

## JOSEPH & MARTHA GUILD

Patron: St. Joseph; Feast - March 19

Patroness: St. Martha; Feast - July 29

**St. Joseph's** vocation and life was always in **service** of **Mary**, his wife, & his foster son, **Jesus**. He brought Mary safely to Bethlehem, who was with child. He protected Mary & the new born child, **Jesus**, from the sword of Herod by fleeing with them to Egypt. He searched for the 12-year old Jesus with Mary, & found him in the Temple, only to hear Jesus say to them, "Why did you look for me: Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" With Mary, he gradually grasped the real identity of Jesus. As a carpenter, he provided for the livelihood of the Holy Family in Nazareth while Jesus grew in wisdom, age, & grace in the sight of God and people.

**St. Martha** is the sister of Mary & Lazarus, the friends of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke, ch. 10:38-42, **Martha served Jesus & the apostles** the elements of hospitality, including a meal after a daylong ministry of preaching & healing.

The **Joseph & Martha Guild** is a **service-oriented** ministry/organization. Like a rapid reaction force, but without intruding into areas served by existing ministries/organizations, it will rise to any pressing need of the parish. We can think of examples like, the celebration of St. Matthew's Feast & picnic in September, the Parish Bazaar in November, the maintenance of the Church and rectory flower gardens and lawn during spring & summer, etc. For 2 years now, the JMG has organized the Spring and Summer flings wherein it cooks and sells lunches to finance the rental of a tent for St. Matthew's outdoor feast day Mass and the parish picnic that follows.

**Membership** will be recruited from the **Time & Talents sign-up**, the still **uninvolved, new members of the parish**, but will welcome anybody who wants to join it, **male or female, adult, youth, students** from grade 6 up.

The **pastor** is the **shepherd** of the group but will have a circle of leaders to help him run **Joseph & Martha Guild**. **The Exec. Secretary and his assistant are the top officers of JMG.**

The group which meets every first Monday of the month, will be formed, **theologically, pastorally & socially** according to the teachings of the Church.

We will celebrate the feast of our patron **St. Joseph, with a Mass on March 19<sup>th</sup>** & the feast of our patroness, **St. Martha, also with a Mass, on July 29<sup>th</sup>**. However, the celebration of their feast days can be adjusted to days more convenient for the membership.

Father Joseph Facura: 420-6310

Marcus Espitia: 474-9262