

The Season of Lent



St. Bernadette Catholic Church

Religious Education Newsletter

March 2020



Saint Joseph was a working man - a carpenter by trade. He wasn't rich despite being a descendent from the royal house of David. When he took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised and Mary to be purified, he offered the sacrifice of two turtledoves or a pair of pigeons, which were allowed only for those who could not afford a lamb (Luke 2:24).

Joseph was also a compassionate and caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her to shame or cruelty.

Always faithful to God and his commands, the Bible tells us Joseph was "just" man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts. It means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted him to do. When an angel came to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:19-25). He did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife.

And, when the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23). As we can see, his total openness to God is what makes him holy.

We celebrate two feast days for Joseph: March 19 for Joseph the Husband of Mary and May 1 for Joseph the Worker. March 19 has been the most commonly celebrated feast day for Joseph. In 1955, Pope Pius XII established the Feast of "St. Joseph the Worker" to be celebrated on May 1. This is also May Day (International Workers' Day) and believed to reflect Joseph's status as the patron of workers.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Sunday of Lent CCD 8:50-9:50		Memorial of St. Katharine Drexel	Memorial of St. Casimir		First Friday STATIONS of the CROSS 8:30AM & 6PM	Memorial of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity
Second Sunday of Lent CCD 8:50-9:50	Memorial of St. Frances of Rome				 STATIONS of the CROSS 8:30AM & 6PM	
Third Sunday of Lent No CCD		 Memorial of St. Patrick	Memorial of St. Cyril Of Jerusalem	Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	 STATIONS of the CROSS 8:30AM & 6PM	
Spring Break						
Fourth Sunday of Lent No CCD	Memorial of St. Toribio de Mogrovejo		Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord		 STATIONS of the CROSS 8:30AM & 6PM	
Fifth Sunday Of Lent CCD 8:50-9:50			<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p>Things to remember during Lent...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 8:30 am & 6:00 pm. • Enjoy soup & salad every Friday evening in the Parish Hall after Stations of the Cross • Abstain from meat on Fridays (if between the ages of 18 and 59) </div> </div>			



The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him . . . might have eternal life." (John 3:16) At the Annunciation, God revealed this good news to Mary. She was the first to hear and to believe that God would do what he promised. Her faith told her that nothing is impossible for God. Mary also heard God's invitation calling her to be the Virgin Mother of his Son.

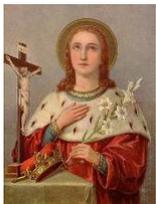
This call meant that Jesus would be formed in her womb, and she, as his mother, would nourish and care for him. This call meant that she had a special place in God's plan for salvation. Mary replied, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) In saying yes, Mary agreed to God's plan because she wanted what God wanted. She was willing to accept all the joy and pain, all the unexpected events. She was willing to bring Christ to a waiting world.

✠ Faithful Saints ✠ Faithful Saints ✠ Faithful Saints ✠ Faithful Saints ✠



St. Katharine Drexel

If your father is an international banker and you ride in a private railroad car, you are not likely to be drawn into a life of voluntary poverty. But if your mother opens your home to the poor three days each week and your father spends half an hour each evening in prayer, it is not impossible that you will devote your life to the poor and give away millions of dollars. **Katharine Drexel** did that. Born in Philadelphia in 1858, she had an excellent education and traveled widely. As a rich girl, Katharine also had a grand debut into society. But when she nursed her stepmother through a three-year terminal illness, she saw that all the Drexel money could not buy safety from pain or death, and her life took a profound turn. Katharine had always been interested in the plight of the Indians, having been appalled by what she read in Helen Hunt Jackson's *A Century of Dishonor*. While on a European tour, she met Pope Leo XIII and asked him to send more missionaries to Wyoming for her friend Bishop James O'Connor. The pope replied, "Why don't you become a missionary?" His answer shocked her into considering new possibilities. Back home, Katharine visited the Dakotas, met the Sioux leader Red Cloud and began her systematic aid to Indian missions. Katharine Drexel could easily have married. But after much discussion with Bishop O'Connor, she wrote in 1889, "The feast of Saint Joseph brought me the grace to give the remainder of my life to the Indians and the Colored." Newspaper headlines screamed "Gives Up Seven Million!" After three and a half years of training, Mother Drexel and her first band of nuns—Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored—opened a boarding school in Santa Fe. A string of foundations followed. By 1942, she had a system of black Catholic schools in 13 states, plus 40 mission centers and 23 rural schools. Segregationists harassed her work, even burning a school in Pennsylvania. In all, she established 50 missions for Indians in 16 states. Two saints met when Mother Drexel was advised by Mother Cabrini about the "politics" of getting her order's Rule approved in Rome. Her crowning achievement was the founding of Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans. At 77, Mother Drexel suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire. Apparently her life was over. But now came almost 20 years of quiet, intense prayer from a small room overlooking the sanctuary. Small notebooks and slips of paper record her various prayers, ceaseless aspirations, and meditations. She died at 96 and was canonized in 2000.



