

REMEMBERING SAINT JOSEPH

Through Joseph and his spouse, Mary,
God fulfilled the covenant promised to Abraham and Sarah.

Let us pause and
remember that God is
with me, but more,
God is within me,
giving me existence.
Let me dwell for a
moment on God's life-
giving presence
in my body, my mind, my
heart
and in the whole of my
life.

Saint Joseph, the spouse
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and foster father of our
Blessed Lord was a
descendant of King David.
This fulfilled the scripture
prophecy that the Messiah
would come from 'the
house of David.' Of all the
men in the world
throughout history, a
simple village carpenter



Painting by Louis S. Glanzman
Saint Joseph and the Baby

named Joseph was the one chosen to help raise the Child Jesus to adulthood. In his faithful, loving care was entrusted the childhood and youth of the Redeemer of the world.

Not much more is actually known about the life of Saint Joseph. But we are sure that he must have been a good and honorable man to be so favored by God. After the Mother of God herself, no one has ever been so blessed with virtues as Saint Joseph. In purity of heart, in chastity of life, in humility, patience, fortitude, gentleness and manliness of character, he shows us the perfect model of the true Christian.

After an angel told Mary that she would be the Mother of God, Saint Joseph wondered what to do. An angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to worry, that the child was the Messiah, conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was to be her husband and protect the child as He

grew. Joseph decided to trust the angel and God. He married Mary and took her into his home.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel appeared to Joseph again, warning him that the Child was in danger. Joseph obeyed the angel's message again, and took his family to Egypt to escape from Herod's soldiers. After many years, the Holy Family finally returned to their home village of Nazareth.

Not much else is known about Saint Joseph, the 30 years between the Nativity and the beginning of Jesus' traveling and teaching are called 'the hidden years.' The only other event the Bible tells us about the Child Jesus' life and about Saint Joseph is the Finding in the Temple, when Jesus was missing for three days and finally Joseph and Mary found Him in the Temple teaching the scribes and elders.

Because Saint Joseph was the representative of our Heavenly Father on earth, because he acted as Christ's father in His life on earth, he is the divinely appointed head of the Holy Family. The Holy Family; of Saint Joseph, The Blessed Mother and the Son of God is the beginning and the model for the great Family of God, His Church here on earth. In this way, Saint Joseph is father to all of us.

A model for fathers, Saint Joseph is invoked as a protector of the family. A carpenter by trade, he has been declared the patron saint of all working people, of craftsmen and of the poor. He is the model of a perfect Christian life and the patron of a happy death. His patronage also extends over the Mystical Body of Christ, over the Christian family, the Christian school, and all individuals who in their need appeal to his charity and powerful intercession, especially at the hour of death.



FAITHFUL JOSEPH: Teach us to listen and not be afraid to trust as you did in God's Promise.

LOVING JOSEPH: Teach us to love courageously with a heart that is free and just.

PROTECTOR JOSEPH: Teach us to protect one another and all that belongs to God.

DREAMER JOSEPH: Teach us to dream a world where all are neighbors; a vision illumined by God's light.

TEACHER JOSEPH: Teach us to keep the Word of God close to our heart, and to proclaim it in word and action.

GENTLE JOSEPH: Teach us to be gentle with our power and strong in our tenderness.

PARENT JOSEPH: Teach us to be for our children a living lesson of goodness and truth, a blessing of hope for all generations to come. Amen."

Sister Kathy Sherman, CSJ.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:41–51

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking 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. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been looking for You anxiously." And He said to them, "How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them;

REFLECTION:

We know little about Jesus' adoptive father... but this nearly hidden figure in the gospel had an insurmountable task—raising the God-boy to become a God-man. Mike Hayes

A TRIBUTE to SAINT JOSEPH

Joseph was the true and worthy Spouse of Mary, supplying in a visible manner the place of Mary's Invisible Spouse, the Holy Ghost. He was a virgin, and his virginity was the faithful mirror of the virginity of Mary. He was the Cherub, placed to guard the new terrestrial Paradise from the intrusion of every foe.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.

R. Henceforth, now and forever. Amen.

HIS was the title of father of the Son of God, because he was the Spouse of Mary, ever Virgin. He was our Lord's father, because Jesus ever yielded to him the obedience of a son. He was our Lord's father, because to him were entrusted, and by him were faithfully fulfilled, the duties of a father, in protecting Jesus, giving Him a home, sustaining and rearing Him, and providing Him with a trade.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.

R. Henceforth, now and forever. Amen.

HE is Holy Joseph, because he was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate, and Mary, the holiest of creatures.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.

R. Henceforth, now and forever. Amen.

LET US PRAY

God, Who in Your ineffable Providence chose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of Your most holy Mother, grant, we beseech You, that we may be made worthy to receive him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy Protector. Amen.



INTERCESSIONS

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

Response: We remember. We are grateful.

For all those, past and present, who are inspirations to us, we pray:

For the example of Saint Joseph as our example and intercessor, we pray:

For the gift of each other, in our giftedness, dreaming and sharing, we pray:

For all the sick and the dying that they will see Joseph as a model in their time of need, we pray:

For the Church of God that under the watchful eye of Saint Joseph, we will continually be faithful to the message of Jesus, we pray:

For all fathers and father figures that they will exemplify the virtues of Saint Joseph, we pray:

For all families that they will take the Holy Family as their guide, we pray:

For all religious Brothers that in imitating our patron, Saint Joseph, we will fill our lives with modesty, obedience and faithfulness, we pray:

LET US PRAY

God of Wonder, Joseph, Your servant, overcame his fear, faithfully trusting in the angel and providing a place of safety for Mary and the Child.

Bless us with his silent faith that we too, might prepare a place for Your Word-made-flesh Who comes to us in the frightened and the weary, the sick and the dying, the poor and forgotten, and all those who labor. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Who was obedient to Mary and Joseph. Amen.

**Joseph, ever-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.**



Art: "Joseph, Teacher" (Joseph reading the Torah to Jesus) Sepia drawing by Sr. Richard Mehren, CSJ



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
Help us imitate the virtues of Saint Joseph.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!