

Dear St. Joseph,

You were a "just man" of whom the Gospels say little and this month we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph (festa di San Giuseppe). By most accounts you were much older than the Blessed Virgin Mary when chosen by God to serve as her provider and protector. So high was this honor that we now consider you the patron and protector of the entire church.

When I look at the statue of you and baby Jesus I can't help but wonder if you had any idea that you were holding the future of Christianity in your arms. Could you have possibly known that through your service to the Lord you would provide inspiration to untold numbers of fathers?

Clearly God was showing us the importance of fathers when He chose you to foster His son on earth. And by accepting His message brought to you by one of His angels:



**"Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son: and thou shalt call his name JESUS. For he shall save his people from their sins."**

**Matthew 1:20-24**

You passed down to us the steadfast meaning of fatherhood; protect and provide.

The world is vastly different and you may not recognize very much. However, your legacy is still alive. Living among us in our parish...in our fathers.

So many and so just are the men who come through the doors of St. Louis each week to serve the Lord. They are men who work hard to provide. They stand in front to protect. They lead by example. They are men who love their families and their Lord. I am sure you would see yourself in many of them.



Our statue of St. Joseph was a gift of Colonel John Feist, in memory of this family. His descendents remain as parishioners of our parish. John Feist and Edward Hager (Hager-Feist Co) employed carpenters and wood carvers who were responsible for the interior woodwork and pulpit. Men who's fathers passed down their trade. From father to son.

Carpenters, fathers, families. Maybe we haven't changed so much!

*Dio mi benedica!*