



St. Clare



Catholic Church

236 S. Beach Boulevard

Waveland, MS 39576

Sunday, March 17, 2024

“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”



This is not the first time in John’s Gospel that Jesus uses the image of being “lifted up” to describe his crucifixion (John 12: 32). Earlier, Jesus compared Moses’ lifting of the serpent in the desert to himself being “lifted up” (3:14). Then, speaking to the religious leaders, he said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM” (8:28).

Of course, after Jesus was nailed to a cross, he was physically lifted up. But John’s repeated use of the phrase goes beyond that. Jesus’ crucifixion, as horrible and painful as it was, was also an exaltation. That’s because through his cross and resurrection, Jesus saved the world. It was a victory over sin, Satan, and death.

This is the paradox of the cross. It was through Jesus’ suffering and death that he was glorified—and brought glory to his Father’s name (John 12:28). It was by becoming that grain of wheat that falls to the

ground and dies that Jesus was able to produce “much fruit” (12:24). That “fruit” - our salvation—is why we reverence the cross. It is also why Jesus could talk of his impending death as a lifting up. It was truly a triumph of love over death.

Jesus also promised to “draw everyone” to himself (John 12:32). This, too, was the fruit of his sacrifice. The cross removed the barrier of sin that blocked our relationship with the Father. Now, forgiven and made blameless through Jesus’ blood, we have become sons and daughters of God. Drawn into the heart of the Trinity, we can enjoy eternal life with God, both now and forever.

Today at Mass, gaze at the crucifix above the altar and let it speak to you of God’s infinite love for you. Then praise and thank Jesus for his willingness to suffer and die so that you might live.

~ *The Word Among Us*

Our Mission:

To live a Gospel way of life

***Simply *With Humility *Out of Love of God and Neighbor**

Readings for the 5th Sunday in Lent

- ◆ 1st Reading— Jeremiah 31: 31-34
- ◆ 2nd Reading— Hebrews 5: 7-9
- ◆ Gospel Reading— John 12:20-33

Pastor:Fr. Jacob-Matthew Smith, OFM
Deacon:Deacon Mike Saxer / (228) 216-5028
DRE:Paul Pitts, Jr. / (228) 216-0091
Choir Director:Cathy Allain
Secretary:Michelle Fleming
Parish Office:(228) 467-9275
Parish Email:StClareCatholic@yahoo.com
Website:www.StClareWaveland.com
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Clare-Catholic-Church>
Church Office Hours:.....
 Monday through Friday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Holidays change these days and hours.)

CONFESSION: Saturdays - 1 hour before 4:00 PM
 Vigil Mass, by appointment, or anytime during office hours.
 Call the office ahead to schedule a time.

*In the spirit of giving,
 we thank you for
 your generosity!* **Last week's collection was:**
Regular Offertory:
\$3,924.00
Catholic Relief Services
\$1,038.00

Pope Francis gives 3 reasons to pray the rosary.
 † First, he said that the Rosary is a “compendium of the entire history of our salvation.”
 † Then, the Pope noted, the “Holy Rosary is a powerful weapon against evil.”
 † Finally, the Pope said, it is “an effective means of obtaining true peace in our hearts.”
 All are welcome to stay and pray the Rosary after morning Mass and after the 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday. Weekend Masses, the Rosary will be recited 30 minutes before Mass.



The Altar Flowers are a great way to honor and remember loved ones.
 Gayle Probus is the contact person to have your special arrangement done.
 228-342-3025

Intentions available for the living (SP) or Deceased (+). Check with the office for date availability.



