

Faith Connections

Faith-sharing groups becoming the best they can be!
September 2025

St. Joseph Faith Group

The St. Joseph's Small Group enjoys gathering every other Monday at Holy Redeemer following the 8:00 AM daily mass. Members of this group collaborated diligently on articulating who they are as a group and how their small faith sharing group has enriched their lives. Here is what they wanted you to know about them:

Who We Are: At a recent Mass, Pope Leo XIV said "...how the teachings of the Church help to open people's hearts and minds." This has been embraced by the members of the St. Joseph faith sharing group. As we consider the day's gospel and readings, we share our personal reflections on how these words impact our daily lives. Sometimes we struggle to understand the words, and members give their thoughts and anecdotes of their own experiences. Sometimes the readings give clarity and hope, and faith is strengthened as we realize how closely God is woven into our lives. We come from different careers and backgrounds: education, healthcare, business and finance, and social work. This diversity contributes to our discussions in a meaningful way. Most importantly, our sharing becomes caring, as we bond together as a supportive group. The other part of the Pope's message was a reminder that we have a responsibility to pastoral care. Our members appear on the altar as lectors and Eucharistic ministers. They serve behind the scenes as advisors to Father Sullivan and on the St Vincent de Paul society. They are pouring coffee and putting out doughnuts with the Women's Committee. We are woven into the life of our Church, and our own lives are enriched for it.

Individual group members also shared the impact this group has had on them personally:

"I love that we can share our ups and downs with each other."

"Faith sharing has increased my intimacy with our Catholic faith, brought new, dear friends of faith into my life and expanded faith practice in my daily life. I am grateful to be a member of our St Joseph Group and for the opportunity to interact with such special people."

"I realized that with our prayers together and our discussions of the gospel, we are brought to a better understanding of our Faith and how it relates to us now. Also as in the song —‘God is watching us—from a distance’, Being with St. Joseph’s Group has helped me to cope with the chaos of the outside world."

OUR FAVORITE RESOURCES:

Hallow.com Rosemary and Patrick O’Reilly love the Hallow App, especially Father Mike Schmitz, who they saw speak last May.

Film: [Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ](#) (2000)



Top to Bottom: Patrick O’Reilly, Jack Lally, Rich Brothers, Rosemary O’Reilly, Dianne Connelly, Abby Allis, Peggy Coupal, Marlene Ciborowski, Linore Dudik



Symbols associated with Saint Joseph include the **carpenter's square** and **lily**. The carpenter's square not only symbolizes Joseph's trade but also the concept of truth. The lily represents purity and Joseph's celibate marriage to the Virgin Mary.

In Catholicism, Saint Joseph is venerated as a model of righteousness, humility, and dedication, serving as the husband of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, and the guardian of the Holy Family and the Universal Church. He is the patron saint of workers, families, the dying, and the Universal Church, with tradition holding that he died a holy death surrounded by Jesus and Mary.

Key Aspects of Catholic Belief:

- **Guardian of the Holy Family:** Joseph was chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and the earthly father to Jesus Christ, a role he undertook with immense faithfulness and care.
- **Model of Virtues:** He is considered a model of several virtues, including:
 - **Righteousness and Obedience:** Described as a "just man" in the Gospels, he obeyed God's commands and showed deep love for God and neighbor.
 - **Humility and Poverty:** Joseph lived a humble and simple life, serving God with dedication.
 - **Patience and Faithfulness:** He remained with Mary and accepted his difficult responsibilities with unwavering faith, even when it seemed contradictory to others.
- **Patron of the Universal Church:** Just as he protected the "domestic church" of his own family, he is seen as the protector and intercessor for the entire Catholic Church.
- **Patron of a Happy Death:** Tradition holds that Joseph died before Jesus' public ministry, in the presence of Mary and Jesus. Because of this, he is invoked for a peaceful death.

- **Patron of Workers:** As a carpenter by trade, he is honored as the patron saint of all working people.

His Role in the Gospels

- Though he is a silent figure in the biblical Gospels, his actions and unwavering commitment to God's plan reveal his profound holiness.
- He accepted the extraordinary responsibility of caring for the Mother of God and the Son of God, fulfilling his role with profound tenderness and strength.

His Place in the Church's History

- His dignity is derived from his unique offices as the husband of Mary and the father of Jesus, roles that elevated him to a holiness approaching that of the Mother of God.
- His devoted following grew slowly but became prominent, leading to his title as Patron of the Universal Church.

Prayers to St. Joseph



A Traditional Catholic Prayer to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation.
Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life.

Daily Prayer to St. Joseph

O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, so that having

experienced here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

Upcoming Events

- * Check out the Fall River Diocese webpage for events [HERE](#) (right click on word HERE and select 'open link in a new tab') **SAVE the DATE - Dec. 6** - Advent Women's Retreat
- * **Sept. 20/21:** Holy Redeemer Women's Club Membership Drive after each mass
- * **Oct. 5 at Noon:** Blessing of the Animals
- * **SAVE the DATE - Oct. 17 at 8:00 AM: Small Faith Sharing Groups Community Event** - Holy Redeemer. Come one, come all! This event begins with celebrating mass together, praying the 7 Sorrowful Mysteries Rosary, a continental breakfast and then time for a faith sharing experience. Guided by the **7 Sorrowful Mysteries Rosary**, we'll explore Scripture from fresh perspectives and discover how God's Word speaks to each of us in a personal way. This is a chance to slow down, find encouragement and meaning in prayer and Scripture by experiencing the human side of Scripture.

Our newsletters have featured each of our 8 small groups. Stay tuned for a future focus for our newsletters. All suggestions are welcome!

