



# ST. LOUIS THE KING PARISH THE HERALD

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## DRIVE-IN MASS—BY FR. GLENN



### Special points of interest:

- Drive-In Mass**
- The Prodigal Love of the Father**
- Honor thy Father**
- St. Joseph**
- Obedience In Heaven and on Earth**
- Model of Earthly Fatherhood**

On Sunday May 17, 2020 the family of St. Louis the King gathered for its first drive-in Mass. With an FM Radio broadcast on channel 105.5 people were able to dive up and remain safely in their vehicles and attend Mass for the first time in several weeks. Many chose the option of sitting outside in the sunshine or sitting under the large tent set up by the Knights of Columbus. Everyone was wearing a mask and keeping socially distant from each other. Everyone that I talked to felt safe and overwhelmingly appreciative of being able to attend Mass once again.

As pastor I felt very blessed to be able to be with the parish family again in a safe environment. As the spiritual father of a family

that I have come to love very much I feel an overwhelming responsibility to protect the flock and keep everyone safe. Everything that I am reading tells me that the safest place to be is outside. The Covid-19 virus is most transmissible in closed settings where people are close together.

At the Mass, families sat together and everyone respected everyone's safe space. People wearing masks stayed properly distanced coming to communion and Eucharistic Ministers were wearing masks and using hand sanitizer. I feel very comfortable with this plan moving through the summer months.

As this newsletter is being assembled a crew is installing an audio/visual system in the church. They are installing a mounted video camera in the body of the church. The sys-

tem will record and re-broadcast the Mass. A projector and large motorized movie screen is being installed in Gauthier Hall on the wall where the High Altar once was. Two years ago as St. Therese Church in Gulliver was closing I was offered the pews by the custodian. Being the scavenger that I am I accepted them and placed them in storage. Those pews will be set up in Gauthier Hall in the configuration of the old church, with the exception that they will be placed at least 6 feet apart. This will provide overflow seating once the church is filled in a socially distant manner.

The plan is to move the Sunday Mass indoors in the event of inclement weather. As the weather gets cooler this fall we will be able to get back to our normal weekend Mass schedule.

## A Prodigal Son Trying to Become the Father—by Fr. Glenn

Very near the end of his life of 63 years, the Dutch painter Rembrandt created perhaps his greatest masterpiece, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. The original painting stands 8' tall and 6' wide. It is currently on display at a Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia.

I first became acquainted with the painting from a beautiful large print that hangs in a Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Mundelein Seminary. Sitting quietly in the shadow of the painting was the beginning of my personal relationship with God the Father. I was then 42 years old.

As I was kneeling one day before the tabernacle in the chapel I felt the embrace of the Father's love as I had never felt before. Looking up I came to realize that I was the Prodigal Son who had journeyed far to a great emptiness and had finally returned with no expectation of the Father taking me back. He did with no questions asked and with total unconditional love.

The son had traveled far and lost everything. His sandals are ragged and torn from the long journey. All he has left is his worn out undergarments. If you look closely at the painting the one thing that the son still has is the family dagger hanging from his waist. No matter how far he traveled, no matter where he traveled to, he never ceased to be his father's son, his beloved child. No matter his expectation of being taken back as no more than a hired hand, he never stopped being his father's son and the father never stopped being his loving Father. I then realized that in the past 42 years God had never stopped being my Father.

From the unconditional embrace of the Father's love, that same loving Father is calling me to be the arms of His embrace and the face of His love in a world in need of love and



compassion and healing. As a priest of His Church I am called father for that very reason. I have learned the hard way that you cannot give what you don't have. It is only by allowing myself to be held by the embrace of the Father that I can somehow become that embrace. I can only be the Father by being His son.

## Obedience to the Father—By Deacon Bill McKnight

This month we celebrate Father's Day. As I was praying about what this day reflected in the life of the Church and family ministry, one theme kept coming to me: Obedience. I think that we all know something about the fourth commandment; to "Honor your Father and your Mother". The Catechism of the Catholic Church gives a full and rich treatment of the commandment in paragraphs 2196 – 2257. This command is first out of the gates after three commandments that all instruct us in our relationship to God. All the rest apply to how we should treat one another, and the

fourth commandment serves as a kind of middle ground, as our parents are the first of the "others" that we should treat better than ourselves, yet our relationship with God is that of adopted children. In this "hinge" commandment lies keys to the commands prior to, as well as those that will come after. Christ stands as a similar hinge, as a perfect example of the life of God's first covenant with man, as well as existing as the doorway to God's final covenant.