Monday, March 18	8:30 a.m.	Christopher & Timothy Proulx +
Tuesday, March 19	8:30 a.m.	Benton & Persis Williams +
Wednesday, March 20	6:00 p.m.	JoAnn Roddy +
Thursday, March 21	8:30 a.m.	Eddie Favre +
Friday, March 22	8:30 a.m.	Ellis Paul De Mars +
Saturday, March 23	4:00 p.m.	Laura Arnold +
Sunday, March 24	8:30 a.m.	Bill Bradford +
	11:00 a.m.	Richard Farragut, Sr. +
	5:30 p.m.	Sick of the Parish



March 17	Father Ignacio Jimenez-Morales
March 18	Father Jeyanthan Jordan
March 19	Father Fintan Kilurray
March 20	Fathers Piotr Kmiecik & Bartosz Kunat
March 21	Father Michael Marascalco
March 22	Monsignor John McGrath
March 23	Father David Milton H.G.N.



Abby Theriot, AKS, Alan Atkins, Alan Thomas, Aleia Seymore, Alice Rosemann, Annette Haas, Aric Carter, Ashley & Chip Dupiere, Ava Hirstius, Bailee Ann Price, Betty Kielty, Beverly Shaw, Beverly Emerick, Bill & Mary Gillen, Bill Boyd, Bill Meares, Bill Peters, Bob & Donna Martin, Bobbie & Tom Worrel, Bradford family, Brandon Butera, Brenda Scianna, Brian Roe, Bruce Cranmer, Bruce Necaie, Buddy Zimmerman, Caleb Chauvin, Caleb Hales, Calvin Wood, Carmencita Baker, Casey Holfus, Caspin Smith, Cathy Smith, Celino family, Charles & Emily Piazza, Charles Biesecker, Charlotte & John Johnson, Christen Maddox, Christy Westbrook, Cindy Russell, Clay Mook, Cody Smith, Cooper Dupiere, Cullen Dahn, Dan & Barbara Squillante, Dana Parker, Daniel & Stace Kane +, Danny & Daren Reinhart, Dave & Laurie Stepro, David & Meghan, David Otero +, Dawn L Carver, Dean Burnette, Deb & Don Shinskie, Deb Cranmer; Deb, Jim & Jimmy Bourgeois, Debbie Lee, Dennis Bates, Diane Perkins, Dieckhaus family, Dominic Marino & family, Dominic Porter, Donna Kay Scianna, Edward Harrison, Elaine Favre, Elaine Garner, Eleanor Lott & family, Eleanor Otero, Elisa Aaron, Ellen Roche +, Elyssa Favre, Eric Cranmer, Erica Palmer, Esther Otero, Ethan Wynn, Evelyn Sellers, Faye Monti, Frank Dotson & family, Gaby Shinskie, Gail France, Gayle & Rex Probus, George McCann, Georgiana Dixon, Gerard Frommeyer, Gloria Duvieilh, Greeley & Frances, Greg & Stacy Staner, Gurule family, Haduea family, Helen Centanni +, Henry Villere +, Hope Reos, Jackie Otero Garza, Janeal McKee, Janet Palmer, Janis Vezzoso, Jason Fountain +, Jeanne Baxter, Jimmy Ferry, Johanna Lae, John Harrison, Jon "JC" Coates, John Favaloro, Johnnie Kersanac, Jolene Joachim & family, Jon Shinskie, Judy Gomila, Judy Therrell, Judy Gomila, Judy Therrell, Julia Piazza, Karen King, Kathleen Asher, Kathleen Meares, Kathleen Westbrooks, Katie Brooks, Katie Maxwell, Kay Wingate, Kerrie, Kevin Nicosia & family, Kristine K, Laura F White, Layla Harrison, Les Briggs, Liam Gabriel Surbeck, Linda Villere, Liz Lirette, Loretta Hunter, Lori Hinz, Lorraine Smith, Lou Samuels, Louis Bourgeois, Louis Smolensky, Lynn & "Cookie" Naquin, Mac Piazza, Maddox James, Margie & Brian Schmitt, Maria Marie Beaugez, Marilyn Grillo, Marilyn Hingle, Marilyn Smith, Mary Alice Fayard, Mary Ann Ferry, Mary Ann Gambino, Mary Beth & Aaron, Mary Clare, Mary Lou & Gene Ferry, Michael Hunter, Michael L, Michelle F Harrison, Mike Banding, Mike Fitzgerald, Mike Maddox & family, MJ Necaie +, Mr. Hawk, Ms. Willie Shubert, Murray Lirette, Nancy Lewis, Nikie & Ken Martin, Nona Mumme, Pam & Paul Brown, Pat Hille, Pat Morris, Patty Steele, Pauline Otero, Peggy Parker, Peter Beckwith, Phillip Haas family, Ralph Nix, Randall & Juls Shanks, Reavis Eubanks, Rebekah Arrington, Ren Foerster, Roger Trevino, Rose Marie Ginn, Roxanne Colson; Russel, Donna & Rusty Bodin, Rusty & Gwen Price, Rusty & Mary Waldrep, Ruth Anne Ragusa, Sara S Ford, Scott Fayard, Sharon & Gilbert Tosso; Shawn, Arden & Addie Quigley, Shirley Piazza, Shirley Seymore, Stella, Steve & faith and family, Steve Landry, Susan Marino, Susan Otero, Susie Q & Mike Duvieilh, Tammi McKinney, Tanya Walker, Tara Kane Stewart & family, Tara Vest, Terilyn Harrington, Terry & John Calhoun, Terry Asher, Sr., Tim & Diane and family, Tom & Darlene Lundin, Tom Worrel, Tyler Reos, Val Sahuque; Valerie Nabor, Vanessa Gambino, Verna Martinez +, Wayne Shinskie, William Caddell, Xavier & Xander Harrington, Zoey Reos.

