

19 March 2020
Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Dear Friends,

Today is the Feast Day of Saint Joseph, husband of our Parish Patroness! As foster father of Jesus and husband of Mary, God entrusted Joseph with the precious mission of protecting the Holy Family. We, too, can rely upon Joseph for protection, especially during difficult times. Please see a *Prayer to Saint Joseph* at the end of this letter.

Divine Power & Protection

In 1870, Pope Pius IX entrusted all of us to Joseph's protection by declaring him the Patron of the Universal Church. In 1889, Pope Leo XIII renewed this call to rely upon Joseph for protection, recommending that, when a situation becomes so difficult that "human remedies are insufficient, ...it becomes necessary...to beg for assistance from the Divine power."

The magnitude of the current virus outbreak in our local community and throughout the world has made me start to feel that insufficiency of *solely* human remedies. We keep doing what we can in our human powers, but we also call upon the Powers of Heaven to help us: the Holy Trinity, our Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, and all saints and angels of God!

Update to Mass Schedule

Our original schedule for Mass this past Sunday was to offer three times for all of us to gather "live". The intention was to allow you all to participate in Mass at or near the time you are most used to. However, after further discernment, I've decided that it is not prudent to gather a group of ministers for three different occasions when public health officials are asking us to limit our times of gathering. It is still very important to celebrate Mass in our church, but this can be done one time on Sunday, and then the recording will be available for people to watch at any time. I'm sorry that this will cause some of you to adjust your preferred time for Sunday Mass. Thank you for your understanding.

The Sunday Mass (as well as Mass every day of the week) will be **live-streamed at 9:00 a.m.** on our MQP YouTube Channel (you can find the link at www.mqp.org). The recordings of these Masses will be saved and available for viewing on this channel at any time.

Thank you!

Thank you again for all your understanding, flexibility, and prayers during this time. The staff and other volunteers have been doing an incredible job adjusting, adapting, and helping us all move forward as best we can during our Lenten Pilgrimage.

I miss you all so much! I'm grateful for the messages I've received, as well as "seeing" a significant number of you watching Mass on our YouTube Channel. I still feel very connected to you all, and look forward to being with you again in person!

Please check the parish website and look for emails from the parish for updated information.

Our Lady of Seattle, Undoer of Knots, and Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Fr. Chad Green

Prayer to Saint Joseph
by Pope Leo XIII (1889)

To thee, O blessed Joseph, we have recourse in our affliction, and having implored the help of thy thrice holy Spouse, we now, with hearts filled with confidence, earnestly beg thee also to take us under thy protection. By that charity wherewith thou wert united to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and by that fatherly love with which thou didst cherish the Child Jesus, we beseech thee and we humbly pray that thou wilt look down with gracious eye upon that inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His blood, and wilt succor us in our need by thy power and strength.

Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen off-spring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving Father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness. And even as of old thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield us ever under thy patronage, that, following thine example and strengthened by thy help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain to everlasting bliss in Heaven. Amen.