

Parish Office Communication

October 27, 2020

Good day Tuesday!

Please make plans to attend our Parish Mission with Dr. Joseph Johnson. It begins with Mass this evening at 5:30. Dr. Johnson will begin speaking for an hour at 7:00 PM.

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/102720.cfm>
2. ***The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus***: The Bible says to call no man Father, so why do we call our Catholic priests "Father"? Could you explain that to someone if you were asked?
3. Quote of the Day: "While many fathers wear ties....some wear collars!"

Thank you Fr. Gillespie for saying YES to your calling!

See you tonight!



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**PARISH MISSION**  
**CONTENTMENT IN A PLAGUE**  
**A Philippian Reflection**  
**Dr. Joseph Johnson, DCF**  
**October 27-29, 2020**

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH 1200 CORNELIA RD ANDERSON, SC 29621**

Dr. Joseph Johnson is a resident of Greenwood, SC with his wife Toby, daughter Abi, and son Benji. Raised in the Baptist tradition, in his search for Truth, he spent time in Messianic Jewish synagogues. After entering Erskine Theological Seminary, he embraced the Presbyterian wing of the Reformation. He spent 4 -1/2 years as the pastor of Rock Presbyterian Church (Greenwood, SC) but in his liturgical studies, he began to drift toward Catholicism. He and his wife, both graduates from Emmanuel College in Georgia, taught in a Christian school and enrolled in Seminary at Erskine. It is there that Dr. Johnson completed both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts Theological Studies degree. In the middle of his doctoral studies, he resigned from his pastorate and he and Toby began RCIA in the Fall of 2012 at Our Lady of Lourdes in Greenwood. They entered the Church at Easter 2013. Toby successfully homeschooled their daughter to graduation and is homeschooling their son Benji. He currently serves as the Director of Christian Formation at Our Lady of Lourdes.

All are welcomed to this inspiring and informative event.

**DAILY MISSION SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday, 10/27**

- 5:30PM** Mass
- 6:00 - 7:00PM** Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 7:00 - 8:00PM** **DR. JOHNSON: MY CONVERSION STORY**

**Wednesday, 10/28**

- 7:00 - 8:00PM** **DR. JOHNSON: CO-LABORERS WITH GOD**

**Thursday, 10/29**

- 5:30PM** Mass
- 6:00 - 7:00PM** Sacrament of Reconciliation
- 7:00 - 8:00PM** **DR. JOHNSON: CO-LABORERS IN SERVICE**

Donations are gratefully accepted.

For more information contact St. Joseph Parish Office at 864-225-5341

**The Bible says to call no man Father, so why do we call our priests “Father”?**

Matthew 23:9 says, “And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in Heaven.” Notice, however, that this makes no distinction between spiritual fathers, which is what our priests are to us, and biological fathers. In other words, if you interpret this passage to say, absolutely, that no man is to be called father, you cannot distinguish between calling a priest “father” and calling the man who is married to your mother “father.” But is that actually what this passage is saying? Or is Jesus warning us against trying to usurp the fatherhood of God? The latter intention, in many ways, is what the Pharisees and Scribes were doing. They wanted all attention focused on them...they were leaving God, the Father, out of the equation, which is why Jesus goes on to call them hypocrites, liars, and whitewashed tombs.

If you interpret this passage from Matthew 23 as an absolute ban against calling anyone your spiritual father, then there are some problems for you in the rest of Scripture. For example, Jesus, in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16, has the rich man referring to Abraham as “father” several times. Paul, in Romans chapter 4, refers to Abraham as the “father” of the uncircumcised, the Gentiles. That’s referring to spiritual fatherhood, not biological fatherhood.

In Acts 7:1-2, the first Christian martyr, Stephen, referred to the Jewish authorities and elders who were about to stone him as brothers and “fathers,” as does Paul in Acts, chapter 22. This is referring to spiritual fatherhood. So, if you interpret Matthew 23 as saying we cannot call anyone our spiritual father, then you would have to argue that Jesus, Paul, Stephen, and the Holy Spirit must have all gotten it wrong.

It is okay to call priests “father,” just as it was okay for Jesus and Paul to call Abraham “father” and for Stephen and Paul to call the Jewish elders “father.” As long as we remember that our true Father is God the Father and that all aspects of fatherhood, biological and spiritual, are derived from Him, and as long as we do not allow anyone else to usurp that role in any way, shape, or form, as the Pharisees and Scribes were prone to do.

*Source: catholicscomehome.org*