PARISH MINISTRIES

ALTAR SOCIETY: Open to men and women; envelopes are available to pay \$5.00 membership.

BAPTISM: To schedule an appointment to setup a Baptism date, please call the Church Office at (228) 467-9275. Parents and godparents should also attend a Baptism class.

CENACLE OF DIVINE MERCY: Meets each Friday at 10:00 a.m., a group meeting to study the Diary of St. Faustina & incorporate with Scripture and the Catechism. Contact Suzan Cox at (601) 209-6811 or suzan713@gmail.com.

GRIEF MINISTRY: Meets to support, encourage and equip those grieving the death of a loved one. For more information, leave a message at the Parish Office or contact Sherry at (228) 332-0256.

HOME BOUND: Volunteers bring Communion to the Home Bound. Volunteers must be trained as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. Contact Paul Pitts, Jr. for more information (228) 216-0091.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS/LADIES AUXILIARY: Meet every 2nd Tuesday in the Parish Center—6:30 meeting. The Assembly meet on the 2nd Tuesday after the council meeting. **Ladies Auxiliary** meet every 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

MARRIAGE PREP: Please contact Leslie and Terry Asher (228) 467-9275 if you are engaged and wish to be married at St. Clare. Marriages must be scheduled 6 months in advance.

OVER 50'S GROUP: All parishioners over 50 are invited to join (no charge). Luncheons 2nd Wednesday & Bunco 3rd Tuesday. Call Janis for details (228) 324-8715.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ST CLARE CONFERENCE: (228) 342-4117/stclaresvdp1@gmail.com. Utilities help and limited food pantry available. In-person interviews Tuesday and Wednesday 10 am-1 pm.

WALKING WITH MOMS IN NEED: We invite all parishioners to join St. Clare as we embark on this journey together. For more information, and to ensure you receive news and updates, please contact: Linda Walden, OFS at (228) 304-2305 or lwalden855@gmail.com.

PARISH NEWS



St. Joseph Altar



The St. Clare, St. Joseph Altar will open following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, March 19th. The Altar will be blessed immediately following morning Mass. Please come and bring your family and friends. The Altar will close down at 5:00 p.m. St. Joseph, pray for us!

Coming Soon!

OUR NEW Directory!



It's time for a new church pictorial directory. It won't be our directory without you! Look for more information to follow.

