



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

***I share with you this article / reflection based from Crossroads Initiative about St. Joseph and his connection to Christ. (Source: <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/st-josephs-claim-fame/>)***

### **St. Joseph – Father of Faith**

By Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio

Saint Joseph always appears in Manger scenes during Advent and Christmas time and even has a special Solemnity or Feast in his honor, St. Joseph's Day, March 19. But he is so often neglected that St. John Paul II decided to write a special teaching about his role as foster-father of Jesus. This essay makes a case that St. Joseph teaches us some crucial things about the nature of faith that we can't afford to forget.

In the drama of the incarnation, Jesus is, of course, the star. That's the way it is at every birth. All eyes are on the baby. The co-star, though, is definitely mom. Without her love and labor, the event could not have happened. In this case, without mom's faith it couldn't have happened either. According to Luke's Gospel, an angel brought her stunning news. She believed the unbelievable and said "let it be."

### **JOSEPH, FOSTER-FATHER OF JESUS**

But there is a best supporting actor in the drama as well. True, Joseph was not the biological father. But the messiah had to be of David's royal line. In ancient Israel, a child's clan was determined by that of his father. So it was Joseph who legally bound Jesus to the house of David. It was because of Joseph that the family had to go to Bethlehem for the census, that the prophecy might be fulfilled.

God carefully selected the woman who would be the mother of his Son. But he must have been equally careful in his selection of the foster-father. For genes are not the only thing parents impart to

their children. Jesus, in his humanity, had to grow in wisdom, age, and grace (Luke 2:52). Joseph must have had responsibility for a good deal of this growth. It was Joseph who was Jesus' male role-model. From Joseph Jesus learned many things, including the trade that he would practice for some twenty years.

### **JOSEPH – MAN OF INTEGRITY**

But there are even more important things that Jesus learned from Joseph. For Joseph was a just man, an honest man, a courageous man, a man of integrity.

His betrothed was pregnant but not by him. Imagine the shame, the hurt, and the anger that he must have experienced assuming what anyone would assume in such a situation. His integrity would not allow him to marry an adulteress and pretend the child was his. Neither would he expose the woman he loved to shame and punishment. He did not procrastinate or waffle. He made the difficult decision to divorce Mary quietly.

But then came the messenger. In Luke's Gospel, there was an angelic annunciation to Mary. In the first chapter of Matthew, we learn that Joseph gets one too. He was named after the greatest dreamer of the Old Testament. Maybe that's why his annunciation came in a dream.

### **FAITH IN THE INCONCEIVABLE**

Mary's primary virtue is her faith. When told the unbelievable, she said fiat – let it be. Joseph's claim to fame is also his faith. He too was told the inconceivable and yet dared to believe.

Note, though, that his response of faith entailed taking action—he changed his plans, received Mary into his home, and accepted responsibility for this special child. Keep this in mind, though. Mary needed no revelation to be sure this was a virginal conception. All Joseph had to go by was what he received from an angel . . . in a dream!

Do you think he may have been tempted at some point to second guess this experience? Especially when things did not go smoothly. After all, when a




CHURCH CALENDAR



<b>SATURDAY 18 MARCH</b> 5:30 pm McDonald & Gascoyne Families
<b>SUNDAY 19 MARCH</b> 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Edward J. Ford, Jr. 11:30 am Patricia A. Volpe
<b>MONDAY 20 MARCH</b> 8:30 am Lorizane Paulcine 7:00 pm John Gaeta
<b>TUESDAY 21 MARCH</b> 8:30 am Vincenza & Luigi Russo
<b>WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH</b> 8:30 am Louise Euginie Cu-Unjiena Melencio
<b>THURSDAY 23 MARCH</b> 8:30 am Dominick & Tresa Paradiso
<b>FRIDAY 24 MARCH</b> 8:30 am Marion Green-McConville
<b>SATURDAY 25 MARCH</b> 5:30 pm John Healy
<b>SUNDAY 26 MARCH</b> 7:30 am People of the Parish 9:30 am Vincenzo Russo 11:30 am Robert Agresti

<b>SUNDAY 19 MARCH 4th SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 7:30 am Mass in Church 9:30 am Mass in Church 9:30—11:30 am St. Joseph Novena 1st Communion Class (Chapel) 9:30—11:30 am Fam Cat. Grade 6 Mass (Hall) 11:30 am Mass in Church
<b>MONDAY 20 MARCH</b> 8:30 am Mass in Church St. Joseph Novena 7:00 pm St. Joseph Novena
<b>WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH</b> 6:30—7:30 pm Fam Cat. Grade 6 ONLY (Chapel)
<b>THURSDAY 23 MARCH</b> 10:00 am Deadline for News & Announcements for the Apr. 2nd Bulletin. Call the Rectory at 973-325-0110.
<b>SATURDAY 25 MARCH</b> 4—5:15 pm Confessions in Church 5:30 pm Mass in Church
<b>SUNDAY 26 MARCH 5th SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 7:30 am Mass in Church 9:30—11:30 am 1st Communion Class (Chapel) 9:30 am Mass in Church 11:30 am Mass in Church

 St. Joseph Novena Service will end Monday, March 20th. There will be an 8:30 am Mass and a 7:00 pm Mass in celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph.

**+Basket for Black & Indian Catholic Relief Fund**



WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE MAR 25 - MAR 26, 2023			
Mass	Lectors	Eucharistic Ministers	
5:30 pm	Andrew Novoa	Emily Kunz Eileen Reilly (Choir)	
7:30 am	MaryEllen Chandler	Mary Cassels	
9:30 am Adult Choir	Kathy Petrillo	Joe Petrillo (Choir)	
11:30 am Children's Choir	Wendy Sheyka	Virginia Dimapilis Wendy Sheyka (Choir)	

**PRAYERS Needed For...**

Michael Ang	Amy Lejano
Msgr. Edward Bradley	Mikaela Moncupa
Marti Carlos	Allison Sardinha
Lorelei Gotinga	Pat Schoeler
Fiona Graham	Sgt. Michael Williams
Cecile Leelin	

If you wish to have a friend or loved one prayed for, please call the Rectory at 973-325-0110.