St. Casimir

The third child of King Casimir IV of Poland, **Saint Casimir** grew up under the guidance of John Dlugosz, a devout canon of Krakow. At the age of fifteen, Casimir was sent by his father to head an army against King Matthias Corvinus of Hungary. When his men started to desert the cause, Casimir retreated as well, bringing disappointment to his father. He was then confined to Dobzki castle for three months. Having no inclination to marry, Casimir committed to celibacy. Afflicted with lung disease, Casimir died in 1484 at the age of twenty-three.



Sts. Perpetua & Felicity

One of the oldest and most reliable histories of a martyr's sufferings is the recorded accounts of **Saints Perpetua and Felicity**. Perpetua, along with her slave woman, Felicity, dedicated their lives to teaching others that knowing Jesus and being loyal to him is greater than life itself. In the year 202, Emperor Severus issued an anti-Christian law forbidding anyone to be baptized as or become a Christian. They were arrested and sentenced to be executed during a national holiday. While they were awaiting death, Perpetua and Felicity were baptized, and Felicity gave birth to a baby girl. Perpetua and Felicity were executed by beheading. Today these women are mentioned in the first Eucharistic Prayer.



St. Frances of Rome

Born to a wealthy, noble family in Rome in 1384, **Saint Frances** was a quiet, well-mannered young girl who had a strong will to devote herself to God and become a nun from a very young age. However, at that time, a father's word was law and so she was promised to marry a young man from another wealthy family, Lorenzo Ponziano. And she did. However, her greatest desire was to help the sick. With the help of her sister-in-law, Vannoza, Frances began the Oblates of Mary, a woman's group dedicated to helping the sick. After Lorenzo passed away in 1436, Frances joined the Oblates, becoming their superior. It is said she would receive visions from her guardian angel. She died in 1440.



St. Patrick

When we think of **Saint Patrick**, we usually think of Ireland. But, Patrick wasn't actually from Ireland. He was from Britain. And, he didn't think too much about God either until one day he was captured by pirates and taken to become a slave in Ireland. As a slave, Patrick started to pray. He thought about God all the time. One day, Patrick escaped from slavery and went to France where he prayed and studied in a monastery, and ultimately became Bishop of Ireland. One night he heard voices pleading with him to "Come back and walk once more among us." He knew it was the Irish people calling him. Strengthened by courage from God, he went to preach and teach the pagan people of Ireland about Jesus Christ for more than 40 years.



St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Saint Cyril was born in Jerusalem in 315. Known for the catechesis he gave as a priest, Bishop Maximus ordained Cyril as a bishop when he feared for the future of Jerusalem. At that time, the heresy of Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ, was spreading and Maximus wanted a bishop strong enough to stand up for the Church's teachings. When an effort to get Cyril to support Arianism failed, he was brought before the council of bishops, charged with heresy and selling church property to feed the poor, found guilty and exiled to Tarsus. Cyril would be exiled two more times over Arian disputes before his death in 386. In 1822, Cyril was vindicated and declared a Doctor of the Church.



St. Toribio de Mogrovejo

Bishop and defender of the rights of the native Indians in Peru, **Saint Toribio** studied law and became a lawyer and then professor at Salamanca, receiving appointment—despite being a layman—as chief judge of the court of Inquisition at Granada under King Philip II of Spain. The king subsequently appointed him in 1580 to the post of archbishop of Lima, Peru. After receiving ordination and then consecration, he arrived in Peru in 1581 and soon demonstrated a deep zeal to reform the archdiocese and a determination to do all in his power to aid the poor and defend the rights of the Indians who were then suffering severely under Spanish occupation. He was canonized in 1726.