

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

This month of March brings the celebration of two great solemnities: the Solemnity of St. Joseph and the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

I have often heard people ask, “Why don’t we hear more about St. Joseph?” It’s a great question. In the past five to ten years, there has been a renewed emphasis on St. Joseph within Catholic culture, and many have begun to reflect more deeply on his role. Perhaps his quiet presence in Scripture contributes to this question. Not a single word of St. Joseph is recorded in the Bible. That may seem surprising at first, but in many ways, it is something beautiful. His silence reveals his quiet strength, humility, and unwavering obedience.

We often imagine St. Joseph as an older man. However, Fr. Don Calloway notes in his book *Consecration to St. Joseph* that this theory is likely inaccurate. Consider, for example, the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. The physical demands of such a journey—traveling a great distance while protecting Mary and the Child Jesus from danger—suggest that Joseph was likely a strong man in his prime. He was not an elderly widower, but a courageous, chaste, and hardworking man who faithfully defended and provided for the Holy Family.

I strongly encourage you to grow in friendship with St. Joseph, if you have not already done so. I also highly recommend *Consecration to St. Joseph* by Fr. Don Calloway as a wonderful way to deepen that devotion.

We then turn our hearts to our Blessed Mother at the Annunciation. What a profound and mysterious moment that must have been. While the Evangelists were not physically present, we can be confident that the account came from Mary herself. What did she feel at that moment? Was she filled with serene peace because she was full of grace? Did she experience fear in the face of the unknown? Whatever emotions stirred within her heart, one thing is certain: she trusted.

Our Blessed Mother gives us one of the most powerful examples of trust in the Father. Trust is the first threshold of intentional discipleship. In Mary, we see what it means to surrender completely to God’s providence. She lived that trust her entire life—even as she stood in anguish at the foot of the Cross.

As we continue our Lenten journey, I pray that this season may be fruitful for you. I look forward to celebrating the Sacred Triduum with you soon.

St. Joseph...pray for us!

Our Lady of the Annunciation...pray for us!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor