

St. Joseph's Table

It was an old-fashioned St. Joseph's Day at the Masuzzo home in Henrietta last week.

Lithuanian but she has captured the spirit of the day well.

The table was laden with some 40 delicacies, all donated by friends for the informal get-together: pasta, spaghetti with honey sauce, cookies, cakes, vegetables, varieties of cooked fish, quiche and more than 20 loaves of fancy, baked breads.

Before the enjoyment of the food began in earnest, the "Holy Family" sat at table. First St. Joseph (Phil Masuzzo) said a prayer of blessing over the food (Father Richard A. Hart had already performed the official blessing). Then he, the Blessed Mother (Mary Bonafede) and Jesus (Jimmy Spampinato Jr., a second grader at Guardian Angels) sat down to table.

"The first time we ever did this," said Phil Masuzzo, for whom it all seemed a labor of love.

The tradition exemplifies a cornerstone of Christianity — community tribute to the Holy Family. And the Masuzzos and their friends did that tradition proud.

Someone in the crowd of more than 50 hungry participants in the traditional St. Joseph's Table said aloud "and she isn't even Italian." Mrs. Masuzzo isn't — she is



Photos by Anthony J. Costello

From fresh fruits to fancy Italian baked goods, the St. Joseph's Table is a sight to behold.



Phil Masuzzo says a traditional blessing over the food as he portrays St. Joseph. Seated is Jimmy Spampinato Jr. (Jesus) and Mary Bonafede (Blessed Mother).

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

In Darkness, Jesus Prayed For All of Us

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 22:14-23:56 (R1) Is. 50:4-7, (R2) Phil. 2:6-11.

Passion (Palm) Sunday will begin a week in which Jesus seems to be abandoned by His Father. Five times in the Response we shall repeat: "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

These words were the fourth message Jesus spoke from the cross. When He spoke the first three words, the sun was shining. As He was being nailed to the crossbeam, He prayed, "Father, forgive them." After this beam had been affixed to the upright, He promised a thief paradise. Then He set his house in order by making Mary Mother of His Church. After that there was darkness — around midday until midafternoon (Lk. 23:44).

Why was there darkness?

To demonstrate the very great blindness of His own people. To show that the High Priest was wrong; that Herod was wrong; but that He who hung on the cross was right — He was the Son of God!

To show that God was abandoning His people, that the Light of the World proclaimed to them and rejected by them would be preached to the Gentile world, leaving those who were once His people in

darkness, because they did not know the time of their visitation.

To indicate the enormity of the sin of God's people. The sun hid his face at noon, as if ashamed to shed its light on the horrendous crime of deicide.

For three hours there was darkness, and all during it Jesus prayed. In crises we return to the prayers of our childhood. Jesus in the dark prayed one of the night prayers Mary had taught Him, namely Psalm 22. The Psalm begins, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" That was only the first verse. Jesus prayed the entire Psalm. It ends in victory, in the triumph of resurrection, and spiritual dominion over the whole world. "Posterity shall serve him; men . . . shall proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn."

Why did St. Matthew record only the first verse?

To teach us about the intensity of Jesus' sufferings in His passion. Jesus went to His death like a lamb led to the slaughter — He opened not His mouth. He neither groaned nor moaned, nor cried aloud nor complained. His silence only goaded His persecutors to devise new torments, like a crown of thorns, to force an outcry. But there was none. So regally did He bear Himself, a thief was moved to repentance and a centurion converted.

He gave no outward sign of His sufferings.

The cup the Father gave Him to drink, would He not


drink it? The words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" are not the words of one who accuses or reproaches or inquires. For surely, He knew all things. He needed not to ask "why." His words were the words of one who reveals for our sake the greatness of His sufferings that we might learn the inestimable price for our redemption.

Are we in the dark?

Read the psalms. Then reach out to others. In the darkness, Jesus prayed — prayed for others, for us!



The hosts — Stella and Phil Masuzzo.



1980

March 28 and March 29

BIRTHDAY BASH

TWO GREAT NIGHTS OF AUCTION
FOR THE BENEFIT OF
McQuaid Jesuit High School
1800 S. Clinton Avenue

We invite you to join us in celebrating our 25th year of providing quality education to the young men of our community. Our annual auction this year is a BIRTHDAY BASH. Hundreds of items are offered in both silent and oral auctions for your high bid.

TICKET INFORMATION

Friday, March 28th, 7:30 p.m.
Admission is \$5.00 per person. Reservations are suggested since space is limited.
Saturday, March 29th, 5:30 p.m.
Tickets are \$125.00 per couple. Reservations are required, black tie is optional.
For further information, or to make a reservation, please call the BASH office: 473-9058

Building A Scholastic Heritage