

February 28, 2021

WHY CONSECRATION TO ST JOSEPH?

One of my "little" joys this week was to learn from a proud mother parishioner that her two youngest daughters (still little children) enjoyed watching on our YouTube channel the morning show of "Fr. Alain and Fr. Ben" praying the daily reflections of the 33-day Consecration to St Joseph. I was rather puzzled, and I questioned these little children: "what have you learned about St Joseph?" and I got the most beautiful answer: "when I love St Joseph, he will help me to love Jesus!" Little children know best. This is what the Consecration to St Joseph is all about: to help lead us to JESUS! If you have not yet begun this Consecration, you can still join us and learn about a great model for your Christian life while discovering in St Joseph your Spiritual Father!

We just completed today February 24 the tenth day of the Consecration to St Joseph: "*Light of Patriarchs, Pray for us*". The word Patriarch means Father. What all the patriarchs of the Old Testament foreshadowed, and all CHRISTIAN FATHERS are called to reflect, is the paternal light of God shining through the FATHERHOOD of ST JOSEPH. My own Father's name was Joseph, and he was truly the Patriarch of our family, always a good example of devoted Christian husband and loving father to my brother, sister, and myself. Tomorrow, Day 11, we will reflect on St Joseph "*Spouse of the Mother of God*". St Joseph is the model husband. Pope Benedict XVI said: "*Dear Fathers, like St Joseph, respect and love your spouse; and by your love and your wise presence, lead your children to God.*"

Since my childhood, I have had a great devotion to HOLY MARY and little devotion to ST JOSEPH. My only devotion to St Joseph was through THE HOLY FAMILY. Today, I consider myself a Marian priest. Born near Lourdes in Southern France and living my entire childhood in Tarbes only 10 miles away from Lourdes, OUR LADY has been an integral part of my spiritual life. I may have visited Lourdes 100 times. My home parish in the US for 30 years was OUR LADY OF MERCY .. and all my priesthood (except the first year) has been serving OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS parish. My favorite place of prayer in the US is close to Waldorf: The National Shrine of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. I consecrated myself to Mary in my first year as seminarian and renewed my consecration to her three times every year since. I have consecrated my entire priesthood to Mary on the day of celebrating my first Mass. SO WHY SHOULD I CONSECRATE MYSELF TO ST JOSEPH? Father Calloway gave me the answer in the First Day of Consecration:

"Do you want to ascend to greater heights in the spiritual life? Consecration to St Joseph will take you there.. Consecration to St Joseph will help you become ANOTHER JOSEPH for Jesus and Mary. That is, entrusting yourself entirely to St Joseph helps you become a faithful, loving and trusting companion of Jesus and Mary...St Joseph is the INCREASER. He has paternal love for you and the power to INCREASE the presence of God in your life and take you to greater heights in the spiritual life. For centuries, this secret of St Joseph lay hidden. Saints, Mystics, and a handful of Popes knew of it. Now it is your turn to discover it."

Every day of the Consecration, I discover something new about St Joseph. My prayer is that in THIS YEAR OF ST JOSEPH, the world can benefit from the protection of this great, unknown Saint, especially (1) the FAMILY, which is more and more under attack by the devil, and also (2) the CATHOLIC CHURCH undergoing "vicious assaults from the world, the flesh, the devil, and some of her own children". My prayer is for all of us at OLHOC that in these challenging times, we can "discover St Joseph as a spiritual father that will help us to draw nearer to Jesus and Mary and experience an increase in virtue." As I mentioned to you several times, my greatest, personal desire is to be a "saint" right here right now and forever and ever... Our common desire should become a Holy parish so that we can walk together on this journey to HEAVEN!

Let us pray together with St PETER JULIAN EYMARD, a great Saint of the 19th century, founder of the CONGREGATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: "*I consecrate to you, good St Joseph, as my spiritual father. I choose you to rule my soul and to teach me the interior life, the life hidden away with Jesus, Mary and yourself...I consecrate to you as my guide and model in all my duties so that I may learn to fulfill them with meekness and humility: with meekness toward my brethren, my neighbor, and all with whom I come in contact; with humility toward myself and simplicity before God...O Jesus, give me Joseph for a father as you have given me Mary as a mother. Fill me with devotion, confidence and filial love. Listen to my prayer. I know that you will. Already, I feel more devout, more full of hope and confidence in good St Joseph, your foster father and my spiritual father. AMEN "*

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Want to control your healthcare decisions?

The Catholic Advance Health Care Directive is a tool to help you discuss your wishes, to designate who will speak for you, and to talk about the kinds of care you want. Pray about it. Talk about it. And write your wishes down. Visit MDcatholic.org/endoflife for more information.

**Taking care of the Creation
(LAUDATO SÌ)**

Learn about the call for the faithful to care for our natural world.

Nature-Faith

Family- Health

Be part of our workshop to learn about our natural world, how we are connected to it, and what we can do to be good stewards of the Creation.

Monday, March 1 in the Father Martin Hall at 7 PM. See you there!

Community Outreach

We are always collecting for the OLHOC "Sharing Sunday" box. All much needed, non-perishable food donated will be taken to the Food Bank and Women's Shelter.

Thank you, OLHOC, your generosity has been overwhelming! The next Outreach meeting is March 3, 2021 at 7p.m. on Zoom.

The next Shepherd's table is April 22.

