



Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages

March 2021

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Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 28th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: February 25, 2021

“Dear children! God has permitted me to be with you also today, to call you to prayer and fasting. Live this time of grace and be witnesses of hope, because I repeat to you, little children, that with prayer and fasting also wars can be suppressed. Little children, believe and live this time of grace in faith and with faith; and my Immaculate Heart does not leave any of you in peacelessness if you have recourse to me. I intercede for you before the Most High and I pray for peace in your hearts and for hope for the future. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

See a rose Pray a Rosary!



BISHOP LUCIA NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC www.syrdio.org:

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son’s throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HEAVEN CALLS—IS YOUR RINGER ON ?

Blessing and prayers to all our friends, supporters and newsletter subscribers of the Central NY Marian Center.

Do our hearts ring out with great anticipation as we start the season of **Lent**, on our journey to Easter morning and the fulfillment of the message of “**Eternal Salvation**”!!!

The month of March is dedicated to **St. Joseph**. The entire month falls during the liturgical season of **Lent** which is represented by the liturgical color **purple**, a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

Feast Day of St. Patrick

March 17, 2021

We are now in the beginning of three feasts of March (almost always in Lent) that are not part of the **Lenten Season**. Two are included in the Sanctoral (saint) Calendar, and only one is integral to the **Temporal Calendar (following the life of Christ)**. These are stand-alone feasts that provide a little refreshment and celebration in Lent: March 17—St. Patrick, March 19—St. Joseph, and March 25—the Annunciation.

For Catholics who follow the Liturgical Calendar closely, deciding how to celebrate these days in Lent can be as controversial as Sundays in Lent. Do we stick to the austerity of Lent and change the way a solemnity is celebrated? Do we forego family celebrations or special patronal feasts (like **St. Patrick**) because they fall into Lent? Or do we accept the spirit of the day? How does the Church celebrate these feasts?



St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in **Roman Britain** and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to **Ireland** as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, **Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God** and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote:

“The love of **God** and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain.”

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

He was ordained by **St. Germanus**, the **Bishop of Auxerre**, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to **Ireland**. **Patrick** was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland.

There, he converted many people eventually thousands and he began building churches across the country. He often used **sham-rocks** to explain the **Holy Trinity** and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

It is believed that **Patrick** may have introduced the **Celtic cross**, which combined a native sun-worshipping symbology with that of the Christian cross.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for **God** in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

He died at **Saul**, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in **Down Cathedral, Downpatrick**. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival.

Feast Day of St. Joseph

March 19, 2021

St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, was probably born in Bethlehem and probably died in Nazareth. His important mission in God's plan of salvation was **"to legally insert Jesus Christ into the line of David from whom, according to the prophets, the Mes-**



siah would be born, and to act as his father and guardian" (Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy). Most of our information about **St. Joseph** comes from the opening two chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel. No words of his are recorded in the Gospels; he was the "silent" man. We find no devotion to **St. Joseph** in the early Church. It was the will of God that the Virgin Birth of Our Lord be first firmly impressed upon the minds of the faithful. He was later venerated by the great saints of the Middle Ages. **Pius IX** (1870) declared him patron and protector of the universal family of the Church.

March is the month of devotion to **St. Joseph**, whose feast falls on March 19th. The date of the solemnity of **St. Joseph** dates to the end of the 15th century; within the next few centuries, the entire month as a time for devotion to **St. Joseph** became part of tradition.

St. Joseph was an ordinary manual laborer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, **"Foster-father of Jesus."** About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man—an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.

The darkest hours of his life may well have been those when he first learned of Mary's pregnancy; but precisely in this time of trial Joseph showed himself great. His suffering, which likewise formed a part of the work of the redemption, was not without great providential import: **Joseph** was to be, for all times, the trustworthy witness of the Messiah's virgin birth. After this, he modestly retires into the background of holy Scripture.

