

PARISH FAMILY KEYNOTE (12-6-20)

OPENING PRAYER

Saint Joseph, son of David and Patron of the Universal Church,
we entrust our campaign—Building God’s Kingdom from Within—
to your intercession.

The heavenly Father made you foster father of His Son, our King,
and husband of His Son’s mother Mary, our Queen.

Indeed, God the Father gave you responsibility for His Family
and for the building of His Kingdom.

Therefore, Saint Joseph, as father, foster in us authentic adoration of the Bread of Life;
as husband, teach us true devotion in purity of heart for Mary;
as visionary and carpenter and saint,
help us to accept God’s designs delivered to us by angels,
to build a church beautiful and magnificent like Mary,
and to worship the Bread of Angels in both Spirit and Truth.

Finally, may your example of radiant simplicity and profound silence
be manifest in the particular church God builds through our hearts and hands,
and may the Father bring to completion whatever good work
He has begun in each of us,
for His glory and blessings upon all. Amen.

SACRED SEVEN

- ___ 1. King David, as a child, worked as a shepherd in the region around Bethlehem.
- ___ 2. The word “Bethlehem” means “house of the lamb.”
- ___ 3. Jesus is born in Bethlehem because his family had to be enrolled in a world census.
- ___ 4. The Presentation recalls when Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the temple to be circumcised.
- ___ 5. Scripture does not refer to Joseph as the father of Jesus since Joseph is not His biological father.
- ___ 6. Joseph, during his lifetime, would never have known that Christ would be a light of revelation, not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles.
- ___ 7. Joseph knew that Mary’s child would bring her great suffering during her life.

KEYNOTE: DEVOTION TO SAINT JOSEPH

- I. “Faithful Guardian of Christ”—Joseph Shows Us How to Love the Eucharist
 - A. Nativity in Bethlehem (“House of Bread”)
 - 1. Reverence for the “Bread of Life” (Shepherds/Magi)
 - 2. Eucharistic Adoration

- B. Flight to Egypt
 - 1. The First Eucharistic Procession
 - 2. Protecting Christ from Desecration
 - 3. Bringing the Light of Christ to Sinners and Idolaters
- II. “Husband of the Mother of God”—Joseph Shows Us How to Love Mary
 - A. Marriage and Family Life—Simple/Humble/Pure of Heart
 - B. Religious Life: Celibate and Virginal
- III. “Protector of the Church”—Joseph Shows Us How to Love Mother Church
 - A. Domestic Church—Each Family = A Small Church
 - B. Nazareth—Sanctification of the Secular Order by Ordinary Life Restored and Elevated by Grace
- IV. Changing the World through “Creative Minorities”:
 - A. Within the Jewish People—The Holy Family, Led by Joseph:
 - 1. Restoration of the Family beginning with the Holy Family
 - 2. Directing Family Life to Eternal Life
 - 3. Establishing and Extending the Family of God the Father
 - B. Joseph’s Leadership Prepares Christ to Lead the Apostles:
 - 1. Family life transforms the world in truth and love
 - 2. The Kingdom of God Consists of All the Families in the Kingdom

QUESTIONS

- I. What do you find most appealing about Saint Joseph? When do you pray to him?
- II. Why is Saint Joseph Patron of the Dying and the one to whom we especially pray for a “happy death”?
- III. What challenges did Joseph face in his life that corresponds to the challenges fathers face today?

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer—Include the “Signum Crucis,” “Pater Noster,” “Ave Maria,” “Gloria Patri,” and “Capital Campaign Prayer to Saint Joseph”
- II. Mid-Day Prayer—Particular Examination of Conscience with an Act of Contrition
- III. Daily Mental Prayer—Conversing with Saint Joseph
- IV. Nightly Examination of Conscience followed by the Confiteor:
Have I expressed my devotion to Saint Joseph by:
 - A. Showing devotion to Christ in the Eucharist through adoration and reverent reception of the Body of Christ in Holy Communion?
 - B. Showing devotion to Mary through a reverent praying of the Rosary this day?
 - C. Offering all my daily activity—especially my work—to God as a sacrifice of thanksgiving for His glory and to bring down light and blessings upon the world?
 - D. Entrusting my sleep and dreams to his intercession, that even my rest may become inspired and holy?

