



Santa Cruz Roman Catholic Parish

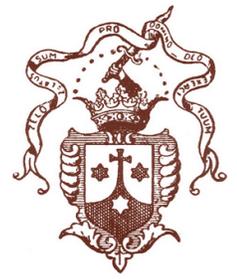
Discalced Carmelite Friars

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February 25th, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Pope Francis has declared this year a Year of St. Joseph.

March is the month of St. Joseph. I invite you to join us for a novena of Masses in honor of St. Joseph from **March 11- March 19**. Mass will be celebrated at 7 pm in the church. You will be asked to wear a mask and follow other protocols we have in place due to the pandemic.

St. Teresa of Avila assures us that St. Joseph helps in a special way those who commend themselves to him. "I know from experience," she says, "what blessings he can attain for us from God." May this experience be yours as you pray the novena in honor of St. Joseph with total confidence in his love and intercession. The following prayer is adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis. Let us be united in using this prayer during the novena.

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Chaste Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
to you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
Under your fatherly guidance Jesus
grew to perfect manhood.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, courage, and hope.
Be our advocate in times of trial,
Our support in sorrow, our teacher in the ways of prayer,
Our intercessor in the needs we now place before you (**mention your intention**).
Defend us from every evil of body and soul,
Now and especially at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Beginning the Third Sunday of Lent, March 7, Mass will be celebrated inside the church at 6:30 am, 10 am, and 6 pm. There will also be a Saturday evening Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm beginning March 6. The outdoor Masses in the school field will continue and the live-stream Mass at 11.

Please sign up for **Flocknotes** by texting **santacruzaz** to **84576** so you can participate in the novena to St. Joseph by receiving daily reflections. Check our daily updates on my Facebook page, **Stephen Watson**. Our Website (*see letterhead*) is also a good place to check for parish information.

Join us for daily Mass at 8 am and for Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6 pm, English indoor, Spanish outdoors.

Let us take St. Joseph as a patron and companion as we make our Lenten pilgrimage to Easter.

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