



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



JANUARY 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority.

Mark 1:22



“What is this?

A new teaching with authority.

He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.”

The people were astonished at Jesus’ teaching. They had never heard anything like it. “Isn’t this the carpenter?” “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?” “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son?” “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?” These are the questions people were asking, as recorded in all four Gospels. “Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What is this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?” And they took offense at him.

It seems to have been commonly known that Jesus was the son of Joseph the carpenter whose wife was Mary. People could not believe that a carpenter’s son from Nazareth, might be the Messiah. When Philip told Nathanael, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph,” Nathanael replied, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?”

What this means is that people did not think ordinary people, like themselves, could be that important in the plan of God. When God needed a prophet or a priest or a leader to act on His behalf for His purposes, He surely would not choose a carpenter’s son from Nazareth, or any other plain, ordinary folk. They forgot what God said to the prophet Samuel when the shepherd boy David was chosen by God. “Do not consider his appearance or his height... The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart,” 1 Samuel 16:7.

One reason the people were astonished at Jesus’ teaching is because they could not get over the fact of where he came from and who his parents were, especially that he was the son of a carpenter. Pope Francis has written an Apostolic Letter about St. Joseph called *With a Father’s Heart*. He wrote this letter to increase our love for St. Joseph and to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal. For the same reason, he proclaimed a Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The Holy Father wrote his letter (called *Patris corde* in Latin) against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.” Another Pope, Pope St. Paul VI, spoke beautifully of Joseph when he said, “St. Joseph is the model of those humble ones that Christianity raises up to great destinies... he is the proof that in order to be a good and genuine follower of Christ, there is no need of great things-it is enough to have the common, simple and human virtues, but they need to be true and authentic.”

St. Joseph fulfilled his paternal vocation toward Jesus by raising him to learn his trade, and to practice honesty, piety, and compassion. Joseph saw Jesus grow daily “in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor” (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him. You know the saying, “Like father, like son.” We do well to get to know Joseph who was a true father to Jesus. During this Year of Joseph, let us strive to know and love Joseph even more than we do now.

~ Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.

FROM THE APOSTOLIC LETTER
PATRIS CORDE
OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

The saints help all the faithful “to strive for the holiness and the perfection of their particular state of life”. [28] Their lives are concrete proof that it is possible to put the Gospel into practice.

Jesus told us: “Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart” (Mt 11:29). The lives of the saints too are examples to be imitated. Saint Paul explicitly says this: “Be imitators of me!” (1 Cor 4:16). [29] By his eloquent silence, Saint Joseph says the same.

Before the example of so many holy men and women, Saint Augustine asked himself: “What they could do, can you not also do?” And so he drew closer to his definitive conversion, when he could exclaim: “Late have I loved you, Beauty ever ancient, ever new!” [30]

We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.

Let us now make our prayer to him:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

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santacruzchurchtucson.com

&

Facebook: **Stephen Watson**
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Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
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~ Email avemariasc@hotmail.com ~

Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Closed for lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
In Residence: Rev. Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D.
In Residence: Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

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Parish Collection January 24th, 2021

Collection: \$ 2,432.76

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Thanking You for Your Service to Our Parish

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in our parish office.

~ Masses ~ Note these are suspended during COVID-19

Sun. 6:30 am, 8 am (Spanish), 10 am, 12 noon, & 6 pm

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am & 8:00 am Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confession: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: 2nd Sunday of the Month (English) / 4° Domingo del Mes (Español)

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: Angelina Schmidt, Director
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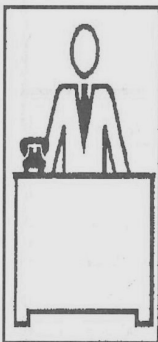
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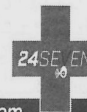
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