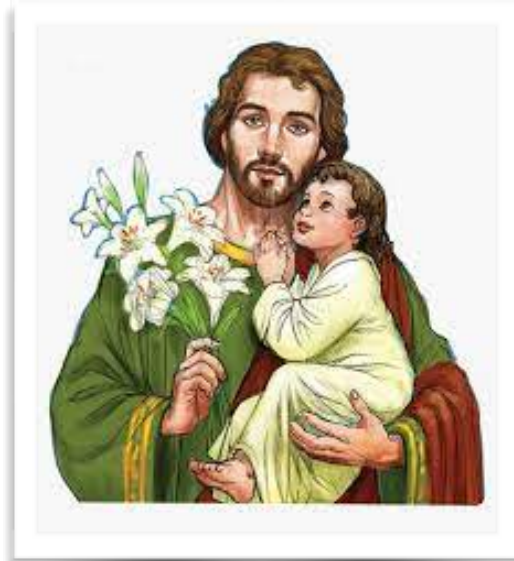


The Bell Ringer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, HYANNIS + January 2021



The Year of St. Joseph

*Dedicated to the foster father of Jesus,
It runs through December 8, 2021*

On December 8, the Year of St. Joseph began following a papal proclamation. The timing coincided with the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pius IX declaring St. Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church and on the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Joseph's most chaste spouse.

The year runs from December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021, and the Apostolic Penitentiary (that's not a Vatican prison, but the department of the Church that handles penances and indulgences) noted, "The faithful, following [St. Joseph's] example can daily strengthen their life of faith in the full fulfillment of God's will."

They will have "the opportunity to commit themselves, with prayers and good works, to obtain with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that today afflict the contemporary world."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued a statement suggesting the use of a prayer to St. Joseph. (See page 2 for complete text.) "This prayer to Saint Joseph—spouse of the Virgin Mary, foster father of Jesus, and patron saint of the universal Church—was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, *Quamquam pluries*. Pope Leo asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary, especially during the month of October, which is dedicated to the Rosary. It may be said after the customary *Salve Regina* and concluding prayer, and may also be used to conclude other Marian devotions."

(Continued on page 2)

*Mary has been
seen around
the world to
give maternal,
loving advice,
see page 3.*



*St. Francis Xavier
offers his flock a
way to begin the
day with God.
See page 4.*

*January is
devoted to the
Holy Name of
Jesus. His name
has power. See page 5.*



*Check out the
Parish News
on page 6.*

*Words OF
WISDOM
See page 7 & 8*

. . . **St. Joseph** Continued from Page 1

The USCCB statement also noted: “It may be said on any day of the Year of Saint Joseph, but especially on his various feast days or other devotional days dedicated to St. Joseph:

+ March 19, 2021, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

+ May 1, 2021, the Optional Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

+ The nineteenth day of each month

+ Every Wednesday, the traditional day of the week for devotions to Saint Joseph

Perhaps one of the best known devotions to St. Joseph is *Daily Devotion to St. Joseph* by St. Alphonsus Ligouri, which provides prayers, arranged for each day of the month.

There are also some suggestions listed below that deal with meditations and other acts.

First suggestion: Since we are invited “to rediscover the filial relationship with the Father, renew faithfulness to prayer and listen intensely to God’s will,” it is suggested we meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Our Father, or attend a one day spiritual retreat that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.

Second suggestion: St. Joseph the just man “urges us to rediscover the value of silence,

prudence and loyalty in fulfilling one’s duties.” Because St. Joseph practiced the virtue of justice perfectly, following his example, we can carry out corporal or spiritual works of mercy.

Third suggestion: St. Joseph’s main vocation was to be guardian of the Holy Family, and to inspire, enthuse and encourage all Christian families to live with the same “intimate communion, love and prayer” that the Holy Family lived. We can pray the Holy Rosary “in families and between engaged couples.”

Fourth suggestion: Honoring the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the faithful can “entrust their activities to the protection of St. Joseph and all the faithful who invoke with prayer” the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker “so that who is looking for work can find a job, and work [for] everyone is more dignified.”

Fifth suggestion: Considering the Holy Family’s flight to Egypt, we can recite the Litany to St. Joseph in whole or some other prayer to St. Joseph “proper to other liturgical traditions” for the Church persecuted . . . and for the relief of all Christians who suffer persecution.”

Sixth suggestion: “To reaffirm the universality of St. Joseph’s patronage of the Church,” we recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph especially on his special feasts and days. +

Pope Leo XIII’s Prayer to St. Joseph

O blest Joseph, we have recourse to you in our need. We have sought Mary’s help. We confidently ask your protection also.

By the love which united you to the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and the fatherly affection with which you cherished the Child Jesus, we pray that you would watch over us whom Jesus purchased by His Precious Blood and help us in all our needs by your power and strength.

