

**Pastor's Notes: St. Joseph Table, The Annunciation, and Holy Week****March 21, 2021**

As we are celebrating the Year of St. Joseph, the **Solemnity of St. Joseph** on March 19 has special meaning this year. Here at the Basilica, we are highlighting it, in particular, with the **St. Joseph Table** in the vestibule this weekend, as an opportunity for charity. St. Joseph is a providential figure of fatherhood, so fitted to our own times. I pray that our devotion here to St. Joseph will bear the fruit in many men's lives, inspiring them to follow the example of the Patron of the Universal Church.

This Fifth Sunday of Lent is also the beginning of Passiontide. Starting Monday, our statues and crucifixes will be veiled through Holy Week until Easter. On Thursday, March 25, we will celebrate the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord** with a sung Mass at 12pm. At this Mass each year we also recognize the many mothers in our parish who are expecting a baby. I will extend a special blessing over these mothers. It is also a time to acknowledge those mothers who have lost a baby to miscarriage or otherwise. I will likewise extend a blessing to these mothers during this Mass.

The **Chattanooga Symphony (CSO)** will be performing at the Basilica Friday, March 26 at 7pm and Saturday, March 27 at 3pm & 8pm. The concert is entitled "Beethoven Octet" and features works by Beethoven, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Leonardo de Lorenzo. You can order tickets at [chattanoogasymphony.org](http://chattanoogasymphony.org) or through our website.

Next weekend, we will begin **Holy Week** with Palm Sunday, followed by the Sacred Triduum, and Easter Sunday on April 4. We have been making special preparations to accommodate all those who would like to attend in person or via the live-stream. See the schedule included in the bulletin this weekend, and I hope you'll join us as you are able. On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, when we have large crowds, we will be offering a second Mass in Varallo Parish Hall shortly after the Mass in the church begins. This Mass will be a simpler spoken Mass, but we hope it will allow everyone who has come to attend a live Mass to do so. On **Holy Thursday** we will have a multilingual Evening Mass of the Supper of the Lord at 6:30pm. Space will be limited at this one Mass we are permitted to offer that day. After Mass we will have Adoration in the rectory chapel of repose until midnight. On **Good Friday** we will offer confessions at 1pm, and we have a special allowance for two Passion of the Lord services, to allow more people to attend: one at 3pm in English and the other at 6:30pm in Spanish. At the **Easter Vigil** this year, we anticipate over 300 RCIA members, sponsors, and family members. Because of social distancing requirements, we will have to limit the in-person attendance to the RCIA, but we will be live-streaming all these services for you to watch from home.

*Rev. J. David Carter*

We will have a traditional **St. Joseph Table** set up in the vestibule on Friday, March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and it will remain through the weekend of March 20-21. It is an opportunity for charity and celebration.

The St. Joseph Table is a legendary tradition that started in Sicily and evolved in gratitude for the intercession of St Joseph during a famine.

- It is a way to practice charity as an opportunity to give to the poor in honor of the great St. Joseph, who provided for the Holy Family and is Patron of the Universal Church.
- It is also normally an opportunity to festively celebrate St. Joseph on his Solemnity on March 19 when the Table is blessed during Lent.

Our St. Joseph Table will be blessed after the Noon Mass on March 19 this year, after a statue of St. Joseph is brought to it in procession.

This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, all the food placed on the St. Joseph Table as well as monetary donations, will be given to the Chattanooga Community Kitchen to benefit the poor, as part of the Lenten fundraiser and food drive the Knights of Columbus Council 610 has organized. Please bring food and monetary donations, and you may also donate to their Facebook fundraiser through the link on our website, or directly at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/450157272828807/>

Checks can be made out to Knights of Columbus 610 with the note "Food for Families" and mailed to:

**Knights of Columbus 610**  
313 Sylvan St.  
Chattanooga, TN 37405

Donations may also be made through Venmo to knightsforcolumbus-610 with the note "Food for Families".

**You may also bring non-perishable food items to the food donation bin in the Basilica vestibule any time during Lent.**

