



# Parish of St. Joseph of the Palisades

6401 Palisade Ave. West New York, NJ 07093

(201) 854-7006 Fax: (201) 861-7799

E-mail: [info@saintjosephpalisades.com](mailto:info@saintjosephpalisades.com) Website: [www.saintjosephpalisades.com](http://www.saintjosephpalisades.com)

Served by: Rev. Helber Victoria, *Pastor*. Rev. Richard DeBrasi, Rev. José Luis Soto, Rev. Edinson E. Ramírez, Rev. Fernando Diaz; Rev. Msgr. Robert Harahan, Weekend Assistant

## Mass Schedule

### *St. Joseph*

#### Monday to Friday

8:30 am English

#### Monday to Friday

7:00 pm Spanish

#### Saturday

9:00 am Spanish

5:00 pm English

6:30 pm Spanish

#### Sunday

8:30 am Spanish

10:30 am Spanish-Main Church

10:30am Spanish-Lower Church

10:30 am Spanish-Com. Center

12:00 pm English

1:30 pm Spanish

6:00 pm Spanish

#### Office Hours:

#### Monday to Friday

9:00 am—5:00 pm

5:00—8:00 pm

#### Saturday & Sunday

9:00 am—3:00 pm



## 23<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother." - Mt 18:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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#### *IHM Mass Schedule*

#### Saturday

4:00 pm Meditation Hour  
in the small Chapel

#### Sunday

10:00 am English

Confession between Masses

12:00 pm Spanish



Scan the adjacent barcode to open the Parish webpage.

Escanee el código de barras adjunto para acceder  
la página web parroquial.

## Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

76th Street & Broadway, North Bergen, NJ



**Academy of St. Joseph**  
**Principal, Mrs. Lauren Lytle**  
6408 Palisade Avenue  
West New York, NJ 07093  
201-861-3227  
[stjosephpalisadeselem.com](http://stjosephpalisadeselem.com)

**Religious Education Office**  
Mrs. Laysa Mercedes  
**Adult Faith Formation/Youth Group Coordinator:**  
Mr. Marco Guerrero  
6408 Palisade Avenue, West New York, NJ  
(201) 868-0305  
[religioused@saintjosephpalisades.com](mailto:religioused@saintjosephpalisades.com)

**Music Director:** Mr. Ramon Restituyo  
**Parish Administrative Assistant:** Nube Parra  
**Parish Bookkeeper:** Mrs. Graciela Giacomello  
**Parish Secretary:** Mrs. Millie Benitez  
**Parish Trustee:** Ivon Campuzano

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE 23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**INTENCIONES PARA EL 23 DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

**September 9-10, 2023**

**ST. JOSEPH'S - 64<sup>TH</sup> Street**

**Saturday, September 9**

**5:00pm English** + José Otero  
+ Cosmo Altamura

**6:30pm Spanish** Por el cumpleaños de Edinson Ramírez  
+ Maria Rodriguez

**Sunday, September 10**

**8:30am Spanish** + Pedro y Libia Giraldo  
+ Ana y Angel Dinoco

**10:30am UC Spanish** + Sabina y José Ramírez  
Bendición para William y Isabella Son

**10:30am LC Spanish** + Roberto Salmeron  
+ Familia Restrepo Gutierrez

**12:00pm** + For the people of the parish

**1:30pm Spanish** + José Valencia  
+ Paulinita de Urrea

**6:00pm Spanish** Cumpleaños de Nicolasa Gomez  
+ Santos Gomez

**Monday, September 11**

**8:30am** + Ignatius Pizzo  
+ August Raggi

**7:00pm Spanish** + Santiago Perez  
+ Aura García

**Tuesday, September 12**

**8:30am** + Stefano Piccinich  
+ Dorothy Eppolito

**7:00pm Spanish** + José y Rafel Tamayo  
+ Cristina Alvares

**Wednesday, September 13**

**8:30am** For Sydia Rodríguez on her birthday  
+ Alyce Kasther

**7:00pm Spanish** + Lina Casarez  
+ Humberto y Isabel Pretel

**Thursday, September 14**

**8:30am** + Nicole Soto  
+ Rose Stumpf

**7:00pm Spanish** Por el cumpleaños de Carmen Reinoso  
+ Raul Fernández

**Friday, September 15**

**8:30am English** + In honor of St. Catherine of Genoa

**7:00pm Spanish** + Por el cumpleaños de Carmen Reinoso  
+ Jaime Villacorta

**Saturday, September 16**

**9:00am Spanish** Community Mass

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

**Sunday, September 10**

**10:00am** + Elizabeth Torres  
+ Christopher Rea

**12:00pm Spanish** + Margarita Restrepo  
+ Néstor Contreras

**Prayer for Grandparents**

Dear Lord,

What a beloved idea you had with grandparents, relationships of care and support that bridge generations. Bless those in this role today, biological or beyond, all those who care for little ones with patience, wisdom, and love.

