

Fr. Patrick Mullen's note from his presentation on
Since he was a righteous man...": St. Joseph from the Sacred Scriptures,

1. **Mentions of Joseph in the Scriptures**
 - New Testament:
 - Matthew – our primary focus
 - Luke – appears occasionally
 - John – is named, but never appears in the text
 - Mark – never mentioned!
2. **Beginning with begats: Joseph's genealogy**
 - Joseph's Genealogy: Matt 1:1-17
 - Jesus Christ / Abraham / David
 - Missing: "Joseph the father of Jesus"
 - Roman adoptions: constitutive
 - constitutionally part of a new house
 - all about inheritance...of a lineage
 - God's agreement: Luke 1:31-32
 - See also Rom 1:3 and 2 Time 2:8
3. **Joseph's interesting ancestors**
 - "Colorful women"
 - Tamar – Gen 1:3
 - Rahab 1:5
 - Ruth 1:5
 - Bathsheba 1:6
 - An appropriate time
 - 3 sets of 14 generations
 - Only 2 titles
 - *King* David and Jesus the *Messiah*
4. **For our consideration**
 - Beyond what you *do*, does the person you *are* serve God?
5. **Rare scriptural descriptions of goodness**
 - Righteous men who *act*
 - Joseph – Matt 1:19
 - Joseph of Arimathea – Luke 23:50
 - Barnabas/Joseph – Acts 11:21
6. **A dilemma for Joseph – Matt 1:18-22**
 - Stoning pregnant women
 - Deut 22:20-21
 - A quiet divorce
 - Mishnah *Gittin* 9:10 and spoiling the soup
7. **Dreaming Josephs**
 - Dreams of Joseph, son of Jacob
 - Gen 37:5-11
 - Going to Egypt and saving the people
 - Angelic encouragements
 - "Do not fear" / "Name him..."
 - Immediate compliance

- Having no relations:
 - Meaning *only* Mary was a virgin
- 8. **For our spiritual consideration**
 - Would angels be inviting you not to fear?
 - Are we confident?
 - Do we live in doubt?
 - Are we, like Joseph, in obedience to God, willing to be utterly overturned?
 - Are there “Mary’s,” who look like problems but end up being blessings, in our lives?
- 9. **The visit of the Magi**
 - Matt 2:1-12
 - Not Luke’s version:
 - No stable
 - No inn
 - No manger
 - No tax
 - No trip from Nazareth
 - In Joseph’s *home*?
 - See Matt 2
- 10. **Flight to Egypt**
 - Matt 2:13-15
 - Herod the *Horrible*
 - Commands this time
 - and again, quiet compliance;
 - a model of willingness to put life completely on hold;
 - An example we can follow?
 - Do we wrap our lives around our God, our Jesus?
- 11. **A selfless good man, dreaming of home**
 - Matt 2:15, 19-23
 - Josephs, dreams, Egypt and saviors
 - Evidence from Josephus:
 - Herod’s dead is 4 BC
 - No year “0,” and “1” is wrong
 - Dionysius Exiguus
 - Joseph avoids Archelaus
 - does not go home to *Bethlehem*
 - Matthew and Luke differ
- 12. **Things to notice...**
 - We see Matthew’s infancy narrative (chs. 1 &2) through Joseph’s eyes.
 - Never speaks...ever.
 - ...and then disappears.
 - It’s all about Jesus. He was all about Jesus.
- 13. **After he’s gone**
 - Matt 13:54-58
 - The implication:
 - Joseph has already died
 - Brothers?
 - Who are James, Joseph, Simon, Judas and his sisters?

- Protevangelium of James
 - An older man?
 - Step brothers and sisters?

14. **Joseph the Carpenter**

- How we know Joseph was a carpenter:
 - “carpenter, wood-worker, builder”
 - tevktwn / tektōn
 - See also Mark 6:3, Matt 13:55 and Luke 4:22
- A choice with a message:
 - from the only father chosen, before birth, by the step-son.
 - Evaluating those who labor in our lives.

15. **Joseph in Luke**

- Luke 1:26-28
 - Also an infancy narrative
 - Mary’s perspective...not Joseph’s
 - “betrothed” implying “newly married”
- David’s city?
 - Jerusalem / Bethlehem
 - Malachi 5:1
- Joseph is a law abiding citizen
- Despite differences between MT and LK:
 - Jesus is born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth

16. **Luke’s genealogy**

- Working in the opposite direction from Matthew’s genealogy:
 - from Jesus, “the son, as was thought, of Joseph...”
 - to Adam
 - The *same* point as Matthew
- Includes the Gentiles (us)

17. **Presentation in the Temple**

- Luke 2:22-40
- Again, Joseph is an observant, law abiding Jew
- An offering of the poor – Lev 12:6-8
- Growing strong and wise with Joseph

18. **Jesus as a boy in the Temple**

- Luke 2:42-51
- A short childhood / an early manhood
- Bar Mitzvahs at...13!
- “child,” not “young man”
- Confusing fathers!
 - and a silent Joseph
- “obedient” or “subject to them”
- An adolescent with good intentions