BOOK NOW

Universal
Church Directories

OVER
50'S
GROUP



- ♣ March 13—Wednesday— 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Yun Long Buffet
- ♣ March 20—Wednesday—2:00 p.m. ***
BUNCO at St. Clare. NOTE the date has been changed from Tuesday to give everyone time to come visit the St. Joseph Altar in the Parish Center at St. Clare.

Lenten Movie nights continue!!

Monday, March 18—NO MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, March 23—**The Passion**

Monday, March 25—**The Risen**

Join us at 6:00 pm! Snacks to include popcorn, hotdogs, candy, chips and cold drinks will be available (donations accepted) each movie night.



**Pam Brown
Kendra Sholar
Christine Sory
Kenny Conrad
Lou Samuels**

Bring your worries to St. Joseph.

Do you have worries, anxieties or special needs that you wish to hand over to someone else's capable hands? Pope Francis understands this, being responsible for the Universal Church.

"I like St. Joseph very much. He's a strong man of silence. On my desk, I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he looks after the Church. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note, and put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him; pray about the problem!"

This weekend St. Clare parishioners will have the opportunity to place their petitions under the sleeping St. Joseph. The statue will be on the table at the entrance of the Parish Center. All petitions will be brought to the altar at offertory at the St. Joseph Mass, Tuesday, March 19, 8:30 a.m. Blessing of the St. Joseph Altar will follow the Mass.

Prayer to Sleeping St. Joseph

O St. Joseph, you are a man greatly favored by the Most High. The angel of the Lord appeared to you in dreams, while you slept, to warn you and guide you as you cared for the Holy Family. You were silent and strong, a loyal and courageous protector.

*Dear St. Joseph, as you rest in the Lord, confident of his absolute power and goodness, look upon me. Please take my need *mention your request) into your heart, dream of it, and present it to your Son.*

*Help then, good St. Joseph, to hear the voice of God, to arise, and act with love.
I praise and thank God with joy.*

St. Joseph, I love you. Amen.





- ✦ Eucharistic Adoration in the church every Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- ✦ Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the chapel 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ✦ Adorers are needed for Wednesday.
- ✦ Contact Terry Calhoun at 228-671-8063.





"Christ held Himself in His hands when He gave His Body to His disciples saying: 'This is My Body.' No one partakes of this Flesh before he has adored it."
- St. Augustine


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Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 3+ March 17, 2024 • John 12:20-33

Jesus Tells What Will Come

Jesus showed God's glory.

Circle these letters in the picture. G - L - O - R - Y

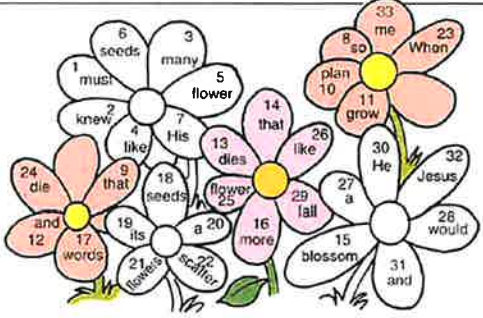


Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+ March 17, 2024 • John 12:20-33

Jesus Tells What Will Come

Complete the math problems. Use the answers to write words from the flower petals on the lines.



19+4	21+6	9-4	17-4	11+8
11-5	30-8	20+11	12-9	8-8
13+8	15-4	29+3	7-5	
16-2	10-6	12+8	18+7	15+15
12-11	18+6	17-9	11-2	9-2
13+4	13+13	9+9	32-4	
15+7	17-5	10+5		

St. Clare Grief Support Series will meet on Monday, 3/18 at 4:00 p.m. Please join us in the St. Francis Classroom.

The final meeting of the nine spring sessions will be on Monday, March 25. Please share with anyone who needs or wants support on the often lonely journey of grief.

Points of contact are
Sherry Ponder at 228-332-0256 or
Suzan Cox at 601-209-6811.

*They will soar
on wings like
eagles.
Isaiah 40:31*

Senior Friends Luncheon

Thursday, March 21st at 12:00 Noon

At St. Clare Catholic Church

Menu:

Chicken Tarragon, Carrots, Potatoes and Dessert

Use your imagination to decorate an
Easter Bonnet for a contest!



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BINGO: 7:00PM

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START
the
PARTY
SAVE the DATE
St. Clare VBS
June 24 - 28

Celebrate the Good News

A vibrant, colorful poster for a VBS party. The background is a gradient of purple, blue, and pink with stars and a globe. The text 'START the PARTY' is in large, bold, yellow and pink letters. Below it, 'SAVE the DATE' is in blue, and 'St. Clare VBS' is in pink. At the bottom, 'June 24 - 28' is in white. A blue ribbon banner with the text 'Celebrate the Good News' is draped across the bottom. There are also illustrations of a boombox and a cassette tape.

Schools in the Holy Land: Educational Innovation and Financial Challenges

The Holy Land Collection will be held on Good Friday, March 29th

The schools of the Custody of the Holy Land, which have deep roots in history, are among the most significant pillars of cultural revival in the Holy Land. Today they represent a bulwark that is more necessary and fundamental than ever to teach peace and guarantee a future of coexistence and respect.

Deepening the history of the Schools of the Holy Land also means knowing the main destination of the economic resources of the Custody of the Holy Land and the purpose of donations and offerings for the Custody.

The Pro Terra Sancta Collection, which is collected on Good Friday, is an institution strongly promoted by the popes to support all the educational works of the Custody in the Holy Land: among these are schools, in great economic difficulty due to the absence of pilgrims.

“As friars of the Custody of the Holy Land,” said the Custos of the Holy Land, Fr. Francesco Patton, in his message for the Good Friday Collection, “it is our task, according to the mandate of the Holy See to take care of the holy places, to dwell in them and make them places of prayer, to be welcoming to the local faithful and to pilgrims, and also to put in place educational works such as schools, social works

such as homes for the elderly and young families, clinics and dispensaries, works of human promotion through the creation of jobs.

The Good Friday Collection serves to cover part of these costs, thanks to the generosity of the faithful all over the world, thanks to your generosity. On this occasion, we friars of the Custody of the Holy Land become beggars and we turn to you so that Good Friday may be a day of universal solidarity, a day on which Christians from all over the world concretely take care of the Mother Church of Jerusalem, which at this moment is in dire need of it. Please expand your hearts and help us according to your possibilities, so that we too can continue to take care of this Holy Land and its children.”



Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 3+

March 17, 2024 - June 12, 2024

Jesus Tells What Will Come

Jesus showed God's glory.

Circle these letters in the picture: G - L - O - R - Y



Letter of annual donations for tax purposes are available by request.

All requests should be emailed to finance@stclare-catholic.com.

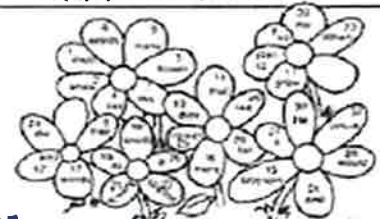
Children's Worship Bulletin

Ages 7+

March 17, 2024 - June 12, 2024

Jesus Tells What Will Come

Complete the math problems. Use the answers to write words from the flower seeds on the lines.



When a flower dies its seeds scatter and new more flowers "grow". Jesus knew that like a flower He "must die" and that His words like "seeds" would "scatter" and "blossom".

Lent and Holy Week schedule

Weekly Exposition, Adoration,

Vespers & Benediction

- ✠ Each Wednesday during Lent: Benediction, Adoration will begin at 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., & Solemn Vespers and will be followed by the regular 6:00 p.m. Mass.