St. Anne and St. Joachim pray for us! Amen. -©LPi

**Sacrament of Baptism - Sacramento de Bautismo:**

Sundays with prior registration. Call the rectory for information.

*Domingos con inscripción previa. Para información llame a la rectoría.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confesiones:**

Saturdays/Sábados: 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Monday-Friday/Lunes a Viernes 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Sacrament of Matrimony - Matrimonios:**

Registration one year prior to the date of marriage. Call the Rectory for appointment.

*Registrarse un año antes de la boda.*

*Llamar a la rectoría para una cita.*

**Pastoral Care of the Sick - Enfermos:**

Family member must call the Rectory to notify a priest.

*Un familiar debe llamar a la rectoría para informar al sacerdote.*

**Funerals - Funerales:**

All deceased Catholics are to have a funeral Mass before being buried. Arrangements made through the Funeral Home.

*Todo difunto católico debe ser llevado a la iglesia para la Misa de Funeral antes de recibir cristiana sepultura. Arreglos a través de la funeraria.*

**Religious Education - Catequesis:**

English: Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Academy of St. Joseph

Español: Domingos, 9:15 a.m.

Academy of St. Joseph

**Parish Membership - Miembros de la Parroquia:**

Every Catholic family should register in the parish.

*Todo católico debe registrarse en la parroquia.*

**Readings for the week of September 10**

**Sunday:** Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/  
Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20

**Monday:** Col 1:24—2:3/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:6-11

**Tuesday:** Col 2:6-15/Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11/  
Lk 6:12-19

**Wednesday:** Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/  
Lk 6:20-26

**Thursday:** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37,  
38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

**Friday:** 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8,  
11/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and  
6-7/Lk 6:43-49



## Reflexión del Domingo

La palabra “moral” tiene raíces en la palabra Latin *mores*, que significa la *disposición* de una persona, sus buenos o malos *modales, costumbres o hábitos*. El *moralismo*, según varias fuentes, significa una exaltación desmedida de un comportamiento siempre intachable, con énfasis sobre lo estricto y lo externo. Puede manifestarse como una piedad rígida de aquel que hace las cosas casi por obligación, calculando los méritos propios y esperando la recompensa de Dios a sus esfuerzos, que se queja o se desanima con facilidad ante sus debilidades y caídas, o también las de otros, escandalizándose con impaciencia, y fácilmente ofendido por las palabras y acciones de otros “paganos” que no tiene la misma “fe”, hasta el punto incluso de atribuir pecados los demás donde no los hay (por ejemplo, por no entender las palabras de Jesús sobre la Pureza, de que “lo que contamina el ser humano no es lo que pasa por la boca sino lo que sale de su corazón” (Mateo 15:11), algunos ven a un sacerdote disfrutando una sangría durante una cena, y empiezan a mirar extrañados con juicios negativos. Ni siquiera el abuso o tendencia de abusar en la cultura hispana de la cerveza o vino implica una reacción opuesta y externa de “demonizar” o “santanzar” estos alimentos que son frutos de la tierra y cosas que pueden ser apreciados con moderación; tampoco significa que un ser humano que nunca bebe simplemente por una cuestión de gustos, o porque no le apetece tanto como un jugo o licuado de fruta, es por ese solo hecho automáticamente más santo o bueno que otros, lo cual sería otro ejemplo de un moralismo desubicado. Mirando el cuadro total, la Iglesia se debe caracterizar más por la gracia del Espíritu Santo transformándonos, perdonándonos, amándonos con las imperfecciones y luchas que coexisten con nuestra Buena voluntad, animándonos hacia el crecimiento espiritual y una vida más plena, paso por paso, según la capacidad de la persona individual, y no una sociedad siempre “perfecta” como el Farisco criticó. Por lo tanto, cuando Jesús éste domingo dice “si tu hermano no te hace caso..y si ni a la comunidad le hace caso, apartate de él como de un pagano o de un publicano,” esto no significa a necesariamente mirar con desprecio y superioridad a otro como si fuera un leproso condenado a vivir en exilio. Las otras partes del Evangelio nos da una pista. Como trató en general Nuestro Señor a los paganos y publicanos? Cuantas cosas ignorantes y hasta desagradables escuchaba y pasó por alto cuando comía y hablaba con ellos, para llegar a sus corazones cuando otros lo consideraban casos perdidos y a Jesús mismo como un gloton y bebedor? A veces esta declaración de Jesús significa aplicar a la persona caridad y oración como si nunca hubiera tenido el conocimiento de Cristo que pensábamos que tenían, o mirarla como un alma neófito que carece de luz y conocimiento, o como alguien de repente cegado por alguna tentación inesperada, que necesita más conversión o no tiene nuestra fe personal con el Señor o nuestra gracia de superar ciertas cosas, o que no está abierto todavía para asimilar una verdad dura sobre su manera de vivir. En una palabra, aunque hay momentos donde si tememos que apartarnos de ciertas personas después de muchísimos esfuerzos de nuestra parte y por nuestro bien, no significa descartarlas o rechazarlas con el moralismo crítico del Farisco.