Watchful guardian of the Holy Family, keep us from all error and corruption.

Valiant defender, aid us in the conflict with the powers of darkness.

As you rescued the Child Jesus from danger, so now defend God’s Church from all deceit and adversity. Shelter us under your protection. May we follow your example and be strengthened by your help. Let us live a holy life, die a happy death and attain endless joy in heaven. Amen.

A prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, Quamquam pluries.

Mary's Worldwide Visits and Words

MEXICO — Our Lady of Guadalupe tells us that she is our mother. By nature, between mother and child exists a deeply intimate and personal relationship. We may be receptive of and grateful for the motherly tenderness and compassion with which she wishes to embrace our hearts.

"I am truly your merciful Mother, yours and all the people who live united in this land and of all the other people of different ancestries, my lovers, who love me, those who seek me, those who trust in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their complaints and heal all their sorrows, hardships and sufferings."

—Our Lady of Guadalupe, 1531

FRANCE — Trusting in her great motherly protection and love, let us become devoted to coming to her with our needs and our gratitude. She desires to be our advocate in all things if we will only remember to approach her. The creation of the Miraculous Medal in Our Lady's honor has become a most popular devotional.

"I feel so happy to be able to help the children who beg me for protection. But so many do not ever come to me."

— Our Lady of the Rue du Bac, 1830

PORTUGAL — Our Lady of Fatima reveals her deep love for each of us through revealing the sorrow of her Immaculate Heart, and its vulnerability to human offenses against it. While Our Lady truly is 'blessed among women', this does not remove her from being touched by us. At Fatima, Our Lady revealed God's desire to be merciful to souls calling them to honor her through devotion to her Immaculate Heart. This devotion was given to the three children at Fatima that it may be spread throughout the world as a powerful recourse for sinners.

"To save the souls of poor sinners, God wishes to establish the devotion to my Immaculate Heart throughout the world... My daughter, look at My Heart surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men

pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me, and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months go to confession and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.

— Our Lady of Fatima, 1918

JAPAN — Sister Agnes explained what happened: "As this beautiful voice began the prayer, the angel who had led me to the chapel reappeared at my side and joined in. Always prostrated and thinking of nothing else, I had just said the words, 'Jesus present in the Eucharist,' when the voice interrupted me, adding: 'Truly present.' And to impress this all the more upon my troubled spirit, the voice added: 'From now on, you will add TRULY'.

"Did I even have the time to answer yes? All I know is that I thought only of uniting myself to that voice of such inexpressible beauty which seemed to come from Heaven. I was aided also by the sweet voice of the angel speaking by my side. Our three voices together prayed:

"Most sacred heart of Jesus TRULY present in the Holy Eucharist, I consecrate my body and soul to be entirely one with Your Heart, being sacrificed at every instant on all the altars of the world and giving praise to the Father pleading for the coming of His Kingdom.

"Please receive this humble offering of myself. Use me as You will for the glory of the Father and the salvation of souls. Most Holy Mother of God, never let me be separated from Your Divine Son. Please defend and protect me as Your special child. Amen."

— Our Lady of Akita, 1973

Keep Those Chuckles Coming . . .

A retired priest was asked to create a prayer for the elderly. Here's what he came up with:

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, The good fortune to run into the ones that I do, And the eyesight to tell the difference. Amen.

Here's a New Year's Day prayer for one and all:

Dear Lord So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few

minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. She had a New Year's wish she hoped in which all would take part. "At the stroke of midnight, let's have every husband stand next to the one person who made his life worth living." Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck twelve - the bartender was almost crushed to death.

One Liners to kick start the New Year: I took an IQ test and the results were negative. When I thought about the evils of drinking in the New Year, I gave up thinking. Definition of a hangover: The Wrath of Grapes.

St. Francis Xavier's Advice on How to Start the Day

"As soon as a good Christian awakens in the morning, he should . . . profess the Most Holy Trinity, three Persons in one sole God, which Christians alone truthfully and faithfully profess when they bless themselves with the words in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[Then he should] "profess Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, by reciting the Creed and by firmly and faithfully believing without any doubt that which contains all our Catholic faith...

"True God! I freely and from my heart, as a good and faithful Christian, profess the Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three Persons in one God. I firmly believe, without doubting, all that our Holy Mother the Church of Rome believes and teaches. I promise to live and die as a true Christian in the holy Catholic faith of my Lord Jesus Christ. And if I should not be able to



speak at the hour of my death, I now, for when I shall die, acknowledge with all my heart my Lord Jesus Christ as the only Son of God . . . I ask you, my Lord Jesus Christ, to give me the grace to keep the Ten Commandments today, during this day, and during all the time of my life. I ask you, my Lady Saint Mary, that you intercede for me with your blessed Son Jesus Christ, so that he may give me the grace today, during this day, and during all the time of my life, to keep these Ten Commandments. I ask you, my Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive me the sins which I have committed today, during this day, and during all the time of my life . . .

