

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

May 2015

St. Joseph Church

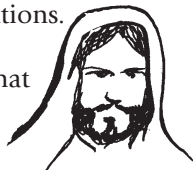
Rev. Pawel Kryszkiewicz, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Joseph the Worker

Our primary responsibility is to fulfill our daily obligations.

Yet, St. Joseph demonstrated that work can lead to holiness if our efforts are for God.



St. Joseph was not rich. He and Mary made a modest Temple offering when Jesus was born. As a carpenter he had to work hard to support his family. Yet, he offered all he was to raise God's son and protect him from harm. St. Joseph made everyday life holy.

Upward glance

Try spending part of each day alone with God. Human conversation keeps you grounded on Earth. Moments spent with God are moments glancing toward the Heaven that awaits.

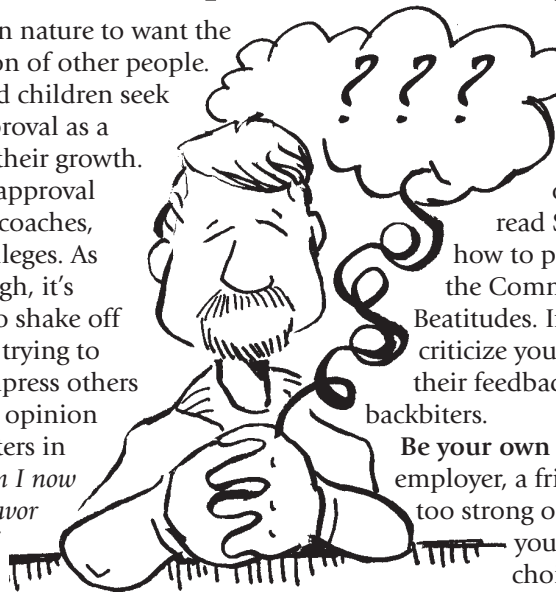
"When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home" (John 19:26-26).



Whom do you want to please?

It is human nature to want the good opinion of other people. Toddlers and children seek parents' approval as a measure of their growth. Teens want approval from peers, coaches, teachers, colleges. As adults, though, it's important to shake off the habit of trying to please or impress others when God's opinion is what matters in the end. *"Am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men?"* (Galatians 1:10).

Whose standard is it anyway? Others tend to judge you from their own perspectives, their own interests, and through their own filters. People see only your actions. God sees your heart.



Don't defend yourself. Make consistently good choices and you won't have to defend or explain. Regularly read Scripture to remember how to please God. Follow the Commandments and the Beatitudes. If people legitimately criticize you, gratefully receive their feedback. Reject the backbiters.

Be your own master. Don't let an employer, a friend, or a relative gain too strong of a hold on you. Make your own decisions and choices without pressure. Otherwise you will find yourself suspending your better judgment in favor of theirs.

Stay who you are. Don't try to appear better than those around you or to hide the real you. God loves you just as you are.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

The Church calls Sacred Scripture "sacred" because it is divinely inspired by God, and credits him as its author. *"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness"* (2 Timothy 3:16).

Why do we believe Scripture is Sacred?



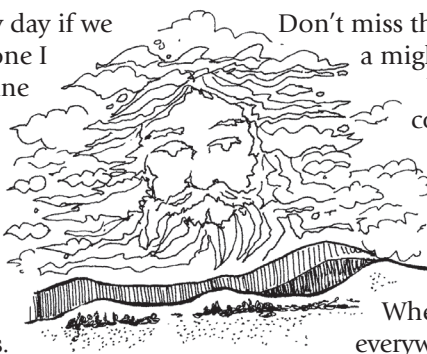
The Scriptures describe how God revealed himself to man along with his saving plan. Every event and every prophecy recorded in the Old Testament points to and is fulfilled in the New Testament in the person of Jesus.

Where is God when you need him?

God can be found one hundred times every day if we look for him. "So it was you all along. Everyone I ever loved, it was you. Everything decent or fine that ever happened to me, everything that made me reach out and try to be better, it was you" C.S. Lewis.

When you need encouragement, God sends you a kind glance or a friendly word. Look for his face in the person who gives it.

God surrounds us with beauty to help us think of him and remind us of his love for us.



Don't miss the chance to appreciate a lovely garden or a mighty tree.

When you are anxious or lonely, God comes to you in the sympathetic friend who listens, or the stranger who smiles at you.

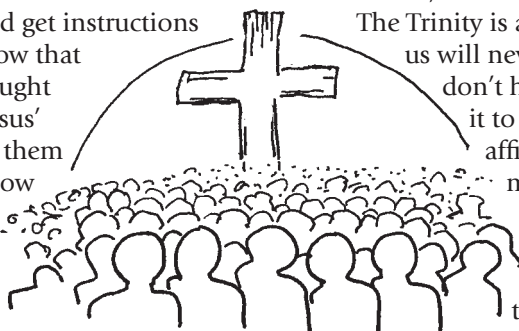
When we are on unfamiliar ground, God sends us a colleague to make us feel comfortable at work or a neighbor to help us feel more at home.

Where is God when you need him? He is everywhere you are.

from Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20; Jesus gives disciples their charge

When Jesus appeared to the Eleven on the mountain top in Galilee, it was so the crowd with them could witness his Ascension and get instructions for next steps. Now that they had been taught and witnessed Jesus' glory, he wanted them to teach others how to live as God's children. As his followers today, that's our mission, too.



the Father, as revealed through the Son, to be filled with the Holy Spirit – in other words, the Holy Trinity.

The Trinity is a mystery most of us will never understand. We don't have to understand it to believe it. And we affirm it each time we make the Sign of the Cross and say the words Jesus said, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." We are also reminded that the Cross of Jesus is the only means by which we can follow Christ into the eternal life of the Trinity.

Jesus gave his listeners three commands: Go, make disciples of all nations, and baptize them. Baptism signifies a renewed relationship with

Q & A Why do Catholic churches display crucifixes?

Many Christian churches display simple crosses or other peaceful symbols of their faith. Non-Catholics wonder why we choose instead the crucifix, which can be a disturbing image.

The crucifix is not just part of our Catholic identity. The Catholic Church requires that a crucifix be visible during the celebration of Mass to remind us of the sacrifice of Jesus on the altar of the Cross, which is made present for us each time we celebrate the Holy Eucharist. It is a powerful representation of the body and blood Jesus shed for us.

To Catholics, the crucifix is a symbol of the ultimate act of love. A cross recalls the Resurrection and Jesus' triumph over death. That is important to us, too. But to fully understand our own redemption, we need to be reminded of what Jesus had to endure, namely his Passion and death, before the Resurrection. We are also reminded that God gave his only Son for our salvation. The Crucifix is a full image of our redemption.

Feasts & Celebrations

In May we celebrate mothers and the mother of all, the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can honor her by praying the Rosary and observing her feast days.

May 14 – Ascension of the Lord. This Holy Day of Obligation marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his triumphant entry into Heaven by his own power. Note: In some dioceses, observance has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 21 – St. Christopher Magallanes (1937). Fr. Christopher Magallanes was part of the Catholic Action Movement

in Mexico, resisting the anti-Catholic Mexican government. Despite great persecution, he established a seminary at Totatiche. Eventually, he was arrested, tortured, and martyred.

May 25 – Pope St. Gregory VII (1085). During dark days for the Church, Pope Gregory worked to eliminate simony (the buying and selling of sacred offices), unlawful marriages of the clergy, and lay investiture (kings and nobles appointing Church officials). St. Gregory fought attacks on the authority of the Church. For this he suffered and died in exile.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)