

**SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER FEAST DAY  
& MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**  
(aka: Buildings and Grounds Maintenance & Repair)

We're all familiar with the story of Saint Joseph and how by Divine command he became the husband of the Virgin Mary and adoptive father to God Incarnate. We also know from Scripture and Tradition that St. Joseph was a virtuous man and a carpenter by trade, and that it was he who was entrusted with the great mission to guard, protect, and provide for the temporal needs of God's most precious gifts, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Child Jesus, in the role of husband and father within the Holy Family. Today, St. Joseph's mission continues from heaven as the patron saint of the Catholic Church. He is also the patron of many causes including fathers, laborers, and families. His feast days are: St. Joseph the Husband of Mary on March 19th, and St. Joseph the Worker on May 1st. Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker in 1955 to emphasize the dignity, meaning, and value of human work in the eyes of God, and to give all laborers a model of virtue as well as a heavenly intercessor and protector.

Following the example of Saint Joseph, and in his spirit, Saint Victoria's Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Ministry was re-designated as the parish's "Saint Joseph the Worker Ministry" on May 6th, 2018 as part of the Year of the Laity with the mission of providing for the safety, security, and comfort of its parishioners by the offering of its members' time, energy, treasure, and talent for the welfare of Saint Victoria's parish and the glory of God.

This is an equal opportunity ministry for both men and women as we have several women who are present week in and week out to do whatever is needed to make our church a beautiful and welcoming place to worship, work and socialize.

Please contact Tom Harkness ([trharkness@msn.com](mailto:trharkness@msn.com) or 703-203-7929) if you have a skill or talent (e.g., electrical, plumbing, gardening, carpentry, general labor, etc.) that you want to share as a Saint Joseph the Worker Minister.

After six years of service, Tom will finish his term as Saint Joseph the Worker Ministry Coordinator within the next few months. So, if you might be looking for a way to share a little of your time and some of your talents in a meaningful way, please contact him to express your interest and learn more about this ministry.

