**Presentation for the Third Week of Advent by Fr. Woodrow Pace**

**St. Joseph: That Holy Night Through the Eyes of St. Joseph**

QUESTIONS:

1. In what way did the talk help you to identify with the experience of St. Joseph on that Christmas night?

2. Like in the life of Joseph, some of our most painful experiences or regrets can work to perfect us. The raw emotion of doubt and suffering can stir us to a sense of wonder and awe before the face of God. What has God revealed to you through the hardships of your own life?

3. Imagine that someone you do not know sincerely asks you, “What does it mean when you call Joseph ‘The Foster Father of the Son of God?’” How would you answer the question: How might Joseph himself answer the question?

4. What is God inspiring you to be determined about? What can you do this Advent and Christmas Season in union with St. Joseph that might give you the gifts of courage and strength to carry it out?

5. As you reflect upon the Scripture passage below that was read at the end of the presentation what further thoughts and insights does it offer you?

“While they were there, the time came for her to be delivered, and she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

 When the angels went away from them into Heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’

So they went away with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe, lying in a manger. When they saw Him, they made know the saying which had been told them concerning this Child; all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told” (Luke 2:6-20).

**Litany of St. Joseph**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lord, have mercy on us | Christ, have mercy on us. |
| Lord, have mercy on us. |
| Jesus, hear us, | Jesus, graciously hear us. |
|  |  |
| God the Father of heaven, | have mercy on us. |
| God the Son, Redeemer of the World, | have mercy on us. |
| God the Holy Spirit, | have mercy on us. |
| Holy Trinity, one God, | have mercy on us. |
|  |  |
| Holy Mary, | pray for us. |
| St. Joseph, | pray for us. |
| Renowned offspring of David, | pray for us. |
| Light of Patriarchs, | pray for us. |
| Spouse of the Mother of God, | pray for us. |
| Chaste guardian of the Virgin, | pray for us. |
| Foster father of the Son of God, | pray for us. |
| Diligent protector of Christ, | pray for us. |
| Head of the Holy Family, | pray for us. |
| Joseph most just, | pray for us. |
| Joseph most chaste, | pray for us. |
| Joseph most prudent, | pray for us. |
| Joseph most strong, | pray for us. |
| Joseph most obedient, | pray for us. |
| Joseph most faithful, | pray for us. |
| Mirror of patience, | pray for us. |
| Lover of poverty, | pray for us. |
| Model of artisans, | pray for us. |
| Glory of home life, | pray for us. |
| Guardian of virgins, | pray for us. |
| Pillar of families, | pray for us. |
| Solace of the wretched, | pray for us. |
| Hope of the sick, | pray for us. |
| Patron of the dying, | pray for us. |
| Terror of demons, | pray for us. |
| Protector of Holy Church, | pray for us. |
|  |  |
| Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, |  spare us, O Jesus. |
| Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, |  graciously hear us, O Jesus. |
| Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, |  have mercy on us, O Jesus. |
|  |  |
| He made him the lord of His household |  And prince over all his possessions. |

Let us pray: O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in Heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever. Saint Joseph, pray for us.