- P. Richard De Brasi

## 16 Aniversario—Grupo de Oración de Hombres “Huellas de Jesús”

**Sábado 16 de Septiembre**

**Misa: 6:30 p.m.**

Compartir después de la Misa  
en el Centro Comunitario

¡Todos están invitados!



### Jóvenes Peregrinos

Jóvenes Peregrinos de St. Joseph aspiran ansiosamente a participar y saborear del ambiente incomparable y lleno de grandeza del evento del ministerio juvenil católico más grande organizado en todo el país, con un deseo genuino de participar en una experiencia inspiradora, espiritualmente edificante e impulsada por el compañerismo que trasciende las fronteras geográficas y reúne almas jóvenes de diversos ámbitos de la vida bajo el estandarte de la fe y la devoción comunitaria.



Escanee el código de barras adjunto para hacer su donación para ayudar a los jóvenes peregrinos. También puede traer su donación a la oficina parroquial.

## PREGUNTAS DE LA SEMANA

### Primera Lectura:

El Señor le enseña a Ezequiel que él es personalmente responsable de ser fiel a las palabras proféticas que le fueron dadas. ¿Cómo podrías mostrarles a los demás que te tomas en serio tu fe?

### Segunda Lectura:

Pablo enseñó que el amor (amar al prójimo) es el cumplimiento de la ley que Dios le dio a Israel. ¿Qué crees que es más desafiante para este mandato aparentemente simple de amarse unos a otros?

### Evangelio:

Jesús enseñó a sus discípulos a hacer todo el esfuerzo posible para reconciliarse con alguien que te ha hecho daño. ¿Es la reconciliación una alta prioridad para ti?

-©LPI



## CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH OF THE PALISADES

6401 Palisades Avenue \* West New York, NJ 07093 \* Tel: (201) 854-7006 Fax: (201) 861-7799

### 160 Aniversario Parroquial

1863-2023

Apreciados amigos:

Grandes épocas merecen grandes celebraciones, y este es un año histórico para **San José de Palisades** y queremos invitarte a las celebraciones de nuestra parroquia.

En **Septiembre 2023** celebramos el **160° Aniversario de la construcción** de nuestra hermosa iglesia. En **Diciembre 2023** celebramos el **70° Aniversario** de la apertura de nuestra **Capilla del Inmaculado Corazón de María** y lo haremos en grande con una Santa Misa y Gala en el Centro Comunitario.

En **Marzo de 2024** cerraremos nuestro Aniversario con una **Solemne Eucaristía, y una Gala Especial en honor a San José, nuestro patrono**. Como un “detalle propio de la ocasión”, haremos y publicaremos un **diario histórico conmemorativo** parroquial y un álbum familiar.

La publicación del **Diario del 160° Aniversario de San José de los Palisades** estaría programada para Diciembre 9, justo para la celebración de la Capilla de IHM. Le invitamos a agregar a su familia como recuerdo de la iglesia que muchos han llamado su segundo hogar. Consulte el formulario adjunto.

Contamos con tu apoyo para celebrar y seguir haciendo historia en nuestra comunidad de West New York, Gutenberg, y North Bergen.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends:

Great milestones deserve celebrations, and this is a milestone year for **Saint Joseph of the Palisades** in a number of ways and we want to invite you to join in the celebrations of our 160th Parish Anniversary 1863-2023.

In **September 2023** we celebrate our **160th Anniversary of our beautiful church** building, with updated work for spiritual formation. In **December 2023** we mark the **70th Anniversary** of the opening of our **Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** with a Mass and dinner.

In **March of 2024** we will **close the year with a Solemn Mass, and a gala celebration in honor of our patron, St. Joseph**.

We invite you to be included in our historic journal. The **Saint Joseph of the Palisades 160th Anniversary Journal** is scheduled for publication in the December Edition for our IHM celebration. We invite you to add your family and its memories to this keepsake of what has been called a Second Home to so many, your Parish of Saint Joseph of the Palisades. See the form attached.

Please support us as we gather together to celebrate this important part of this community of West New York, Guttenberg, North Bergen, and beyond.

Sinceramente / Sincerely,

*Rev. Helber Victoria, Pastor*



# CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH OF THE PALISADES

6401 Palisades Avenue \* West New York, NJ 07093 \* Tel: (201) 854-7006 Fax: (201) 861-7799

## 160th Anniversary Journal 1863-2023

- 1863:** First Documented Parish Baptism
- 1903:** Cornerstone of St. Joseph of the Palisades our new church building
- 1953:** First Mass at our Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel
- 1973:** Opening of the Parish Charismatic Prayer Group

Please print my message as follows (or see attached picture and message):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Gold Page .....\$200

\_\_\_ Half Page ..... \$ 50

\_\_\_ Silver Page.....\$150

\_\_\_ Quarter Page..... \$ 25

\_\_\_ Full Page.....\$100

\_\_\_ Friends of St. Joseph donor... \$10

Authorized Parish Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form with payment to:

Anniversary Journal Committee  
 St. Joseph of the Palisades Parish  
 6401 Palisade Avenue  
 West New York, NJ 07093

*Parish Seal*

**Note: Deadline for all ads: November 1, 2023**

Note: St. Joseph of the Palisades is a 501.C3 organization.



## 23 Domingo en Tiempo Ordinario



### **Canción de Entrada**

#### **Cantando la Alegría**

##### **Estríbillo:**

**Juntos cantando la alegría, de vernos unidos  
en la fe y el amor.**

**Juntos sintiendo en nuestra vida,  
la alegre presencia del Señor.**

1- Somos la iglesia peregrina que El fundó,  
somos un pueblo que camina sin cesar.  
Entre cansancios y esperanzas hacia Dios,  
nuestro amigo Jesús nos llevará .

2- Hay una fe que nos alumbra con su luz,  
una esperanza que empapó nuestro esperar.  
Aunque la noche nos envuelva en su inquietud,  
nuestro amigo Jesús nos guiará.

### **Liturgia de la Palabra. Pág. 105 (Año A)**

Primera Lectura: Ezequiel 33, 7-9

Salmo Responsorial: **Ojalá escuchen hoy su voz:  
“No endurezcan el corazón”.**

Segunda Lectura: Romanos 13, 8-10

Evangelio: Mateo 18, 15-20

### **Canción de Ofertorio**

#### **Yo Te lo Ofrezco**

Todo lo poco que soy, yo te lo ofrezco.

Todo el vacío que soy, yo te lo ofrezco. Todo el tiempo  
que perdí inútilmente, buscando gloria sin ti, yo te lo  
ofrezco.

##### **Estríbillo:**

**Todo el amor que manché con mi egoísmo, todo lo que  
pude ser y que no he sido. Lo que yo pude salvar y se ha  
perdido: {lo pongo en tus manos inmensas pidiendo  
perdón}...(bis)**

La sonrisa que negué al que sufría; la mano  
que no tendí al que llamaba. Las frases de amor que no  
dijo mi lengua, los besos que yo dejé se me murieran.

### **Canción de Comunión**

#### **Es Mi Cuerpo**

##### **Estríbillo:**

**Es mi cuerpo, tomad y comed. Es mi sangre, tomad  
y bebed, porque yo soy vida, yo soy amor.**

**Oh Señor, nos reuniremos en tu amor.**

El Señor nos da su amor como nadie nos lo dio.  
Él nos guía como estrella en la intensa oscuridad.  
Al partir juntos el pan El nos llena de su amor.  
Pan de Dios, el pan comamos de amistad.

