

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

APRIL 9, 2017

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Devotions to the Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph Part II

“Those who give themselves to prayer should in a special manner have always a devotion to St. Joseph; for I know not how any man can think of the Queen of the angels, during the time that she suffered so much with the Infant Jesus, without giving thanks to St. Joseph for the services he rendered them then.” -- St. Teresa of Avila. Let us continue our look at the man the Father chose to be the adoptive Father of Jesus by continuing our look at the 7 Sorrows of St. Joseph.

Sorrow #2. The Poverty of Jesus' Birth (Luke 2:7)

This sorrow invites us to ponder what it is like to follow God's will and still look and feel like a failure. Once accepting the responsibility of having Mary as his wife and raising Jesus as his own child, Joseph desired to give his family the best. Finding his wife giving birth in a stable in a city far from their home must have been a major blow to Joseph's male ego. Good husbands and fathers want to provide for their spouses and children and it hurts like hell when they are unable to do so. I would think that this is one of the major causes of depression, alcoholism and drug use in men. Joseph demonstrates the virtue of

perseverance. As I think about this virtue, this may be one of the most needed virtues of our time. We need the virtue of perseverance when Mass gets “boring.” We need the virtue of perseverance when things do not go the way we want them to go. Many of us, quit at the first sign of desolation (St. Ignatius of Loyola's term for the feeling of God's absence. God is never

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absent but sometimes it can feel like He is). St. Ignatius speaking

out of the wisdom of the Church encourages us not to give up when we experience desolation but rather to pray more. Joseph keeps moving forward until he gets his next clear sign from God.

Sorrow #3. The Circumcision (Luke 2:21)

Saint Luke tells us: “When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” I wonder why this is listed as one of the Sorrows of St. Joseph. I am going to propose that the Circumcision of Jesus as one of the sorrows of Joseph because the Circumcision of Jesus

Lectionary: 37 and 38
Procession With Palms
Gospel MT 21:1-11

Spiritual Reflection: Of all the things that the owner of the ass had, I imagine that the last thing the owner would have thought God wanted from him would be his donkey. We must be prepared to give God whatever it he asks of us.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What does God want from you?
2. Is there any strange things that God wants from you?
3. How does God let you know what He wants?
4. Are you willing to give God anything He wants?
5. What would be the hardest thing to give God?



reminded Joseph that Jesus had come into a world that was not perfect and that was filled with sin and violence.

Most parents worry about their children's future.

Another major moment happened

one the eighth day of Jesus life. According to Roman law the child Jesus was to be present to Joseph. If Joseph literally turned his back toward Jesus, they would take the child and throw the child out into the alley ways to die of exposure. As he once held Mary's life in his hands now he held Jesus' life in his hands. Joseph accepts Jesus as his own. While accepting Jesus as his own Joseph has the right the mourn the life he has given up. I have to believe that Joseph used this sadness in a way that allowed

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him to become a better parent to Jesus. Sometimes, I wonder how

much better our world would be if we learned how to channel our desires for sinful things into positive experiences. For example, how much better would the world be

if a husband decides not to look at pornography but instead uses the energy and time that he would have spent on lying, lusting, and covering up, into showing his wife and kids the love he has for them by spending more time with them, complimenting them, etc.

A PARENT'S PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

O glorious St. Joseph, to you God committed the care of His only begotten Son amid the many dangers of this world. We come to

you and ask you to take under your special protection the children God has given us. Through holy baptism they became children of God and members of His holy Church. We consecrate them to you today, that through this consecration they may become your foster children. Guard them, guide their steps in life, form their hearts after the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

St. Joseph, who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent when the child Jesus was lost, protect our dear children for time and eternity. May you be their father and counsellor. Let them, like Jesus, grow in age as well as in wisdom and grace before God and men. Preserve them from the corruption of his world, and give us the grace one day to be united with them in Heaven forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Prayer For Healing

As we enter Holy Week, I invite you to pray to God so that the events of this week will inspire you to a deeper appreciation of the Paschal Mystery.

Passion Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, by Your Passion and Resurrection You brought life to the world. But the glory of the Resurrection came only after the sufferings of the Passion.

You laid down Your life willingly

and gave up everything for us. Your body was broken and fastened to a Cross, Your clothing became the prize of soldiers, your blood ebbed slowly but surely away, and Your Mother was entrusted to the beloved disciple.

Stretched out on the Cross, deprived of all earthly possessions and human aid, You cried out to Your Father that the end had come. You had accomplished the work given You, and You committed into

His hands, as a perfect gift, the little life that remained to You.

Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions after the example You have given. Let me place my death in Yours and my weakness in Your abandonment, take hold of me with Your love, that same foolish love that knew no limits, and let me offer myself to the Father with You so that I may rise with You to eternal life. Amen

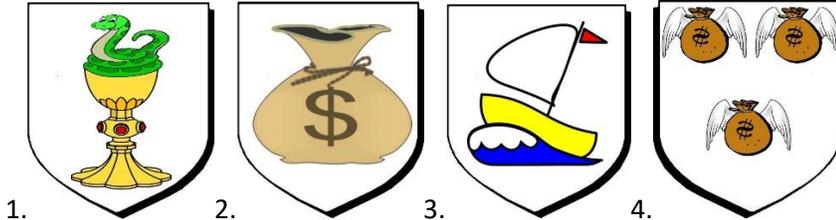
CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Last Week Answers:

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

This Week's Trivia

Identify the following Coats of Arms (Hint they are all Apostles)



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs



1. A rabbi, a priest and a minister walk into a bar. The bartender looks up and says, "What is this, a joke?"

2. If Eve sacrificed the human race for an apple, What would she do for a Klondike bar?

3. Q: Why did the priest giggle? A: Mass hysteria!

4. Q: What do you call it when Batman leaves church early? A: Christian Bale

5. Q: Why don't skeletons play music at church? A: They don't have any organs.

CATHOLIC QUOTES

1. The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves. – St. Augustine

2. God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering. – St. Augustine

3. The passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the hope of glory and a lesson in patience. What may not the hearts of believers promise themselves as the gift of God's grace, when for their sake, God's only Son, co-eternal with the Father, was not content only to be born as man from human stock but even died at the hands of the men he had created? – St. Augustine

4. He died, but he vanquished death; in himself he put an end to what we feared; he took it upon himself and he vanquished it, as a mighty hunter he captured and slew the lion. – St. Augustine

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.

5. How precious the gift of the cross, how splendid to contemplate! In the cross there is no mingling of good and evil, as in the tree of paradise: it is wholly beautiful to behold and good to taste. The fruit of this tree is not death but life, not darkness but light. This tree does not cast us out of paradise, but opens the way for our return. – St. Theodore the Studite

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>