

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

APRIL 23, 2017

SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Devotions to the Seven Sorrows of St. Joseph Part IV

“He was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph’s wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him, saying: ‘Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.’” -- St. Bernardine of Siena: Let us continue to look at St. Joseph as we examine St.

Joseph’s
Seven
Sorrows.

Sorrow #6. The return from Egypt (Matthew 2:22)

Of all the Scripture passages listed as sorrows, I find this one the most interesting. I am guessing this is considered a sorrow for one of three reasons. The first reason is that St. Joseph finally heard about death of the holy innocence as he returned to Israel. Upon hearing about the children’s death, I am sure there was sorrow over the death of so many and over the culture of death that had allowed so many to die was alive in his homeland. Sadly, the culture of death is alive in our world today. As I think about the Holy Innocence and Herod, I cannot help but think the culture of death feeds on fear. How many

children died because Herod was afraid to lose his throne. In my work with Project Rachel, I have learned from post-abortive women that fear played a major role in their decision. Therefore, when we talk about being pro-life we need to make sure that we are creating safe environments for people who are experiencing unplanned pregnancies. We must help

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them know that they are still loved by God and by us.

The

second reason this event in Saint Joseph’s life might be considered a sorrow because he realizes that there will always be bad people out there wanting to hurt his family. Mothers and Fathers always want to protect the children and the realization that they are not always going to be able to be there is scary. Saint Joseph’s dream of being a simple carpenter seemed to be over with. He would always have to be on guard against those who would want to harm his family. While we do not want to live in fear of others, we do need to help realize that there are people and spirits who do not desire our good. This is

**Lectionary: 43 Gospel JN
20:19-31**

Spiritual Reflection:

Thomas, probably doubted the story of the Resurrection because there was no change in the daily lives of the Apostles.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Who are people who inspire you to believe?
2. How can you touch Jesus’s nailmarks today?
3. Who can you offer peace to today?
4. What title do you like to give Jesus?
5. What do you do to help others believe?



why it is important for us to remain close to God and to seek out His will.

The third and final reason why

Joseph might be feeling sad is that he seems to have failed to not make Jesus' live any better. Parents always

I do think that Saint Joseph must have eventually realized that he had given Jesus what he needed most and that was his presence.

requires us to remind ourselves constantly that our family is a gift from God.

hope their children will live a better life than they did but here Jesus was going to be raised in this backwater town. I do think that Saint Joseph must have eventually realized that he had given Jesus what he needed most and that was his presence. It is a great sign of love and respect that Jesus chose the word "Abba"

One last thought about this sorrow. There is sometimes a sorrow that accompanies daily life. I think this sorry is best expressed

by the phrase "familiarity breathes contempt." This simply means that more you have or know something the less special it becomes. Daily life in family life

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH IN TIME OF DISTRESS

We come to you, O blessed Joseph, in our distress. Having sought the aid of your most blessed spouse, we now confidently implore your assistance also. We humbly beg that, mindful of the affection which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and of the fatherly love with which you cherished the Child Jesus, you will lovingly watch over

the heritage which Jesus Christ purchased with His blood, and by your powerful intercession help us in our urgent need. Prudent guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ; drive far from us, most loving father, all error and corrupting sin. From your place in heaven, most powerful protector, graciously come to our aid in this conflict with the powers of darkness, and as of old you delivered the Child Jesus from danger of death, so now defend the holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Extend to each one of us your continual protection, that, led on by your example, and borne up by your strength, we may be able to live and die in holiness and obtain everlasting happiness in heaven. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Divine Mercy Prayers

The following are some prayers to our Lord under the title of "Divine Mercy."

3PM Divine Mercy Prayer

You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You. Amen.

Divine Mercy Prayer #1

O Greatly Merciful God, Infinite Goodness, today all mankind calls out from the abyss of its misery to Your mercy - to Your compassion, O God; and it is with its mighty voice of misery that it cries out. Gracious God, do not reject the prayer of this earth's exiles! O Lord, Goodness beyond our understanding, who are acquainted with our misery through and through and know that by our own power we cannot ascend to You, we implore You, anticipate us with Your grace and keep on increasing Your mercy in us, that we may faithfully do Your Holy Will all

through our life and at death's hour. Let the omnipotence of Your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as Your children, await Your final coming - that day known to You alone. And we expect to obtain



everything promised us by Jesus in spite of all our wretchedness. For Jesus is our Hope; Through His merciful Heart, as through an open gate, we pass through to heaven. Amen.

compassion - inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

Divine Mercy Prayer #2

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of

CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Last Week Answers:

Identify the following Titles of Christ from these Images



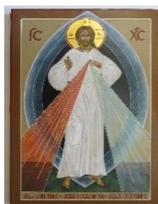
1. High Priest



2. Teacher

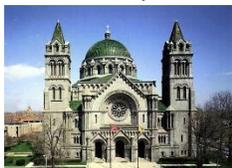


3. Good Shepherd



4. Divine Mercy

This Week's Questions? Identify these Holy Churches



1.



2.



3.



4.

CATHOLIC HUMOR

Catholic Laughs

Two guys are walking through a game park & they come across a lion that has not eaten for days. The lion starts chasing the two men. They run as fast as they can and the one guy starts getting tired and decides to say a prayer, "Please turn this lion into a Christian, Lord." He looks to see if the lion is still chasing and he

sees the lion on its knees. Happy to see his prayer answered, he turns around and heads towards the lion. As he comes closer to the lion, he hears the it saying a prayer: "Thank you Lord for the food I am about to receive." -

Spiritual Adoption

MONTH 4 -- Developing Baby -- "I had a dream!"

Well, your little baby now weighs six ounces. She has fingernails and eyelashes. She has her own unique fingerprints, which will remain the same until she dies. Her taste buds are working. Her sense of hearing is developing and present at 14 weeks. There are no major developments anymore. At this month rapid eye movements (REMs) can be detected – a sign of dreaming. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed, internally and externally. All she needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong. What a miracle she is!



CATHOLIC QUOTES

Men may deprive me of property and honor; sickness may take away my strength and other means of serving You; I may even lose Your grace by sin; but never, never will I lose my hope in You. I will cherish it unto that dreadful moment when all hell will be unchained to snatch my soul away. "No one has hoped in the Lord and has been confounded - **St. Claude de la Colombiere**

You must ask God to give you power to fight against the sin of pride which is your greatest enemy; the root of all that is evil, and the failure of all that is good. For God resists the proud - **St. Vincent de Paul**

Keep close to the Catholic Church at all times, for the Church alone can give you true peace, since she alone possesses Jesus, the true Prince of Peace, in the Blessed Sacrament - **St. Padre Pio**

Pray with great confidence, with confidence based upon the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray - **St. Louis de Montfort**

Whether, therefore, we receive what we ask for, or do not receive it, let us still continue steadfast in prayer. For to fail in obtaining the desires of our heart, when God so wills it, is not worse than to receive it; for we know not as He does, what is profitable to us - **St. John Chrysostom**

