

MORNING MEDITATION

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**“Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”
(Psalm 89:3)**

2 Samuel 7:4-16

David had a deep desire to build a house for the Lord. He felt that he lived in a palace and the Lord deserved better. Nathan had a vision in which the Lord revealed to him that it was not up to David to build a house for God and that God would establish an enduring, lasting Kingdom for David....it was God's doing and not David's...God would continue to bless him and make his kingdom great and prosperous. David, in all his power, could never do what God had done for him and for his people.

Be humble! Prayerfully discern God’s plan for you and surrender to his plan!

This excerpt teaches us that we cannot contain the presence of God in a temple, a tent, an ark, a tabernacle or any other work of human hands. During their journey in the desert, the tent symbolized God’s abiding presence with his people on the move. The temple, eventually, did become a unifying force in the life of Israel. A temple that is stationary or a tent that is on the move, both represent God’s faithful and constant presence among his people. God cannot be contained in any structure. God has chosen to live among us and within us. He has chosen to be present in the lives of his people.

**Look beyond what you see, beyond the structures, the rituals and the worship forms.
Look deep within you.**

**Rediscover the presence of the sacred, the presence of the God of love and
compassion deep within you.**

Psalm 89

**The favors of the Lord I will sing forever;
Through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.
For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”;
In heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.....**

Romans 4:13, 16-22

God promised Abraham that he would become a great nation and that in him all the earth would be blessed. This promise was not on the merits of Abraham, but on the

grace of God in answer to Abraham's faith. The promise depended on the Grace of God and the faith of Abraham and not on keeping the law or doing the good works the law prescribes.

Trust in God's Grace and His gift of Faith.

Luke 2:41-52

This excerpt from Luke's Gospel is about the parents of Jesus finding him in the temple after a search for three days. Joseph and Mary anxiously searched for their lost son, found him in the temple, took him to the safety of their home where he grew in wisdom and knowledge and age. It is in the safety of an ordinary home, in a safe and loving environment that children have an opportunity to grow up to be mature, free, joyful, faith-filled, virtuous and wise men and women.

Be Safe. And be a safe person to be with. May your home be safe. Make your home a safe place, a sanctuary for yourself, for your spouse, for your children, for your parents, for your neighbors. Be safe! And look out for each other's safety!

Be grateful.... grateful for your family, however imperfect or broken it may be, be grateful. Be grateful for your spouse, for your children, for your parents.....just be grateful!

Please Note:

The feast of St. Joseph is ordinarily on March 19. Since this year March 19th was the fourth Sunday of Lent, Feast of St. Joseph was moved to today, Monday. Below are the saints who are ordinarily remembered on this day.

Saint of the day, March 20 - Saint Salvator of Horta and 20 other saints are remembered this day

Salvator of Horta was born Salvador Pladevall i Bien sometime during December 1520 in Spain where his parents worked as servants. Orphaned at age 14, he moved with his sister Blasa to Barcelona, where he worked as a shoemaker to support them both. When his sister got married, he felt free to follow a religious calling he had felt. He first entered the famed Benedictine Abbey of Santa Maria de Montserrat, near Barcelona, to explore monastic life. Apparently not feeling drawn there, and desiring a more humble way of life, he entered the novitiate of the Observant branch of the Order of Friars Minor in Barcelona as a lay brother on and made his profession of vows in 1542.

Salvator was soon known for his asceticism, humility, and simplicity. As cook, porter, and later the official beggar for the friars in Tortosa, he became well known for his charity. He healed the sick with the Sign of the Cross. When crowds of sick people began coming to the friary to see Salvator, the friars transferred him to Horta. Again, the sick flocked to ask his intercession; one person estimated that 2,000 people a week came to see Salvator. He told them to examine their consciences, go to confession, and to receive Holy Communion worthily. He refused to pray for those who would not receive those sacraments.

The public attention given to Salvator was relentless. The crowds would sometimes tear off pieces of his habit as relics. Two years before his death, Salvator was moved again, this time to Cagliari on the island of Sardinia. He died at Cagliari March 18, 1567 saying, "Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit." He was canonized in 1938.

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