El Señor nos da su amor como nadie nos lo dio.  
Para la gente del pueblo era el hijo de José.  
Con sus manos trabajó como hacían los demás.  
Conoció los sufrimientos y el dolor.

El Señor nos da su amor como nadie nos lo dio.  
Y su amor tan grande fue que lo condujo hasta la  
bruz;  
pero más pudo el amor que la muerte y el dolor.  
Vencedor, tres días después resucitó.

El Señor nos da su amor como nadie nos lo  
dio. En la cruz el Salvador su propia vida nos donó. Y  
toda la humanidad es el cuerpo del Señor.  
Nadie puede separarnos de su amor.

### **Canción de Salida**

#### **Demos Gracias al Señor**

##### **Estríbillo:**

**Demos gracias al Señor, demos gracias, demos gracias  
al Señor...(bis)**

En la mañana que se levanta el día, canta y yo  
canto al creador...(bis)

Cuando la noche se despereza con sueño, reza  
y yo rezo al creador...(bis)





## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



### Entrance

#### All Are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live, a place where saints and children  
tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and  
vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

#### Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in  
this place.**

#### Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: **I today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.**

Second Reading: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

Homily

### Offertory

#### Your Words Are Spirit and Life

#### Refrain

**Your words are spirit and life, O Lord, richer than gold,  
stronger than death.  
Your words are spirit and life, O Lord; life everlasting.**

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul, reviving the  
weary spirit. God's rule can be trusted: bringing us  
wisdom, bringing God's wisdom to birth.

#### Refrain

God's precepts keep us; their purpose is right.  
They gladden the hearts of people. God's command is so  
clear it brings us new vision; bringing God's light to our  
eyes.

#### Refrain

### Communion

#### Take and Eat

#### Refrain

**Take and eat; take and eat: this is my body given up  
for you. Take and drink; take and drink: this is my  
blood given up for you.**

I am the Word that spoke and light was made;  
I am the seed that died to be reborn.  
I am the bread that come from heav'n above;  
I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.

#### Refrain

I am the Way that leads the exile home; I am the truth  
that sets the captive free.  
I am the life that raises up the dead; I am your peace,  
true peace my gift to you.

#### Refrain

I am the Lamb that takes away your sin; I am the gate  
that guards your night and day.  
You are my flock: you know the shepherd's voice;  
You are my own: your ransom is my blood.

#### Refrain

### Recessional

#### Glory and Praise to Our God

#### Refrain

**Glory and praise to our God, who alone gives light to  
our days. Many are the blessings he bears to those  
who trust in his ways.**

We, the daughters and Sons of him who built the  
valleys and plains. Praise the wonders our God has  
done in ev'ry heart that sings.

#### Refrain

In his wisdom he strengthens us, like gold that's tested  
in fire. Though the power of sin prevails, or God is  
there to save.

#### Refrain

## Sunday Reflection

The word “moral” is rooted in the Latin *mores*, which refers to dispositions, referring to someone’s good or bad manners, customs or habits. “Moralism” could be defined as the excessive focus on external perfection and blameless conduct. It can manifest itself as the rigid piety of those who function more or less out of obligation, measuring God’s mercy by their own merits and good behavior. They may become easily discouraged or annoyed by their own weaknesses and limitations, and also impatient for the same reason with those of others, becoming offended or put off by the words and actions of lesser “pagans” who do not have the same faith, even to the point of seeing a sin where there none exists (for example, because some forget the words of Jesus about purity, that “what defines a person is not what passes through their mouth but what comes from the heart” (Matthew 15:11), some might see a priest enjoying a drink at a dinner party and pass cynical or negative judgments. The abuse of drink for example does not imply an opposite and equal reaction of “demonizing” or “sanitizing” what is in itself the fruit of the earth and something good that can be appreciated with moderation and culture; nor does such abuse imply that someone who is indifferent to drinking, or just doesn’t like it or do it, is by that fact alone automatically better or holier than someone who does partake, an outlook which provides another example of a misplaced moralism. Looking at the big picture, the Church should be characterized more by the grace of the Holy Spirit transforming us beyond the capacity of our fallen human nature: forgiving us, loving us through the imperfections and struggles that coexist with our good will, encouraging us towards spiritual growth and a more abundant life, step by step, according to the capacity of each unique person, and not by a “perfectionist” society made up of critical Pharisees. Therefore, when our Lord this Sunday declares if (your brother) doesn’t listen to you...and if he doesn’t even listen to the community, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax-collector, this does not necessarily mean treating them with contempt or disgust as if a leper who must now live in exile from the Church. The other parts of the Gospel contain a clue about this. How did Our Lord approach pagans and tax collectors in general? How many ignorant and even unpleasant things did he hear, see and overlook during those moments when he ate and talked to them, just to reach the hearts of sinners who others considered hopeless, who even dismissed Jesus himself as a glutton and drinker? This declaration of Jesus means that there are times we must fall back to applying charity and prayer to someone who is still lost or becoming lost as if they had never had the developed faith we thought they had, as a soul that lacks light or knowledge, needing a deeper conversion or just not having our strength or ability to overcome certain evils, or is still too stubborn to process the hard truth about their way of life or anything new that might prevent them from flourishing. In short, although there are times when we have no choice except to distance ourselves from certain people who may be too far gone for our own good and unbending despite our efforts, it does not mean dismissing them with the arrogant moralism of the Pharisee.

