



SAINT JOSEPH SHRINE

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

May 1, 2021
Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

Dear Friends and Faithful of St. Joseph Shrine,

Blessed feast of St. Joseph the Worker! On this day we renew the Solemn Consecration to our powerful Patron. We have actively sought his protection and intercession. He has graciously answered so many of our prayers. Now we have a sacred duty of manifesting our gratitude! We spend so much time asking, but how much time have we spent thanking?

St. Francis de Sales enumerates five characters that gratitude ought to possess: 1) that we esteem the good received and especially the affection with which it was given, 2) that we receive it kindly, 3) that we thank the person, 4) that we remember their kindness and make mention of it and, 5) that we try, according to our means, to be of service to the giver.

Has not St. Joseph loved us dearly in the spiritual and material goods he has obtained for us? Have we ourselves received these graces with a joyful heart and thanked him? Do we remember St. Joseph's holy generosity and give witness to his goodness? Are we willing to be at his service in the heroic accomplishment of God's will?

Look at what St. Joseph has done for us, and this list is far from being complete: the return of clergy to St. Joseph and restoration of the Rectory which is now a House of Formation; the reestablishment of the church's patrimony in sacred vessels and solemn vestments; the abundant availability of the Sacraments, ever increasing classes of catechumens, exponential growth in the number of families, multiplying daily Masses and hours of confessions; the launch of the Historic Renewal Campaign and the restoration of the Steeple; becoming a Shrine, having the St. Joseph Confraternity, perpetual Novena, total consecration, ex voto wall, public processions; and last but not least, the National Fund for Sacred Places \$250,000 grant to begin our Stonework Project!

It is with these pious thoughts in mind that we begin an Octave of Gratitude. Starting today and using the tools of our website, Flocknote, and social media, we will be publishing texts and photos to encourage our thankfulness. It will be a Giving Gala of Gratitude. **Your Gift of Gratitude will be the next stone laid in our Historic Renewal efforts.**

This exciting restoration work on the front and East elevations is fully underway. All the needed raw material for the replacement stones has been selected and ordered and the test cleaning process, approved for historic buildings, is ready. All the funding for these two elevations is in place and completion is set for November 2021. The West and South elevations are scheduled to begin in March 2022 and be completed in October 2022. **Of the \$1.9 million cost for this entire project, only \$450,000 remains to be raised.** Today we begin raising that amount.

We have secured a \$75,000 matching gift. Your donations during the Octave of Gratitude, whether by envelope or online (Gala of Gratitude tab), will count toward the match. May we remain unwavering in our trust in God's goodness and St. Joseph's generosity. *Ite ad Joseph!*

Gratefully, In Christo Rege,

Canon Stein, Pastor



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