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Cathedral of Christ the Light
Oakland, CA

Celebrating Saint Joseph

*A resource guide
for parents,
catechists and teachers
for the year in honor of
Saint Joseph*

**December 8, 2020-
December 8, 2021**

***Patris Corde:
With a Father's Heart***



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The Year of Saint Joseph

Pope Francis issued the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*, on December 8, 2020. The letter commemorates the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church.

To commemorate this anniversary and to emphasize the importance of Saint Joseph for our times, the Holy Father also proclaimed the Year of Saint Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. For information concerning indulgences for this year, refer to page 46 of this resource.

This resource may be used by families, teachers and catechists as they celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph.



Saint Joseph

In Sacred Scripture



Used with permission: Sr. Mary Christopher, OP
“St. Joseph and the Child Jesus”
(Alessandro Franchi c. 1890)
Church of St. Elizabeth of the Visitation
Siena, Italy



Introduction

This section contains the references to Saint Joseph which may be found in Sacred Scripture. The texts used are from the New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.

Each page in this section contains the stories from the Gospel in which Saint Joseph figures along with a picture of some work of art which illustrates that section. These pages can easily be printed for use with a family or a class.

After the accounts of the Infancy Narratives and Childhood of Jesus, there is one page which contains the other brief references to the role of Joseph in the life of Jesus.

Examples of Discussion Points for each of the sections follow the readings.

The following is one way of using the Scripture passages and prayers to Saint Joseph:

1. Open with a prayer in honor of Saint Joseph (*see pages 28-38 for options*).
2. Read one of the passages of Scripture.
3. Pause for a brief time for reflection on the passage.
4. Discuss what we can learn about Saint Joseph from the passage.
5. Ask if anyone has intentions they would like to mention in prayer.
6. Close with prayer offering these intentions to St. Joseph.



The Birth of Jesus the Messiah Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
“Marriage of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph”
St. Matthew Cathedral, Washington, DC



The Visit of the Wise Men Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
Downside Abbey Church, Benedictine Monastery
Stratton-on-the-Fosse, England



The Escape to Egypt Matthew 2: 13-15

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”



Used with permission: Sr. Mary Christopher, OP
The Flight into Egypt
Chlorinda Chavez Galdos Bell, Peruvian painter

The Return from Egypt Matthew 2: 19-23

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.



The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



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The Nativity

St. Dominic's Priory Church, London



The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2: 8-21

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
The Nativity of the Lord
All Saints Church, Margaret Street, London



Jesus Is Presented in the Temple Luke 2: 22-24

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”



Used with permission: Sr. Mary Christopher, OP
St. Joseph with two pigeons
St. Cecilia Chapel, Nashville, TN



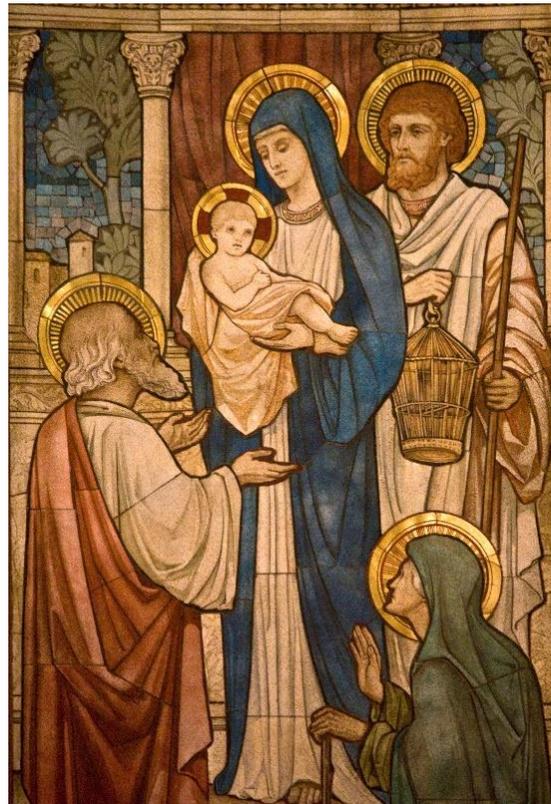
Simeon and Anna

Luke 2: 25-38

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
Presentation of the Lord
St. Mary's Church, Balham, South London



The Return to Nazareth

Luke 2: 39-40

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP

St. Joseph the Worker

St. Mary the Virgin Church

Freeland, West Oxfordshire, England



The Boy Jesus in the Temple Luke 2: 41-50

Now every year his 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.

At Home in Nazareth Luke 2: 51-52

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.



Used with permission: Sr. Mary Christopher, OP
The Holy Family
Bethany Retreat House, Dickson, TN



Other Scriptural References to Saint Joseph

Matthew 1: 17

Matthew 1:1-17 traces the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew 1: 17 reads in part: Jacob the father of **Joseph the husband of Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.



Matthew 13:54-55

[Jesus] came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? **Is not this the carpenter’s son?** Is not his mother called Mary?”



Luke 4:22

Hearing Jesus teach in the synagogue, the people were amazed:

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “**Is not this Joseph’s son?**”



John 1:45:

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus **son of Joseph from Nazareth.**”



John 6: 42

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, **the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?** How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”



Discussion Points on Saint Joseph in Sacred Scripture

Note: While each of the Scripture passages has many possible applications, the following discussion points focus on Saint Joseph in each particular reference rather than on the passage as a whole. Suggested beginning responses are also given.

