

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

April 15, 2018 – Third Sunday of Easter

Spiritual Ponderings 7 Joys of St. Joseph

St. Bernardine of Siena advised others to develop a devotion to St. Joseph: "If the whole Church is in the debt of the Virgin, since, through her, it was able to receive the Christ, surely after her, it also owed to Joseph special thanks and veneration... It is beyond doubt that Christ did not deny to Joseph in heaven that intimacy, respect, and high honor which He showed to him as to a father during His own human life, but rather completed and perfected it."

During this month of April, I invite you to ponder the Seven Joys of St. Saint Joseph with me.

4. Simeon's prophecy that many would rise (Luke 2:34)

Remembering that St. Joseph grew up in the country of Israel while it was under the occupation of the Roman Lord, have mercy on us. **R.** Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us. **R.** Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us. **R.**
Christ, graciously hear us.

R.=Have Mercy on Us.

God the Father of heaven, **R.**
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **R.**
God the Holy Spirit, **R.**
Holy Trinity, one God, **R.**

R. = Pray For Us

Holy Mary, **R.**
St. Joseph, **R.**
Renowned offspring of David, **R.**
Light of Patriarchs, **R.**

Empire. The Roman form of government was not based on equal rights but rather upon power, influence, and personal connections. Tax collecting in the Roman Empire is a simple example of how corrupt the system could get. A tax collector could charge a person any amount of tax he wanted as long as he collected the minimum that the Roman government wanted. There were also no elections and the only chance for political reform was open revolt. Simeon's prophecy of a just society would have caused St. Joseph's heart to fill with joy.

5. The Overthrow of Idols (Isaias 19:1)

When I began reading the list of Seven Joys of St. Joseph, I was caught off guard by this one. Jesus came to reveal to us who the Father is so that we may develop an intimate relationship with God. One of the great joys in my life is

Spouse of the Mother of God, **R.**
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, **R.**
Foster father of the Son of God, **R.**
Diligent protector of Christ, **R.**
Head of the Holy Family, **R.**
Joseph most just, **R.**
Joseph most chaste, **R.**
Joseph most prudent, **R.**
Joseph most strong, **R.**
Joseph, most obedient, **R.**
Joseph most faithful, **R.**
Mirror of patience, **R.**
Lover of poverty, **R.**
Model of artisans, **R.**
Glory of home life, **R.**



when someone stops thinking of God as a cruel tyrant and experiences God as the loving Father Jesus revealed Him to be in the story of the Prodigal Son. I am more excited when someone realizes that God has forgiven them than I am when the show me that they have memorized the Eight Beatitudes. I am sure St. Joseph would have been excited to know that people were going to come to know the real loving God that had saved his people from slavery.

LITANY OF ST JOSEPH # 1 (Approved by Pope St. Pius X in 1909.)

Guardian of virgins, **R.**
Pillar of families, **R.**
Solace of the wretched, **R.**
Hope of the sick, **R.**
Patron of the dying, **R.**
Terror of the demons, **R.**
Protector of Holy Church, **R.**
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **R.** Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **R.** graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, **R.** have mercy on us.
V. He made him the lord of his

household.
R. And prince over all his
possessions.
Let us pray; O God, in Your
ineffable providence You were

pleased to choose Blessed
Joseph to be the spouse of Your
most holy Mother, grant, we
beg You, that we may be
worthy to have him for our

intercessor in heaven whom on
earth we venerate as our
Protector; You who lives and
reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Breaking Open the Word

April 15, 2018 Third Sunday of Easter Lectionary: 47 Gospel LK 24:35-48

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way, and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Spiritual Reflection:

When the disciples walking to Emmaus told their story about their great loss, they also told that strange story about the women who had found the tomb empty and had seen angels. But they were skeptical and doubtful. Wasn't he crucified a few days ago? Hadn't everything come to an end? Hadn't evil finally won? So what about these women's tales that he was alive? Who could take that seriously? But then again, they had to say, "Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing! That's how we generally approach the Eucharist. With a strange mixture of despair and hope" – Fr. Henri Nouwen

Spiritual Questions:

1. How do you approach the Eucharist?
2. What would you have told the stranger on your faith journey?
3. Where is your despair come from?
4. Where does your hope come from?
5. What is God saying to you?



Prayers for the Week

PRAYER TO MARY, QUEEN IN THE HOME

O Blessed Virgin Mary, you are the mother and queen of every Christian family. When you conceived and gave birth to Jesus, human motherhood reached its greatest achievement. From the time of the Annunciation you were the living chalice of the Son of God made man. You are the queen of the home. As a woman of faith, you inspire all mothers to transmit faith to their children. Watch over our families. Let children learn free and loving obedience inspired by your obedience to God. Let parents learn dedication and selflessness based on your unselfish attitude. Let all families honor you and remain devoted to you so that they may be held together by your example and your intercession. Amen.

