

# A Pastor's Perspective

January 24, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis promulgated an apostolic letter about St. Joseph entitled *Patris Corde* which translates, “With a Father’s Heart.” Pope Francis, who has often spoken of his personal devotion to and trust in St. Joseph, desires “to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.” Throughout this next year (until December 8, 2021 - proclaimed by Pope Francis as the “**Year of St. Joseph**”), our parish will strive to fulfill this desire, inasmuch as one of our six churches is under the patronage of St. Joseph.

Over the next few weeks, I will summarize the Holy Father’s thoughts as found in this brief teaching. Pope Francis uses an outline that describes who St. Joseph is for the Church. Each section focuses on a particular quality that reveals the heart of Jesus’ earthly father: **beloved, tender and loving** (Week I); **obedient and accepting** (Week II), **creatively courageous and working** (Week III), and a **father in the shadows** (Week IV).

## Teaching – Week I:

**St. Joseph is a beloved, tender and loving father.** The Scriptures present St. Joseph as someone who is accessible, that is, he was a humble carpenter, engaged to Mary; they also present him as a model of fidelity whom we are called to imitate because he was just, righteous or holy. Because St. Joseph’s heart is open to God and his love, the Lord is able to speak to him through dreams. In turn, St. Joseph’s greatness is found in how he allows God’s grace to transform “his human vocation to domestic love [as a spouse and father] into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart, and all his abilities...” (*Saint Paul VI, 1966*).

St. Joseph accomplishes this superhuman sacrifice in simple ways: he cared for Jesus as an infant, feeding him and holding him by the hand; he showed Jesus compassion rather than fear or anger when he was lost; he taught Jesus to take his first steps in faith and to walk with courage, especially when the journey before him was uncertain; and he shared his craft of carpentry with the Creator of the universe. Jesus’ earthly father lived “holiness” in his everyday circumstances.

**Lesson – Week I:** All husbands and fathers have hopes and dreams for their children – certainly for a better life here on earth, but especially for the blessed life of eternity in heaven. Husbands and fathers are called upon to open their hearts to the love and grace that God the Father offers to all His children.

*Peace and blessings,  
Msgr. Andrew*