

2nd Day of the 33-Day Preparation for Consecration to St. Joseph

Why Consecrate our parish to St. Joseph?

Dear parishioners of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish,

Obviously, our parish is dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Why should we consecrate it to St. Joseph? And why should we consecrate ourselves as individuals to St. Joseph?

Many people consecrate themselves to Mary because the saints tell us that she can bring us closer to her Son. Mary raised Jesus, and so she can raise us up to be like him: “until we all attain to knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the full stature of the fullness of Christ.” (cf. Ephesians 4:13). Mary and the Holy Spirit conceived the Body of Christ. They can help us to be born as members of the Body of Christ, which is the church (1Cor. 12:27; Col. 1:18)

Similarly, St. Joseph raised Jesus. St. Joseph can guide us so that we grow more and more Christlike. Some people say: “I prefer to go straight to God.” They say that by focusing only on God, you will give God more importance. In my experience, however, the opposite is true. The more I meditate on how great Mary and Joseph are, the more I realize how great God is. I have been devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary since my childhood here at the Parish of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I am convinced that the more I am devoted to the Virgin Mary, the more I become convinced that Mary is highly exalted in heaven, the more I realize how great and exalted God himself must be, since of course God is INFINITELY GREATER than the Virgin Mary. During this year of St. Joseph, I am coming to realize that devotion to St. Joseph is also important in order to have an exalted notion of who GOD THE FATHER is. As I begin to reflect on the beautiful, fatherly love of St. Joseph, I begin to have an idea of the HEAVENLY FATHER.

In our 33-day preparation for consecration to St. Joseph, we receive today a challenge from the great St. Teresa of Avila, doctor of the church (1515-1582). She says that she wants everyone to know how powerful the intercession of St. Joseph is, and she challenges anyone to put it to the test by asking favors from him:

“I wish I could persuade everyone to be devoted to this glorious saint, for I have great experience of the blessings which he can obtain from God. I have never known anyone to be truly devoted to him and render him particular services who did not notably advance in virtue, for he gives very real help to souls who commend themselves to him. For some years now, I think, I have made some request of him every year on his festival and I have always had it granted... I only beg, for the love of God, that anyone who does not believe me will put what I say to the test, and he will see by experience what great advantages come from his commending himself to this glorious patriarch and having devotion to him.”

-St. Teresa of Avila

Please pray the Litany of St. Joseph every day at home for the intention of consecrating our parish to St. Joseph on March 19th!