30 MASS</p>