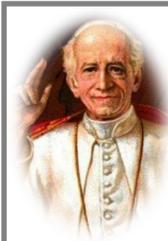


**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**  
December 27, 2020 ~ Bulletin No. 52 Vol. XXXVI

**CALENDAR ~ December 19-27, 2020**

Sat 26	5:00pm	Mass for Private Intention
Sun 27	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Jesus & Carmela Arpi by Alicia Lane Mass for ROS Hortencia Arpi by Alicia Lane Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call 289-6336 for information
Mon 28	9:00am	Mass for ROS Rubiela Cuadros by Mario & Alba Hernandez
Wed 30	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Joseph & Martha Thomas by the Quade Family
Thurs 31	5:00pm	Mass in Honor of the Goulet Family by Terry Peterson
Fri 1/1	10:00am	Mass for ROS Jay Lane by Alicia Lane
Sat 2	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton
Sun 3	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Walter & Wanda Chimiak by Nancy Frei Mass for ROS Father Gabriel Meehan by the Knights of Columbus Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call 289-6336 for information



*From the Holy Fathers*

*"The first law of history is to dread uttering a falsehood; the next is not to fear stating the truth; lastly, the historian's writings should be open to no suspicion of partiality or animosity."*  
~ Pope Leo XIII ~

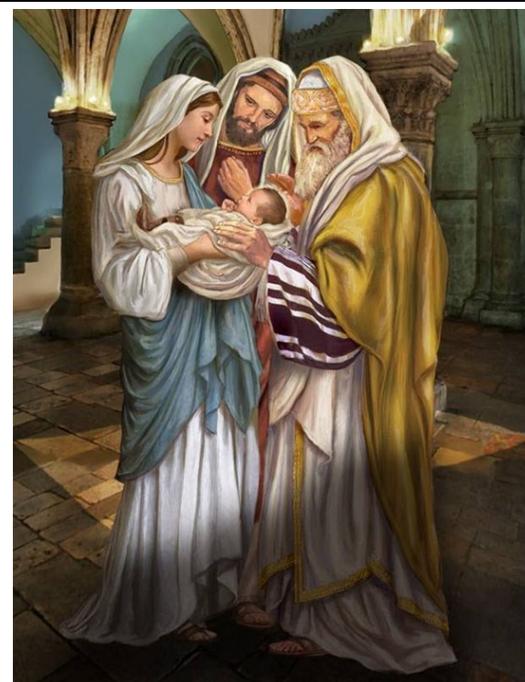
*Wisdom of the Saints*

*"It is dangerous for men in power, if no-one dares to tell them, when they go wrong."*  
~ Saint Thomas A Becket ~  
Feast January 29



**For Annulment Information**

**Contact:**  
Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or



*Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God*

**December 31:** 5:00 pm, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**January 1:** 10:00 am, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of

Next Sunday is *Yokefellow Sunday*. Our item to contribute is canned beans, any type.

**COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS:** We encourage parishioners to make their contributions by mailing them in to: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RC CHURCH, 1024 W. Main Street, Forest City, NC 28043. You can make online donations through the following link: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>.

**Collection Information from December 20, 2020**

Regular Offering \$6,179.00  
Religious Retirement \$110.00  
Building Repair Loan \$3,000.00

**Jan 3** Faith Formation classes will resume on Sunday, January 3rd.

**Jan 3** The **Knights of Columbus** will meet Sunday, January 3 at 7:00 pm. Adoration in the Chapel will be at 6:30pm before the meeting.

**Mass Intention Book 2021:** There are still several openings for Mass Intentions in 2021. Please send in your Mass Intentions to the parish office, or email to [sgdate@charlottediocese.org](mailto:sgdate@charlottediocese.org)

*"When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Luke 2: 22-35*

## Saint Joseph, Chaste Guardian of Virgins and Pillar of Families

The theme for December, the last month in our celebration of a Year of Saint Joseph, is Saint Joseph, Chaste Guardian of Virgin and Pillar of Families. The diocese explains this month's theme: "Due to his chastity and vocation, Joseph has further been entrusted to continue his mission of guarding the pure ones of God and of the integrity of the family. This power flows through him now as a reward of his personal fidelity. All religious (both men and women) and families should have recourse to this most powerful intercessor."

Powerful indeed!

Saint Joseph was a chaste, virginal husband to Mary, and it is no wonder that throughout the history of our Church, men and women in religious life have looked to Saint Joseph in a special way.

Obviously, Mary, his virginal wife, had a special devotion to him, and there have been many others over the centuries who treasure Joseph the Guardian.

For example, the Carmelite Family had devotion to Saint Joseph almost from their beginning in the early 13th century. By the mid 1400s, they celebrated a feast in his honor as the Saint Patriarch. So important was he to the Carmelites that in 1680 he was unanimously elected as the Principal Protector of the Order of Carmel, a title he still holds today.

Saint Teresa of Jesus (Avila) had a firm devotion to Joseph. She wrote that there was never a favor she asked of him that he ever denied. In her efforts to build up the Carmelite Order, she founded 17 new monasteries. Twelve were dedicated to/ named for Saint Joseph. In each of her monasteries, she placed a statue of Saint Joseph. This was an uncommon practice in the 1550s. Saint Teresa wrote: "I have taken for my advocate and protector, the glorious Saint Joseph, to whom I have recommended myself with all the fervor of my heart."

Over 300 years later, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux wrote "I prayed to Saint Joseph to watch over me. From my childhood my devotion to him was mingled with my love for the Blessed Virgin. Each day I recited the prayer, "O Saint Joseph, father and protector of virgins." It seemed to me that I was well protected and completely sheltered from every danger."

Not only Carmelites look to Joseph. Saint Faustina had a great devotion to Saint Joseph, and her religious community daily prays the Memorare to Saint Joseph. Many religious orders and communities express that same devotion.

Joseph as the Pillar of Families is well explained by Father Donald Calloway in his book *Consecration to Saint Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*. He writes: "Saint Joseph, the pillar of the family, teaches us the importance of motherhood, fatherhood, and children. He is the saint of the childhood and hidden years of Jesus...a world filled with men like Saint Joseph will experience a renewal of social and moral order."

### *The Year of Saint Joseph Is Extended in the Diocese of Charlotte*

Bishop Peter J. Jugis has extended the diocese's "Year of St. Joseph" into 2021 since the pandemic has forced the curtailment of celebratory events that had been planned throughout 2020. The Year of St. Joseph recognition will continue until May 1, 2021 with a series of outdoor and other safe and socially distanced events – including "The Advent Challenge" in which families spiritually accompany the Holy Family's 90-mile journey to Bethlehem.

### *Pope Francis Declares the Upcoming Liturgical Year to Saint Joseph*

On December 8th, Pope Francis issued a decree launching a special year dedicated to St. Joseph coinciding the anniversary of his declaration as Patron of the Catholic Church, hailing him as a model of fatherhood and a key intercessor in modern times. Published Dec. 8, on the 150th anniversary of *Quemadmodum Deus* by Pope Pius IX which declared St. Joseph patron of the Catholic Church, the decree formally instituted a year for St. Joseph, which will run until Dec. 8, 2021. The head of the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary, Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, said the year of Saint Joseph would be an opportunity for faithful to follow St. Joseph's example and "daily strengthen their life of faith in full fulfillment of God's will." More information to come.



Saint Joseph depicted in the Carmelite habit and the shields of the Carmelites of the Ancient Observance and the Discalced Carmelites