

St. Joseph the Worker, May 1, 2020

First Reading: Gen 1: 26- 2: 3; Or Col 3: 14-15, 17, 23-24;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90: 2, 3-4, 12-13, 14, 16;

Gospel Reading: Mt 13: 54-58.

Theme: Imitating St. Joseph the Honorable Worker as Co-creators

On this first Friday, we celebrate two great feasts. The feast of ALL WORKERS, and the Feast of the greatest worker and my favorite saint; The Blessed Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus.

God worked continuously for six days. The Son of God worked for 30 years in silent obedience under the watchful eyes of his foster father, Joseph the Worker. Joseph worked his whole life as a carpenter. He taught Jesus a trade of shaping wood and hearts: both of which are very difficult but important tasks.

No work is degrading. God made human beings in his image to work and become co-creators. A person actualizes her or his potential when the person creates by working. God created everything to be very good, but his creation is often exploited and abused. To “master” does not mean exploitation. Honest work, no matter how menial can be sacrificial and sanctifying, making people participants in the work of redemption.

As we celebrate in union with workers, we are invited to pray for all those who cannot find jobs, exploited, and abused at work. We pray for all those who cannot work because of the coronavirus. May Jesus Christ who learned the trade of St. Joseph and helped him to put food on their family table look kindly on all those who are jobless and hungry because of the crisis.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor