

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:*August 14-15, 2021*

As we all come together to participate with the Celebration of the Eucharist, all are encouraged to **WEAR THEIR MASKS at Mass and to observe safety protocols.** Let's keep everyone safe. Thank you!

The deadline to submit an application for the position **Adult Formation Coordinator** that I announced last month is Monday, August 16, 2021. Please see the ad for this position on our Website or FB account, the addresses of which are listed on the front cover of this Bulletin.

This weekend we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This great solemnity celebrates and bring into a complete cycle the many "firsts" of Mary of Nazareth: first to hear God's plan for His people from an Angel, first to behold the face of God at His nativity, first to hear the fulfillment of God's promise from the lips of Simeon and Anna, first to learn from Jesus what God intends, first witness to His first miracle (at Cana in Galilee), and first to return to God's Kingdom – body and soul. But being "first" for Mary of Nazareth came with a price: *"and you, yourself [own heart] a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."* (Lk. 2:35) This statement is well-depicted in the image/statue of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Whenever we hear of being "first," we think of academic excellence, political offices, competitive sports, employment positions, inventions and discoveries, world-breaking records, and so on and so forth. However, in addition to these expected areas where one can be first, there are also areas in life and in faith where one can be "first" as well.

"First" to love, "first" first to forgive, "first" to give are some attributes of God. God is always the initiator of everything. Humanity, by nature, initiates something only when it benefits them or for expected results, with one exception – those things that parents do for their children! But even that sometimes can be argued. Nevertheless, our common experience tells us that God is always the initiator.

What Mary of Nazareth did at the annunciation and thereafter, was uncommon for women of her time and age – she took the risk of being first! Perhaps being uncommon compared to others is what made her "blessed among women" (Gospel of Luke), not because she is special or better than anyone (in her own words, she was just "a

handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38), but because she responded to the Lord's invitation with complete trust – no "if's, may be's, or but's"! And she never looked back afterwards.

Throughout her lifetime, Mary of Nazareth was there "first" for her husband Joseph and her Son, Jesus. After the death of Joseph, she devoted her life to her Son and was the "first" one to witness His first miracle, though I'm sure that made her sad realizing that it was the beginning of His public ministry. From thereon, she has to share Jesus the Christ to all.

Despite this realization and eventual experiences of the Christ in Jesus, Mary of Nazareth followed her Son even before He called by name His disciples to become His apostles. Mary of Nazareth was not even called by name by her own Son! Rather, He referred to her as "woman" at the wedding reception in Cana (John 2:4 = the beginning of John's gospel), and again at His crucifixion in Golgotha before He expired (John 19:26 = the end of John's gospel). Was Jesus being disrespectful of His Mother who was the "first" to love Him on earth? Was He being impersonal and distant from her who was there for Him at all times until death? NOT AT ALL! Jesus called her "woman" in contrast with the first woman (Eve) in the creation story who was part of the downfall of humanity (Genesis 2:22). Mary of Nazareth was the "woman" that the Book of Revelation described as one who "labored to give birth to a Son destined to rule all the nations." Mary of Nazareth for being "first" to unconditionally love and obey God, was the new Eve that delivered God's Son to us, Jesus.

Being "first" then in life and in faith like Mary of Nazareth could also earn us a place in heaven together with the "queen [who] stands at [the] right hand [of God], arrayed in gold" (Resp. Psalm 45), and all other men and women. But we must also be "first," just like God and Mary, to love generously, forgive spontaneously, and follow Jesus wholeheartedly. But be warned: being the "first" in many things in order to get the best place in heaven is not what Jesus meant. But being the "first" at all time as His disciple is what Jesus wants. So, go ahead, be the "first" to love and forgive, give and share and you'll become His disciple.

Father Vic+

July 31st / August 1st

Weekly Offering



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Weekly Envelopes	\$ 11,134.25
Weekly Loose	1,553.00
Weekly ACH	345.00
	\$ 13,032.25

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ROSARY
Mondays & Thursdays
9:30 AM
in the Church.
All are welcome.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.stjoseph-cc.org
and follow the steps. Call the Life Center
985-446-1387 with any questions.

**Celebrating a sacrament does not
register you as a parishioner.**

**ARE YOU A
REGISTERED
PARISHIONER ?**

**"I've attended this church for years."
But, have you registered?**

If you were registered under your parent's
name, but are now an adult and living on
your own, you also need to register.
**Celebrating a sacrament does not
register you as a parishioner.**

Membership forms are available at the Life
Center or online at www.stjoseph-cc.org.

The following were
Baptized into the family
of Christ recently:



Palmer Michelle
Child of Cord & Jenna Folsie

Elizabeth Anne
Child of Joshua & Caroline Jennings

The School of Mary Presents

A DIVINE WILL DAY OF
INTRODUCTION and RECOLLECTION
St. Genevieve Catholic Church Family Center
Saturday, August 28th

8:15 AM: Holy Rosary in Divine Will
9AM -4PM with Holy Mass at 4PM

Live via Live-Stream

Event questions: Beth: 985-414-2374
Sally: 985-387-3321

Blessed Mother's Altar Flowers

Donated in Memory of

James Gilbert, Jr.

By: Family



Altar Flowers

Donated in Memory of

Gibbens Robichaux

By: Family

**Prayer to St. Joseph during the
YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH
(08 December 2020-08 December 2021)**

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only
Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ
became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show
yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and
defend us from every evil. Amen