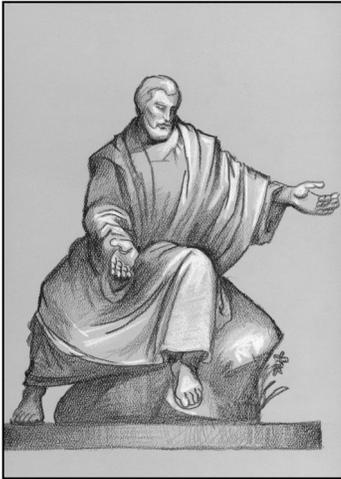


## New Statues for Our Worship Space

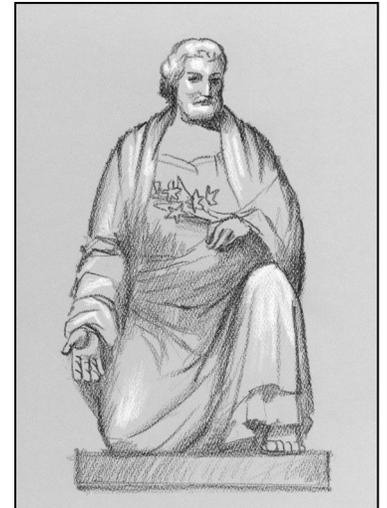
Our parish is pursuing the commission and creation of statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph to be installed in the worship space. The statue of Mary will replace the marble statue at the back of the church and the statue of Joseph will reside in the space between the chapel and the sacristy.

A committee of 22 parishioners has been meeting since April and has discussed ideas for different depictions of Mary and Joseph. Several sculptors were interviewed and Sergei Mitrofanov was selected based on his vision, creativity and talent. Mr. Mitrofanov collaborated in the creation of the Jesus figure which hangs above the altar.

The decision has been made to prioritize the St. Joseph statue, the patron saint of our parish. The statue will depict St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and earthly father of Jesus, and is typically depicted with lilies. We are seeking a statue that is unique and dynamic, one-of-a-kind only to St. Joseph parish. The committee is now seeking input on which of the 3 different portrayals of St. Joseph, described below, the congregation would prefer.



**St. Joseph Sitting on a Rock** – This distinctive and energetic pose shows St. Joseph sitting on a rock and turning as if to embrace his child, Jesus, or perhaps one of us. The striking pose conveys a welcoming attitude that is quite approachable. Lilies can be seen growing at the side of the rock.



**St. Joseph Kneeling** – This depiction shows St. Joseph kneeling as he may have been beside the manger at his son's birth or perhaps praying for his son, or us. The pose is more solemn, but no less approachable as he reaches out his hand to us. St. Joseph will have lilies in his hand in this rendering.



**St. Joseph Standing** – This is a more traditional rendering of St. Joseph, very similar to the statue we now have in the village church. The pose shows the gentle strength, kindness and humility we associate with St. Joseph. In this depiction, St. Joseph will hold a staff with lilies budding from it.

## Your Vote Counts

The committee is seeking your input on which St. Joseph depiction to advance. Voting by households (1 vote/household) will occur onsite only in the Gathering Space on January 19/20, 26/27 and February 2/3. Members of the Statue Committee will be available after each mass on those dates to answer questions. Please know we are grateful for your Festival contributions which will be used to help fund this project.