

Year of St Joseph



“If Joseph was so engaged, heart and soul, in protecting and providing for that little family at Nazareth, don’t you think that now in heaven, he is the same loving father and guardian of the whole Church, of all its members, as he was of its Head on earth?”

Pope Pius XII

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Just as Jesus and Mary entrusted themselves entirely to the care and protection of St. Joseph as the head of the Holy Family, so we, too, can follow their example. Jesus was living under the roof of St. Joseph as his Son, and gave us a personal example of total entrustment to St. Joseph. We may be familiar with consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in particular the method popularized by St. Louis De Montfort which consists of 33 days of spiritual preparation.

In recognition of the emphasis the Church has placed on St. Joseph, in recent centuries, Pope Francis announced a Year of St Joseph (8 December 2020 – 8 December 2021) in honour of the 150th anniversary of Saint Joseph being named as patron of the Universal Church.

We are now invited by Pope Francis to reflect on, and imitate the creative courage of St Joseph. Joseph was courageous in taking on the responsibility of becoming the husband of Mary and the legal father of Jesus and all that those two roles involved. As we follow St Joseph in the Gospel, we see how he could turn a difficulty into a possibility with his trust in the providence of God.

In his Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father's Heart”) (8 December 2020), Pope Francis reflected on the qualities of Saint Joseph whom he described as a strong working man, a beloved, loving father, an accepting, obedient and “creatively courageous” person. Pope Francis encourages each one of us to imitate Joseph’s virtues and zeal as he urges us to: *Discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide.*

So, I would like to invite you as individual, family and parish community of Our Lady of Victories to Consecrate your life to St. Joseph. Use this prayer book and complete 33 days of readings and prayers, leading up to the prayer of consecration, recited on a feast day connected to St. Joseph.

What does it mean to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph? Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that St Joseph is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy.

Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of filial entrustment to your spiritual father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of

resembling him in virtue and holiness. Saint Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance.

If you have already consecrated yourself to the Virgin Mary, can you be consecrated to St. Joseph, as well?

The answer is a resounding “Yes!” God desires that all children be committed to the care of a mother and a father. You are not a member of a single-parent spiritual family. Mary is your spiritual mother and St. Joseph is your spiritual father. The spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph is extremely important for your spiritual growth. Total consecration to Mary is not diminished by total consecration to St. Joseph. Mary wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Jesus wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Everything you have given to Jesus and Mary can also be given to St. Joseph. The hearts of Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph are one.

Let us join together as parishioners of Our Lady of Victories – to walk these 33 days with St. Joseph, confident that with his help, we will grow in holiness.

If you should skip a day in this consecration, fear not. We are all running as fast as we can. Simply pray the missed prayer on the following day and continue on with your consecration. May God bless us all and grant us a share in the renewal of all of our families.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Dominik Karnas CSMA

Parish Priest