

# MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

APRIL 16, 2017

## SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Devotions to the Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph Part III

“Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.” -- St. Thomas Aquinas. Let us continue our look at the person God chose to be the protector of the Blessed Virgin Mary by continuing our look at the Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph.

### Sorrow # 4. Simeon's prophecy that

#### many would be lost (Luke 2:34)

As I pray over this sorrow, I begin to think of it in two ways. The first way is as if St. Joseph had just received really bad news about two people he loved. I could imagine Simeon's prophecy was something similar to finding out that a love one has cancer. What do you say at that moment? The feeling of powerlessness is definitely something that has filled me with sorrow. Many of us would endure anything in order to prevent a love one from enduring it but often we are not given that chance. The important thing is for us to follow St. Joseph's example and overcome our fear of powerlessness so that we can be present to those who need our help.

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The second way in which I see this sorrow playing out is a feeling of being absent. Simeon does not say anything about Joseph. One of my favorite spiritual writers Henri Nouwen often talks about competition being one of the great spiritual diseases of our time. We have turned everything into competition and I could see St.

Joseph feeling a little left out. I do not think this

“feeling left out feeling” led St. Joseph to sin but once again, I believe St. Joseph channeled this feeling through the virtue of humility. He probably asked God often for the grace to do His role and his heart was probably always open to the graces that God gave him to remain humble. Joseph is never recorded as being jealous of the attention that Mary and Jesus receive.

I also wonder if Joseph allowed his not being included in Simeon's prophecy as an indication that his death was near. The fear of death can be a powerful motivator to do bad things but the realization that we only have a short amount of

### The Mass of Easter Day

Lectionary: 42

Gospel JN 20:1-9 or MT 28:1-10

**Spiritual Reflection:** I am struck by the fact that Mary ran to tell the Apostles about her experience of the Empty Tomb. How excited are you to tell others about Jesus?

### Spiritual Questions:

1. How excited are you to tell others about Jesus? Is it a run, walk, gallop, etc.?
2. On a scale of 1-10 how much does the story of Easter effect the way you live your life?
3. Where would others rate you?
4. How can you let the Easter story have a greater effect on your life?
5. Who does Jesus want you to tell about His resurrection?



time in this life can also be powerful in motivating us to do good.

**Sorrow #5. The flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-14)**

There is always some sadness that accompanies a situation where a good man becomes an outlaw. Joseph, just doing what God instructed him to do, is now an outlaw. On the other hand, a paranoid monster, who could care less about his faith, was king. Where is the justice in that situation? Seeing this injustice and knowing that there was nothing he could do about it probably angered Joseph. Joseph once again become our model by doing what He knows God wants him to do. Joseph knows that the only person he

can be responsible for his himself. He trusts that God has a much bigger plan, even if he cannot see it. He therefore flees with his family to Egypt.

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A second thought hit my imagination. This part of the story takes place right after the magi have presented their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This is

probably the first time that the Holy Family has been financially stable and now Joseph probably had to use things to finance their escape to Egypt. God has provided but probably not in the way Joseph had expected and now God was asking them to trust again. I think that I would have put my trust in the wealth before I put my trust in God. Joseph models us the virtue of faith by remaining faithful to God in both economic good times and in bad times. St. Joseph help me to be faithful to God at all times also.

**PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH, PATRON OF WORKERS**

Glorious Saint Joseph, you are the pattern of all who work. Obtain for me, please, the grace to work

conscientiously and to put devotion to duty before my selfish inclinations. Help me to labor in thankfulness and joy, for it is an honor to employ and to develop by my labor the gifts I have received from almighty God. Grant that I may work in

orderliness, peace, moderation and patience without shrinking from weariness and difficulties. I offer my fatigue and perplexities as reparation for sin. I shall work, above all, with a pure intention and with detachment from self, having always before my eyes the hour of death and the accounting which I must then render of time ill-spent, of talents unemployed, of good undone, and of empty pride in success, which is so fatal to the work of God. For Jesus through Mary all in imitation of you, good Saint Joseph. This shall be my motto in life and in death. Amen.



**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Prayer For Healing

The following is the text of the Easter Exsultet. It is proclaimed at the beginning of the Easter Vigil.

**Easter Exsultet**

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light, invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he, who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.)

**V.** The Lord be with you.

**R.** And with your spirit.)

**V.** Lift up your hearts.

**R.** We lift them up to the Lord.

**V.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R.** It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea. This is the night that with a

pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer! O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty. On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,

accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church.

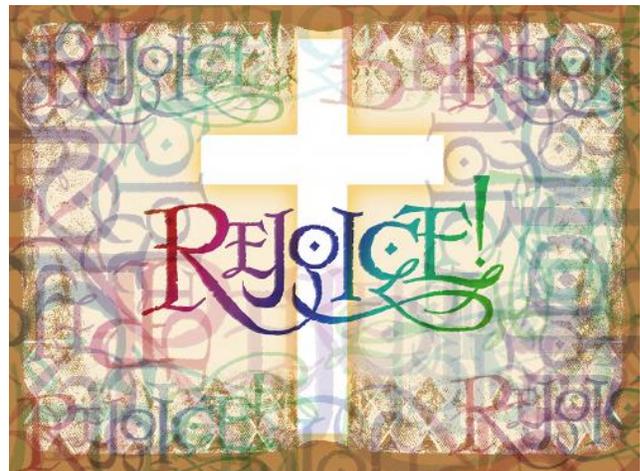
But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honor, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**R.** Amen.



## CATHOLIC TRIVIA

**Last Week Answers:** Identify the following Coats of Arms (Hint they are all Apostles)



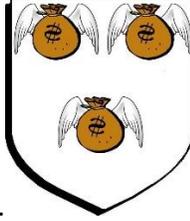
1.  
John



2.  
Judas



3.  
Jude



4.  
Matthew

This Week's Trivia

1. How many tax collectors are mentioned by name in the Gospels?
2. What did the Sanhedrin do with the money that Judas gave back to them?
3. Who was the "beloved disciple"?
4. Where did John and Blessed Virgin Mary eventually settle down and live?

## CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

1. So, Easter commemorates when Jesus hid eggs for the disciples to find, and then he turned all the rabbits into chocolate, right?
2. Why did the Easter egg hide? He was a little chicken!
3. Where does the Easter bunny eat breakfast? at Ihop
4. How long does the Easter Bunny like to party? Around the cluck!

## CATHOLIC QUOTES

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."  
— Pope John Paul II

"Jesus no longer belongs to the past but lives in the present and is projected toward the future; Jesus is the everlasting "today" of God. This is how the newness of God appears to the women, the disciples, and all of us: as victory over sin, evil, and death - over everything that crushes life and makes it seem less human. And this is a message meant for me and for you, dear sister, you, dear brother. How often does Love have to tell us, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" Our daily problems and worries can wrap us up in ourselves, in sadness and bitterness...and that is where death is. That is not the place to look for the One who is alive!"  
— Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy

### 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.