

Dear Parishioners:

Today is St. Joseph's Day! It is the Feast of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary. May 1 is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker. But today, March 19, we focus on St. Joseph the Husband of Mary (and foster-father of Jesus). This Feast Day is a good time for all husbands and fathers to reflect upon what it means to be a Catholic husband and a Catholic father.

As Pope Francis has said:

*St. Joseph's mission is certainly unique and unrepeatable, as Jesus is absolutely unique. However, in protecting Jesus, in teaching him how to grow in age, wisdom and grace, Joseph is a model for every educator, and in particular for every father. I ask for you the grace to be ever closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close, close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love. Be, for them, like St. Joseph: protectors of their growth in age, wisdom and grace. Guardians of their path, and educators: walk alongside them. And with this closeness, you will be true educators."*

- General audience on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19, 2014

Sometime today, please say this prayer

*Gracious St. Joseph, protect me and my family from all evil as you did the Holy Family. Kindly keep us ever united in the love of Christ, ever fervent in imitation of the virtue of our Blessed Lady, your sinless spouse, and always faithful in devotion to you. Amen.*

May the peace of Christ be with you and your family, especially during these trying times.

Fr. Brian

PS: I will miss the St. Joseph's pastries but, hopefully, the bakeries will still make them in the future! Between Irish soda bread for St. Patrick's Day and the various St. Joseph's pastries, it has not been a good culinary week!