October 13, 2019

**St. Joseph – Head of the Holy Family**

“The special motives for which St. Joseph has been proclaimed Patron of the Church, and from which the Church looks for singular benefit from his patronage and protection, are that Joseph was the spouse of Mary and that he was reputed the Father of Jesus Christ. From these sources have sprung his dignity, his holiness, his glory. In truth, the dignity of the Mother of God is so lofty that naught created can rank above it. But as Joseph has been united to the Blessed Virgin by the ties of marriage, it may not be doubted that he approached nearer than any to the eminent dignity by which the Mother of God surpasses so nobly all created natures. For marriage is the most intimate of all unions which from its essence imparts a community of gifts between those that by it are joined together.

Thus, in giving Joseph the Blessed Virgin as spouse, God appointed him to be not only her life's companion, the witness of her maidenhood, the protector of her honor, but also, by virtue of the conjugal tie, a participator in her sublime dignity. And Joseph shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men. Hence it came about that the Word of God was humbly subject to Joseph, that He obeyed him, and that He rendered to him all those offices that children are bound to render to their parents. From this two-fold dignity flowed the obligation which nature lays upon the head of families, so that Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was.

And during the whole course of his life he fulfilled those charges and those duties. He set himself to protect with a mighty love and a daily solicitude his spouse and the Divine Infant; regularly by his work he earned what was necessary for the one and the other for nourishment and clothing; he guarded from death the Child threatened by a monarch's jealousy, and found for Him a refuge; in the miseries of the journey and in the bitterness of exile he was ever the companion, the assistance, and the upholder of the Virgin and of Jesus. Now the divine house which Joseph ruled with the authority of a father, contained within its limits the scarce-born Church.

From the same fact that the most holy Virgin is the mother of Jesus Christ is she the mother of all Christians whom she bore on Mount Calvary amid the supreme throes of the Redemption; Jesus Christ is, in a manner, the first-born of Christians, who by the adoption and Redemption are his brothers. And for such reasons the Blessed Patriarch looks upon the multitude of Christians who make up the Church as confided specially to his trust - this limitless family spread over the earth, over which, because he is the spouse of Mary and the Father of Jesus Christ he holds, as it were, a paternal authority. It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.” (from Pope Leo XIII, Quamquam Pluries #3)

***Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

 October 13th was chosen for our parish consecration to the Holy Family because of the link with the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal.

This is the anniversary of the last public apparition at Fatima which the Mother of Jesus had promised would demonstrate to the world by a great miracle that the apparitions were true. Throughout the apparitions, our heavenly Mother came to enlighten the world about the grave dangers that these last centuries would encounter. What our Lady warned us about has transpired just as she said and the world has gone through tremendous upheaval.

But she came to do more than just to warn us and cause anxiety. She came hoping that we would follow her requests and thereby be protected by what was to unfold. Her requests are indications of how God desires to help us and guide us through the difficulties caused by godless men and women under the influence of the devil. We give thanks today for the Lord’s continued efforts to call men and women back to Himself and to form us in the likeness of Jesus, the Son of God.

The revelation of the Son of God was accompanied by great signs and wonders to confirm for us that what He said had divine authority and power. He healed every type of illness and disease; He commanded the storm to be calmed and the fig tree to wither; He cast out demons with an authority that caused them to flee screaming from the souls of men. All of this to awaken man to salvation.

Yet his coming among us as a little child within the context of a human family also gave profound emphasis to the awesome goodness of the original plan for man. His incarnation as man is a sign and wonder that is manifested not in power, but in human frailty; not with spectacular feats, but in the hiddenness of his mother’s womb; not in the thunderclap of demons screaming away, but in the silence of Nazareth.

In the beginning, after forming man from the dust of the earth, God decreed that the human race would emerge from the original nucleus of the covenantal union of the first man and woman. Adam and Eve formed the first marriage and the first family.

In the fullness of time, a new Adam was formed, Jesus Christ. And his coming was manifested within the holy union of Mary and Joseph, virgin spouses called to be father and mother of the Son of God. As God, the Father entrusted his Son to the marital covenant of Mary and Joseph, so we today accept our part within the new Family of God as we entrust ourselves to the Holy Family.

