

May 1, 2020

The Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

Good morning, dear Parishioners,

Today is the first of May, and for us, the month of Mary, our Blessed Mother.

Yesterday, after sending you *Pembroke and Church Streets*, I made a visit to our Lord in the Tabernacle with the intention of praying my Rosary while I was there. Like all of you, I have my particular place to sit and so I sat in my own special place with one eye on the Tabernacle and one eye on *Our Lady of Saint William of York*, as I named her yesterday.

*Our Lady of Saint William of York* stood most reverently at her Son's right hand. *Saint Joseph the Worker*, with tools in hand, seemed to know his place to the left of Our Lord.

"It's the classic Catholic line-up," I thought to myself as I took it all in.

We begin the month of Mary with devotion to Joseph, her husband. Always humble, Our Mother Mary doesn't mind our honoring him. Neither, I think, will Saint Joseph mind if I bestow a new title on him, just for us: *Saint Joseph the Worker of Saint William of York*.

Now, having done that, I'll tell you what I think. I think that in *Our Lady of Saint William of York* we have the most beautiful statue of Our Mother I've ever had in all of the parish churches I have ever lived in or been assigned to, including Saint Aidan; the same goes for our newly titled *Saint Joseph the Worker of Saint William of York*.

I don't know about you, but as my worn brown Rosary beads passed through my fingers, I was struck by the beauty of our sanctuary, by the *warmth* it exudes. With Our Lord in the Tabernacle at the center, the peaceful interplay of wood, brass and marble helped me to pray with a calm that I effortlessly was able to surrender to.

Sadly, the churches in some dioceses are completely and utterly closed and locked down. Our beautiful church is open today and every day from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Confessions will be heard today at 9:30 AM and again tomorrow at 9:30 AM and 6:00 PM.

With Our Lord there in the Tabernacle, between *Our Lady of Saint William of York* and *Saint Joseph the Worker of Saint William of York*, I felt safely at home *where I belong*.

Now I send you my blessing again, through the air, and with kindest regards.

Your grateful pastor,

Father DeMartino