



SAINT JOSEPH

THE MAN WHO
RAISED JESUS

WEDNESDAY AGENDA

- 7:05 Opening Song/Prayer
- 7:15–7:40 Session One
- 7:40 Break
- 7:45 –8:10 Session Two
- 8:15 Closing Song/Prayer
- 8:25 Good Night

SECOND EVENING CONTENTS

- Man of Poverty
- Man of Prayer
- Man of Labor
- Man of Virtue
- Man of Patience
- Man of the Church

MAN OF POVERTY

- Joseph was not a man of means – could only afford two young pigeons for Mary’s purification
- He could afford a simple life only, which ironically, was rich with God’s grace
- A carpenter was a skilled trade nevertheless – he would have been in demand anywhere
- Joseph is a good example of one who is “poor in spirit,” who acts humbly but confidently
- Joseph models for Jesus a life of complete freedom, which Jesus needs to adopt to fulfill his mission

MAN OF PRAYER

- Joseph certainly taught Jesus how to pray
- Joseph was attentive to God, both waking and sleeping
- Like Moses, but through Jesus, Joseph is given the privilege of speaking to God “face to face”
- Joseph’s prayer was also implicitly “Marian” in a fundamental way
- Joseph’s actions reveal the depth of his awareness of God, and the proper disposition as one who listens first
- No humans are recorded conversing with Joseph, but he hears from an angel 4 times (all recorded in Matthew). Remarkably, Joseph never expresses any fear in these revelations

MAN OF LABOR

- Joseph's manual labor situates Jesus in the mainstream of life
- Joseph's trade was in demand everywhere he went
- Jesus uses the understanding of labor to form his parables, for example, the folly of building a house on sand
- Also, when building a tower, don't you sit down first and figure the cost?
- Joseph willingly carried the cross of everyday toil in support of his family
- In doing so, he showed Jesus what it meant to be a man with purpose, a man of sweat and labor, a man of love

TAKE A BREAK!



MAN OF VIRTUE

- Joseph demonstrates wisdom's virtues
- Prudence – he “looks where he is going” and “right reason in action”
- Justice – he looks for a way to uphold the Law and Mary's FIAT at the same time
- Fortitude – once Joseph understands Mary's mission, he wholeheartedly loves and protects her and the child
- Temperance – Joseph lives a simple life, not calling attention to himself or his family
- Rooted in love, Joseph most certainly “grew in virtue” to a similar degree as Jesus himself

MAN OF PATIENCE

- Joseph never knows the full picture, but he knows how to patiently watch and wait
- Joseph accepts the gifts given to him, not understanding how the gifts would be recognized
- Although we don't know when Joseph died, it is clear that he never saw Jesus "in action"
- But we also may believe that he never doubted that Jesus would change the world

MAN OF THE CHURCH

- Joseph is the head of the first domestic church!
- The Holy Family was completely immersed in first century Nazareth, totally engaged in life
- And yet, they were a family of prayer, of suffering, of poverty, of a shared mission
- Joseph is the patron of the Church because he lived and loved the Christ himself, raising him to manhood
- He cares for us in the same loving way
- He is notably the Guardian of Virgins and the Guardian of Immigrants in today's Church

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

- Nazareth had probably 120 – 150 inhabitants
- How old was Joseph? Unlikely to be old as carpentry was a young man's trade, not to mention he traveled with his family by foot many hundreds of miles
- *Carpenter* is our translation of *Tekton*, one who works with wood, stone, and metal
- For his village, he would make furniture, basic farming tools, fences, housekeeping tools
- However, he probably worked at the Roman town of Sepphoris, only 4 miles away. It was good paying work, ironically in support of Herod's projects

WORKS CITED

- *Joseph, the Man Who Raised Jesus* by Fr. Gary Caster. Franciscan Media, 2013
- *The Truth About Saint Joseph* by Fr. Maurice Meschler, SJ. Sophia Institute Press, 1932, 2017
- *Patris Corde*, An Apostolic Letter of our Holy Father Francis. Vatican, 2020
- *St. Joseph and His World* by Mike Aquilina. Scepter Publishers, Inc., 2020

PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH
BY ST. JOHN EUDES



We greet you, Joseph, image of God the Father.
We greet you, Joseph, father of God the son.
We greet you, Joseph, temple of the Holy Spirit.
We greet you, Joseph, beloved of the Blessed Trinity.
We greet you, Joseph, faithful auxiliary
of God's designs.
We greet you, Joseph, spouse of the Virgin Mother.
We greet you, Joseph, father of all the faithful.
We greet you, Joseph, faithful to interior silence.
We greet you, Joseph, friend of holy poverty.
We greet you, Joseph, example of meekness
and patience.
We greet you, Joseph, mirror of humility
and obedience.
You are blessed among all men,
and blessed be your eyes, for all they have seen ...
Blessed be your hands which touched the Incarnate
Word.

Blessed be your arms which carried him
who carries the world ...
Blessed be your heart, burning with love for him.
Blessed be the eternal Father who chose you.
Blessed be the Son who loved you.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit
who sanctified you.
Blessed forever be those
who bless and love you.
Amen.

