March 15, 2020 ~ Third Sunday of Lent

Pastoral Team

Rev. Jason U. Grisafi,
Pastor
Rev. Ethel Anarado,
Associate Pastor
Rev. David Atanasio,
In Residence
Rev. Francis A. Samuel, O.I.C.
Resident/Associate
Deacon Michael J. Leyden
Deacon Julio Murillo
Deacon John F. Sullivan- Retired
Dr. Marie Drohan, Music Director
Mrs. Barbara McNulty, Pastoral Associate
Ms. Claire Moulè, Faith Formation
Mrs. Patricia Taggart, Nursery School
Mrs. Sigrid Villalobos A., Parish Social Ministry

We Celebrate the Eucharist

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm Church
Sunday Church - 7:00am, 8:45am, 10:15am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm
Nolan Hall - 9:30am- Family Mass 11:30am (en Español)

Weekday Mass Schedule
Mon. to Fri. - 7:45am, 9:00am Church
Saturday - 9:00am Church

Our Parish Mission Statement
The Parish of St. Joseph is a Roman Catholic Community of Christ’s Disciples:
We Welcome. We Worship. We Witness.

We Celebrate the Sacraments

Baptism
Parents are requested to call the Parish Office at least two months before child’s birth to make arrangements. New Parents’ Instruction Class will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in Room 257. Baptism is celebrated every Sunday of the month at 1:45pm.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
Anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church should call the Parish Office.

Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm in the Church or call the Parish Office for an appointment.

Matrimony
Couples are requested to call at least six months before the wedding for an appointment with a Priest or Deacon to set the date and make arrangements. No arrangements can be made by phone.

Anointing of the Sick
Fourth Saturday of the month at the 9:00am Mass or call the Parish Office.

We Assemble for Prayer

Rosary
Every Monday at 8:20am we pray the Patriotic Rosary.
Before the 9:00am Eucharist Tuesdays through Saturdays we pray the Rosary.

Miraculous Medal Novena
We pray this at the 7:45am & 9am Mass every Tuesday.

Men’s Spirituality Group:
Witness and grow in Faith. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Hours of Adoration: Mon (7am-9pm); Tues. (8am-9pm); Thurs. (8am) - Fri. (Midnight). We have Holy Hour to the Holy Face of Jesus every Wednesday at 5pm & Friday at 3pm in the Divine Mercy Chapel. Call Parish Office for more information.

Nocturnal Adoration
A Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the First Friday of each month, from 9:00pm to 10:00pm in the Chapel.
The Sacraments of Life

Newly Baptized
Dante Joseph Cirillo, Jasir Angel Conserve & Valentina Giambalvo.

Preparing for Marriage
Banns Posted
First Time ~
Benjamin Clifford & Bridget Finn
Second Time ~
Vincent Yancigay & Ashleigh Beckwith
Third Time ~
Wiliams Argueta & Katherine Landa Rojas

For Our Sick

For Our Deceased
Please pray for the families and souls of our deceased members including Patricia Marie Ryan Casey, Christine Ann DeRossi & Nicholas Joseph Cascio.

Mass Schedule & Readings For The Coming Week:

At this Mass, we remember
Monday, March 16
2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4; Lk 4:24-30
7:45 James Rooney
9:00 Thomas W. De Rosa

Tuesday, March 17
Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
7:45 Ralph Magliaro
9:00 Ann & Frank Kerins

Wednesday, March 18
Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
7:45 Susan Hashagen
9:00 Linda Rose Le Vaillant

Thursday, March 19 ~ Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
7:45 Ann & Donald Lyons
9:00 Mary & Louis Catalano

Friday, March 20
Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
7:45 Marion C. Ferrara
9:00 Dorothy Desmond
2:00 Stations of the Cross
7:30 Via Crucis (NH)

Saturday, March 21
Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b; Lk 18:9-14
9:00 James Koehler & Elizabeth Feminella

Weekend Celebrations (barring last minute changes)
4:00 Confessions Today Fr. Ethel
5:00 Violet Buckenmeyer Fr. Ethel
Joseph M. DeLucca
Ronald J. Wroblewski
Eileen Dillon
Angel Sanchez

