

MAY JESUS CHRIST BE PRAISED

April 22, 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Spiritual Ponderings 7 Joys of St. Joseph

Before diving into the last two joys of St. Joseph, here are a few more saints' quotes encouraging us to develop a devotion to St. Joseph.

St. Joseph was chosen among all men, to be the protector and guardian of the Virgin Mother of God; the defender and foster-father of the Infant-God, and the only co-operator upon earth, the one confidant of the secret of God in the work of the redemption of mankind. - St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Though thou hast recourse to many saints as thine intercessors, go especially to St. Joseph, for he has great power with God. St. Teresa of Avila

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. - Pope John Paul II

Go, then to Joseph, and do all that he shall say to you;
Go to Joseph, and obey him as Jesus and Mary obeyed him;
Go to Joseph, and speak to him as they spoke to him;
Go to Joseph, and consult him as they consulted him;
Go to Joseph, and honor him as they honored him;
Go to Joseph and be grateful to him as they were grateful to him; Go to Joseph, and love him, as they love him still.
- St. Alphonsus Liguori

6. Life with Mary and Jesus (Luke 2:39)

There are many jokes about St. Joseph. Most of them dealing with the fact that Jesus was God and therefore perfect and Mary was conceived without sin and thus perfect. The conclusion is that if anything went wrong in the Holy Family it would have been St. Joseph's fault. I truly believe though that St. Joseph found family life to be truly a joy. I think that this was because every member of the Holy Family did what they could to make the other person feel love.

The number one sin that I hear in the confessional is parents confessing a lack of patience with their children and/or with their spouse. It is important therefore to remind ourselves to intentionally remember why our family is a gift from God. I always thank God for each member of my family before I encounter them.

7. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:46)

The cost of sin is the loss of our relationship with God. St. Joseph lost Jesus (God) in the temple. For three days he missed Him. I have never lost a child but I can only imagine the pain a parent receives at losing a child from seeing my mother panic when



my brother wandered off when we were little at Union Station. Finding God (or a child) is one of the most joyful experiences we can have.



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.

Breaking Open the Word

April 22, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Easter Lectionary: 50 Gospel JN 10:11-18

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father."



Spiritual Reflection:

It was the custom of the time for the shepherd to break the leg of a lamb that kept wandering away. The shepherd would then place the lamb on his shoulders. The lamb would then get use to the shepherd's voice and so would never again wander away. Jesus' leaves this part of the story out because God never does evil (hurt) in order to accomplish a good.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Do you do evil to accomplish a good?
2. Why do you wander away?
3. Why does Jesus search?
4. How well do you control your temper?
5. How do you bring people back to God?

Prayers for the Week

PIOUS INVOCATIONS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your Cross you have redeemed the world. Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you. My Jesus Mercy! Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation! Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, may I breathe out my soul with you in peace.

A PRAYER WHEN NEEDING TO FEEL SPECIAL

Eternal God, you have made me special. Help me to work and develop my unique

personality. You intended for me to be an original, not a carbon copy of someone else. Thank you for making me different. Grant that I will always put my individuality to its best use for Your work. Amen.

PRAYER FOR WHEN YOU WANT TO WALK W/ GOD.

Dear God, help me to walk with you throughout the day. Give me today some of the wisdom that is in Your words, some of the love that is in your heart, some of the help that is in your hands. Give me today some of Your patience with people, some of Your ability to bear slights and insults and

bitterness without resentment, some of Your ability to forgive. Help me to live in such a way today that others may know that I began the day with You, and that I am walking with you, however dimly, others may see You in me. Amen.

THE PRAYER YOUR WORD WITHIN MY HEART

Dear God, I'll hide Your Word within my heart To call upon each day To calm me when the trials

appear, Or trouble comes my way. I'll remember how You promised me That all things work for good I'll be steadfast in my prayers And have faith, the way I should. My very life is in Your hands, My heart is Yours to mold Each part of me belongs to You. Forgive me when I fail to live the way You want me to restore in me, undying faith And make me more like You. 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.

Catholic Trivia

Last Week's Answers



True or False

1. "Simon Peter bar Jonah," if taken in its literal meaning would mean that Peter's name is actually "Rocky Johnson." **TRUE**
2. The Tridentine rite, also now known as the "traditional Latin mass," was promulgated in 1570 **TRUE**
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. **FALSE** – He was the first pope not to be recognized as a saint.
4. The chapel where St. Joan of Arc prayed is in Wisconsin - **TRUE**

This Week's Questions



Match Day with things created.

1st Day ___ 2nd Day ___ 3rd Day ___
4th Day ___ 5th Day ___ 6th Day ___

- A.** A dividing of the waters above from the waters below to create the Firmament of Heaven
- B.** A dividing of the waters under the heavens to form dry land; then grass, herbs, and fruit trees
- C.** Sun, Moon and Stars
- D.** Creatures of the land, then Man
- E.** Creatures of the waters and of the air
- F.** A dividing of light from darkness brings forth Heaven and a formless, water-covered Earth, then Light

Quotes of the Week

Jesus looks at our world today, at our big cities, our countries, with all their divisions, inequality, hatred, and violence and he weeps. Jesus came into the world to bring peace, to bring all people together into one body wherein each person has a place. But we human beings have turned our world into a place of competition, rivalry, conflict, and war between races, religions social classes, and countries. The world has become a place in which each person feels they have to protect and defend themselves, their own family, their own country, their own class, their own religion. Nuclear weapons, missiles and machine guns are the outer, visible signs of our inner, invisible, personal weapons. These we bring out as soon as we feel threatened, humiliated, and

rejected, or when we feel we are not give our rightful space; our rightful place. – Henri Nouwen

The same violence and corruption fill the earth today. The same process of hatred and division repeats itself over and over again, day after day, year after year, nourished by the fear and vulnerability of the human heart. For if we human beings are violent, it is mainly because we are so vulnerable. Violence is a response to a wounded heart when it feels misunderstood, rejected, unloved. As soon as we feel the slightest rejection, the wound reopens and our defense mechanism rise up. – Henri Nouwen

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 Humor

