



**March 17, 2022**

Today is the feast of St. Patrick. Many of us have a special love for St. Patrick, but in just two more days we will celebrate the **feast of St. Joseph**, the foster-father of Jesus. I can imagine Mary and Jesus celebrating the feast of St. Joseph now in heaven. Joseph was so loving to both Mary and Jesus when they lived here on earth. His life was like that of an ordinary workman. He worked as a carpenter, but he protected and cared for Jesus and Mary here on earth. I presume that when they all got to heaven, Jesus has a special place for both of them in heaven. Although scripture doesn't tell us much about Joseph, we know that he listened to God in his dreams. We are told that an angel came to Joseph in a dream, and told him that Mary would conceive a child by the power of the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine how they must be celebrating the feast of St. Joseph's now in heaven?

Before long we will also celebrate the **Feast of the Annunciation** on March 25<sup>th</sup>, when the angel tells Mary that she will become the mother of Jesus. There are exactly nine months between March 25<sup>th</sup> (the Annunciation) and December 25<sup>th</sup> (the birthday of Jesus). You might want to spend some time this week reflecting on the fact that Jesus loved us so much that He chose to become **like us** in all things except sin. Recall from John's gospel, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn.1:14), and Mary's response, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). Recall that Jesus loved us so much that he **chose to become one like us**.

May God bless each one of you!

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