Of **St. Joseph's** death the Bible tells us nothing. There are indications, however, that he died before the beginning of Christ's public life. His was the most beautiful death that one could have, in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Humbly and unknown, he passed his years at Nazareth, silent and almost forgotten he remained in the background through centuries of Church history. Only in more recent times has he been

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accorded greater honor. Liturgical veneration of **St. Joseph** began in the fifteenth century, fostered by Sts. Brigid of Sweden and Bernadine of Siena. St. Teresa, too, did much to further his cult.

At present there are two major feasts in his honor. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honor him as the patron of workmen throughout the world and as our guide in the difficult matter of establishing equitable norms regarding obligations and rights in the social order. Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his deathbed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.

The Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2021

The feast of the **Annunciation of the Lord** celebrates the angel **Gabriel's** appearance to the **Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38)**, his announcement that the Blessed Virgin had been chosen to be the mother of **Our Lord**, and **Mary's fiat**—her willing acceptance of **God's** holy plan.

Originally a feast of our Lord, but now celebrated as a Marian feast, the **Feast of the Annunciation** dates back at least to the fifth century, and the date of the feast, which is determined by the date of **Christmas**, was set at March 25 by the seventh century.

March 25 is the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord** in the Roman Catholic Liturgical Calendar. The mystery of Mary's cooperation in God's plan has inspired some of the most profound reflection in the Christian tradition. As well it should.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, *What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ.* (CCC#487) Years ago a reflective book entitled *The Prayer of Mary: Living the Surrendered Life.*

Mary's "Yes" is called the **Fiat**: in Latin,



"Let it be done." Mary's Fiat was spoken from a heart filled with love for God. In a Biblical context, "heart" is a word that means much more than the fleshy organ at the center of our chest cavity. It refers to our center, the core of each of us, the place where our deepest identity is rooted, and from which our fundamental choices about life are made.

This is what Mary's Fiat is all about. In saying Yes to God, as Mary did, we are able to discover the path to conversion, to holiness, to authentic spirituality. Our call to embrace the Fiat and to make it our own is not a formula for easy spiritual growth, nor is it the first in a series of steps that lead to solving the problems of life. The spiritual life is a path, a Way, and it involves a continuing, ongoing walk with the Lord.

Palm Sunday The Passion of The Lord March 28, 2021

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** of the **Passion of the Lord**. It is a dual feast. It has traditionally been known as **Palm Sunday** because the Mass begins with a gospel text that recounts how palm branches were used to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. It has also traditionally been known as **Passion Sunday** because the Passion Narrative is proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word.

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And **Jesus** found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "**Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt (Jn 12:13-15)!**"

Today we commemorate **Christ's** entry into Jerusalem for the completion of the Paschal Mystery.

The **Palm Sunday** procession is formed of Christians who, in the "**fullness of faith,**" make their own gesture of the Jews and endow it with its full significance. Following the Jews' example we proclaim **Christ** as a Victor... Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. But by our faith we know, as they did not, all that His triumph stands for. He is the Messiah, the Son of David and the Son of God. He is the sign of contradiction, acclaimed by some and reviled by others. Sent into this world to wrest us from sin and the power of Satan, He underwent **His Passion**, the punishment for our sins, but issues forth triumphant from the tomb, the victor over death, making our peace with **God** and taking us with Him into the kingdom of His Father in heaven.

The pilgrim **Egeria** attests to a Palm Sunday procession taking place in the Jerusalem Church at the end of the 4th century. In the **Gallican Bobbio Missal of the 8th century** we find a reference to blessing of the palms, which symbolize the victory of **Christ**.

In most churches, the ashes for **Ash Wednesday** are derived from burned palms, left over from **Palm Sunday** liturgies.



Lineage (Part II of *The Virtues of St. Joseph*)

St. Joseph was born a Jew of humble and pure lineage – a lineage that had not lost the true sense of the Messiah. Among all the monarchs of the earth that have ever lived, none have such a lineage as St. Joseph. Indeed, God Himself saw to it that St. Joseph's illustrious lineage was documented in Scripture and was, therefore, uncontested.

