

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! A Happy Father's Day Weekend to all our pops and dads. You are loved, valued and remembered in all the Masses this weekend and throughout this month.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE FATHER.

Pope John Paul has been quoted as saying, *"All of the spiritual life is a pilgrimage to the heart of the Father."*

Certainly, it can be said of the Life of Christ Himself that it was "all about the Father". Jesus revealed God the Father to us through His perfect Love.

Father Dave Pivonka writes:

It should pain all of us to say that the present crisis of fathers and fatherhood has become a truism. The fact that everyone knows there's a problem, that this problem has far-reaching effects, and that so few have any solutions, is troubling indeed. It shouldn't surprise us to see, then, that as the crisis of fathers increases, so, too, does a crisis of faith in God as Father.

I am one of the lucky ones. My dad was as good a dad as anyone could ask for. Although he had a busy occupation as a doctor, he was present when he could be and longed to be present when he couldn't, and we knew that. He was my first spiritual leader as well; I remember walking into the hospital chapel as a young boy and seeing him in the front pew on his knees, which to this day shapes my own fatherhood as a priest in profound ways.

But that doesn't mean he was perfect. There is no such thing as a perfect earthly father — a fact that some know and experience more deeply than others. These imperfections, however, are not a reason to abandon fatherhood or lose hope in this most fundamental and irreplaceable relationship. Our identity, what we are and who we are, needs a point of reference, and in this, fathers play the biggest role.

This isn't just true of fathers, but the Father as well. St. Paul writes to the Romans that we are "children of God," having received a "spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'" This, too, has become a truism, but it is incumbent upon all Christians to remember that this idea is a radically unique Christian claim.


God is not merely a good idea, nor is he a far-off deity seated on a throne shooting lightning from his fingertips. He is Father. He is close. He sees "in secret" (Matthew 6:4), not to catch his children in wrongdoing, but rather with the gaze of love. He is tender and stable, and before him, our identity is solidified. As St. Francis said, "I am who I am in the eyes of God, nothing more and nothing less."

For better or worse, who God is as Father is learned first and foremost in the home from an earthly father. Tragically, many take to heart that God the Father is as absent as their own father, and the road to true faith is unpaved and overgrown and, in many ways, heart-wrenching. However, even the greatest of fathers can unintentionally leave wounds that, in the Providence of God, give the Father an opportunity to heal and reveal his love through the Holy Spirit.

On this Father's Day weekend, as we see, honor and salute our own Fathers, let us draw near and not fear the fact that **God the Eternal Father Sees, Honors and salutes us. In fact, He loves us.** And that is a VERY Great Gift, it's the Gift of Salvation!

Peace,
Fr. Rogers

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SAVE THE DATE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FEAST DAY

BENEDICTION, BONFIRE, & BUILDING COMMUNITY

MONDAY, JUNE 24
7:00 PM



For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children... to keep the way of the Lord. ...
Genesis 18:19

A FATHER'S DAY BLESSING

Blessed is the father who lets the Lord be his guiding hand, whose faith brings his family courage, whose wisdom comes from God, and whose children still stand and honor him.