



COMMUNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

“THROUGH TRUST AND WORK”

An Apostolate of the Institute of the Good Shepherd



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The term break is until 17th Oct.
- There will be a Low Mass (instead of the usual High Mass) on Sunday, 18th Oct.
- There will be an All Saints Day Celebration on 1st November at 1PM at Carrick Hall. Children are to dress up as a saint of their choosing. Please bring a dish to share for lunch and note it on the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MASS

MON - THURS | 8AM LOW MASS
FRI | 6PM LOW MASS
SAT | 9AM LOW MASS
SUN | 10AM HIGH MASS

CONFESSIONS

MON - THURS | 7:15AM - 7:45AM
FRI | 5:30PM - 5:45PM
SAT | 8:15AM - 8:45AM
SUN | 9:15AM - 9:45AM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

THURS | 5 - 6PM

VIA CRUCIS

FRI | 5PM

ROSARY

SUN | 9:30AM

Note: These timings may change for special feasts. Please refer to the calendar on the last page.

SAINT JOSEPH'S WORLD PART 4: HIS EYES

“Blessed are the eyes that see what you see” (Lk 10:23 & Mt 13:16). With these words Our Lord told His followers that they were fortunate to see the fulfilment of the Old Covenant take place before them in His Person. Centuries had passed, many had come and gone, and at the appointed hour God revealed Himself in Christ. The phrase can equally be applied to Saint Joseph, whose far-seeing, ever-penetrating eyes saw the depths of God’s goodness.

We say that the eyes are the window of the soul and with good reason. Sad eyes always betray themselves. Tired or pre-occupied eyes display their restlessness. While the eyes of anger flash like flames. There are also the eyes of those who seem to see further and deeper than anyone else. When we encounter such persons they pierce us with their regard, they seem almost to plumb our soul.

Saint Joseph would have had such eyes, for his holiness and wisdom – not to mention his purity – were supreme. So, he had eyes unlike those around him, eyes that penetrated and looked through the surfaces of events and people through to the truth itself.

Such were the eyes he had when he set his eyes upon Mary for the first time. While we too often judge things by their surface appearance, the wise see the full picture. They see the interior beauty of a person shine through their exterior just as when we find an older woman beautiful because she has a stately and wise air about her. Of course, in Mary’s case, her body followed her soul; her interior beauty was matched by an exterior beauty.

Those eyes of Saint Joseph, when they looked on Mary for the first time, saw clearly because they were untainted by impurity. His heart was clean and clear, his body perfectly chaste so that he was ready to receive with clarity and vigour all that was presented to him. No self-interest or ambition was in his look. He didn’t have the eyes of a predatory bird or a stalking tiger, but of a man in love with God.

And so, when he looked on Mary the glory of holiness was seen and grasped by him in a way that no other man around him could achieve. He above all other men could see her worth and special place before God and in the plan of Salvation. It’s for this reason that he loved her; and she was to be his wife.

And after she fell pregnant and Saint Joseph with the “eye” of his mind saw the dream that instructed him to take Mary as his wife, he saw her again in a richer

light as the new Tabernacle and the bearer of the Saviour of the world. Such knowledge would have been enough to cause in him unceasing contemplation had he not the duty to protect and look after this precious cargo.

How would those eyes have looked upon Jesus? In the first place, the eyes of a loving father looked upon the son. On a deeper level, those eyes adored the son. For just as we, when we look at the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance, can't help but be moved to love what we can only see by faith, so Saint Joseph, when looking upon his son, was struck through faith by the presence of God before him.

He was like a new Abraham in this. For Abraham, when he was called by God to take his son Isaac to sacrifice him, must have looked upon his son with amazement. As he made that long journey with him to the place of sacrifice, he would have looked upon the body of his son and thought about the worth and value of that son before God. He was going to be a sacrifice offered to God and Abraham looked at him ready to offer him to the Lord.

In the same way, Saint Joseph, during the Holy Family's travels and in intervals as he worked with his son in the workshop, would have paused and discreetly contemplated the body before him, remembering the words of Simeon in the temple, which foretold of the sacrifice of Jesus. He was like Abraham, who looked upon the body of his son and thought of the sacrifice to be made. Except this time, he contemplated his son not simply as a living body and soul, but as God incarnate, as the Eucharistic offering to be immolated on the Cross at Calvary.

In contemplating his son, he contemplated not only the sacrifice that He was to make on the cross, but also his presence on earth. God had come down from heaven and was born as a baby, whom Saint Joseph held in his arms, who grew to a child to be instructed by his foster father. Saint Joseph knew that the reason why God came down was out of divine love for the human race, out of the burning charity to save man from his sins.

Lastly, those eyes would have penetrated the everyday events to see the hand of God behind them. Too often we are submerged in our daily events like parts in a machine, thinking little about the bigger picture. But for Saint Joseph, in the trials and triumphs of his quiet and simple life, he could always see through faith the hand of God at work.

This was why when contemplating the contrast between himself and Herod, who sought the life of his son, he counted himself as the more privileged one. In the eyes of the world he was nothing and Herod was a great and powerful king. But through the eyes of faith, Saint Joseph knew that he was the king who was guardian of the prince of peace.

And while Herod passed away to be remembered only by his evil deeds, Saint Joseph is now remembered throughout the Church. For while still on earth he remained faithful to God because he looked at all things with eyes of faith. He looked upon them with the eyes of faith, and acted to carry out God's work.

Fr Shawn Murphy IBP

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

12 MON	13 TUES	14 WED	15 THURS	16 FRI	17 SAT	18 SUN
<i>Votive Mass of Saint Joseph</i> 4 th class	<i>Saint Edward, K, Cf</i> 3 rd class	<i>Saint Callixtus I, Pope, M</i> 3 rd class	<i>Saint Teresa, V, D</i> 3 rd class	<i>Saint Hedwig, W</i> 3 rd class	<i>Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, V</i> 3 rd class	21st Sunday After Pentecost, 2 nd class
7:15AM Confessions, 8AM Mass	7:15AM Confessions, 8AM Mass	7:15AM Confessions, 8AM Mass,	7:15AM Confessions, 8AM Mass, 5PM Adoration	5PM Via Crucis, 5:30PM Confessions, 6PM Mass	8:15AM Confessions, 9AM Mass	9:15AM Confessions, 9:30AM Rosary, 10AM Mass



The Community of Saint Joseph is a community funded initiative, 100% reliant on the generosity and donations of the faithful. If you would like to contribute to the ongoing support of this community, please donate into the following bank account. Thank you for your support and generosity.

ACC NAME: Institute of the Good Shepherd Trust
BDB: 083-543 | ACC: 899651265