Sunday, March 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
7:00 Joseph M. DeLucca Fr. Jason
8:45 Lorraine Cardinal Fr. Francis
9:30 (NH) Marie Szydlowski & Joseph Usher Fr. Dave
10:15 People of St. Joseph’s Fr. Francis
11:30 (Español- NH) Fr. Dave
12:00 George Rebecchi Fr. Jason
5:00 Ann Sullivan Fr. Ethel

The Parish Office will open at 11 AM on Thursday, March 19.
Please join us at 9 AM in the Church for a Mass in celebration of St. Joseph.
Join us after Mass in the O’Connell Room for light refreshments.

Eucharistic Minister Teams:
Weekend of March 14/15 - Team B
Weekend of March 21/22 - Team A
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During Lent, especially during Holy Week, we focus on the actions of Christ which brought about our salvation. One might use the words of the prophet Zechariah to describe our demeanor: "and I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that, when they look on Him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over Him, as one weeps over a firstborn" (12:10). Indeed, we look upon Jesus Christ, the Lord, the firstborn son of Mary, pierced by the thorns, nails, and spear. And, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation" (Colossians 1:15), and through His death and resurrection He is also, "the beginning, the firstborn from the dead" (1:18). It is interesting how these words of St. Paul unite Christ's work as both "the Word through whom all things were made" and the savior who brings new life to humanity with His identity as the firstborn, the one who is "the beginning" and the "image of the invisible God."

Following this line of thought, we can say that when we look upon the face of Christ in His passion, death, and resurrection, we look upon the face of God in a way that is more clear than any other. Maybe this is no surprise. At the Last Supper, Jesus instructs Philip, and us, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9). And yet, maybe there is a reason why this is so hard to believe. Maybe it is something so extraordinary that Philip could not believe it was taking place. For what would Philip have believed about seeing the face of God? What does the Old Testament say about seeing the face of God?

On Mount Sinai, Moses is cautioned by God, "you cannot see my face; for man shall not see me and live" (Exodus 33:20). Those who are visited by angels often fall down from the sight or by hearing their voice, as if dead (cf. Ezekiel 1:28, Daniel 10:9). Gideon provides us with an example of how it would have felt, "then Gideon perceived that [his visitor] was the angel of the Lord; and Gideon said, 'Alas, O Lord God! For now I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face.' But the Lord said to him, 'Peace be to you; do not fear, you shall not die'" (Judges 6:22-23). Dreaded as the experience is, seeing the face of the Lord also gets used as a blessing. The blessing that Aaron and the priests of the old covenant are instructed to give is, "the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). In multiple Psalms we see this same theme of the face of the Lord being a blessing. One example will suffice: "Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!" (80:7). How can we reconcile these two trains of thought?

They become reconciled in Christ, the one who shows us the face of the Father, and whose death brings us life as we die and rise in Him. That same passage from Zechariah that we started with goes on to say, "on that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness" (13:1). When we look upon the face of Christ with faith, particularly in His passion, death, and resurrection, we do see the face of God, and we die! We die to ourselves, we die to our former sinfulness, we die to our waywardness, we become buried with Christ so that we can rise with Him! For it is precisely in this same face that all the blessings promised in the Old Testament find their fulfillment. The fountain of the blood and water that flowed from His pierced side does cleanse us. St. Paul expresses this a few times in his letters, "we were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

And so, whether it be on something like the Shroud of Turin, or the Vultus Christi, or on the images of the stations of the Cross, or on the crucifix used on Good Friday, or the crucifix at the end of a set of rosary beads, and, of course, the Eucharist, let us look upon the face of Christ, the face of God, and die and be raised!

Sincerely,

fr. Jason
Third Sunday of Lent

Office Hours/Parish Office: (631) 669-0068
E-mail: secretary@stjosephsbabylon.org
Mon. to Friday 9:30am - 7:30pm
Sat. 9:30am to 4:00pm ☑ Sun. 9:30am -1:30pm

Cemetery Office: (631) 669-0068 Ext. 107
Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 12:30pm
Please call in advance for an appt. during these hours.

