

Saint Study Podcast

Podcast # 116

- **Hello everyone and welcome to Saint Study Episode #116 – “St. Joseph - Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Our Lord Jesus Christ”**
 - *Thank you for joining us – maybe we can all learn enough today that by the end of the program we will say, “I didn’t know that” (But now I do!)*
 - *What is a saint? A Canonized Saint is someone recognized by the Church as having led a life of great charity & heroic virtue. Their example of how to conquer any sin imaginable is so important that it was worth recognizing these men & women in a significant way. Anyone (canonized or not) whose soul was cleansed in Purgatory and now resides in Heaven is a Saint. It is every Christian’s goal to become a saint.*
- We always begin our learning by inviting the Holy Spirit to be with us...
 - *In the Name Of The Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Amen.*
 - *Dear Heavenly Father we ask you to be with us as we learn about the lives of your Saints. We ask that our minds be open and that you may fill us with the knowledge that was so loved by the men and women who lived lives of heroic virtue and great charity. Allow us to understand and emulate these Saints who we now know are in your company. In your name we pray, Amen.*
- **Let’s look at The Saint for this weeks study - St. Joseph...**
 - The chief sources of information on the life of St. Joseph are St. Luke & St. Matthew’s Gospels
 - Much of St. Joseph’s life (Like others in early church history) is unknown
 - St. Matthew (1:16) calls St. Joseph the son of Jacob
 - St. Luke (3:23), Tells us that Heli was St. Joseph’s father.
 - Bethlehem appears to have been the birth-place of Joseph.
 - Gospel history opens shortly before the Annunciation where Joseph was settled at Nazareth
 - Joseph was a *tekton*, The word means both mechanic in general and carpenter in particular
 - see Matthew 13:55, and Mark 6:3.
 - It is in all probability at Nazareth that Joseph betrothed and married her who was to become the Mother of God.
 - When the marriage took place either before or after the Incarnation is unclear
 - I suspect if it was that important The Lord would have revealed it to us.
 - When Joseph was forty years of age he married a woman called Melcha or Escha or Salome
 - They lived forty-nine years together and had six children, two daughters and four sons

- A year after his wife's death, as the priests announced through Judea that they wished to find in the tribe of Juda a respectable man to espouse Mary, then twelve to fourteen years of age
- Joseph was at the time ninety years old
- He went up to Jerusalem amid the candidates for Mary's hand
- Many artistic works and oral traditions from the time support the belief that St. Joseph was an old man at the time of marriage with the Mother of God
- ...From (Matthew 1:19, 20, 24).
- But the faith of Joseph in his soon to be spouse was severely tried: she was with child.
- However painful the finding must have been for Joseph, his gentle approaches forbade him to defame Mary and he resolved "to put her away privately"
- While he thought on all these things the angel of the Lord appeared to him while he slept
- "Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost"
- Joseph did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took unto him his wife
- **The Nativity and the Flight to Egypt**
 - The time came for Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem to be enrolled, according to the decree issued by Caesar Augustus
 - Travelling was a new source of concern for Joseph
 - "Her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered"
 - "There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:1-7).
 - St. Joseph had to be wondering what more could happen
 - Travelling with a very pregnant wife
 - The Birth of our Savior in a small stable
 - Having the Three Kings arrive
 - The news of His birth spread rapidly
 - Now St. Joseph had to flee with his family to Egypt (Thanks to another Angels advice)
 - *(Matthew 2: 13-14) When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."*
- Returning To Nazareth
 - After a few years & the death of Herod, The Holy Family settled finally back in Nazareth.
 - St. Joseph's life was that of a simple and humble Jew

- He supported himself and his family by his work as a carpenter
 - St. Joseph remained faithful to the Jewish religious customs decreed by the Law.
 - The only significant incident documented by the Gospel is the temporary loss of Jesus, then twelve years of old, when Jesus had strayed during the annual pilgrimage to the Holy City (Luke 2:42-51).
- No more is recorded in the Gospel about the life or death of St. Joseph.
 - Jesus is well on his way now to being a man
 - St. Joseph likely died around the year 18 or 19 A.D. but that is all speculation
 - It is also speculated that he was 111 years old when he died.
 - St. Joseph has (2) Feast days
 - March 20 his royalty is observed
 - May 1 his recognition as a humble worker is observed
 - Patronage
 - **is the patron saint for**

Against doubt	Emigrants	Pregnant women
Against hesitation	Engineers	Protection of the Church
Americas	Expectant mothers	Apostolic vicariate of
Austria;	Families	San Jose, Mindoro, Philippines
Cabinetmakers	Fathers	Social justice
Canada;	Happy death	Spadafora, Sicily
Canadian Armed Forces (in	Holy death	Styria, Austria
1941)	House hunters	Travellers
Carinthia	Immigrants	Turin, Italy
Carpenters	Interior souls	Tyrol, Austria
China	Laborers	Unborn children
Confectioners	Married people	Universal Church
Craftsmen	New France	Vatican II
Croatian people (in 1687 by	Oblates of Saint Joseph	Viet Nam
decree of the Croatian	People in doubt	Wheelwrights
parliament)	People who fight Communism	Workers
Dying people	Pioneers	Working people

From a sermon by Saint Bernardine of Siena

There is a general rule concerning all special graces granted to any human being. Whenever the divine favor chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand.

This general rule is especially verified in the case of Saint Joseph, the foster-father of our Lord, and the husband of the Queen of our world, enthroned above the angels. He was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph's wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him, saying "Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord."

Remember us, Saint Joseph, and plead for us to your foster child. Ask your most holy bride, the Virgin Mary, to look kindly upon us, since she is the mother of him who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns eternally. Amen.

- Conclusions – Interesting notes about their life or sainthood
 - I am humbled by St. Joseph's ability to respond immediately to our Lords requests even though they don't make sense to him at the time.
 - St. Joseph shows us how to have faith and that the rewards are worth the struggle.
 - St. Joseph was invoked frequently by Saint Teresa of Avila. (One of the 33 Doctors of the Church)
 - I did not cover St. Josephs Novena's
 - SaintStudy does not give you every detail about the Saint's life!
 - We leave something for you to discover on your own!

- Preview of next episode
 - Episode #117 St. Mary Magdalene

- References, Plugs & Web Sites
 - www.ewtn.com – Best reference site
 - <http://www.usccb.org> The US Conference of Catholic Bishops
 - <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08504a.htm>
 - www.saints.sqpn.com

- Follow SaintStudy on Itunes, Facebook and Twitter –

Thank You For Joining Us...

**May The Peace of our Lord
Be always with you...Have a good day!**