

August 29, 2021

Good Sunday Morning All,

Don't forget to get your tickets to next week's First Friday Fish Fry and a Movie! See the Knights of Columbus in the Narthex for more details.

Divine Mercy Sunday Prayers today at 3:00 in the Church.

1. Today's Readings: [Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)
2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Sundays with St. Joseph...an ongoing collection in the Year of St. Joseph

St. Joseph's life was a continual process of waiting on the Lord's revelation to him. He had to wait for the Lord to reveal what Mary's pregnancy was all about, and what his role was to be. When Jesus was an infant, St. Joseph had to take his family and uproot them to Egypt to flee Herod's murderous threat (Matthew 2:13-23). In Egypt, he would have had to find new work and new shelter for his family and stay indefinitely in a foreign land. But Joseph was patient. Joseph trusted in God's providential care for him. Today, Bishop Gruss of Saginaw, Michigan, gives us a meditation on St. Joseph's patience.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "Go, then to Joseph, and do all that he shall say to you;
Go to Joseph, and obey him as Jesus and Mary obeyed him;
Go to Joseph, and speak to him as they spoke to him;
Go to Joseph, and consult him as they consulted him;
Go to Joseph, and honour him as they honoured him;
Go to Joseph, and be grateful to him as they were grateful to him;
Go to Joseph, and love him, as they love him still." *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

~ "The two disciples, going to Emmaus, (Lk. 24:13-31) were inflamed with divine love by the few moments which they spent in company with our Savior, and by His words. What flames of holy love must not, then, have been enkindled in the heart of St. Joseph, who for thirty years conversed with Jesus Christ, and listened to His words of eternal life; who observed the perfect example which Jesus gave of humility and patience, and saw the promptness with which He obeyed and helped him in his labors, and all that was needed for the household!" *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

~ "Have patience. Patience is the strongest medicine that heals great and long lasting trials. Most trials are endured only with patience. Great patience can resolve

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many problems and bring about divine results; when you do not even expect a solution, God provides the best solution. You should know that God is pleased when man goes through trials and endures them without grumbling, giving glory to His holy name." *St. Paisios the Athonite*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Patience is Willingness to Suffer; Patience is a Virtue

Today, we want to reflect upon Joseph, Mirror of Patience.

We have all heard these words many times, "Patience is a virtue." Patience is listed by St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

People talk about the 'Patience of Job". And, it is something which many people often confess the "lack of" in the Sacrament of Penance.

And St. Joseph is seen as the Mirror of Patience. What do we mean by that? Let's look at patience in general. We have all practiced patience on a human level, perhaps in an isolated incident or situation. I practice patience in a traffic jam; at the checkout line; with a two year old who is learning something.

Our patience can wear quite thin.

But we also have experience that when something is out of our control, or when we cannot have something instantly, or when we are struggling with the same problem or issue, or when we are dealing with someone else's faults, our patience can wear quite thin, we might say. We wonder where it went!

Finding peace and calm in our days can be very challenging with all of the different demands and pressures that we experience. What I have described is more about human patience.

Holy habits

The virtue of patience is different. Virtues in and of themselves are holy habits which help us to live more fully our relationship with the Lord. They help us to live (and love) as God desires of us. They lead us to holiness. So the virtue of patience indicates a habit of acting or perhaps better put, a way of being that has become a part of our holiness. This is the patience of St. Joseph.

Patience is willingness to suffer

When we look at this virtue, patience is willingness to suffer. A patient is one who suffers an illness not by choice, whereas a patient man is one who suffers willingly rather than relinquish the vocation given him. Joseph was patient because of his love. He was willing to suffer anything for Mary and Jesus if that is what God asked of him.

St. Joseph's life required a lot of waiting. Imagine what must have been going through his mind when being awakened by an angel and being told to take Mary as his wife.

Imagine leaving Nazareth for Bethlehem with a pregnant wife and not knowing what would await them....only to find "no room at the inn."

Imagine the distress

Imagine the distress he may have experienced at being awakened in the night by an angel who told him the Divine Child's life was in danger. And he was told to take the Child and His Mother and flee immediately to a foreign country.

These are just some of the trials St. Joseph had to face as the head of his family. And what husband and father would not be in a constant state of anxiety in these situations? At least on a human level.

St. Joseph's obedience is something I talked about a few weeks ago. Joseph was obedient in responding to God's direction in caring for Mary and Jesus. The virtue of patience goes hand-in-hand with obedience.

St. Joseph did not demand to know the full plan laid out step-by-step before God's time to do so.

He lived the virtue of patience

But he patiently awaited the revelation of God's plan, submitting himself completely, always peaceful, kind, calm, and abandoned to God's providence. He lived the virtue of patience. And he desires to help us do the same.

When we have difficulties in our lives, we should look to St. Joseph, the Mirror of Patience, and learn from him how to be patient in wearisome and painful situations, and how to bear inconveniences and hardships.

Practicing the virtue of patience

These are little crosses that God sends to us; not because he doesn't like us – in fact, he loves us. Not because he wants us to suffer. He wants to teach us the way of holiness by practicing the virtue of patience.

Patience, and trust in God does not mean that we will be free of anxieties, or upheaval in our lives.

When Jesus was left back in Jerusalem with the Church leaders, Mary and Joseph had to go back and look for him, and they were filled with great anxiety. But their earlier experiences in life gave them boundless confidence in Divine Providence. Their faith gave them an awareness that no matter what happens in life, God foresees it, allows it, and can bring good out of it if we trust in His loving concern.

It takes a deep faith in God

The practice of Christian patience requires that everything be seen in this light of faith. No matter where life's trials and suffering come from, they are foreseen by God and allowed for our spiritual purification and growth. This is part of conversion. But it takes a deep faith in God to be aware of His hand in it all, and a strong trust and love of God to accept His will in patience, i.e. with an interior serenity of mind and heart. This Lenten season St. Joseph wants to teach us this....holy patience.

Our patience will be tested

As part of our human condition, our patience will be tested. It probably is on a daily basis – whether it be at home or the work place, or certain situations or events out of our control. Do we have the boundless confidence in the Lord that St. Joseph had?

Joseph lived with two perfect people. We don't! I am sure Joseph experienced unpleasant people in his life, people who were difficult to deal with. We do as well. One way we can exercise the virtue of patience is by being merciful to others, especially when we know their faults. Forgiving them, praying for them, asking God's blessing upon them. Ask the Lord for the grace to love your neighbor.

Our faith and trust in God will deepen

By God's grace, practicing patience means we can deal with the daily annoyances, the faults of others, the little inconveniences, and the big problems that face us. In the process of practicing the virtue of patience, our faith and trust in God will deepen.

Go to St. Joseph and ask his intercession to help you be patient and merciful, trusting in God's plan and care for you.

St. Joseph, Mirror of Patience, pray for us!

Source: Saginaw.org by Bishop Gruss