Faith Formation Office: (631) 587-4717
Mon. to Fri. 9:00am to 4:00pm

Hispanic Office: (631) 669-0068 x131
Friday 7:00 to 9:00pm

Outreach Office: (631) 669-4544
Food Pantry: (631-669-0068 x 201)
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
9:30am to 1:30pm

Thrift Shop: (631-669-5574)
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
10:00am to 3:00pm

Nursery School: (631) 661-4559
Youth Ministry: (631) 669-0068 x 108
Parish Office Fax: (631) 669-9175
WebSite: www.stjosephsbabylon.org

Mass for Hearing Impaired
Hearing impaired parishioners may enjoy
Signed Mass at 12:30 PM each Sunday
at Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip

HOTLINE NUMBERS
Crisis Pregnancy Center (631) 243-2373
Post-Abortion Counseling 1-888-456 HOPE
(Project Rachel)
National Human Trafficking 1-(888) 373-7888
Domestic Violence (Nassau County) Safe Housing (516) 542-0404 (24/7)
Domestic Violence (Suffolk County) Hotline & Shelter (631) 666-8833 (24/7)
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk County (631) 360-3730
Office for Protecting Children/Young Adults-Diocease of Rockville Centre (516) 594-9063
Suicide Prevention (Nassau County) (516) 679-1111
Suicide Prevention (Suffolk County) (631) 751-7500
Talbot House: Chemical Dependence Help (631) 589-4144
Porn Addiction www.reclaimsexualhealth.com

Prayers for Our Military

U.S. Navy:
Lt. Cdr. Michael Catalano
Lt. John T. Izzo
Lt. Caroline Mayer
Lt. Dylan Kelly
Lt. Christian Amelia
PO1 Rasheen Tice
PO2 Kristen Tice
PG3 Matthew Waldron
E2 Liam McKeown
E3 Nicholas Ruf

U.S.M.C.:
Capt. Matthew Witcosky
1Lt MarcAnthony Parrino
1Lt R.J. Parrino

U.S.A.F.:
Capt. Matthew Witcosky
1Lt MarcAnthony Parrino
1Lt R.J. Parrino

SMGT John Hatzidakis
SSGT Brandon Ward
AB Christopher Signoretti
AB Eric Benzing
AB Vincent E. Berger

Bulletin Reflection:
When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. The Samaritan woman left what she had and told her people about Christ, whom she had just met.

All are welcome to join us—
Monsignor Nolan Hall at 3pm on Sunday, March 22nd for a live dramatic presentation of the Stations of the Cross.

Join us as we experience the trial of Jesus, his Journey through the streets of Jerusalem, carrying the burden of the Cross, and the final moments of the Crucifixion.

There is no cost for this presentation. Creative Ministries will accept a free-will offering.

Sacrificial Giving
Thank you for your generosity in returning to God and God's work some of what God has given to you.

3/8/2020
Collection $20,726.00
Last year $21,187.00
God Bless You!

We continue to pray for the following military personnel and their families:

U.S. Army:
LTC John Kallo
LTC Jon J. Uebel
Capt. Stephen Scuderi
1LT Mark Barbera
2LT Anthony C. DiBiasi
LT Joseph A. Vanderveldt, III
SSG Josuah Insull
SSG David C. Ray
Sgt Edwin Zambro
SPC Elliot Chodkowski
SPC Alexandra Diaz
PFC Dominick Pifitto
PV2 Danny Bornschein
Eric Stein

U.S.A.F.:
MSGT John Hatzidakis
SSGT Brandon Ward
AB Christopher Signoretti
AB Eric Benzing
AB Vincent E. Berger
The Faith Formation Office Hours:
Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.
Visit our website @ www.stjosephsbabylon.org for information regarding upcoming meetings, events and other parish news. Faith Formation Handbook is also on the website!

A note about attending Mass: Please remember to bring your Mass attendance envelope, print all your children’s names and grade levels clearly and include your last name. While donations are appreciated, the envelopes are mainly for attendance purposes. Weekend Masses begin on Saturday at 5pm and continue through Sunday @ 5pm.

