

February 7, 2021

Good Morning All,

Interesting evening last night in the Upstate weather department. Please practice common sense and be safe until the temperature rises and gets rid of that icy stuff this morning!

Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 this afternoon.

1. Today's Readings: [Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. ***The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:*** Sunday with St. Joseph, another installment in our ongoing series...

Many saints and popes had a great devotion to St. Joseph. Today we will look at an important proclamation about St. Joseph by Blessed Pope Pius IX from 1870.

3. Quote of the Day:

Knowing by experience St. Joseph's astonishing influence with God, I would wish to persuade everyone to honor him with particular devotion. I have always seen those who honored him in a special manner make progress in virtue, for this heavenly protector favors in a striking manner the spiritual advancement of souls who commend themselves to him. St. Teresa of Avila

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

Super Bowl Sunday - Who's your team? Tampa Bay or Kansas City? Remember to

enjoy - it's just a game!



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## St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

During his December 8, 1870, proclamation, Blessed Pius IX became the first Pope to explicitly rank St. Joseph as second only to Our Lady in holiness and continued to speak of the appropriateness of the Church going to Joseph in times of difficulties:

*“Because of the sublime dignity which God conferred on his most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph next to his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble...*

*And now, therefore, when in these most troubled times the Church is beset with enemies on every side and is weighed down by calamities so heavy that ungodly men assert that the gates of hell have at length prevailed against her, the venerable prelates of the Catholic world have presented to the Sovereign Pontiff their own petitions and those of the faithful committed to their care, praying that he would deign to constitute St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. And their prayer and desire was renewed by them even more earnestly at the Sacred Ecumenical Council of the Vatican...accordingly it has now pleased our most holy sovereign, Pius IX, to comply with the desires of the prelates and to commit to St. Joseph’s most powerful patronage himself and all the faithful. He therefore has declared St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church...”*

Why was it so huge, so historic, that St. Joseph should be named the universal Patron of the Church? For at least two reasons.

First, it is a unique honor that goes side by side with the Just Man being the holiest person after Mary. No one else is “patron” and “spiritual father” over the entire Church.

Second, it fully enacts the principle that what Joseph was to Jesus, Joseph is to us. As he protected Jesus during his most vulnerable time of earthly existence,

Parish Office Communication

St. Joseph protects us, disciples of his Son, Jesus, and members of the Church, during our most vulnerable times on earth.

In short, *St. Joseph is officially acknowledged and declared to be the entire Church's true and powerful spiritual father.*

Source: *Meet Your Spiritual Father* by Mark Miravalle