

## From the Desk of Our Pastor ....

### The Feast of St. Joseph



We have been granted permission by Bishop Parker to move the feast day of St. Joseph from Friday the 19th to this Sunday so that we can celebrate together our patron saint. We are also bringing our novena to St. Joseph to an end this week. As I reflect on his life and on the actual prayer of the novena we have been praying, I cannot help but think how St. Joseph embodies everything we are trying to bring to a reality here at our church.

Someone, or some group of people, somewhere in time, came up with the mission statement for our church, "Embracing Christ's Life, Reflecting His Love." I am convinced that this is mission statement "didn't just happen." It is of God. As Pastor, I am completely committed to making this a reality in our church. That is, it must not be a sentimental slogan, but a phrase owned and lived out by everyone in this church.

Think about it. Apart from the Blessed Mother, who else exemplifies our mission statement so perfectly than our patron saint? Our novena prayer brings us to the fatherly image of Joseph enfolding the baby Jesus in his arms and even kissing his forehead. At first, I thought it was a rather bit syrupy and too sentimental. Upon further thought, we see what St. Joseph is doing here. By embracing the baby Jesus, his life is altered completely. He is embracing Christ's life and he can never be the same. His whole life is now oriented around Christ, and the cost to himself is high. Joseph is formed by the very life he is embracing.

Think about it. God the Father places His own Son into the arms of Joseph, sharing His fatherhood with him. In his obedience to God and dying to himself and his agenda, Joseph reflects the very love of Christ, the ultimate gift of the Father's love for us. Our statue in front of the church captures well the joy of reflecting Christ's life; both father and boy are one in the pleasure of the moment. That moment lives on in all our hearts as parishioners of this great parish.

Embracing Christ's life and reflecting His love is no easy task. Just ask St. Joseph. Yet this is exactly what we must do, every one of us. Our mission statement is just another way of describing our calling as missionary disciples. Dear brothers and sisters, let us commit ourselves to our mission statement exemplified by the life of our patron saint!

Father John Worgul  
Pastor