"I ask you my Lady Saint Mary, Queen of Angels, to obtain pardon for me from your blessed Son Jesus Christ for the sins which I have committed today, during this day, and during all the time of my life. Amen." +

Some of us were taught by the nuns as children to bow our heads whenever we heard the name of Jesus or said His name ourselves. However, for some years, children have no longer been taught to do this and as they grow into adults and have children of their own, they are unaware of this reverent act.

This month is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus and who is more deserving to have His name honored than Our Savior, the Son of God.

We give honor to the name of Jesus, not because we believe that there is any intrinsic power hidden in the letters composing it, but because the name reminds us of all the blessings we receive through our Holy Redeemer. To give thanks for these blessings we revere the Holy Name, as we honor the Passion of Christ by honoring His Cross.

The Name of Jesus invoked with confidence brings help in bodily needs, according to the promise of Christ: "In my name they shall take up serpents; and if they shall drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them: they shall lay their hands upon the sick, and they shall recover". (Mark 16:17-18) In the Name of Jesus the Apostles gave strength to the lame (Acts 3:6; 9:34) and life to the dead (Acts 9:40).

It gives consolation in spiritual trials. The name of Jesus reminds the sinner of the prodigal

son's father and of the Good Samaritan; it recalls to the just the suffering and death of the innocent Lamb of God. It protects us against Satan and his wiles, for the Devil fears the Name of Jesus, who has conquered him on the Cross. In the name of Jesus we obtain every

blessing and grace for time and eternity, for Christ has said: "If you ask the Father anything in my name he will give it you." (John 16:23) Thus the Church concludes prayers with the words: through Our Lord Jesus Christ, or Christ Our Lord. Amen.

So the words of St. Paul are fulfilled: "That in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

A special lover of the Holy

Name was St. Bernard, who speaks of it in most glowing terms in many of his sermons. But the greatest promoters of this devotion were St. Bernardine of Siena and St. John Capistran. They carried with them on their missions in the turbulent cities of Italy a copy of the monogram of the Holy Name, surrounded by rays, painted on a wooden tablet, wherewith they blessed the sick and wrought great miracles..

The monogram consists of the three letters: IHS. In the Middle Ages the Name of Jesus was written: IHESUS; plus five nails, three making up the Cross from which He saved us. +



Jesus' Holy Name

The Parish Prayer Intention

May the Will of God Be Fulfilled

Through the intercession of the Immaculate Conception, patron of our nation, we pray that the Will of God may be fulfilled, and Truth may triumph over falsehood.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, Pope Francis, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Thy loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of Thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto Thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be to the Father.



Fostering Faith on “True Devotion to Mary” Continues into the New Year

Father Michael will continue with *True Devotion to Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort on Monday Mornings Fostering Faith meetings.

The meetings are held in the lower church hall following the recitation of the Rosary in the church. There is limited seating — following Covid-19 guidelines — for in person participation, but the meetings are live-streamed for parishioners who wish to take part in this religious class. The live streaming will begin at about 9:45 to 10 a.m. each Monday. You can find the class by going to YouTube, then in the search space insert *st. francis xavier hyannis*. A circle with an S will appear, click to find the class, and recorded Masses as well.

If you didn't take part during Advent, you can go on You Tube and catch up by viewing the first three meetings. It is suggested that you obtain a copy of the book *True Devotion to Mary*. Father will be using the Tan Books edition. +

Consider Adding Eucharistic Adoration to Your Spiritual Devotions

St. Francis Xavier Parish offers parishioners and visitors the opportunity every weekday to take part in Eucharistic Adoration from noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Here are some reflections on Eucharistic Adoration from St. Teresa of Calcutta. “Every holy hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it will be recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity. It opens up the floodgates of God's merciful Love upon the world.”

“Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. It will make

your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven.”

“A Holy Hour of adoration helps bring everlasting peace to your soul and in your family. It brings us personal peace and strength. It brings us a greater love for Jesus, for each other, and for the poor. Every holy hour deepens our union with Him and bears much fruit.”

“What will convert America and save the world? My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Holy Hours of prayer.” +

Pope Francis Authorizes 8 Decrees Moving 134 Candidates Closer to Sainthood

Pope Francis has authorized the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate 8 decrees, including a decree on the martyrdom of 127 Spaniards.

Among them is a decree on a miracle attributed to the intercession of Venerable Servant of God Mario Ciceri, a diocesan priest of the Milan Archdiocese. This clears him for beatification with the title Blessed.

The decree on martyrdom concerns the Servants of God Father Juan Elia Medina, a diocesan priest and his 126 companions, priests, religious and lay persons of the Diocese of Cordoba, Spain. They were killed in “hatred of the Faith” during the Spanish Civil War between 1936 and 1939. The martyrs are cleared for beatification with the title Blessed.

