



tears ran down Joseph's furrowed cheeks when the priest, deeply moved, gave him the absolution.

What a surprise for the Mass attendants to see Joseph kneel in a pew. Joseph Pfeifer in church on weekdays – he even went to Holy Communion! Josef Pfeifer, who had never been seen inside the church walls within living memory! Dear St Joseph brought him home in the person of the zealous chaplain. It was a great, very great grace! But how deeply moved everyone was when Joseph was found dead in his bed the next morning! A heart attack had brought his life to a quick end.

(Excerpt from "And again St Joseph helped"  
by A. M. Weigl)

### This Month's Heartfelt Matters

- Let us remember all the needy and persecuted people in our prayers and entrust them to St Joseph.



„My GOD, give me the grace of faith. Take up Your dwelling in me, do not leave me alone, work on me even when it hurts. Give me the grace of faith that can move mountains, mountains of fear, of hardness, of self-righteousness. And then, dear LORD, give me Your hand in which I am safe. Amen!“

With kind regards and  
the blessing of St Joseph,



February 2023

## Lay Community of St Joseph

### St Joseph's Discretion

St Joseph's holy prudence had reached the highest possible degree; he only saw the divine side of things. It surpassed the tricky course of temporal things. He appears to us as a man of discretion and mystery. He walked the earth without being of it, and never for any moment did anything distract him from the thought of eternity. He was always connected with GOD, whatever he did.

Let us consider his discretion. Being able to remain silent is a significant part of the virtue of prudence. Holy Scripture compares the gossip to "a city whose walls are broken through". Joseph remains silent. He is like a fortress that keeps its treasures behind impregnable walls. His discretion, formed by a religious spirit and prayer, has become second nature to him. The Gospel records not a single word that passed his lips; it merely conveys to us that he gave the Child of GOD the name JESUS. Joseph said: „JESUS“, that was all. But by speaking that one word, he had said everything, for he had spoken the word that holds all mysteries, the word by which humanity lives and will live until the end of time. After Joseph, we are all entitled to say "JESUS".

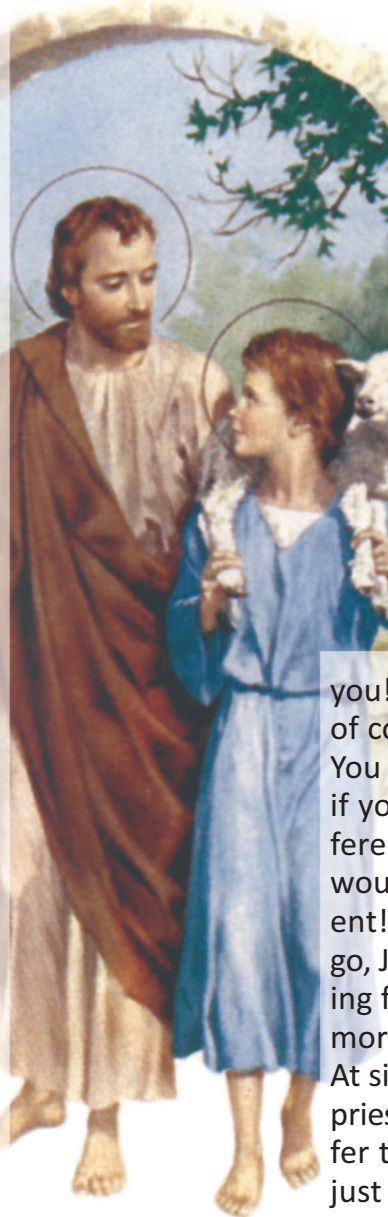
Not only did Joseph keep silent, he also hid the mystery of the GODHEAD of JESUS CHRIST. He behaved in such a way that all believed that he was the father of the young Boy, who grew up under his eyes. He acted so naturally, without compulsion, with a great, almost instinctive prudence that curbed all his gestures, faithful to his task that he had received from Heaven.

If we go to the bottom of this attitude of St Joseph towards the Word of GOD made flesh, we will discover bright insights.

(Excerpt from "Go all to Joseph")

### Joseph Pfeifer Found His Way Home

„Chaplain, I would advise you not to visit Joseph Pfeifer. He is a peculiar man; he has never been to confession and will certainly send you away.“ To this effect the priest spoke to his chaplain, who was preparing for the Easter visits and after these words also wanted to avoid Joseph Pfeifer. But he took the wrong door and came – to Joseph Pfeifer. He saw an old man with a pipe in his mouth, his glasses pushed far forward on his nose, the newspaper spread out on the table in front of him. The clergyman’s mood did not lift when he had to hear the question: „What do you want with me?“ – „To visit you to see how you are doing.“ – „I have no list of sins.“ – „Yes, I know but I will be happy if you do not send me away.“ – „But if I did, what would you do?“ – „Come back tomorrow.“ Joseph wondered and laughed out loud: „You are a good person!“ – „Well, many told me so!“ Then one word led to another; and before both knew it, they were engaged in a lively conversation. „You come from a rich family?“ asked Joseph. „Who says so?“ – „The people.“



– „Well, the people are right; my parents have ten children; that is a great riches. By the way, my father has already died – a year before my first Mass as a priest.“ – „That is the course of things,“ Joseph said thoughtfully. „But the mother is still alive?“ – „Yes, my mother is still alive,“ said the chaplain. – „Then you must be grateful to your LORD GOD that you still have your mother! If my mother had not died when I was only 14 years old, many things would have been different for me,“ Joseph said and began to talk.

He spread out his whole life before the young priest’s soul, full of false ways and depressions, full of hardship and deprivations, full of pharisaism and injustice of his fellow human beings, also a life full of guilt and sin. It was already dark when the priest said, giving relief: „Joseph, that was a thorough confession! Come and kneel before the LORD GOD! In His Name I absolve you of all your sins.“ – „What is the matter with you!“ Joseph resisted. „That was not a confession!“ – „But of course, Joseph, that was a good, wonderful confession! You also have repentance, Joseph; for I am convinced that if you could live your life over again, you would live a different life for the love of GOD.“ – „Of course, of course, it would have to be completely different, completely different!“ said Joseph and his eyes became moist. „There you go, Joseph, do not resist any further! The LORD GOD is looking for you!“ – „No, no, not here! I will come to church tomorrow.“ – „When can I expect you? I will be there at six.“ At six o’clock the next day, Joseph was there too. When the priest came into the confessional, Joseph said: „I would prefer to confess in the sacristy, I would like to sit facing you just as I did at home yesterday.“ And so it happened. Hot