

Bulletin Reflection

St. Patrick and Father's Day 2026

Celebrating Saint Joseph as the patron saint of fathers provides focus for Father's Day. Here are some points connecting his life with scripture to that calling of fatherhood, that we Catholic fathers share:

- 1. Fatherhood as a Protector:** Our primary duty as fathers is protecting the family from harm. In Matthew, Ch. 2, we have, *"Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you.'"* Our Catholic faith teaches us to be that protector; in all its dimensions: spiritually, physically and emotionally, for our families and an example for others.
- 2. Radical Obedience Over Personal Pride:** True fatherhood requires setting aside personal ego to fulfill a higher calling. We all know the Bible story from Matt., Ch. 1, that before they were married, St. Joseph was obedient to God, *"But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife...'"* Joseph sets the standard for fathers to lead their homes by listening to God first, with true humility.
- 3. Prayerful Daily Work and Mentorship:** Fathers provide for their families and pass down essential life skills. Joseph was a tekton (traditionally translated as a carpenter or craftsman), and provided for his family, and actively mentored Jesus in his daily trade, investing quality time into his upbringing. For in Matt. 13:55, *"Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary?"* It takes discipline, diligence and example to be teachers to our children, families, and friends.
- 4. Shared Leadership and Family Presence:** St. Joseph was fully engaged in the spiritual and structural rhythm of his family. As in Luke 2: 41, 48: *"Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover... And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.'"* We do this by example, praying as a family, being at milestone moments, leading spiritual traditions, and navigating life's worries together as a united front with our wives.

I would like for you, the St. Patrick Men, to consider the following groups for participation:

- **Men's Group**, open to all Men (you do not need to be Catholic), to regularly participate in monthly gatherings of Christian fellowship. Paul Lipka and Jerry Kelly lead this fine group.
- **Men's Spirituality Group** which typically meets monthly on the SECOND /THIRD Saturday morning of the month for a one-hour reflection on the weekend Gospel. Nick Lukic organizes these men.
- **Knights of Columbus** – the premier Men's Catholic organization of Catholic service. John Mastro, PGK (Past Grand Knight) is our affiliate with the St. Mary's Knights, right here in Lake Forest too.

As a father, and grandfather, I personally share with you the struggle and reward in these duties we must carry out in our world today. Let us as men, engage in this battle; first in our parish and support each other in right living, ordered accountability and men of deep faith and respect. From this spot, we can succeed. Also, Keep Fr. Patrick and all priests in your prayers – they are our Spiritual Fathers guiding us. **St. Joseph, pray for us.** May the Lord Bless you, your Families and those you encounter.

In Christ, Deacon John B. Morris, PGK