

## St. Louis Catholic Church

Saturday, March 19th  
The Feast of St. Joseph

Don't be afraid! The angel appeared to Joseph to take Mary as his wife. Be not afraid of the nasty talk, ignore the rumors, do what God wants you to do in your life. Be not afraid were words also spoken to Mary. Be not afraid you have found favor with God. We will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation next Friday, March 25th. Jesus told the disciples not to fear when they were on the troubling waters in the midst of a violent storm. Pope John Paul II began his papacy by urging the world to fear not and to live the truth of the Gospel of Jesus.

Joseph had decided to quietly divorce Mary whom he treasured. He was taking the bullet and probably would be a marked man who walked out on his betrothed. He would probably never have a family. He tried to please God and his loved one by saving her the humiliation. Yet God had another plan. Fulfilling the promise that an heir would come from David's house and a new Adam would come from the faith of our father Abraham, Joseph was to be the father of the Word Made Flesh! He trusted and took Mary into his home. He came to believe that Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph is a model of what it means to live a quiet, steady life of faith. He was imbued with a gift of faith and trust in God. He was willing to be open to God's way over his own. In our lives it is nice to have people who are great examples. Christianity is filled with 20 centuries of heroes who loved and trusted God and were not afraid to speak about their faith but more importantly to live their faith. Saints, martyrs, popes, bishop, priests, brothers and sisters in the religious life, and certainly parents, relatives and parishioners.

Joseph leaves a legacy as an upright, just, righteous, holy and loving man of God. His obedience cooperated with God's plan to make God visible in our world as Redeemer and Savior. What legacy will we leave behind? What do people see in our faith lives?

Lent calls us, as we celebrate a major feast, to pray, fast, give alms and do penance in order to change the direction of our lives. Prayer can help us to focus on the call of God. Fasting and penance can help us focus on ourselves as instruments of God living in a corruptible and mortal body on journey to an eternal dwelling. Almsgiving is a way to be the hands of Christ and focus on others. That is the life Joseph lived. He said yes even to the improbable. He trusted.

God too calls us to the improbable and sometime the impossible. We hold Joseph up as a model.

Be Not Afraid.

God Bless,  
Msgr. John McArthur