

Saint Joseph Devotional Meeting

Sample Bulletin Entry

The introduction of a meeting named a “St. Joseph Devotional Meeting” is being presented to our _____ congregation in an effort to better connect our parish community with their spiritual fathers in times of need. Our _____ priests are initiating this measure in the hope that it will remove any apprehension felt in making the initial call to set up an appointment to meet with them. Moving forward, with this consideration in place, when calling the parish office to set up a meeting to discuss family concerns, our parishioners can simply request a “St. Joseph Devotional Meeting” when speaking with an office staff member. Our spiritual fathers are here to support and nurture their _____ families.

March 2020 Year of St. Joseph Bulletin Entry: St. Joseph Devotional Meeting

Father Matthew Codd, Pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte, NC

In this year of St. Joseph, I’ve been reflecting on fatherhood. As your spiritual father, I want to be as available and close to you as I can be. I am aware that there is apprehension sometimes, though: It can be intimidating to call, or even to approach a priest. Someone brought an idea to me, which they called the “St. Joseph Devotional Meeting.” This idea is to help in setting up an appointment to talk. All you do is call the office – or walk up to me – and ask for a “St. Joseph Devotional Meeting.” This way you don’t have to struggle with what to say, and I’ll know that you just want to talk. So, I share this with you as a reminder that I want to be there to help when I can, and to give you a tool that may help you to benefit from my spiritual fatherhood.

Need for the introduction of the St. Joseph Devotional Meeting

Many opportunities to aid our families, especially young ones, are left unanswered because of the apprehension felt in making the initial call to set up an appointment with a parish priest to discuss their concerns. The introduction of the St. Joseph Devotional Meeting presents a simple solution to the obstacles found in connecting our spiritual fathers and their congregation members who are in need of seeking guidance in family matters. This approach will take away any apprehension that may be felt, by simply calling any requested meeting which surrounds family issues a “St. Joseph Devotional Meeting.” By doing this, we will have removed the need to discuss specific, personal family issues with our parish secretaries in order to make an appointment with our parish priests.

This effort will establish its footing as our spiritual fathers continue to reach out into our congregations each year, on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19th, (or the Sunday before or after) through a hand out, or bulletin entry, which will explain and reinforce the purpose of these meetings. This effort can be reinforced by our priests touching on the subject during their homilies the weekend that this information is shared, making their congregations aware that they have an open line of communication to discuss their daily challenges under the spiritual guidance of their parish priests.

Our young boys and girls who attend Mass with their families will have the most to gain by hearing our priests speak on this subject, and by seeing the information contained in hand-outs and/or bulletin entries each year as they grow. We can change the current narrative by instilling this information into the hearts and wills of our children in their formative years. Their faith will become their inherently valued place for them to turn to in times of need.

Consider the value of what we can hand on by establishing and placing this simple tool of reach in view of future generations of Catholics. Intentional effort to take back our families and build up the foundation of faith within our Catholic Church’s future congregation is ours to ensure. St. Joseph, pillar of families, intercede and lead us back to once again being able to share in the sanctity of the family which is handed on through sacred tradition.