***** REMINDER *****

-Sanitize your hands before coming into church

-Masks are mandatory

-Maintain at least a 6 ft distance

-If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on www.olhoc.com -10 am on Sundays

Pray for Our Seminarians

Please take a moment today to stop by the "Vocations Tree" on our website, www.olhoc.com where you'll see cards for each of the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Washington. Choose one or more cards and pray for that seminarian each day during Lent. Make it a beautiful offering to the Lord this Lent to pray for those whom He calls to give their lives in service of His Church in our archdiocese.

ALTAR GUILD

As parishioner are being led, by our Lord, to return to Him at Mass and in the Holy Eucharist, the Altar Guild is needing to return to His service. The Altar Guild is calling on parishioner to consider joining and participating in this dynamic ministry as our Lenten Season is upon us. Your support is needed - if you would like to join and/or have any questions, please contact Diane Spurgeon at afbabe1@verizon.net or 301-752-3930

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us Fridays during Lent at 2:30 pm, and 7 pm.

CA/RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm -9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

The Gift of Love

Thursdays during Lent

6:45-8 pm

Please sign up on line for this amazing hybrid journey for Lent

Olhoc.com

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Barientos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittain
 Sid and Suszanna Marcus
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Ann Marie Hobart
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dunnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 Lorraine Celijewski
 Cren Wolden

Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 Richard White
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trenia Price
 Erick M. Knapp
 Norm Green

Sarah Dixons
 Grace Albrittain
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson
 Kevin Viel Sr.
 Ligia Lam
 David Stanley
 Jim McMahan
 Drew Shuda

and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, February 27, 9:00AM: Rush Limbaugh (+)
Saturday, February 27, 5:00 PM: Thomas Family
Sunday, February 28, 8:30 AM: OLHOC parishioners
Sunday, February 28, 10:00 AM: James Albert Knapp (+)
Sunday, February 28, 11:30 AM: Concepcion Romero Bonilla (+)
Sunday, February 28, 7:00 PM: Phillip Michelitch (+) & Emileo Vega (+)
Monday, March 1, 9:00 AM: Graham Paldwen
Tuesday, March 2, 9:00 AM: Eileen Williams
Wednesday, March 3, 9:00 AM: Kenneth Glover
Wednesday, March 3, 7 PM: Pat Fraizer
Thursday, March 4, 9:00 AM: Fequiere Family (+)
Friday, March 5, 9:00 AM : Cyrille & Juste Family (+)
Friday, March 5, 7:00 PM: Delwinde Ouedraogo

Pregnant? Help is Available

Call 1-800-712-4357, text HELPLINE to 313131, or visit optionline.org to find the nearest pregnancy resources near you.

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by [giving alms](#); and we practice self-control through [fasting](#). We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Tuesday Scripture Study- Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Friday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

First Saturday-Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy- Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to office@olhoc.org.

Mass Readings for March 7, 2021
3rd. Sunday in Lent

***First Reading**

Exodus 20:1-17

***Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

Romans 8:31b-34

***Gospel**

John 2:13-25

www.usccb.org



33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph February 15– March 19



Let's walk together as a parish for 33 days with St. Joseph, the foster Father of Jesus. We will begin 2 days before Ash Wednesday, and conclude on his feast day, March 19. The daily prayers can be found here:

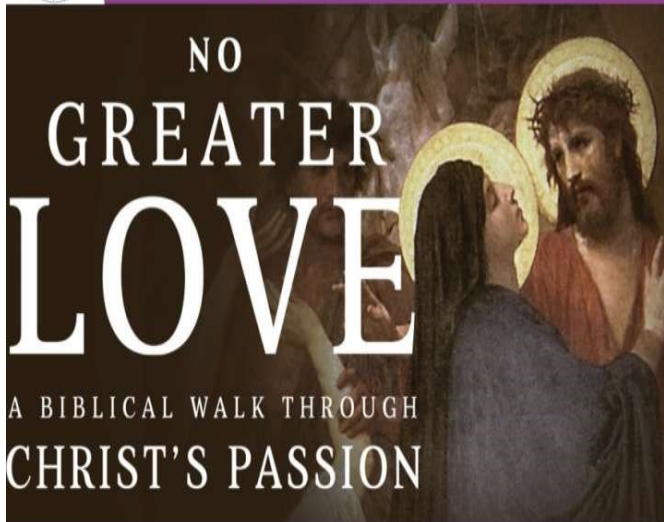
https://www.unleashthegospel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/33-Days-of-Prayers-and-Daily-Challenge_ENGLISH.pdf

Watch Father Alain and Father Ben pray the daily Consecration to St. Joseph on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPy19h3DAiE&list=PL5JnH-BK6yVn6KmeIxrOBns1LZGQbMaLy&index=10>



Parish Lenten Retreat: The Gift of LOVE (A Biblical Walk Thru Christ's Passion)



6 Sessions

Thursdays: February 18 - March 25

6:45 pm - 8:30 pm

Study, Music & Fellowship

**Location: OLHOC Fr Martin Hall or
via Zoom Meeting**

**Thousands sought Jesus during his life. Only a few followed him to Calvary.
What will you do?**

This Lent, commit to a sacrifice of time and invest in your spiritual life.

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, "No Greater Love" is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary.

Join fellow parishioners by signing up today:

www.olhoc.org/lent2021

or call the parish office 301-645-7112