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, descending from Abraham through David to Joseph, registers forty generations. In the Gospel of St. Luke, there is registered as many as seventy-four, as Joseph is traced back to Adam. In this lineage we find the great patriarchs and monarchs of the Old Testament: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Solomon. We also find in St. Joseph's genealogy the careful fulfillment of many messianic prophecies - that Jesus should be born of the tribe of Juda, a direct descendent of David and that He should be born of a virgin and no earthly father.

From this we see how St. Joseph's genealogy is most glorious and how God privileged him to become most worthy of whatever was to follow. For his lineage was foretold to be messianic. He was, indeed, the illustrious son of David and the "light of the patriarchs. He was "the just one."

The Marian Center was granted permission to print this article by Queen of Peace Publications (www.saintandrew.com) from a 1998 Holy Spirit Edition.

TelePrayer - Join the *CNY Marian Center and the Catholic Shop* for prayer.

Dial 516-597-9459, announce yourself and mute your phone by pressing the mute button or *6.

Monday through Friday 3:00PM - Divine Mercy Chaplet

Monday 9:45AM - Divine Mercy Cenacle

Monday 7:30PM - Intercessory Rosary

Tuesday 4:00PM - The Chaplet and Prayers to St. Michael

Wednesday 4:00PM - *Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph (Year of St. Joseph)*

Thursdays during Lent 4:15PM - *Discuss Fr. Calloway's book on Consecration to St. Joseph*

Friday 4:00PM - The Seven Sorrows Rosary of Our Lady

Saturday 10:10AM - Pray the Rosary
Bud O' Brien, Chairman of the Board



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CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

Inside: The beginning of a series on St. Joseph: from the article: *The Virtues of St. Joseph.*

The CNY Marian Center is offering an online recorded Retreat: Follow Her - Beloved of the Trinity. Walk with Mary through the Mysteries of the Rosary and reflect and meditate on each with photos from the Holy Land. To access, go to www.cnymariancenter.com and click on the menu tab 'Follow Her Beloved of the Trinity.' You'll be directed to a page with the Four Mysteries. Clicking on them will take you to YouTube where you can walk with Mary at your leisure. Any questions, email cnymariancenter@gmail.com or call 315-452-4698.

Individuals may come to pray but must follow posted CDC guidelines. You are welcome to visit our Chapel and pray before the reliquaries. The larger reliquary contains a **second-class Relic of St. Joseph**, ex pallio, a piece of his mantle. Rosaries and free items are also available at the Center. A key is available from the Doctor's office upstairs during their office hours. ***Check out our teleprayer inside.**

On Sunday, March 21st, the 12:15PM Mass at St. Daniel's will be offered for our volunteers and supporters.

We invite you to pray daily for the Marian Center with the following prayer: *Holy Mary, "chosen to be the Mother of God and your mother"; * Jesus gave you to us at the Cross. We pray for your intercession that the mission given by God to the Central New York Marian Center will be fulfilled. May we, your children, give our Fiat for His Will to be done. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Queen of Peace, Queen of Divine Mercy, ** pray for us. Amen. *spoken by Our Lady in her February 2, 2020 message **From 12/31/19 homily of Archbishop Luigi Pezzuti*

**For more information: www.cnymariancenter.com; Call 315-452-4698; Email: mariancenter.cny@gmail.com
Central New York Marian Center, 5180 West Taft Road, North Syracuse 13212**

Important Notice to Our Readers

With rising postal and printing cost we need to revise our mailing list. If you have email, please send us your email to the address below. Please respond by phone call, postal mail, or email!!! We are trying to continue to spread Mary's messages and need your support too. If you would like to be a regular sponsor or provide a donation towards our many Marian Center Projects throughout the diocese, please fill out the form & mail it with your donation to the **CNY Marian Center, 5180 W. Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212**

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