 *Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!* Fr. Martin Flum

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 14, 2019**

Monday: Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98/Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: Rom 2:1-11/Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9/Lk 11:42-46

Thursday: Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130/Lk 11:47-54

Friday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145/Lk 10:1-9

Saturday: Rom 4:13, 16-18/Ps 105/Lk 12:8-12

Next Sunday: Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8

**ST. MICHAEL’S MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Saturday, 10/12/19 5pm**

**Rosary Leader:** Joseph Sobnosky **Lector**: Arlene Bloom

**Server:** James Aviles EMHC: Joseph Sobnosky

Sunday 10/13/19 **8am**

**Rosary Leader:** Ron Smith **Lector**: Irene Goldsmith

**Server:** James Holly **EMHC:** Flossie Brown

**Sunday, 10/13/19** 11:30am

**Rosary Leader**: Kevin Mondorff **Lector:** Chris Patterson

**Server:** Kayla Aure  **EMHC:** TBD

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

For all the sick especially, Martha Adams, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Dorothy Dunston, Kathy Fisher, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Mike Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Ann Proctor, Betty Proctor, Doris Riess, Danny Roberts, Connie Robertson, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, Linda and Warren Vandyke, Diane and Claude Walbert, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor.

**OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS**

**St. Michael’s**

Offertory Collection for Sept. 28th & 29th $ 4,353

**St. Dominic’s**

Offertory Collection for September 29th $ 676

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday, 10/12/19   5pm Audrey Murray

Sunday,       10/13/19    8am Parishioners

Sunday,       10/13/19      10am Deceased members of St. Dominic’s Ladies Auxiliary ****

Sunday,       10/13/19   11:30am Dominic Tondo ****

Monday, 10/14/19 8am Hildegarde Finke ****

Tuesday, 10/15/19 8am Therese Mullaney ****

Wed., 10/16/19 8am Fr. Mike Wilson

Thursday,    10/17/19     8am      Bishops of Amazon Synod

Friday, 10/18/19 8am Michael Wnek

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR THANKSGIVING**

Gravy packets, jelly, instant mashed potatoes, yams, and cranberry sauce - for the Thanksgiving distribution.

**MOVIE NIGHT – SAVE THE DATE!**

Our next Family Movie Night will be on Saturday, Oct. 26th, in the Parish Hall. Doors open at 6 PM, and showtime is at 6:30 PM. The movie title will be announced next weekend. See you there!

**The 27th International Week of Prayer and Fasting**

This coalition, in collaboration with the Marian Fathers, Legion of Mary and Priests for Life and others are asking for individuals, families, prayer groups and parishes to unite for nine days of prayer and fasting from **November 2-10, 2019**. **The Opening International Day of Prayer** will be held on **Saturday November 2nd**, from **8:30am to 4:30pm** at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.** The day will include speakers, music, all-day Eucharistic Adoration, Mass at noon, and the four mysteries of the Rosary recited in native languages.

**CONFRATERNITY OF THE HOLY ROSARY**

As Sacred Heart Catholic Church in La Plata, Fr. Stephen Dominic Hayes, OP will give a presentation on the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary: The Holy Rosary – the Gospel prayed and the Power of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary. The talk will be in the church in La Plata on October 21st at 7pm. This will be an opening of the mind to Sacred Scripture and to the use of the Spiritual Senses.

**MASSES FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY**

During November we will be offering Masses for the repose of the souls of our beloved dead. The deceased for whom we will be offering the novena are those whose names are submitted to us with the “All Souls Day” envelope offering. In accord with Archdiocesan policy, these “collective intentions” will be offered twice each week. *May the souls of the Faithful departed thru the mercy of God rest in peace*.

**ALL SAINTS DAY, NOV. 1st HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

All Saints' Day is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are **required** under pain of mortal sin to attend Mass on that day of rest. Masses will be celebrated at 8am and again at 7pm at St. Michael’s Church. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who dwell in heaven.

**TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THRU MARY** (St. Louis de Montfort) is a life changing 33 day devotion to bring you closer to Jesus!  We encourage you to participate in a series of talks given by Fr. Martin Flum beginning on **Friday, November 1 at 8 pm**, St. Michael's Church.  These talks will continue every **Friday at 7:30 pm**, November 8, 15, 22, and 29.  The 33 Day preparation for Total Consecration will culminate on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Sunday, December 8 at 4pm with a Holy Hour. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about Church teaching on the importance of devotion to the Mother of God. The preparation book will be available at the talks or stop by Heavenly Presents Catholic store in Leonardtown for a half price discount (or download the App or a pdf file). Register to attend by going to [www.connectstmarys.com](http://www.connectstmarys.com/).  Your registration is free and will help us to prepare the right amount of materials.