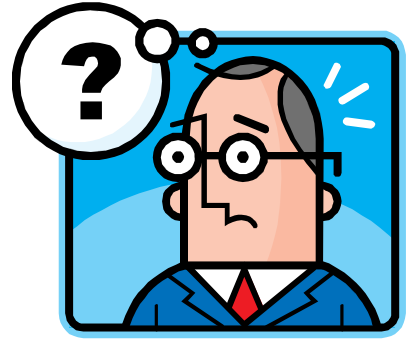


## WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?



**“Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he**



**said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.” – Luke 2: 41-52**

Several years ago I met a young lady who was newly single with four children in tow. She became single when her husband was suddenly beset with health problems which in time became the cause of his death. A stay at home mom, not prepared for the world she was thrust into, she found herself in desperate circumstances, far away from any family support system. Her situation was dire when we met. Her children, ages eight to fifteen, were a reflection of fear and uncertainty while surrounded by the bad influences that can be found in the public schools of the Bay area. It was not a good situation.

While I didn’t know their pain, I could certainly sympathize with their fears and uncertainty and the void they all felt; Dad was gone. I can only imagine the cloud overhead when someone so important is suddenly missing. This little family had no time to grieve or adjust, it was time to go get a job and get to work, and that’s when a new set of problems began. Those children rejected me because I wasn’t their father and I understood that. For those children immaturity and vulnerability made them behave in ways that didn’t reflect their real needs.

Those old memories were brought back as this parish went through the process of saying goodbye to an old friend, our beloved Fr. Joseph. A fixture here just as much as you and I, all who knew him will miss him. Yet his time had come and his departure was certain, it was written on the day he arrived. And we, my friends, are the better for having known him. He might even say the same about us.



I have met several parish priests in the past but I never knew one personally and didn’t know that you could. Imagine being away from the Church for 25 years then the first priest that you meet is Fr. Joseph; a real guy just like me only he’s smart, good looking, tall and soft spoken. Once I got really sick and Fr. Joseph called me at home to console me. When I got off the phone I was still very sick but Father heard of my illness and took the time to call me. He lifted my spirits up. I was humbled.

So how do we pick up the pieces after such a loss? “Habemus Padre, we have a Priest!!!” Our Bishop did not leave us orphaned. We have a new shepherd to tend this little flock at St. Joseph’s. Is change difficult? Yes, it is when the heart is involved but we aren’t children flailing about. Can we grieve our loss? Of course we

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can and we must but then we have to get busy with God's business. We are His children after all.

Welcome to St. Joseph's, Fr. Mark! Your new family awaits you!!! Take your time getting to know us; there are a lot of us. In the passage I quoted above Jesus was obedient to his foster parents as we will be with you. I look forward to getting to know you. Thank you for saying yes to our parish.

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September business meeting is on Tuesday September 4th at 7:00pm. Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, September 14th at 5:45pm followed by a Rosary led by our brother Knights. Don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in Law Enforcement and the Military. Pray that politicians have conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all; pray that Holy Mother Church in America can withstand the buffets and spitting of her enemies. Pray for Fr. Mark, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Benny and Fr. Francis.