

# OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

Administrative Office 3312 Lake Avenue  
Pastoral Office 1200 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
440-992-0330

March 19, 2020  
Feast of St. Joseph

Dear Parishioners,

Today is the Feast of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary. As the husband of Mary and the foster father to Jesus, he had the primary responsibility to provide for his young bride and Jesus. I doubt there were parenting classes back in his day, but I suspect his own family modeled for him how to be husband and father. Part of that modeling had to be the faith passed onto him by his own family and parents, learning to trust God in all that was unfamiliar in his days.

These days we too are dealing with a most unfamiliar virus that has shut down so much in our lives from schools to churches as well as many places of employment. As there were no parenting classes for St. Joseph in raising Jesus, the Son of God, there are no manuals for us in dealing with the fallout from the coronavirus. We can only do what our parents often told us to do, "wash your hands" and be sure to sanitize around you. Sadly, we also need to keep a safe physical distance from those around us if we are out in public.

But also, as with St. Joseph, we also need to place our faith in God. As St. Joseph was the provider for Jesus and Mary and placed his trust in God, we also need to place our trust in God and recognize God as our Father who will also provide for us. Yes, we need to take responsibility for our lives and safety, but also place our trust and confidence in our God who will provide for all of us.

Be assured of our continual prayers for all of you and our whole community as Fr. David, and I offer Mass for you and your families each day and along with Deacon Matthew and Francisco remember you in our prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Raymond J. Thomas, VF  
Pastor