

SAINT JOSEPH – A MAN FOR OUR TIMES

Behold a faithful and wise servant, whom the Lord hath set over His household.

Saint Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.

Pope John Paul II

Presence of God

We pause and recall that we are always in the holy presence of God whether we are awake or at rest.

Glory to You, Source of All Being, Eternal Word, and Spirit most Holy. Amen.

Hymn

**O Joseph, mighty patron,
Your love and strength bestow
Upon a pilgrim people
Who are the Church below.
You were the Father's image,
Great prince of David's line;**

**Obtain for us God's blessing
That we may be His sign.**

**Great Saint, you cherished Mary,
Who loved and cared for you;
You taught and nurtured Jesus,
Oh teach us to be true,
True to the Church He founded,
Until we form above
A family united
In bonds of lasting love.**



**SAINT
JOSEPH
PRAY
FOR US**

Matthew 1: 16-24

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus Who is called the Messiah.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this Child has been conceived in her.

She will bear a Son and you are to name him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with Child and bear a Son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Luke 2:41-52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the Boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but His parents did not know it. Assuming that He was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for Him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Child, why have You treated us like this? Look, Your father and I have been searching for You in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" But they did not understand what He said to them. Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Reflection: Bishop John J. Nevins

Joseph was a special favorite of God, and so Joseph is a special favorite of the faithful. Joseph, Mary's husband, was a just man! His predestined task in the work of redemption, to be the foster father of Christ and the faithful protector of Mary, gives him his position of honor in the Kingdom of God. Father Faber, the Oratorian, had a beautiful expression for it. He wrote that Joseph is "the shadow of the heavenly Father." This phrase means that, wherever in the earthly history of the Savior we would expect to see the heavenly Father or await His intervention, we meet St. Joseph. In silence he fulfills the will of God the Father. He does not speak. The Gospel does not record a single word of his. He belongs to those rare, chosen Souls of Whom Our Lord speaks when He says in Matthew 7:21 —: Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven: but he who does the will of My Father. Thus, today we look up to the silent saint, the man of action. Joseph was righteous. He lived in obedience to the Mosaic Law.

He was forgiving; when it seemed that Mary had committed adultery and thereby sinned against God and him, Joseph forgave her and planned to divorce her without having her executed for her apparent sin.

He was a man of faith. He believed in the virgin-birth of Jesus on the basis of an angel's message in a dream.

He was decisive. He swiftly responded to the angel's warning and immediately took Jesus and Mary to Egypt to save Jesus from being murdered by Herod.

Joseph was patient. When he and Mary searched for Jesus three days and found him in the temple, there is no report of anger or revenge, only worry and relief.

Above all, Joseph was unselfish in his vocation as foster father to a most exceptional Child.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, He taught them to call God "Father." He could use that word without regret because He had a loving heavenly Father, and a loving and dutiful earthly foster father as well.

Joseph's greatest glory rests on this fact: God sent Jesus to make all of us divine, and God sent Joseph to guide, protect and nurture the human nature of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Joseph is a good example to the fathers of this and every age. More than ever, unfortunately, there are too many children who contend with the deprivation of absent or neglectful fathers. Remember: Children are sacred in God's sight and need stability, reassurance and love. Along with a loving mother, they need a Joseph in their lives, a faithful Joseph.

Psalm 86

Turn Your ear, O God and give answer

For I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am faithful:

Save the servant who trusts in You.

You are my God, have mercy on me, O God,

For I cry to you all the daylong.

Give joy to Your servant, O God,

For to You I lift up my soul.

O God, You are good and forgiving

Full of love to all who call.

Give heed O God, to my prayer

And attend to the sound of my voice.

Show me, O God, Your way

So that I may walk in Your truth.

Guide my heart to fear Your name

I will praise You, O God, with all my heart

And glorify Your Name forever;

For Your love to me has been great.

All: Glory to you, Source of all being,

Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now,

And will be forever.

Intercessions

Joseph's response to God is a model for us.

Response: WE REMEMBER. WE ARE GRATEFUL

For our father figures both in the past and present, who were and are an inspiration to us...

For all fathers that they will be faithful to their duties as head of the family...

For the gift of St Joseph as our example and intercessor...

For those who have supported, strengthened and given life to us...

For the gift of each other, in our giftedness, dreaming and sharing...

For a willingness to listen to the voice of God as St. Joseph did...

For the universal Church that Joseph will guide and protect it...

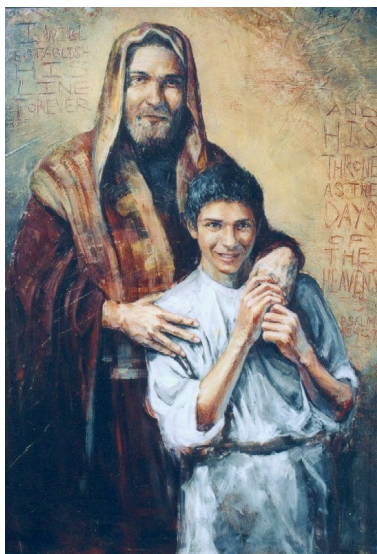
For the gift of humility, honesty and hard work...

For the sick and dying, that they will find consolation in Joseph...

For all religious Brothers whose patron is Joseph...

For all the Sisters of St. Joseph and their Consociates...





Prayer

**May Joseph's example teach us to be more loyal,
trusting and obedient,
honoring our
commitments to God and others
with grace and love.
May we learn from the earthly father
of our Lord how better to please our Father
above. Amen.**

**Joseph holy, faithful guardian
Spouse of Mary, ever virgin,
Loving teacher of God's Word.**

**You, the model of obedience,
You, the poor and humble worker
You, the patron of the Church.
Then, we ask you, Joseph faithful,
Help us always be attentive,
Listening, hearing God's own Word.**

**Because Saint Joseph was made responsible by God for the care and external guidance of Jesus Christ,
it was important that he have the qualities and virtues necessary to fulfill worthily so holy and exalted a ministry. The Gospel tells us about three, all very fitting for the responsibility entrusted to him: he was just, he was very submissive to God's orders, and he had a very special solicitude for the education and the protection of Jesus Christ. - St. John Baptist de La Salle**

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

Prayer to St. Joseph for the Unemployed

O Saint Joseph, we pray to you for those who are out of work, for those who want to earn their living or support their families.

You who are the patron of workers; grant that unemployment may vanish from our ranks; that all those who are ready to work may put their strength and abilities in serving others and earn a just salary.

You are the patron of families; do not let those who have children to support and raise, lack the necessary means. Have pity on our brothers and sisters held down in unemployment and poverty because of sickness or social disorders. Help our political leaders and leaders of industry find new and just solutions. May each and every one have the joy of contributing, according to his/her abilities, to the common prosperity by an honorable livelihood. Grant that we may all share together in the abundant goods God has given us and that we may help the underprivileged. Amen.

Special Prayer to St. Joseph

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, we place in you all our interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist us by your powerful intercession, and obtain for us from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power,

We offer our thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, you who know what it is like to be without shelter, assist all who are in dire straits in regard to housing.

Be with those who are homeless, those who have been evicted from their homes and those who are facing foreclosure. May we imitate your ingenuity and faith in finding solutions to difficult situations. Amen.