

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great joy that we wish you a very Merry Christmas! Although this year has been a year of trials, no virus, no political or societal unrest, and no economic uncertainty can take away a Christian's joy at the celebration of our Lord's birth. We have a message of great hope, peace, and joy for all the world: death, darkness, evil, and sickness will never prevail over our glorious King and Savior nor over any of us who give our lives to him and place our ultimate hopes only in Him and in the victory of heaven! Take heart, rejoice, and do not fear!

We will celebrate these days of Christmas for over two weeks during the first eight days which honors the Mother, Mary of God with a special Holy Day of Obligation on New Year's Day January 1 (see special insert for the Holy Day mass schedule). Then, we remember the twelve day of Christmas which end with the fourth most important feast day in our Church calendar (Epiphany) and is completed with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord on January 10th this year. Our Christmas celebration has just begun. Please profess your faith in Jesus by leaving your decorations up through the whole season!

Pope Francis has named this year the Year of St. Joseph in honor of the Foster Father of Jesus who we consider to be the Patron Saint and Protector of the entire Holy Catholic Church. Pope St. John XXIII gave him that title and Pope Francis inserted St. Joseph's name into our most used Eucharistic Prayers. In recognition of the difficult time the Church has endured in recent decades, and in light of the reality that greater trials may yet come upon us, Pope Francis is asking all of us to implore St. Joseph to protect us at this hour.

During the season of Christmas, in the Gospels read particularly on Christmas Eve and on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, we remind ourselves that St. Joseph was protector, provider, and patriarch of the Holy Family. Every father is called to be such for the sake of his own family and God the Father entrusted St. Joseph with the great responsibility to take His place on a human level in guiding, leading and protecting the Holy Family through all danger and distress. The gospel writers remind us that in order to care for the Holy Family, St. Joseph always listened to and resolutely followed the will of God the Father in spite of the difficulties that lay before him:

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about:

When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill
what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us".
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.
He had no relations with her until she bore a son,
and he named him Jesus. Matthew 1:18-25

[And later,]
When the magi had departed, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt,
and stay there until I tell you.
Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."
Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night
and departed for Egypt.
He stayed there until the death of Herod,
that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled,
Out of Egypt I called my son.

When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi,
he became furious.
He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity
two years old and under,
in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi.
Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:

A voice was heard in Ramah,
sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more. **Matthew 2:13-18**

St. Joseph, teach all fathers and men to be courageous for those in their care! St. Joseph, help all men to be fathers and leaders after the heart of God the father! St. Joseph protect the Holy Catholic Church of your Son from the attacks of darkness and evil which are upon us now!

The Church (and all of us who believe) are currently surrounded by political, economic, and natural evils that wish to take goodness, truth, beauty, and even the joy of living itself from our lives. Like St. Joseph, we will persevere with the help of God's grace in faith, hope, and love, no matter what the future brings. We know that God will overcome all sickness, suffering and human and supernatural evil for those who are faithful and persevere courageously like St. Joseph. The promise of Christmas is that Light will conquer Darkness once and for all.

All fathers are called to be prepared and ready to protect their family in the hour of need, and so we ask St. Joseph to help us be spiritually ready first of all for whatever may happen in the near future. We have been reflecting on messages from heaven for the last nine months that have called us to be ready and attentive for it appears that a new era in time's progress toward the Kingdom of God may be upon us. Are you ready to respond to the Father's will and do whatever

is necessary for the spiritual safety and salvation of your own soul and of those around you like St. Joseph was? Daily prayer, the praying of the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion, reading of the Bible, and acts of love and charity for others are the tools that we must employ these days for the protection and prosperity of our souls and the souls of others. Are we willing to work for the Kingdom of God by using these tools in order to make a spiritual living for ourselves and our families?

St. Joseph was called to make timely, courageous decisions to act toward the will of God and so are we. The time is short and we must courageously prepare and act decisively, like St. Joseph, for our own salvation and that of those around us, as a recent “seer’s” message from heaven reminds us:

Jennifer – Where is Your Trust?

Our Lord Jesus to Jennifer on December 6th, 2020:

My Child, I ask My Children, is it you that are quarantining yourself from Me or Am I being quarantined from you? Where does your trust lie? Does it rest in Me or in the ways of the world? You cannot serve two masters. At a time when so many desire to immerse you in great doubt and confusion, you must keep your focus on Me. This world is passing, and your true home is in heaven. You are being stripped and detached from your worldly pleasures. You are being shown how to separate what is of this world and what is of Me, for I Am Jesus. Stay awake, My Children, for great change is coming. You must be prepared to defend the truth, to defend your faith, and witness the gospel message. When the world tells you to be silent, I say to you, shout from the mountain tops and allow your voice to echo until it penetrates the hearts of those who have turned away. Speak the truth and you have nothing to fear, for I Am the God of Mercy and Justice, and the time has now come when I will shine My Light into the souls of mankind, for it is My Mercy and Justice that will prevail.

(Taken from: www.countdowntothekingdom.com/jennifer-where-is-your-trust/)

Dear St. Joseph, teach us to be courageous for God and for one another like you were at the time our Savior was born. Teach us to live the truth with great love and courage! May we trust that the Light will always conquer the Darkness when we remain and act in the Grace of Christ!

In the Prince of Peace, Jesus,

Fr. Derda, Fr. Steve, Deacon Russ, Deacon Ed