Catechist Evaluation Meeting – Thursday, April 2nd @ 7pm in the O’Connell Room. Your feedback is very important to us. We use your feedback to make changes in the Faith Formation Program. Please R.S.V.P @ cmoule@stjosephsbabylon.org

The Level 2 students and their catechists will be having a retreat on Saturday, March 28th from 10am – 12 noon in Nolan Hall. Please arrive at least 10-15 minutes early to sign in.

The Level 4 students are expected to attend any Mass this weekend to receive a Beatitude Prayer Card and a special blessing.

Level 4 students are expected to attend any Mass the weekend of March 28th & 29th to receive a special blessing and to return the Lenten Rice Bowls. Thank you so much for any donations you are able to make.

The Level 5 students are expected to attend any Mass the weekend of March 21st & 22nd to receive a Works of Mercy prayer card and a special blessing.

Level 6 students are to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, March 14th in the Church. Those with last names that begin with the letters A-L come to the 11:15am service and those with last names beginning with the letters M-Z come to the 12:45pm service. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to allow time to sign in.

New Family Registration Meeting – Thursday, March 26th in the O’Connell Room. Please come at either 11am or 7pm. This meeting is for anyone who is new to the Faith Formation Program. Please bring your child’s Baptism Certificate and either a check, money order or cash to pay for the registration fee (at least 50% should be paid upon registration). Fees are as follows: 1 child $150, 2 children $215 and 3 or more children $270. If you are unable to afford the registration fee, please visit the Outreach Center to have the fees waived at (631) 669-4544.

Little Rock Scripture Study - Hebrews

Hebrews is more like a sermon than a letter. It reviews the history of Israel to demonstrate how Jesus Christ fulfills and even surpasses all the hopes expressed in the Old Testament.

Thursdays: March 26; April 2, 16, 23, 30: May 7, 14 at 7:30pm-9:00pm
First Meeting on March 26 will be in Room 259

Register by March 16th. Fee is $25. Those who do not register by March 16th, will need to order study material from the Little Rock Scripture Study website.
FOR FAMILIES

Sunday, March 22nd  3pm in Nolan Hall  Journey, Cross & Crucifixion
A live dramatic presentation of the Stations of the Cross by Creative Ministries.

Wednesday, March 25th  4 – 8 pm  Parish Night at Panera
Join us at Panera, 1025 Montauk Highway, West Babylon.  Bring your family & friends –
Have dinner there or take out, but mention St Joseph’s Parish and we receive a percentage
of all proceeds for the night.  A great way to come together with your Parish Family.
Let’s pack the place!
Electronic Flyer is on the parish website – please show the flyer when you check out.

Holy Week Teaching Services  – All ages welcome as we learn about our Holy Days.
An inter-active Prayer Service led by Catechists in the Church

At 11am on Holy Thursday (4/9), Good Friday (4/10) and Holy Saturday (4/11)

***We are looking for a few more parents to give us a hand with these services. If you are available, please let us know.
Call Barbara at: 631-669-0068 ext 108 or email: youth@stjosephsbabylon.org

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 20th  LI Ducks Fireworks Night. Parish Night out!!!

FOR TEENS

FUN ‘N’ FAITH ON FRIDAYS  * No meeting on March 20*
Those in Grades 5 and above we have some extra activities just for you!
Most Friday evenings from 7 – 8:30pm we meet in the Madonna Room (all the way on the 4th Floor!) for some Fun & Faith.  After some prayer and discussion we come to the gym for plenty of activities.
Please check website for details and reserve your seat: https://stjosephsbabylon.org/youth-ministry

PBJ GANG

Thursday, 3/19 @ 7pm in the Madonna Room.
This date is also the feast of St. Joseph

We will be doing something new tonite: preparing Wash Kits and
Making bologna & cheese sandwiches.
Please check the website for details and to reserve your seat.
If you can’t make it, but want to help with supplies, they can be dropped in Parish Office.

FOR ADULTS ONLY

Saturday, April 4th  – Paint Night  – Tickets $40
A lot of fun & laughs – we bring our own appetizers or desert to share –
Parish Paint ‘N’ Sip with family & friends. Must have tickets in advance!

