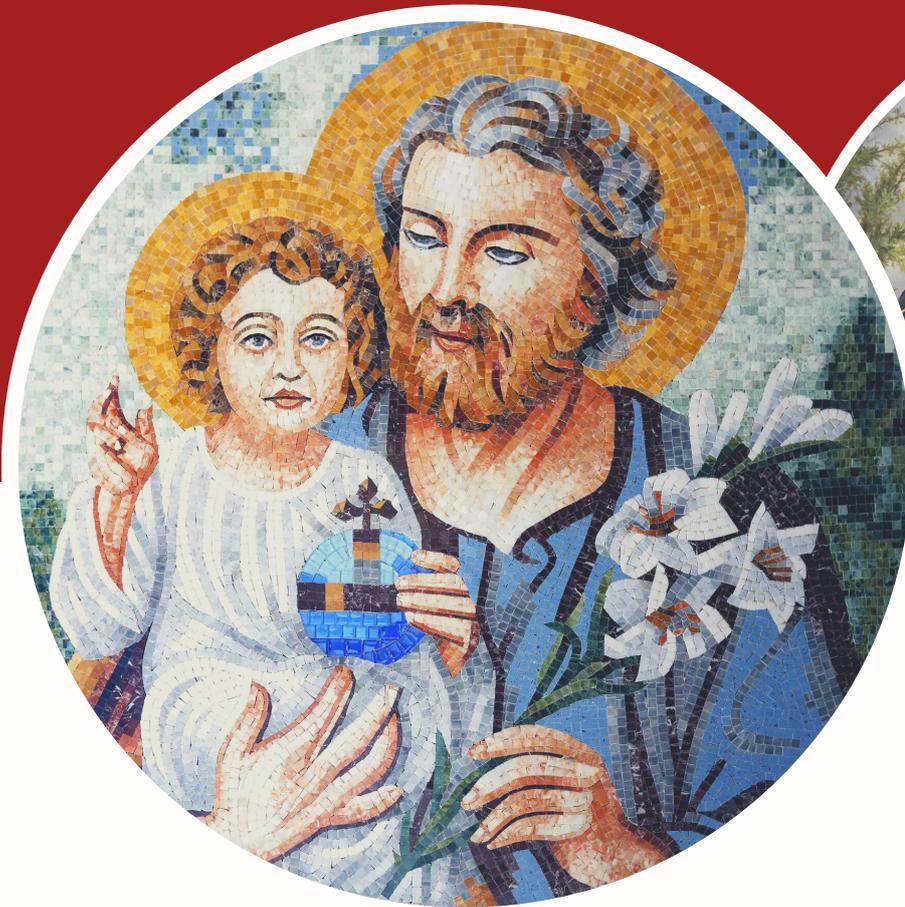


# S ✨ E P S

Following the Footsteps of Jesus



## PRACTICING TOGETHER: THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

BY CHARLIE BATES

As Catholics, we believe the life of faith is not meant to be lived alone. We know that God is present to us in and through one another. God shows himself not only in those around us today, but those through those who have gone before us. That's why our tradition values the lives of the saints. Their example and spiritual friendship help us on our own faith journey—and they will be the ones waiting for us when our journey is complete. The Communion of Saints, simply put, “is the Church” – on earth and in heaven (CCC 946).

This year, we are focusing on one saint in particular. Pope Francis has declared “the Year of St. Joseph” from December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021 in the Church throughout the world. Of course, devotion to St. Joseph isn't new – he was declared the patron saint of the whole church in 1870, and there are 9 parishes named for him in our diocese alone. But Pope Francis was inspired to reflect more on the life of St. Joseph during the lockdown.

*Check out his reflection on the next page and join us in our own!*

## Joseph – a creatively courageous father

“If the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose, we must now add another important element: creative courage. This emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties. In the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it. At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had.

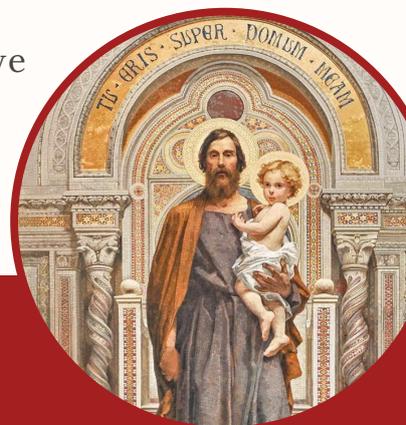
As we read the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act in a more direct and clear way. Yet God acts through events and people. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true “miracle” by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. Lk 2:6-7). Faced with imminent danger from Herod, who wanted to kill the child, Joseph was warned once again in a dream to protect the child, and rose in the middle of the night to prepare the flight into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14).

A superficial reading of these stories can often give the impression that the world is at the mercy of the strong and mighty, but the “good news” of the Gospel consists in showing that, for all the arrogance and violence of worldly powers, God always finds a way to carry out his saving plan. So too, our lives may at times seem to be at the mercy of the powerful, but the Gospel shows us what counts. God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence.

If at times God seems not to help us, surely this does not mean that we have been abandoned, but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves.”

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from Pope Francis, *Patris Corde (With a Father’s Heart)*, section 5



## JOIN US IN OUR CONSECRATION AT ST. NORBERT!

Beginning on Monday, July 26th we will be offering an opportunity to make a consecration to Jesus through St. Joseph as a community. Every day from July 26th through September 8th a video will be posted on our social media and website with the readings and reflection for the day. We will be using the book *Consecration to Jesus through St. Joseph: An Integrated Look At the Holy Family*, by Dr. Gregory Bottaro and Jennifer Settle.

If you would like to follow along with your own copy of the book please contact Ed Grady at [egrady@parish.strnorbert.org](mailto:egrady@parish.strnorbert.org). We are really looking forward to moving deeper in our relationship with Jesus through the guidance of St. Joseph. We hope you'll join us!