Stations of the Cross

- ✠ Stations of the Cross begin at 5:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Friday, March 22nd

Lenten Penance Services

- ✠ St. Clare — March 18, 19, 21 & 22, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- ✠ St. Ann (Lakeshore) — March 20, 2024 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- ✠ Most Holy Trinity — March 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Holy Week

- ✠ Monday, March 25, 2024 8:30 a.m. Mass is the only day St. Clare will have a morning Mass.
- ✠ Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – Seder Meal in the Parish Center beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- ✠ Wednesday, March 27, 2024 – Tenebrae Service in the Church beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- ✠ Thursday, March 28, 2024 – Holy Thursday Mass beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- ✠ Friday, March 29, 2024 – Good Friday
- ⇒ Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Reading of the Passion of Christ, Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service 5:00 p.m.



Do you want to experience your faith more deeply and live it in your daily life? To enrich your relationship with God, no matter how strong it may be right now? Are you looking for a faith journey? Do you want to become more confident in and enthusiastic about your faith and in sharing it in the secular world? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then Cursillo is for you. Applications are available on the table in the hallway.

Men’s Weekend—April 25—28, 2024 Contact Charles Walden at cwaldensr1@gmail.com.

Ladies Weekend—June 27—30, 2024 Contact Shelby Miserendino at samiserendino22@gmail.com.

The Wisdom of the Saints—365 Days of Inspiration

March 17—“To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them.” ~ *St. Thomas Quinas*

March 18—“Success in life consists of standing without shame before God.” ~ *St. Charbel Makhlouf*

March 19—“If your books are in order, your life will be too.” ~ *St. EdiRaymund of Penyafort*

March 20—“Today’s society does not pray. That is why it is falling apart.” ~ *St. Padre Pio*

March 21—“If you are angry at your neighbor, you are angry at God... Honor your neighbor and you have honored God.” ~ *St. Ephrem the Syrian*

March 22—“How could I bear a crown of gold when the Lord bears a crown of thorns and bears it for me?!” ~ *St. Elizabeth of Hungary*

March 23—“It is not a sin to have riches, but to fix our hearts upon them.” ~ *St. Jean Baptiste de la Salle*

Saint

Of the Week

St. Francis Cabrini

Patroness of Immigrants.

Founder of Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The youngest of thirteen children, Frances Cabrini was born on July 15, 1850 in a small village called S'ant Angelo Lodigiano near the city of Milan, Italy. She grew up enthralled by the stories of missionaries and made up her mind to join a religious order. Because of her frail health, she was not permitted to join the Daughters of the Sacred Heart who had been her teachers and under whose guidance she obtained her teaching certificate.

However, in 1880, with seven young women, Frances founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was as resourceful as she was prayerful, finding people who would donate what she needed in money, time, labor and support. She and her sisters wanted to be missionaries in China; she visited Rome to obtain an audience with Pope Leo XIII. The Pope told Frances to go "*not to the East, but to the West*" to New York rather than to China as she had expected. She was to help the thousands of Italian immigrants already in the United States.

In 1889, New York seemed to be filled with chaos and poverty, and into this new world stepped Mother Frances Cabrini and her sister companions. Cabrini organized catechism and education classes for the Italian immigrants and provided for the needs of the many orphans. She established schools and orphanages despite tremendous odds.

Soon, requests for her to open schools came to Frances Cabrini from all over the world. She traveled to Europe, Central and South America and throughout the United States. She made 23 trans-Atlantic crossings and established 67 institutions: schools, hospitals and orphanages.



Her activity was relentless until her death. On December 22, 1917, in Chicago, she died. In 1946, she was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XII in recognition of her holiness and service to mankind and was named Patroness of Immigrants in 1950.

Today the Missionary Sisters, their lay collaborators and volunteers work as teachers, nurses, social workers, administrators and members of institutional boards of trustees. They can be found on six continents and 15 countries throughout the world – wherever there is a need.

The movie, 'Cabrini,' continues at local area movie theaters through at least next week. The movie has great reviews and is recommended to everyone of every faith!

Palm Sunday is March 24, 2024



Blessing and distribution of palms will be observed at all weekend Masses, with the procession occurring at the Sunday, March 24th, 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Thought for the week!!

Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind.

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God Our Father,

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ST. JOSEPH

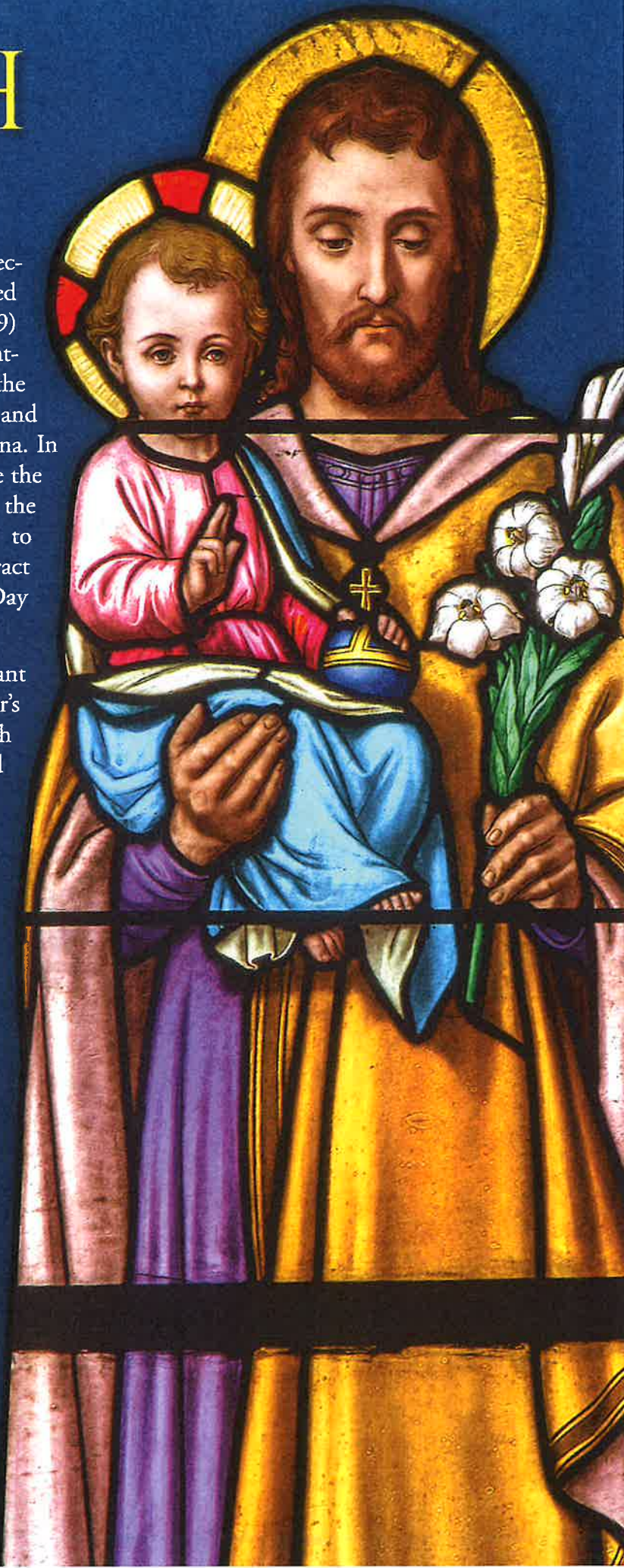
SPOUSE AND WORKER

St. Joseph, husband of Mary, foster father and protector of Jesus, skilled craftsman of Nazareth is honored by two liturgical feasts: as spouse of Mary (March 19) and as a worker (May 1). Devotion to Joseph originated in the 8th to 9th centuries in the East and in the 12th century in the West first among the Crusaders and then by the Franciscans, especially Bernardine of Siena. In the 15th century Pope Sixtus IV (a Franciscan) made the first feast universal in the church. The feast of Joseph the worker was promulgated by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to show the church's relevance to workers and to counteract the Communist and Socialist celebrations of Labor Day on May 1.