How do I find out about what’s going on in the Parish?
1 – Parish Website:  www.stjosephsbabylon.org
2 – Facebook: St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church
Mark your Calendars

Lenten Mission
Preached Vespers
Monday evenings during Lent.
March 16, and 23
at 7 PM in the Church
Join us to explore the
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary
with fr. Jason as our guide.

Stations of the Cross
Fridays
English: 2 PM in the Church
Español: 7 PM in Msgr. Nolan Hall

Pre-made Crosses
For Palm Sunday
Place your order early!
$10 per Item
An example is available to see in the Parish Office during business hours
NAME: _________________________________
ADDRESS: _____________________________________________
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _________________________
# Crosses ________________ x $10 each

Need to pre-order/pre-pay by March 22nd.
Drop this form at the Parish Office with your check or money order payable to:
St Joseph Parish
Or mail it directly to:
St Joseph Parish,
39 N. Carll Ave, Babylon, NY 11702
Att: Family Ministry
Palm Crosses will be available for pick up April 3rd & 4th.

If you wish to make a donation toward an Easter Lily plant in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a living person, please fill out the form below and return it to either the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket.
The suggested donation fee is $20 per plant.

Our deadline for collecting donations is March 26, 2020.
Checks can be made payable to St. Joseph’s Church.
Thank you for your generosity during this Easter season.

Please Print
Name ___________________________________________ Phone _________________________
Name of person(s) to be remembered: _____________________________________________
# of Plants: ________________ Amount enclosed: ________________
We are very grateful that the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of St. Joseph Parish are hosting a food drive during Lent, which is called ‘40 Cans for Lent’ to benefit our Outreach Program.

Canned goods, food cards and monetary donations are needed to assist those who are less fortunate during this time of Lent.

Your donations make a positive difference in our Community.
Junior Catholic Daughters of America

Of our many service projects, creating Birthday Boxes to donate to Parish Outreach is one of the most fun!

At our March 3 meeting, members of the Junior Court wrapped shoe boxes and filled them with treats for a nice birthday party.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 PM in the O'Connell Room. We will make the floral centerpieces for our upcoming Mother Daughter Breakfast in May.

Any girl, ages 10+ interested in joining us can call Laura at 631-704-0035.

The Tale of Two Cantors

We understand Our Lord takes care of us and makes sure we have every opportunity to stay on the road He has given us to follow. This is one of the main beliefs of our Catholic Faith. I think, however, He does the same for those of other religions.

In every aspect of his life, Jim was a very good man; he was accomplished in his profession, talented with his music, and much valued as a friend to many. Raised in the Jewish faith, it waned over the years to the point where Jim did not practice his faith, not even on the High Holydays.

For many years, a local parish had an interfaith group with a temple in the same town. They shared experiences of their faith, developed programs for the community, and even had a combined choir which sang prior to Thanksgiving. The rabbi, in need of a cantor for his own choir, asked Jack, one of the leaders of the Catholic church choir, if he would help the temple at prayer services. Deeply touched, Jack agreed and sang for both congregations!!

About the same time, Jack became friendly with Jim through a mutual friend. In the months which followed, Jack learned of Jim’s heritage and his musical talents. Before too long Jack convinced Jim to add his voice to the temple choir, which he did. Now renewed in his Jewish faith, Jim credits Jack for bringing him back to his fold of his ancestors.

God calls all of mankind to spend eternity with Him. There may be many twists and turns along the way, but His Grace will always be there for ALL of us. Our evangelization should lead others to lead a good life within their own belief system. Just as Jack was able to help Jim find comfort for his soul by regaining what had been lost, so should we direct all hearts to the one God who loves us all.

ENDOW~ Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women

More than 150 women have experienced the Joy of Endow here at St. Joseph’s. Discover your own “feminine genius” through the richness and authenticity of Catholic teaching.

We are small study groups which cultivate faith, fellowship and formation.

