



***Men Helping Men Step Up and Become
Better Spiritual Leaders by Following
Christ and the Teachings of His Church***

OPENING PRAYER

St Joseph, protecting father of the infant Jesus and dedicated husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

We come before you for your powerful intercession and protection.

We turn to your courageous example to form and shape us into a masculine presence that will lead others to the knowledge of God, our loving Father, so that we can be examples for our family, our church and our community.

We lift up to you, St Joseph, our joy and our pain, our success and our struggles.

Through it all, with our sinfulness, may we persevere in the mission of leading our families to Heaven.

St Joseph, we recognize the calm and protective presence that lifted up the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Son of God through your love and protection.

Obtain for us, through your divine Son

All of the spiritual blessings needed to grow as His disciples,

Strengthening not only our relationship to Him,

but also that of the entire Church.

AMEN

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1–3

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 145:8–9, 15–16, 17–19

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35,37–39

Brothers and sisters: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.” But they said to him, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.” Then he said, “Bring them here to me,” and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Questions from Mass Readings Small Group Discussions

1. Isaiah says, “Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?” (Is 55:2). Where in your life are you investing energy in something that is not truly feeding you or the people you lead? What would it look like to redirect toward what truly satisfies?
2. The disciples had only five loaves and two fish, but Jesus said, “Bring them here to me” (Mt 14:18). What limited resource—time, talent, energy, or influence—are you hesitant to offer because it seems too small? What would it mean to place it in Jesus’ hands this week?
3. Jesus saw the crowd, and “his heart was moved with pity” (Mt 14:14). Who in your family, parish, or community needs you to move toward them this week rather than engage them from a distance? What is one concrete step you could take to close that gap?
4. Paul declares that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Rom 8:39). What fear or threat is most undermining your confidence as a leader right now? How does Christ’s endless love help alleviate some of that fear or lack of confidence to be a leader?
5. Isaiah calls us to “listen, that you may have life” (Is 55:3). How consistent is your practice of listening to God before you act? What one change to your daily routine would make space for that kind of attentive listening this week?

Prayer for Father Huber

Let us pray.

Merciful Father, we entrust Father Larry to Your infinite love. Reward his priestly service, forgive whatever still needs Your healing mercy, and bring him into the fullness of Your kingdom. And if he now stands before Your throne, may he intercede for us, that we may become the men God created us to be. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Questions from Speaker for Small Group Discussions

1. If a stranger spent one week in your home, what "gospel" would he conclude your family believes—not from what you say, but from your routines, priorities, and environment?
2. What is one habit, object, or pattern in your home that is quietly shaping your family toward virtue? What is one that may be quietly shaping them away from it?
3. How has your understanding of being a protector and provider changed? In what practical ways can you better guard your family's spiritual life and provide the truth, beauty, and formation that lead them toward Christ?
4. What part of your home's "moral ecology" most needs your intentional leadership right now—prayer, meals, media, conversations, hospitality, silence, forgiveness, or something else? What is one concrete change you can make this week?
5. St. Thomas teaches that repeated actions become habits, and habits become character. Looking at your own life, what habit is God inviting you to strengthen—or to uproot—so that you become the kind of man your family needs?



Next monthly event: August 25, 2026

Speaker: Deacon Brian Selsor

Virtue: The Path to True Masculinity - St. Louis IX, King of France

Corpus Christi Center

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Imperial, MO

For more info, visit CatholicCTM.org or
contact us at info@CatholicCTM.org

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of
the devil.

May God rebuke him we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl
about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen

