

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Today we are celebrating the Feast of St. Patrick. Patrick was born in Britain around 386 A.D. When Patrick was 16 years old, he was captured by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland where he was sold into slavery. Patrick came to view his enslavement as God's test of his faith. During his six years of captivity, he became deeply devoted to Christianity through constant prayer. In a dream, he saw the children of pagan Ireland reaching out their hands to him and grew increasingly determined to convert the Irish to Christianity.

Patrick escaped slavery through a dream and entered the priesthood. In 432 A.D., he was ordained as a bishop and was soon sent by Pope Celestine I to Ireland to spread the gospel to non-believers while also providing support to the small community of Christians already living there. Many legends also have been associated with his life including that he drove away all the snakes from Ireland and he introduced the Holy Trinity through the three-leaved shamrock.

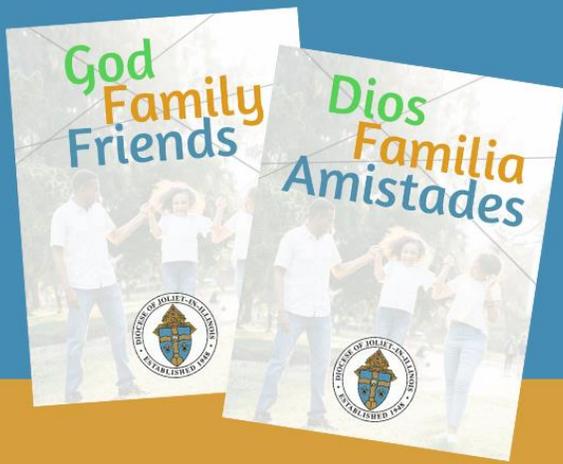
We celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Pope Francis declared 2021 as the "Year of St. Joseph." As we know, Joseph was a normal human being, just like us. He was however, chosen to do great and wonderful things. Joseph and Mary were engaged, and found out Mary was carrying Jesus-through the Holy Spirit. Under Mosaic law, Joseph could have had Mary stoned, but he was going to divorce her quietly. An angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary into his home. Joseph trusted, listened and obeyed. He loved Mary and took care of her, and took care of Jesus as his own. After Jesus was born, Joseph had another dream, to go to Egypt...again, Joseph trusted and listened. Joseph never speaks in the New Testament, but we see his trust, how he had said yes, and loved both Mary and Jesus. St. Joseph is the Patron of the Universal Church, Patron of Workers, and Patron of a happy death.

Pope Francis has a statue of Sleeping Joseph on his desk and writes down problems or difficulties and places them underneath the statue of Sleeping Joseph. We must remember that Jesus slept with the protection of St. Joseph. We can entrust our problems and difficulties to St. Joseph.

Attached is God, Family, Friends to use with your children, grandchildren, or neighbors in your Domestic Church throughout the week. Our weekend Mass times are Saturday at 4pm, Sunday at 8:30, 10:30am and 1pm for our Polish speaking parish family members. Go to our parish website and click on "Reserve A Seat" to register you and your family. Join us!! We would love to see you at Mass.

***St. Patrick and St. Joseph, Pray For Us!***

~Janet



Helping families focus  
on what matters most

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

Themes: Jesus died to give us eternal life and to multiply believers  
(Reminder: Friday, March 19 is the Feast of St. Joseph)

### GOD

#### Mass

Our weekend Mass is now livestreamed. Check our parish website for the link; [www.omgccc.org](http://www.omgccc.org). Click on "Livestream Available" or you can go directly to our Vimeo link, <https://vimeo.com/omgc>, where you can view our weekend Mass.

Diocese of Joliet St. Joseph Resource page:

<https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/reo/content1.php?secid=86>

#### Sunday Readings

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032121-YearB.cfm>

Sunday Gospel Video (Jesus predicts his death and glorification)

<https://youtu.be/vvTaC2Pazq0>

#### Sunday Lectio Divina Guide

<https://catholicdotbible.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/lent-5.pdf>

### FAMILY

St. Joseph Feast Day Activities

<https://www.catholicicing.com/st-joseph-feast-day-celebration-ideas/>

**Seed planting activity:** Fill paper cups with potting soil and have children plant vegetable or flower seeds, watering them and putting them in a sunny window. Watch them sprout into new life as Spring comes - and when the weather is warm enough, transplant them to your garden. Be sure to remind your child every time they water and care for these young plants that the seeds, which looked dead and were "buried" in the soil have been raised to new life, just as Jesus, who died and was buried in the tomb rose to new life.

## Dinner Conversation

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". (John 3:16)**

One day, we will be welcomed into the Kingdom of God because we lived our lives according to God's will. We believed in *Him*, we followed *Him*, and we tried our best to be like *Him*. The gift we receive from God is called eternal life—a life with God in heaven. As we continue to journey through this Lenten season, let us take a moment now to ask ourselves, "How are we each doing on our path toward eternal life with God?"