According to the Gospels, Joseph was a descendant of king David and Jesus was known as "the carpenter's son" (Mt 13:55). The Greek word *tekton* (from which we get our word "technical") designates any skilled artisan and so could mean not only a woodworker but also a "mason" or "smith" (as some early Church Fathers thought).

Matthew's infancy narrative focuses on Joseph's dilemma. Embarrassed by Mary's pregnancy with a child he knows is not his, Joseph, a "righteous" or just man who follows the prescriptions of the Mosaic law, decides to send her back to her family, which is the proper social and legal thing to do.

Pope Francis points out that "Joseph cannot explain to himself Mary's pregnancy. In that moment of doubt and anguish, God approaches him through his messenger and enlightens him about the nature of this maternity. Thus, in facing this extraordinary event, which surely gave rise to many questions in his heart, Joseph trusts totally in God who has drawn near to him, and takes Mary as his wife. In accepting Mary, Joseph knowingly and lovingly receives Jesus who has been conceived in her. Joseph, a just and humble man, teaches us to always trust in God, who draws near to us. When God approaches us, we must entrust ourselves to God and allow ourselves to be guided by God with willing obedience."



SAINT JOSEPH

Our Patron

From very early on in Church history, the importance of the saints as intercessors for us with God became popular. The identification of saints as mediators with God introduces their role as patron saints, that is, one to whom we can go when we have specific needs that require help. Saints are designated as patrons or special advocates for nations, churches, places, crafts, activities, jobs, classes, clans, families, illnesses, causes, etc. Most patrons have been so designated as the result of popular devotion and long-standing custom. The Church has officially designated rather few patrons, and most patron designations, especially more recent ones, are unofficial.

St. Joseph is most well-known as the patron saint of fathers, families, and workers and, since 1870, as the official patron of the universal Church. However, as St. Teresa of Avila advised her sisters, “Though you have recourse to many saints as your intercessors, go especially to St. Joseph, for he has great power,” so Christians have successfully gone to St. Joseph for various needs. As a result St. Joseph has become known for his intercession for many causes and professions including against doubt, against hesitation, craftsmen (cabinetmakers, carpenters, joiners, civil engineers), lawyers, teachers, travelers (immigrants and exiles, house hunters) orphans and dying people (for a holy death).

“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



JOSEPH'S SPECIAL VOCATION

Matthew portrays Joseph as a good man, a working carpenter, who trusted in God. Luke describes how Joseph took the newborn child as his own. There is a general rule that whenever divine grace chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a high vocation, God adorns that person with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task. This is especially true of Joseph. He was chosen by the eternal Father to be the faithful guardian and protector of Jesus, his divine Son, and of Mary, his wife. This was the task laid upon him which he carried out faithfully right to the end.

—St. Bernardine of Siena

JOSEPH OUR EXAMPLE

Joseph is a good model for us because he is constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans, and not simply to his own. He is able to hear God's voice and be guided by God's will, and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. His example is for us all an invitation to accept, with total openness of spirit, Jesus, who for love made himself our brother. Joseph spurs us to always seek God's will and to follow it with full trust. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ! Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation!

—Pope Francis

GOD SEES OUR HUMBLE WORK

God sees the fruit of our labor, even if others cannot. Think of Joseph, the carpenter who taught Jesus his craft, a man given no lines to say in the New Testament and whose life remains almost completely hidden. His work was of supreme importance—even though others may not have seen this then. How similar this is to all those who do hidden work today: spending long hours working to put their kids through school; taking on an extra job to save money to care for an elderly parent or relative; working to exhaustion scrubbing floors, doing multiple loads of laundry, and spending hours over a stove for their families. Even if their efforts are hidden from others, they are seen by the One whose gaze matters most.

—James Martin, SJ

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Shrimp Marinara

Seafood Gumbo

Sides- Choose 2

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Seafood Gumbo \$7

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