Jesus, whom we should imitate in all things, was divine, and

so was perfectly begotten by God the Father; yet he also had human molding and upbringing. This responsibility was ordained by God to belong to Mary, as well as to Joseph. I think we, as Catholics spend a lot of time reflecting on Mary, her nature, her relationship to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and for good reason. Not nearly as often do we spend time thinking of the same elements of Joseph. Yet he was given the earthly keeping of Jesus. In my mind's eye I can see Jesus really laying out the word of God, perhaps giving them one of His hard sayings, with Mary in the back-

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ground telling a friend “He sounds just like his Father.” I think that the reason this is so easy to picture is because it would have been completely natural. Who could deny that as Jesus stood on the hill and taught the people the beatitudes, that at least a portion of that knowledge came from watching two parents that were indeed living the “blessed” life? Perhaps no other trait that Joseph tried to impart to his son was more important than his obedience; for in the obedience of the parent, so the child too learns this obedience. In the Garden of Gethsemane, as Jesus prayed “not my will, but thine” I think we can hear the echo of both of his fathers; His human and Divine.

### **Joseph’s supplication to the will of God:**

Though he appears for such a short time in the Gospel, Joseph’s life is a picture of being able to hear the voice of God, and then humble himself to do God’s will. Though the worldly authority would have granted him the right to quietly divorce Mary when she was found to be with child, instead Joseph heard the voice of God in a dream, and followed it, choosing instead to keep and protect both her and her unborn child. He also was warned of the earthly king murdering children. In that moment he could have despaired and complained, grown enraged and spoke out against, or tried to actively fight against this misuse of authority. Instead, he heard the voice of God, uprooted everything that he knew, and moved all of them to the relative safety of Egypt. This was quite a leap of faith, and of all of the choices that I listed, was probably the most difficult, and therefore

required the most obedience.

### **Joseph’s supplication to Earthly Authority:**

Put yourself in this position. Your wife is very pregnant. Your business is in the only place that you have ever called home. The government has called on all of its citizens to return to their city of birth so that they can be counted, no doubt for the purposes of being taxed. The trip is hundreds of miles, your wife could give birth any day, and your business will not make money for your family while you are unable to make it run. What do you do? Do you rail against the injustice of it all? Do you choose to turn your back on the decree? Do you ring your hands and stomp your feet? None of these things were what Joseph chose. He knew that despite the massive inconvenience of it all, and what may be of little benefit to him personally, that the authority that was mandating his compliance, was somehow ordained by God. Just as he was given the job of caring for both Mary and Jesus, so too was the authority of the time granted its authority by God. So long as that authority did not ask him to defy the commandment of God, then he was duty bound to obey. Thomas A’ Kempis captures this same sentiment in chapter 13 of his book “The Imitation of Christ” when he writes, “If a man doth not freely and willingly submit himself to his superior, it is a sign that his flesh is not, as yet, perfectly obedient to him, but oftentimes rebels and murmurs.” Joseph submitted himself to earthly authority in order that he may submit himself to God’s



will. So long as the authority was not forsaking the law of God, then it was sound. We can see this echo of the obedience of Joseph in Christ submitting himself to the authority of Pilate, to which Jesus submits “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above” (Jn 19:11).

On this Father’s Day, let us reflect on how Joseph, and in turn Jesus, submits himself to all authority in Heaven and on earth. This obedience is the active element of their humility. A father holds dominion over his family, which has been given him by God. For that, the family owes the father honor, as is specified in the fourth commandment. In return, the father empties himself, being a conduit for the graces that flow to him, pouring them out upon his family and not holding on to them for himself. He also reciprocates the honor shown to him by submitting himself to authority granted others by God; be it a President or Governor, a Bishop or priest. In humble supplications and pouring out of oneself, a father can best mirror Joseph who followed the will of God.

