

CALENDAR ~ February 15-23, 2020

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| Sat 15 | 5:00pm | Mass for ROS Jack Greco by Peggy Jaski |
| Sun 16 | 9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm | Mass for ROS Jay Lane by Alicia Lane Mass James Brooks in Thanksgiving by Glenda Quade Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, Parish School Bldg; call 289-6336 for information |
| Mon 17 | 9:00am 7:00am | Mass for ROS Marcela Cuadros by Mario & Alba Hernandez Men's Prayer Group |
| Wed 19 | 7:00pm 10:30am 7:45pm | Mass for Maxie & Joannie Jolley by Andy & JoAnn Cilone Prayer Group, Parish Hall Bible Study, Parish Hall |
| Thurs 20 | 12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm | Mass for ROS Mike Hunter by the Lugo Boys Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel |
| Fri 21 | 12:10pm 7:00am | Mass for ROS Nelly Hernandez by Claudia Young Men's Prayer Group |
| Sat 22 | 5:00pm | Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by Knights of Columbus |
| Sun 23 | 9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm | Mass for ROS John Keyes by Peggy Keyes Mass in Thanksgiving, LC105, St. Scholastica College by Glenda Quade Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, Parish School Bldg; call 289-6336 for information |

Announcements

WELCOME to today's visiting Seminarians from Saint Joseph's Seminary.

TODAY!!!! The Annual Parish Spaghetti Dinner is Sunday February 16 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm in the parish hall. Donation is \$5 for large plate, and \$3:00 for a small plate. Dinner includes drink, salad and dessert. Take-outs are available. Seminarians from Charlotte Diocese will be our guests after the 9 am Mass.

Bible Study: "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion" ; Starts this week, Wednesday, February 19th, 7:30pm in the Parish Hall.

DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL 2020

As we look at our lives and the many ways God has blessed us, let us give back a proportionate gift to the Diocesan Support Appeal as a way of saying thank you to the Lord. God will never be outdone in generosity. If you did not turn in your completed pledge envelope during today's Mass, you may complete a pledge envelope and return it to the Parish Office or go to charlottediocese.org/dsa to make a gift online.

Year of St. Joseph Plenary Indulgences: Bishop Jugis has proclaimed 2020 as the "Year of St. Joseph" for the Diocese of Charlotte. The Holy See has granted a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions to all pilgrims who visit the parishes and chapels named for St. Joseph in the Diocese of Charlotte, including the Cathedral of St. Patrick, during the Year of Saint Joseph. Learn more about how to merit this special grace for yourselves and your departed loved ones throughout the year at www.YearofStJoseph.org/pilgrimage.



"Go to Joseph" ~ A "prayer box" is available in the Narthex to receive your confidential prayer requests. The Third Order Carmelites in our Parish will pray for Saint Joseph's intercession on your behalf. Write your special intention on the slips provided, and drop the slip into the box. No need to sign your name, God knows who we are. **ALSO, coming in the month of March,** join us in a **"Trintena"**, 30 days of prayer for Saint Joseph's intercession. **Trintena** prayers are available in the Narthex. (Remember that a **Trintena** may be done over any 30 day period)



From the Holy Fathers
"Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men."
~ Pope Leo XIII ~



Wisdom of the Saints
"When God wishes to raise a soul to greater heights, he unites it to St. Joseph by giving it a strong love for the good saint."
~ St. Peter Julian Eymard ~

For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
Email: Rachel_harrill@yahoo.com

Meetings

YOUTH MINISTRY: No meeting on Saturday Feb. 15 or 22. Our next meeting will be on TUESDAY, 25 February, from 6:30-8, in the parish hall. We will be having a Mardi Gras party! Bring a dish or treat to share!

LADIES' GUILD AUXILIARY: All ladies are invited to our meeting on Monday, 24 February, at 7:00 in the parish hall. It's time for conversation and information. If you can, bring a drink or treat to share. Eat, drink, and be merry for Ash Wednesday we fast!

PLAN AHEAD!!!!