- Rev. Richard De Brasi

## Food Pantry



Our Parish distributes food once a month to more than 200 families in need. Please help us by bringing some canned food to the parish office. Thank you for your continued help to our food pantry.

The next food distribution will be **Saturday, September 16.**



## St. Joseph's Youth Group

St. Joseph's Youth eagerly aspires to partake in and savor the unparalleled and grandeur-filled ambiance of the largest Catholic youth ministry event hosted nationwide, with a genuine desire to engage in an awe-inspiring, spiritually uplifting, and fellowship-driven experience that transcends geographical boundaries and brings together young souls from diverse walks of life under the banner of faith and communal devotion.



Please scan the adjacent barcode to make your donation to help the youth group. You may also drop off your donation at the parish office.





## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

### Love and Truth

I think even the most devout, the most pious Catholic reading this could summon to mind, if asked, one or even two examples of Catholic teaching for which they have desperately looked for a loophole.

Don't worry, I won't make you share with the group. But bring it to your mind now: the doctrine you once resented, or perhaps still do. The commandment you don't fully understand, the one you bristle against. The rule you find the hardest to follow. The belief you hate explaining to your friends.

If it disappeared from scripture or dropped out of the catechism, would your life really be easier? Would you be happier?

I am thinking of mine. For a long time, I searched high and low for a way around this particular teaching. I read books and Scripture and tradition, I prayed and reflected and tried to argue with myself. For a time, I gave up complying with it entirely. I threw it to the wind, with a shoulder shrug and a self-satisfied assurance to myself that God, being a loving father, does not want his child to be unhappy.

But reader: I was miserable. I was so, so miserable, and I stayed that way until I finally accepted that God is, indeed, a loving father, and desires nothing less than the unhappiness of his children. And so, to ward it off, he has given us the truth, and asked us to share it amongst ourselves like a cherished heirloom, a priceless inheritance.

To share truth, you must show love. To show love, you must share truth. One demands the other. Because this is what Christ does for us, and this is the mission of the Church in this world. Loosening and binding. Bearing witness. Giving testimony. Speaking truth, and in speaking truth, showing love.

*"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."  
— Psalm 95*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

After a civil divorce, is a Catholic obligated to pursue an annulment?

### Answer:

Many Catholics are not exactly sure what an annulment does. An annulment does not deny that a marriage took place, nor does it deny that there once was love. It does not mean that people say anything untrue, such as they never loved each other or that everything in their marriage was wrong. An annulment does not negate children, nor make them illegitimate. An annulment addresses the spiritual aspect of marriage. In effect, an annulment says that at the time of the wedding, there was either something present or something absent that prevented the sacrament from taking place. It is a spiritual determination that, if granted in the affirmative, allows a person to marry in the Church.

Annulments have no legal standing and are unable to be used in a civil court. Therefore, a Catholic has no moral obligation to pursue an annulment. However, when the tragedy of divorce occurs, and there is no hope for reconciliation, annulments may help bring some spiritual closure to a person's life. Some people have found the process to be healing and others have found it to be difficult. Speak to your priest or a member of the Diocesan Tribunal staff to decide what is best for you.

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