## St. Joseph Pray for Us—by Deacon Paul Lochner

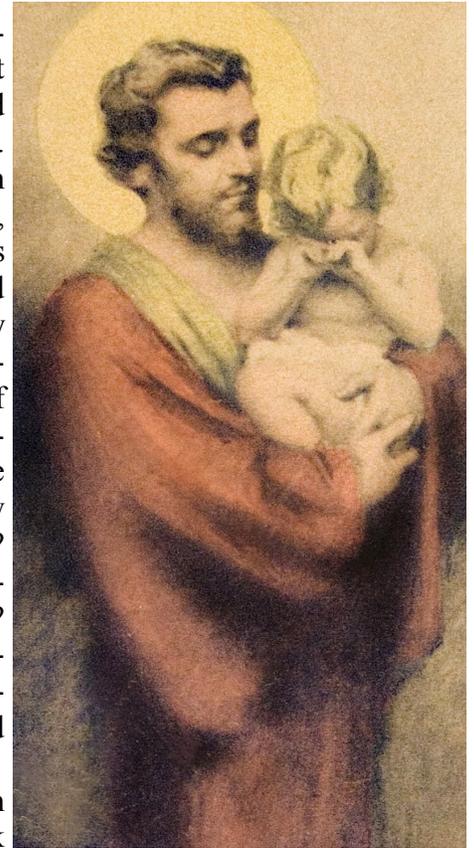
As we celebrate the arrival of June and the summer season, we also take time to celebrate Father's Day. As we pause to give thanks to our fathers, let us first give thanks to our Heavenly Father, who created our inmost being and knit us together in our mothers' wombs. (Ps. 139:13-14). He knows better than our earthly fathers what good gifts to give us. (Lk. 11:11-13). Let us give Him thanks for all the good gifts he has bestowed upon us out of love, especially the gift of his only-begotten Son, his spouse the Church, and the sacraments.

Next, let us give thanks to our spiritual fathers, from the Holy Father, Pope Francis, to Bishop John, to Father Glenn and all the pastors of the Diocese of Marquette who nourish us with the Word of God and the sacraments. Through their spiritual fatherhood, they help to lead us to our ultimate destination, an eternity spent in joy with our Heavenly Father as beloved sons and daughters.

Finally, let us give thanks to our earthly fathers, step-fathers, fathers-in-law, and grandfathers for all that they have done for us. Throughout our lives, they have provided us not only with material support and encouragement, but also spiritual support in their role as head of the domestic church. As fathers, we are called to be one of the primary educators of our children in matters of faith. As the Catechism notes, "in our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith." (CCC 1656). As Vatican II taught, "The family, so to speak, is the domestic church . . . Parents should be, by word and example, first preachers of faith to their children."

For those of us who are fathers, it is a perfect time to reflect upon the blessings of fatherhood and to take stock of our lives. Have we, as St. Paul urges in Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3, loved our wives as Christ loves his Church? Have we avoided provoking our children, lest they become discouraged? God always creates greater good out of evil. During this time of pandemic, have we taken advantage of the extra time at home to grow closer to our wives and children? Have we modeled patience, kindness, and self-sacrificing love? Have we been family prayer leaders? In short, as head of the domestic church, have we modeled Christ to our families?

Most of us are familiar with the old adage "actions speak louder than words." Nowhere is this more evident than in the gospels, which record not a single word spoken by St. Joseph, yet richly narrate his actions, which are the perfect model of self-sacrificial love and fatherhood. In the words of St. Augustine, "see that you praise God not with your lips and voices alone, but with your minds, your lives, and all your actions." Like St. Joseph, let us show our children through our lives and our actions what a personal relationship with Jesus looks like and how that relationship is lived out daily within the truth, goodness, and beauty of our Catholic faith. Through that life and action, we shall fulfill our vocation as fathers and lead our family on the path to heaven. St. Joseph, foster father of the Son of God, head of the holy family, example to parents, and pillar of



family life, intercede for us that we might become the holy men of God and fathers we are meant to be.

### —Family Retreat—

It is with great sadness that we inform you that the St. Louis the King family retreat, which was to take place at Clear Lake Education Center this July, has been cancelled due to Corona Virus Pandemic Restrictions. It is our desire to schedule the retreat at Clear Lake in the summer of 2021.