## Questions for Discussion

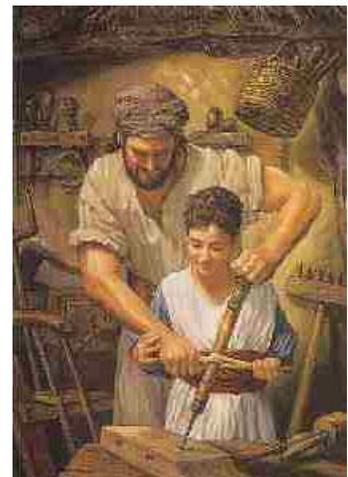
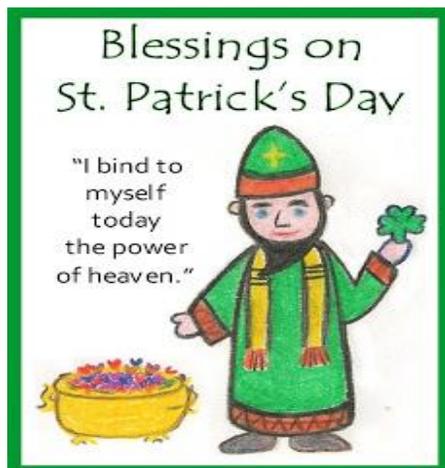
As a family, allow the following questions below to guide you as you further explore the knowledge that **Jesus Died to give us Eternal Life.**

1. What gifts has God given to you in your life here on earth?
2. How do you share the gifts you have received from God with others? With your family?
3. What do you imagine it will be like to receive the gift of eternal life in heaven with God?
4. What steps are you already taking on your path toward eternal life with God?
5. How have you tried to *follow* and *be like* God?

## FRIENDS

It's almost Spring - and time to clean up our houses, lawns and yards. We call this "Spring cleaning." When we do that, we show others that a new season is coming. For believers in Jesus, this also means the season of Easter is coming. This year, when you clean and prepare, think about how the place you live can shine with the joy of resurrection - new flowers, cleanliness and all the things that bring us joy are beginning to replace the dullness of winter.

If there is someone in your neighborhood who is older and needs help cleaning their yard, be sure to offer your family's help to spread the joy. You might also ask if they need help planting flowers or a garden. Let's share the joy!





# GETTING TO KNOW ST. JOSEPH

WEEK	PRAYER OF THE WEEK	BIBLE STORY TO READ	ACTIVITY	IDEAS & RESOURCES FOR PARENTS
<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younger Kids: <a href="#">The Sign of the Cross</a></li> <li>Older Kids: <a href="#">The Hail Mary</a></li> <li><a href="#">Prayer Book</a></li> <li><a href="#">St. Joseph Novena</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Joseph's Dream</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew 1:20-21</li> </ul> <p>Questions to Ponder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What were some of the amazing promises the angel told Joseph about Jesus?</li> <li>What would you do if an angel appeared to you in a dream?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose an intention and pray the <a href="#">St. Joseph Novena</a> for nine days.</li> <li>Print, color, and write a note to a friend or family member in these <a href="#">St. Joseph cards</a>. Stick a few cards in the mail this week to encourage others!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Joseph was a carpenter and used his skills to care for the Holy Family. This week build something out of wood- a toothpick tower, a toy block creation, or even try building or fixing something together using real tools!</li> <li>For grownups- Read all or part of Pope John Paul II's letter on St. Joseph called <a href="#">Redemptoris Custos</a></li> </ul>
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younger Kids: <a href="#">The Hail Mary</a></li> <li>Older Kids: <a href="#">The Our Father</a></li> <li><a href="#">Memorare of St. Joseph</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Flight to Egypt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew 2:13-14</li> </ul> <p>Questions to Ponder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did Joseph show the virtue of obedience?</li> <li>What are some ways you can work on being more obedient to God and to your parents and teachers?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about the Sleeping St. Joseph tradition using this <a href="#">booklet</a> and these coloring pages <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a>. Prayer cards available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>Pray the <a href="#">Memorare of St. Joseph</a> together.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Joseph guided the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem to Jerusalem to Egypt and then back to Nazareth. Look up those locations on a map and figure out how many miles they traveled.</li> <li>For grownups- Check out these awesome <a href="#">quotes about St. Joseph</a>. Choose one to write in a journal, family message center, or hang on the fridge.</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younger Kids: <a href="#">The Glory Be</a></li> <li>Older Kids: <a href="#">The Apostles Creed</a></li> <li><a href="#">Holy Family Prayer</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Holy Family in Nazareth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luke 2:39-40</li> </ul> <p>Questions to Ponder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In what town did Jesus grow up?</li> <li>What do you think Jesus' childhood was like?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Color and pray the Holy Family Prayer, available in <a href="#">cursive</a> or in <a href="#">print</a>.</li> <li>Try this <a href="#">St. Joseph digital Scavenger Hunt</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A traditional food associated with St. Joseph is bread because he was the "bread winner" and provider for the Holy Family. Bake bread together this week with your family using your choice of yeast or quick breads. Here's one <a href="#">recipe</a> to try if you'd like to make an Italian St. Joseph's Day Bread.</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Younger Kids: <a href="#">The Our Father</a></li> <li>Older Kids: <a href="#">The Hail Holy Queen</a></li> <li><a href="#">Litany of St. Joseph</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Finding in the Temple</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Luke 2:41-52</li> </ul> <p>Questions to Ponder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did Jesus surprise Mary and Joseph?</li> <li>What do you think wisdom is? How can we grow in wisdom?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray the <a href="#">Litany of St. Joseph</a> together. Choose one title of St. Joseph to draw a picture of and hang up in your home in honor of St. Joseph.</li> <li>Bonus Pure Heart of St. Joseph <a href="#">coloring page</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For grownups- Have you heard of the book <a href="#">Consecration to St. Joseph</a> by Fr. Donald Calloway? It is a wonderful collection of writings by Saints and Popes about St. Joseph, organized and expanded on by Fr. Calloway. The best-selling book is a beautiful way to get to know Joseph better, and therefore draw closer to Jesus and Mary as well.</li> </ul>