The decree on heroic virtues confers the title Venerable to six Servants of God. They are: Fortunato Maria Farina, bishop of Troia and Foggia; Andres Manjón y Manjón, a priest of Granada Archdiocese and founder of Ave Maria Schools; Alfonso Ugolini, a priest of the Italian Diocese of Reggio Emilia-Guastalla; Maria Francesca Ticchi (born Clemenza Adelaide Cesira), professed nun of the Capuchin Poor Clares; Maria Carola Cecchin (born Fiorina), a professed religious of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph Benedetto Cottolengo; and Maria Francesca Giannetto (born Carmela), a professed religious of the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. +



The Role of the Virtue of Justice

"Justice is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. Justice toward God is called the "virtue of religion." Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good. The just man, often mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, is distinguished by habitual right thinking and the uprightness of his conduct toward his neighbor.

"You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." (Lev 19:15)

"Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven." (Col 4:1)

— Catechism of the Catholic Church

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and plead the widow's cause,"

— Isaiah 1:17

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

— Micah 6:8

"Look at the world today; we see a decline of Justice and Peace . . . What is Justice? And what is Peace? How can we experience it in our lives? Pope Paul VI says, 'development is the new word for peace'. Yes, if the societies, communities or even countries are focusing on the development of its members or citizens we will surely experience peace. Justice is a gift, a call and a commitment. Justice is nothing but sharing what is our due. If the politicians, other leaders and everyone in the society is ready to be just; we will experience justice. To work for justice means to take hold of the depth of the situation of the poor and understand the reality.

Everyone in the world has a right to live in dignity and we have the responsibility to become liberators of the poor and oppressed of the society. How do we respond?

Sometimes we think we have nothing to do. Some other times we pass by or remain on the mountain saying I am helpless and I will pray for you. We have to remember that it is our responsibility to walk to Jordan and Calvary experiencing the struggles by being with the people.

"Commitment for justice and peace can never escape criticism. But Jesus tells us not to lose heart when we begin to work for something good. Our hunger for justice should have deep spirituality. Our work is nothing but to participate and collaborate with the work of God. . .

"Justice and peace in the society always demands our conversion and reconciliation with God, with oneself and with one another.

— Fr. Roy Parayil MS

"Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute,"

— Psalm 82:3



Words^{OF}
WISDOM

"Be a Catholic: When you kneel before an altar, do it in such a way that others may be able to recognize that you know before Whom you kneel."

— **St. Maximilian Kolbe**

"In that blessed [Christmas] night also Joseph became the patron, the vicar, and the patriarch of the whole Catholic Church. It is certain, St. Athanasius tells us, that the stable where Jesus was born is 'a figure of the Church, whose altar is the manger, whose vicar is Joseph, whose ministers are the shepherds, whose priests are the angels, whose great High-Priest is Jesus Christ, and whose throne is the Blessed Virgin.'"

— **Edward Healy Thompson**

"It is, then, in following the will of God, in spite of all the difficulties that may arise both from within and from without, in the constant offering of ourselves to God as the creatures of His hand to do and to be what He would have us, in the surrender of one thing after another that comes between us and Him and holds us back — it is in such acts that we unite ourselves with those glorious beings who cast their crowns before the throne and with those unfallen creatures who have never known what it is to have a wish or thought apart from the will of God. Amongst those glorified saints there are, indeed, many whose wills were for a long

time in revolt against God's will and who brought themselves at last into subjection, many to whom the will of God here on earth meant the sacrifice of everything the heart most loved, many to whom it meant the sacrifice of life itself. But all that is past and over, and its fruits remain — the eternal life of oblation and union with God, where one will rules those countless multitudes and binds them together and to God, where each one of those countless millions lives his own complete and perfect life yet never jars on any other, where each is perfect in itself and all together compose one perfect whole — the Body of Christ."

— **Fr. Basil Maturin**

"Little by little, we can make our daily life more and more prayerful, as we are able, over time, to incorporate those suggestions that work with our schedule and that we are ready for spiritually. There is a particular spiritual practice that Francis [de Sales] highly recommends that is possible for all of us: even on those 'impossible' days when we are perhaps unable to undertake our normal spiritual practices, we can stay rooted in prayer by constantly addressing brief prayers to the Lord.' These can be acts of love, of adoration, of faith, of hope, of petition, or simply saying the name of Jesus — throughout the course of the day. Francis places a very high value on these simple utterances, traditionally called ejaculatory prayers or aspirations." — **Ralph Martin**

"We find ourselves in this earth as in a tempestuous sea, in a desert, in a vale of tears. Now then, Mary is the Star of the Sea, the solace of our desert, the light that guides us towards heaven."

— **St. John Bosco**