



St. Jude Church

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March 21, 2020

Saint Jude Parishioners,

This past week we celebrated the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I imagine St. Joseph spent most of his life hidden in Nazareth. I use "hidden" to mean we know very little about St. Joseph's life other than what we read in the beginning of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. His life is "hidden" from us.

I also imagine during his hidden life St. Joseph did good, great good by doing his duty. I imagine he did his duty towards his holy family as a loving husband and father. I imagine he did his duty for his work as a carpenter. And I imagine he did his duty for his larger community.

The coronavirus is forcing us to enter into our own hidden life. We are physically separating from many of the people we know and the things we do. During this time, let's have St. Joseph as our guide. Like St. Joseph, let's do our duty to our families, to our work, and to our larger community. For some of us that duty may simply be staying home. And if this is your duty, don't be afraid to "hide" during this time if you need a break for your own mental or emotional health by going for a walk or a ride or outside for some fresh air. For others, our duties may include providing medical care, providing public safety, providing child care, providing food, or maintaining our infrastructure.

Like St. Joseph, we can do a great good by doing our duty during this time of trial. And like, I imagine St. Joseph at the beginning or end of the day, let's return to Jesus in prayer, interceding for all who are impacted by the evil of the coronavirus. Our Lord surely does not abandon us. Rather, I imagine Jesus is inviting many of us now to truly live our Christian faith, our Christian duty, and become saints in the world.

We can continue our duty to serve others locally. Unless conditions change, the parish office will be open this coming week from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM and from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM to accept donations for Metro Catholic Outreach as well as budget envelopes for the parish. Financial donations for the parish may also be made via our website: judes.org/donate. Our website, judes.org, will be updated during this time in an effort to continue to provide information on ways we can pray and serve.

I conclude with this prayer adapted from the Mass on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph:

We pray, O Lord, that just as Saint Joseph served with loving care your only begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mary, so may we serve and do our duty to you and your people during this time of need, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

~Father Mark Murphy