

~From the Administrator~

Dear Parish Family,

April 25, 2010

Congratulations to Patrick Larrance and Maria Cotter who were our first marriage of the 2010 season last Saturday. We wish them all the graces of the Sacrament of Matrimony, and offer our prayers for much happiness.

We also offer prayerful congratulations to the two infants who received the Sacrament of Baptism at last Saturday's evening Mass: Kaleb Richard Block and Allie Anne Reihl. Kaleb's older sister, Claire, received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please pray for Claire as she works to recover from serious health issues.

Please continue to pray for our students who will be receiving their First Holy Communion on May 2, at the 10:30 am Mass. They completed their retreat last weekend and were very prayerful and attentive.

I also want to give a shout-out to the students in Mrs. Clark's Fourth Grade class who are continuing in their preparations to become altar servers; as well as to the other students who are studying hard to master this very important duty.

Next weekend will be our Mission Co-op Weekend. Please plan on coming 15 minutes before Mass to hear the important message on the efforts of the *Foundation for Children in Need* in India. Following the weekend liturgies, will be a 12 minute DVD shown in the Gathering Area.

This week we remember the feasts of several saints: April 25, St. Mark the Evangelist; April 28, St. Peter Chanel, a missionary to Polynesia and a martyr; April 29, St. Catherine of Siena, co-patroness of Italy; and April 30, Pope St. Pius V, who led the counter-reformation in the 16th century.

Finally, please continue to pray the Novena to St. Joseph the Worker which ends on his feast day on Saturday, May 1.

O God, the Creator of all things, You have laid the law of labor upon the human race. Grant, we beseech You, that by the example and protection of St. Joseph we may perform the work You command and attain to the reward that You promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us keep each other in prayer. May God always bless you!

Fr. David

CATHOLIC WORD OF THE WEEK: TRISAGION

The 'trisagion' is a brief hymn of three references or statements declaring the holiness of God. In the Eastern Churches it is a standard hymn in the Divine Liturgy. In the Western Church, it may be used during the liturgy of the adoration of the Cross on Good Friday.

The word 'trisagion' comes from the Greek language meaning 'thrice holy.' In English it is: "Holy God! Holy Mighty One! Holy Immortal One! Have mercy on us!" In Greek it is: "Ἅγιος ὁ Θεός, Ἅγιος ἰσχυρός, Ἅγιος ἀθάνατος, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς." ("Ἄγιος ὁ Θεός, ἅγιος ἰσχυρὸς, ἅγιος ἀθάνατος, ἐλεῖσον ἡμᾶς.") In Latin it is: "Sanctus Deus, Sanctus Fortis, Sanctus Immortalis, miserere nobis."

In a more recent devotional use, the 'trisagion' is prayed at the end of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER: MAY 1

The feast of St. Joseph the Worker was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 in order to emphasize the Christian dignity of labor and give to all workmen a model and a protector in the person of St. Joseph. By the daily labor in his shop, offered to God with patience and joy, St. Joseph provided for the necessities of his blessed spouse, Mary, and of the Incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, and thus became an example to all laborers.

“Workers and all those laboring in conditions of poverty will have reasons to rejoice rather than grieve, since they have in common with the Holy Family daily preoccupations and cares.

(Pope Leo XIII)

St. Joseph the Worker

“May Day” has long been dedicated to labor and the working man. It falls on the first day of the month that is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Pope Pius XII expressed the hope that this feast would accentuate the dignity of labor and would bring a spiritual dimension to labor unions. It is eminently fitting that St. Joseph, a working man who became the foster-father of Christ and patron of the universal Church, should be honored on this day.

The prayers and readings of the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours provide a catechetical synthesis of the significance of human labor seen in the light of faith. The Opening Prayer states that God, the creator and ruler of the universe, has called men and women in every age to develop and use their talents for the good of others. The Office of Readings, taken from the document of the Second

Vatican Council on the Church in the modern world, develops this idea. In every type of labor we are obeying the command of God given in Genesis 2:15 and repeated in the responsory for the Office of Readings. The responsory for the Cantic of Zechariah says that “*St. Joseph faithfully practiced the carpenter’s trade. He is a shining example for all workers.*” Then, in the second part of the Opening

Prayer, we ask that we may do the work that God has asked of us and come to the rewards he has promised. In the Prayer after Communion we ask: “*May our lives manifest your love; may we rejoice for ever in your peace.*”

The liturgy for this feast vindicates the right to work, and this is a message that needs to be heard and heeded in our modern society. In many of the documents issued by Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, the Second Vatican Council and Pope John Paul II, reference is made to the Christian spirit that should permeate one’s work, after the example of St. Joseph. In addition to this, there is a special dignity and value to the work done in caring for the family. The Office of

Readings contains an excerpt from the Vatican II document on the modern world:

“Where men and women, in the course of gaining a livelihood for themselves and their families, offer appropriate service to society, they can be confident that their personal efforts promote the work of the Creator, confer benefits on their fellowmen, and help to realize God’s plan in history.”



+ Adapted from Saints of the Roman Calendar by Enzo Lodi +

