

## CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF OUR FATHERS

He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children,  
and the hearts of the children to their fathers.

Malachi 4:

### Presence of God

Father, we adore You  
Lay our lives before You  
How we love You

Jesus, we adore You  
Lay our lives before You  
How we love You

Spirit, we adore You  
Lay our lives before You  
How we love You

### Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is One!  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and  
with all your soul  
and with all your might.

These words, which I am commanding you today,  
shall be on your heart.

You shall teach them diligently  
to your sons and daughters and shall talk of them  
when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way  
and when you lie down and when you rise up.

The Word of the Lord!



### St. Joseph: The World's Greatest Father

Joseph is the father: his fatherhood is not one that derives from begetting offspring; but neither is it an "apparent" or merely "substitute fatherhood." Rather, it is one that fully shares in authentic human fatherhood and the mission of a father in a family (Guardian of the Redeemer, Section 20, John Paul II).

Joseph has been called the "Shadow of the Father." Like every father, Joseph was called to be a living image of the heavenly father to his child. Any father contemplating this high calling of imaging the heavenly father might be tempted to despair because of personal inadequacies. God is willing and able to abundantly provide for what he commands. The calling to fatherhood is no exception.

To the thousands of men deprived of a healthy relationship with their fathers: Go to Joseph and ask for his prayers! To those seeking to overcome a negative father image: seek no further than Joseph for a potent cure. To the millions of children in fatherless families: Go to Joseph! You will find an earthly father who, like the heavenly father, is a father of the fatherless. The heavenly father has provided a link to himself through the fatherhood of Joseph over the whole family of God

*See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
that we may be called the children of God.*

1 John 3:1

## **Blessing of Fathers, Step or Foster Fathers, Guardians, Grandfathers and Others Who Play a Paternal Role**

**Father, we give You thanks for the many gifts You have given us; the gift of life, and the gift of those who love us.**

**We thank You today for the gift of our fathers and grandfathers and all who have a paternal role in our lives.**

**We give thanks for our fathers and Grandfathers who have died and for the unique way they have revealed for us Your love.**

**We ask that You bless them and keep them in Your care until the time comes for us to join them in Your Kingdom.**

**We pray for fathers who have given their children up for adoption, loving their children so much that they have shared the gift of their child with those who could better care for them and their needs, and give them a secure home.**

**We ask Your blessing upon pray for adoptive fathers, that they may always know their special role of being a true father, a revelation of God's love for their children.**

**We ask your blessing upon fathers who have lost children through stillbirth, crib death, accident and tragedy, that they may have your continuing strength and courage.**

**We ask your blessing too, upon those who would very much like to be fathers but who are having trouble having a child.**

**We ask your blessing upon all those who play a paternal role in our lives.**

**Give them the strength to live the faithful and loving lives you call them to live.**

**Protect and guide them. Keep them in your care.**

**We ask this blessing in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

**Father, You bless us with the gift of life.**

**Father, we thank You.**

**Father, You have given us a human family.**

**Father, we thank You.**

**Father, You give us talents and gifts to use for Your glory.**

**Father, we thank You.**

**Father, You call us to love You by loving others.**

**Father, we thank You.**

**Father, You call us to sing Your praises forever.**

**Father, we thank You.**

**Our Father, in Heaven, Hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in Heaven, Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. Amen.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!**