

# Dear Padre,

## Where was St. Joseph during Jesus' crucifixion?

It's impossible to know for certain when Joseph died, since the Gospels don't refer to it. By the time Jesus starts his public ministry, Joseph had disappeared. We know for sure that Joseph lived at least until Jesus was twelve (see Luke 2:42). While Joseph scholars have many ideas, most believe Joseph probably died around the time of Jesus' baptism and before the wedding feast at Cana, when Jesus was about thirty years old (see Luke 3:23). That's because Mary is mentioned at the wedding feast, but Joseph is not (see John 2:1-12). And, while Jesus is preaching, the only ones looking for him are his "mother and brothers" (see Matthew 12:46-49, Mark 3:32-34, and Luke 8:19-21).

Finally, while dying on the cross, Jesus entrusts his mother to the disciple John, who took her to his home (see John 19:27). If Joseph had been alive at the time, this wouldn't have been necessary. Thus, it's entirely likely that Joseph died with Jesus and Mary at his side, giving his death great significance in popular devotion. From ancient times, Christian traditions have held that Joseph died in the arms of the Virgin and Jesus. The origins of Joseph as the patron of a happy death can be seen as early as the second century.

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REMIJA SEDMAKOWSKI/SHUTTERSTOCK



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services....Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

PATRIS CORDE, DECEMBER 8, 2020



## Our Parish Community

May 1, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter (C)

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Rev 5:11-14

Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14



[Jesus] then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."  
JOHN 21:16

N. STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Do You Love Me?

Three times Jesus asked Simon Peter: "Do you love me?" (John 21:16). This is the same Peter who earlier had sworn three times that, even if everyone else deserted Jesus, he never would. He was so sure of himself. Now, realizing the unreliability of his loyalty to Jesus, Peter is not so quick to answer with such self-confidence. Note that Peter did not reply with a straightforward, "Yes!" Rather, he amplified each response with the telling words: "You know..." With these words he acknowledged that Jesus could read his mind and heart, that he knew Peter's genuine love of him despite his all-too-human weakness. This itself was an act of faith.

This simple exchange did not humiliate Peter. That was not Jesus' way. They both understood what Peter had done, and they both knew how brokenhearted it had left him. Peter was humbled—not by Jesus, but by

the recognition of his own human frailty. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, Jesus commissioned Peter to be leader among his followers. Another person might have chosen a more reliable man. However, there is great strength and wisdom in a leader who has learned from experience how circumstances might cause otherwise brave people to turn their backs on their responsibilities and run from danger. Such a leader will challenge while being compassionate and stand firm while being understanding. This is the kind of leader Jesus chose, for he knew that Peter would be that kind of leader.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ What have you learned about yourself from your mistakes?
- ★ In what ways have you been given a second chance?