

Virtual Eucharistic Adoration

*Create a prayerful setting for this special time with the Lord and access an on-line chapel.
May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be an opportunity
to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ entrusted to his Church.*

APRIL CONTEMPLATION

HOPE

*“The ladder of the cross is the royal way to heaven.”
– St. Gaspar #2321*

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus, we believe that You truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. We adore You with profound reverence. We beg pardon for our sins and the grace to make this time of prayer fruitful. May our Immaculate Mother, St. Joseph our Patron, our guardian angels, and our patron saints intercede for us during this time of prayer and adoration. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Year of St. Joseph

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”),
Pope Francis has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph”
to honor the man who played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

The Year of St. Joseph Prayer

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions...and confidently invoke your patronage. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ...As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

Scripture Reading: (Romans 8: 18-25)

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: (*Psalm 33:3-4, 18-19, 20-22*)

Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Sing a new song of praise to him; play skillfully on the harp, and sing with joy.
For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does. *R/*

But the Lord watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love.
He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. *R/*

We put our hope in the Lord. He is our help and our shield.
In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. *R/*

Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone. *R/*

Glory Be...

Reflection: HOPE

Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." (*Heb 10:23*) "The Holy Spirit . . . he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life." (*Titus 3:6-7*)

The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity. (*Catechism, 1817,1818*)

Seasonal Prayer: Prayer for Faith in the Risen Lord

Father in heaven, in the Resurrection of Your Son we come to know the full depth of Your love. You have freed us from the darkness of error and sin. Increase my understanding and my love of the riches You have revealed in Him Who is Lord forever. May the light of faith shine in my words and actions. Help me to cling to Your truths with fidelity. May I, who have received your gift of faith, share in the new life of the Risen Christ. Keep me alive in Him, ever true to His teaching till Your glory is revealed in me. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Reflection

During this Year of St. Joseph may we learn of his holy life, implore his intercession, and imitate his virtues and his zeal. (Pope Francis, Patris Corde).

Meditation: from the Pope's Apostolic Letter *Patris corde*

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (*Rom 4:18*), through our weaknesses... Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture. (#2)

Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations, and disappointments. (#4)

Intentions

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father's Intention for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

In thanksgiving for Christ, the Anointed One of God, through whom all those anointed with the sacramental oils of the Church are raised to new life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

Help us St. Joseph, help our families and all our loved ones
to overcome all sadness of heart and develop an absolute trust in God's goodness.

The Blood of Christ is Life for all Our Needs

Eternal Father, we offer you the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, poured out on the cross and offered daily on the altar:

- ✦ For the glory of your name, for the coming of your kingdom and for the salvation of all.
- ✦ For the propagation of faith, for Pope Francis, for bishops, priests, and religious and for the sanctification of all the people of God.
- ✦ For the conversion of sinners, for the loving acceptance of your Word, and for the union of all Christians.
- ✦ For civil authorities, for the strengthening of public morals, and for peace and justice among all nations.
- ✦ For the sanctification of our work and suffering, for the poor, sick and afflicted, and for all who rely on our prayers.
- ✦ For our own spiritual and temporal needs, for those of our relatives, benefactors, and also for those of our enemies.
- ✦ For those who are to die this day, for the souls in purgatory, and for our final union with Christ in Glory.

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer: Precious Blood Prayer

All: Almighty and Eternal God, you have appointed your only-begotten Son the Redeemer of the world and willed to be appeased by his Blood. Grant we beg of you, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of this present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Our Lady of the Most Precious Blood, pray for us.
St. Joseph, pray for us, St. Gaspar, pray for us, St. Maria De Mattias, pray for us,
St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.