Classes begin Tuesday, March 31st at 7 PM- 9 PM in Room 252A

For more information, call Graceanne Fitzgerald at (631) 587-8690.
Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

En la Cuaresma, particularmente en la Semana Santa, nos enfocamos en las acciones de Cristo que ganaron la salvación para nosotros. Con las palabras del profeta Zacarias, se puede describir nuestro comportamiento: "Derramaré sobre la casa de David y sobre los habitantes de Jerusalén un espíritu de gracia y de súplica; y ellos mirarán hacia mí. En cuanto al que ellos traspasaron, se lamentarán por él como por un hijo único y lo llorarán amargamente como se lora al primogénito" (12:10). Es cierto, vemos la cara de Jesucristo, el Señor, el primogénito de María, traspasado por las espinas, por las clavos, y por la lanza. Además, "El es la Imagen del Dios invisible, el Primogénito de toda la creación" (Colosenses 1:15), y por su muerte y resurrección, Él es, también, "el Principio, el Primero que resucitó de entre los muertos" (1:18). Es muy interesante que San Pablo una el trabajo de Cristo como "la Palabra por quien todo fue hecho" y como el salvador que da la nueva vida a la humanidad con su identidad como el primogénito, él que es "el principio" y "la imagen del Dios invisible."

Con estos pensamientos, podemos decir que cuando veamos a la cara de Cristo en su pasión, muerte, y resurrección, vemos a la cara de Dios más claramente que los demás momentos. Tal vez no es una sorpresa. En la última cena, Jesús enseñó a Felipe, "¡El que me ha visto, ha visto al Padre" (Jn. 14:9). Sin embargo, quizás hay una razón porque es tan difícil de creer. Quizás lo que sucedió es tan extraordinario que Felipe no podía creerlo. ¿Qué creía Felipe de ver la cara de Dios? ¿Qué dice el antiguo testamento?

Sobre El Monte Sinaí, Dios advirtió a Moisés, "tú no puedes ver mi rostro, añadió, porque ningún hombre puede verme y seguir viviendo" (Ex. 33:20). Los que encuentran a un ángel se caen como muertos al verlo o al sonido de su voz. (cf. Ez. 1:22-23). Aunque las escrituras digan que la experiencia de encontrar la majestad de Dios es espantoso, ver el rostro de Dios es una bendición. Dios ordenó a Aarón y a los presbíteros de la antigua alianza a bendecir a su gente en esta manera: "Que el Señor haga brillar su rostro sobre ti y muestre su gracia. Que el Señor te conceda su rostro y te conceda la paz" (Números 6:24-26). También, en muchos Salmos leemos que ver el rostro del Señor es una bendición. Un ejemplo es: "¡Restáuranos, Señor de los ejércitos, que brille tu rostro y seremos salvados!" (80:7). ¿Cómo reconciliamos estos dos temas?

Son reconciliados en Cristo, Él que nos muestra la cara del Padre, y con su muerte nos da vida cuando morimos y resucitamos en Él. El mismo pasaje de Zacarias continúa, "Aquél día, habrá una fuente abierta para la casa de David y para los habitantes de Jerusalén, a fin de lavar el pecado y la impureza" (13:1). Cuando veamos al rostro de Cristo con fe, particularmente en su pasión, muerte, y resurrección, si, vemos al rostro de Dios, ¡y morimos! Morimos a nosotros mismos, morimos a nuestra condición como pecadores, morimos a nuestros errores - ¡entramos al sepulcro con Él para resucitar con Él! Porque es precisamente en la misma cara de Cristo que esta la plenitud de las promesas del antiguo testamento. La fuente del agua y sangre del costado traspasado de Él nos purifica. San Pablo lo expresó en sus cartas, "Por el bautismo fuimos sepultados con Él en la muerte, para que así como Cristo resucitó por la gloria del Padre, también nosotros llevemos una Vida nueva" (Rom. 6:4).

Entonces, si es en una imagen grande, o en la cruz de nuestro rosario, y especialmente cuando veamos al Santísimo, ¡veamos a la cara de Cristo, el rostro de Dios, para que moramos y resucitemos!

En Cristo,
P. Jason
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(631) 249-4994 or Email- Geosk@aol.com
The Remaining Family Owned Funeral Home
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