(PASTOR COLUMN continued from Page 2)

plan is from God, are not doors supposed to open? Yet when they arrived in Bethlehem, the door of the inn was slammed shut in Joseph's face. If this were God's child, wouldn't God provide a room? And if this were really God's son, wouldn't God have turned back Herod's hit men?

**WALK BY FAITH**

Then the angel shows up again in another dream: "Flee to Egypt with Mary and the baby."

Another journey on foot. This time to a foreign land 250 miles away. Wasn't the 90 mile walk to Bethlehem with a pregnant woman enough? If this was God's doing, shouldn't things be going more smoothly than this?

Joseph may or may not have thought these things. I would have. The point is, Joseph believed and acted. And when the angel came a third time and told him to make the long trek back to Nazareth, he acted again.

Joseph certainly did a lot of walking. From Nazareth to Bethlehem to Egypt and back again. Paul said we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor 5:7). Joseph is a model of faith because he keeps walking, even in the dark.

(Source: <https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/st-josephs-claim-fame/>)

Blessed Lenten Season and Feast of St. Joseph to you,

Father Jim Ferry



**Church Capital Investment Fund Raffle**

**CONGRATULATIONS**


TO THE RAFFLE

**WINNERS**

March 4, 2023

**\$500 winner of 1st Drawing:**  
**KARLA SPIVEY**

**\$500 winner of 2nd Drawing:**  
**PAULINE STOCKTON**



**Gift for Palm Sunday**

*"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."*  
*Luke 19:38)*


On Palm Sunday, we welcome the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem by holding up our own palm branches at Mass. Our parish family is very grateful for the gift of our Palm branches donated each year by Darren and Mellen Dangler in memory of the deceased members of the Phillips and Dangler Families.

**PARISH GIVING**

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2022

WEEKLY GOAL	\$ 6800
Collection*: Mar 4-5*	\$ 5548
Deficit:	\$ 1252

\* Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit



*For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure.*

*Thank You*

**The Paschal Candle**

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation" (Psalm 27)*

At the Easter Vigil, we burn for the first time the Easter Candle, a sign of God's light in our world. Our parish family is very grateful for the gift of our Easter Paschal Candle donated each year by Steve and Mary Ellen Chandler in memory and prayer for the Chandler and Zimmermann Families.



## TRICKY TRAY

We are still in need of gifts for our Tricky Tray.  
**Gifts of NEW ITEMS are welcome and greatly appreciated by March 26th.**

Gifts may be left in the Sacristy at Church or, at the rectory Monday-Friday 10am to 1pm or, by contacting Eileen Reilly at **973-980-4209.**

## TRICKY TRAY

April 15, 2023



### PIRATE TREASURE

**PAID RESERVATIONS  
NOW BEING ACCEPTED.**

**Tickets will be sold in Bundles.**

Registration & ticket order forms are available in church, on our website (\*see below) and from our reservation contacts:

**Ann Pflug - 973-325-2212**

**Annette Chiaramonte - 973-325-3545**

**Please make reservations by Monday, April 10th.**

\*Tricky Tray Event Detail Flier + Registration & Ticket Order Form

Go to [LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG](http://LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG)

(click on "About our Parish, then Tricky Tray 2023")



Bulletin Supplement

March 19, 2023

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT /A

Mass Readings: (Gather Hymnal #913)

Shepherd of  
My Heart



Entrance Hymn

BE THOU MY VISION

SLANE



1. Be Thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my wis - dom, and Thou my true word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, or man's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



1. Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art:
2. I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord:
3. Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
4. May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



1. Thou my best thought, — by day or by night,
2. Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
3. Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
4. Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



1. Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
2. Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
3. High King of heav - en, my trea - sure Thou art.
4. Still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: 10 10 10 10; Ancient Irish; tr. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; fr. Eleanor Hull's *Poem Book of the Gael*, 1912, alt.  
Music: Trad. Irish Melody; adapt. from *The Church Hymnary*, 1927.

**Psalm**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation, of whom should I be afraid?**

**Offertory Hymn**

**HOLY PATRON, THEE SALUTING**

PLEADING SAVIOR

Verses



1. Ho - ly pa-tron, thee sa - lut - ing Here we meet, with  
 2. Thou who faith-ful - ly at - tend - ed Him whom heav'n and  
 3. May our fer-vent pray'rs as-cend-ing, Move thee for our  
 4. Through this life, O watch a-round us! Fill with love our



1. hearts sin - cere; Blest Saint Jo - seph, all u - nit - ing,  
 2. earth a - dore; Who with pi - ous care de - fend - ed  
 3. souls to plead; May thy smile of peace de - scend - ing,  
 4. ev - 'ry breath, And, when part - ing fear sur - rounds us,

Refrain



1. Call on thee to hear our prayer. Hap - py saint, in  
 2. Ma - ry, Vir - gin ev - er pure.  
 3. Ben - e - dic - tions on us shed.  
 4. Guide us through the toils of death.



bliss a - dor - ing Je - sus, Sav - ior of hu - man - kind, Hear thy



chil - dren thee im - plor - ing, May we thy pro - tec - tion find.

Text: 87 87 D, anonymous.  
 Music: *Christian Lyre*, 1830.

**Communion Hymn** Shepherd of My Heart— Gather Hymnal #624

**Closing Hymn** The Cross of Jesus—Gather Hymnal #396