Catholic Men's Conference is Sat. March 7th, 8 am – 3:30 pm at St. Matthews Church in Charlotte. Information is in the Narthex.



Women's Emmaus retreat is March 27-29

Bishop's Youth Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey: **Saturday, April 4.** We will be going as a group to this program. For information, go to www.GoEucharist.com, talk to Valerie Giggie at youth group meeting, call 574-229-3676 or vrgg@comcast.net.

Diocesan Youth Conference for high school students is Friday-Sunday, April 24-26th.

Our **Knights of Columbus** council is selling **state raffle tickets** until the middle of April. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased from any Knight or in the Narthex.



Collection Information: February 9, 2020

Regular Offering: \$5,988.00

Joseph, Most Chaste



Sketch used with permission of the
Discalced Carmelite Sisters of the
Carmel of the Incarnation, Beacon, NY

The Litany Attribute for February, is *Joseph, most chaste*. "Chaste love requires that one wills the good to another without taking the other to oneself as one's own. To Joseph was entrusted the Divine Child and His fairest Mother. Chaste in body but also in heart, Joseph loved freely which created the interior tranquility of order in the Holy Family." (from Diocesan website) The phrase "Joseph, most chaste" declares that in his own person, Joseph was chaste. In his marriage to Mary, Joseph was chaste.

In today's society this seems strange, and for many, perhaps impossible to believe. As a husband who loved his wife, why would Joseph forfeit his rights as a husband? Father Marie-Dominique Philippe, O.P. writes: *"Scripture tells us nothing about how Joseph and Mary came to meet. How did Joseph discover her? How did Mary come to accept his choice of her as his bride? How did she agree to be 'betrothed' to him? Naturally, this providential encounter, willed by God, happened according to the customs of the day. The Holy Spirit did not disrupt these customs; He made use of them in a unique way so as to allow there to be a true and personal choice of reciprocal love between Joseph and Mary. They chose each other freely, loving each other and discovering, in this encounter, the providential action of God in each of their lives...St. Thomas Aquinas has no hesitation in saying that there was a true marriage between Joseph and Mary because there existed in them an inseparable union of souls."*

He continues..."Joseph would not have known by himself that Mary had made a personal gift of herself to God, but from the moment Joseph chose Mary and loved her, Mary could only receive this choice and respond to it by communicating her secret to Joseph, telling him that she had surrendered herself totally to God's gracious will for her. Joseph must respect Mary's radical self-abandonment to the Father if he is to take her as his wife. In choosing her as his wife, he must thus live the same mystery as she does...sharing the same intention is the foundation of their love of friendship, a love which is so divine, so strong and so unique."



There almost always comes the question when looking at the marriage of Mary and Joseph—how old was Joseph—when looking at works of art that represent him as old and grey-haired. Considering the task that God the Father had planned for Joseph, and the two treasures He would entrust to him, that doesn't make sense. The "old-man" image was a way to protect and support the belief in Mary's perpetual virginity. Venerable Fulton Sheen, in his book *The World's First Love*, puts it this way. *"To make Joseph appear pure only because his flesh had aged is like glorifying a mountain stream that had dried...it is reasonable to believe that Our Lord would prefer, for a foster father, someone who made a sacrifice rather than someone who was forced to it...finally it seems hardly possible that God would have attached a young mother, probably 16 or 17 years of age to an old man...Joseph was probably a young man, strong, virile, athletic, handsome, chaste and disciplined; the kind of man one sees sometimes shepherding sheep, piloting a plane, or working at a carpenter's bench...instead, then of being dried fruit to be served on the table of the king, he was rather a blossom filled with promise and power. He was not in the evening of his life, but in its morning, bubbling over with energy, strength, and controlled passion."*

Sheen continues: *"In the case of Mary and Joseph there was no need of the symbol of unity of the flesh, since they already possessed the Divinity. Mary and Joseph needed no consummation in the flesh, for in the beautiful language of Leo XIII: 'the consummation of their love was in Jesus.' Why bother with the flickering candles of the flesh when the Light of the World is their love?"*

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"Joseph, most chaste, pray for us!"