

March.



The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph.
O Saint Joseph, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions.

The Lord has put his faithful servant in charge of his household.

Go to Joseph

"This patronage must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to evangelization in the world and to re-evangelization," wrote St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer).

John Paul II further said, "Because St. Joseph is the protector of the Church, he is the guardian of the Eucharist and the Christian family. Therefore, we must turn to St. Joseph today to ward off attacks upon the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and upon the family. We must plead with St. Joseph to guard the Eucharistic Lord and the Christian family during this time of peril."



The entire month falls during the liturgical season of Lent which is represented by the liturgical colour purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

As we continue our journey "up to Jerusalem" during the month of March, three prominent ideas are proposed for our contemplation by the liturgy of Lent: the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, baptism, and penance.

The Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19th) is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honour bestowed upon the foster father of Jesus. St. Patrick's feast (March 17th) is another cause for a joyful celebration, especially if you are Irish! The feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25th.

Here and there in the stark March landscape, a few plants and trees are beginning to give evidence of the new life that winter's frost and chill had concealed from our eyes. The Church's vibrant new life has been obscured, too, by the austerity of the penitential season of Lent. But that life is indisputable, and it will burgeon forth on Easter as Christ coming forth from his tomb!

During this month we will continue our journey to the cross with our acts of penitence, celebrated weekly in the Sundays of Lent. We will reflect on our mortality ("Remember man thou art dust") and the shortness of life ("and to dust thou shall return.") We will heed the call, "Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2)." Just like Our Lord's earthly life every moment of our lives is leading up to the last moment—when for eternity we will either go to God or suffer the fires of hell. During this month we will go from the suffering of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Sunday. We will trade the purple of penance for the white of victory and resurrection.

As the weeks of Lent progress let us not tire of doing our good works and penance, but continue with the enthusiasm of the catechumens on their way to Easter and Baptism. May our Lenten observance be a joyful journey — and not a forced march.

This month the main liturgical feasts are:

- St. Katharine Drexel (March 3rd)
- St. Casimir (March 4th)
- Sts. Perpetua and Felicity (March 7th)
- St. John of God (March 8th)
- St. Frances of Rome (March 9th)
- St. Patrick (March 17th)
- St. Cyril of Jerusalem (March 18th)
- St. Joseph (March 19th)
- St. Toribio de Mogrovejo (March 23rd)