A PRAYER TO DEFEAT THE WORK OF SATAN

O Divine Eternal Father, in union with your Divine Son and the Holy Spirit, and through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg You to destroy the Power of your greatest enemy - the evil spirits. Cast them into the deepest recesses of hell and chain them there forever! Take possession of your Kingdom which You have created and which is rightfully yours. Heavenly Father, give us the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I repeat this prayer out of pure love for You with every beat of my heart and with every breath I take. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS

O God, bountiful in forgiving, and lovingly desirous of man's salvation, we humbly beseech Thy mercy in behalf of our friends, relations and benefactors, who have passed from this world, that, through the intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin and all the Saints, Thou wouldst permit them to come to the full participation of everlasting happiness. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH

O Holy Family of Nazareth, community of love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, model and ideal of every Christian family, to you we entrust our families. Open the heart of every family to the faith, to welcoming the Word of God, to Christian witness, so that it becomes a source of new and holy vocations. Touch the hearts of parents, so that with prompt charity, wise care, and loving devotion they be for their sons and daughters sure guides towards spiritual and eternal values. Stir up the hearts of young people a right conscience and a free will, so that growing in "wisdom, age and grace," they might welcome generously the gift of a Divine vocation. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that all of us, contemplating and imitating the assiduous prayer, generous obedience, dignified poverty and virginal purity lived out in your midst, might set about fulfilling the will of God and accompanying with far-sighted sensitivity those among us who are called to follow more closely the Lord Jesus, who "has given Himself for us" (cf. Gal 2:20). Amen!

Saint Monica Society Prayer For April

PRAYER TO KNOW THE WAY TO PEACE

Jesus, Lord, don't let the fear of death overpower us. And don't let the loss of our loved ones cause us to doubt Your power to "Easter" everybody. Remind those who have fallen away and us, Lord, that You have the last words over death. You are risen! You are not "among the dead." Neither are we. We shall live forever in Your triumphant love. - Amen.



St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

Pro-Life Corner

Pro-Life Prayer for April

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Author of Life, Who died and now lives forevermore.
 May we who work and pray That children in the womb may be protected
 Always draw strength, confidence, and joy From Your victory over death,
 For you are Lord forever and ever.



Catholic Trivia



Last Week's Answers

True or False

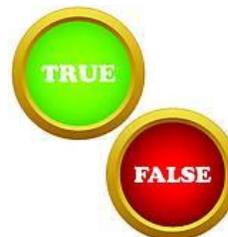
1. Catholicism has been a moving force in the development of Western culture. It continues to be influential in religious issues, social institutions, art, education, medicine, science, music, philosophy, literature, and politics. **TRUE**
2. The Catholic Church's Vatican has diplomatic relations with almost every country in the world. **TRUE**
3. Pope John Paul II traveled to more than 129 different countries, logging more than 750,000 frequent flyer miles, which is about three times the distance to the moon. **TRUE**
4. The word "Catholic" was first used by Ignatius of Antioch around the year A.D. 110. It is from the Greek word *katholikos*, which means "toward the whole." Ignatius was suggesting that the Church is a gift offered by Christ to all people. **TRUE**



This Week's Questions

True or False

1. "Simon Peter bar Jonah," if taken in its literal meaning would mean that Peter's name is actually "Rocky Johnson."
2. The Tridentine rite, also now known as the "traditional Latin mass," was promulgated in 1570
3. Pope Liberius (AD 352-366), the 36th supreme pontiff, was the last pope of the early Church not to be recognized as a saint.
4. The chapel where St. Joan of Arc prayed is in Wisconsin



Quotes of the Week

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within Thy wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from Thee. From the wicked foe defend me. At the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to Thee. That with Thy saints I may praise Thee For ever and ever. Amen. -

Ignatius of Loyola

I know i am touching the living body of Christ in the broken bodies of the hungry and the suffering. - Mother Teresa

What you see is the bread and the chalice; that is what your own eyes report to you. But what your faith obliges you to accept is that the

bread is the body of Christ and the chalice is the blood of Christ. This has been said very briefly,

which may perhaps be sufficient for faith; yet faith does not desire instruction - Saint Augustine

Catholic Humor

EASTER CONFUSION

Five-year-old Brian had a pivotal verse to recite in an Easter program: "*He is not here, he is risen*" (Luke 24:6). Unfortunately, he could not remember what to say, and the director had to quietly remind him of his line. He then confidently grabbed the microphone and triumphantly shouted, "He's not here; He's in prison!"