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Matthew 1:18-25

- How does Joseph's initial plan to dismiss Mary quietly show the virtue of Saint Joseph?
 - Exposing her to the law would have allowed her to be stoned and he was showing mercy, as well as love for her, by not disgracing her.
- How does Joseph's action show obedience to God's will?
 - He did exactly what the angel had told him in the dream.
- What does the fact that Joseph was to name the baby tell us?
 - It shows that he was the legal father of Jesus and that he had the role of "father" in the life of Jesus. In accepting his mission as "Guardian of the Redeemer" as Pope Saint John Paul called Joseph.
 - Saint Joseph also reveals the mission of Jesus to us in proclaiming this name which means "Savior."

The Visit of the Wise Men

Matthew 2: 1-12

- What is the major difference between the story of the wise men's visit and the way it is shown in the picture of the stained glass window?
 - The story only mentions Mary being with the Infant Jesus and the window shows Joseph there as well.
 - The rationale for including this story in Scripture references about Joseph is twofold.
 - First, it gives a clearer representation of the infancy narrative.
 - Second, Joseph was likely to have been there, and even if he were absent, he would have been made aware of the visit from the wise men. (*Nativity scenes usually include Saint Joseph with the wise men, too.*)



The Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2: 13-15

- This is the second time that Joseph does what he learns in a dream. What does this tell us about Joseph's faith?
 - This shows, not only obedience to God, but also a deep trust in His will and a willingness to do that will.
- As someone who had to flee to another country, what concerns might Joseph have had during this journey?
 - He would probably have been concerned about the same things that a parent in those circumstances today would think about: *How do I keep them safe? Where can we live? How can I provide for them? Where can I find food? How long will we stay? How will I understand what the people around me are saying?*

The Return from Egypt

Matthew 2: 19-23

- What thoughts and feelings do you think that Saint Joseph had when he realized it was not safe for them to return to Judea and that they were to go to Nazareth? Compare those feelings and thoughts with those of immigrant families today. What lessons does that teach us?
 - Joseph was probably wondering what it was going to be like starting all over again, providing for his family, building up his carpentry shop, making new friends, leaving old ones behind. These are fears that immigrants have today. Giving them support gives us an opportunity to welcome the stranger as the Gospel asks.

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

- We hear that Saint Joseph was a "just man." How does his participation in the census illustrate his justice?
 - He journeyed to Bethlehem to be counted in the census because the lawful governor required it. Even in difficulty, he respected the authority of the ruler and was obedient to the law.

The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2: 8-21

- Why do you think that the visit of the shepherds and what they told Mary and Joseph amazed the parents of Jesus?
 - Most likely, Joseph and Mary did not expect anyone else to know about the birth of this Child, especially since it took place in a stable. Yet, this is where the shepherds came because the angels had directed them. God had made His birth known through the angels.



Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

Luke 2: 22-24

- To what virtue do Joseph and Mary give witness by presenting Jesus in the temple?
 - Mary and Joseph show the virtue of obedience to God by following the law given to His people. The ritual of presenting the firstborn celebrated the redeeming of the child and the purification of the mother. In this case, Jesus did not need redemption nor did Mary need purification. But they obeyed the law, anyway, giving good example to their neighbors.
- How do we know from the Presentation that the Holy Family was a simple, poor family?
 - Joseph gave the offering of the poor, two doves, not a lamb which would have been the offering of the rich.

Simeon and Anna

Luke 2: 25-38

- Saint Luke tells us that the parents of Jesus were amazed at the words and actions of Anna and Simeon. What do we learn from this?
 - There are many possible responses. Perhaps, a primary one would be that Mary and Joseph, even though they knew that Jesus was the Son of God, did not understand everything fully. So Simeon's responses and Anna's action amazed these new parents. Their Son looked like any newborn baby. How did these people know who He was? What did it mean that a sword would pierce Mary's heart? How did Joseph feel when he heard that?

The Return to Nazareth

Luke 2: 39-40

- What do you think was going through Joseph's mind as he led Jesus and Mary to Nazareth? What concerns do you think he had?
 - Draw parallels between what Joseph and other "new" fathers feel when they realize the responsibilities that raising a child entails. Joseph could have been even more overwhelmed than usual because he knew that Jesus was God's Son.



The Boy Jesus in the Temple

Luke 2: 41-50

- How do we know from this story that even Mary and Joseph did not understand everything about the Child Jesus?
 - There are three ways that we see this.
 - First, they were “astonished” when they saw him with the elders in the temple and at his interaction with them.
 - Second, Mary asked Jesus why He had treated his parents that way.
 - Finally, they did not understand when He answered them that He had to be about His Father’s work.

At Home in Nazareth

Luke 2: 51-52

- Why is it important for us to know that Jesus was obedient to Saint Joseph and to Our Lady?
 - It is important because it gives all of us a model of obedience to those who have lawful authority over us. Jesus is God yet He obeys Mary and Joseph because they have authority over Him as the child in their care.

Other references in Scripture

- What is the common theme in all of these Scripture verses? And what does this tell us?
 - The thing that these Scripture verses have in common is that Jesus is considered by all to be Joseph’s son. This tells us of the valuable mission of Saint Joseph in salvation history and how well he performed this God-given role.



Under the Patronage of Saint Joseph



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
Roadside Shrine to St. Joseph
Rabat, Malta



Places of which Saint Joseph is the Patron:

Countries

- Asia
- Austria
- Belgium
- Cambodia
- Canada
- China
- Croatia
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Korea
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Peru
- Philippines
- Russia
- Sicily
- Slovenia
- Vatican City
- Vietnam

Regions

- Bohemia, Czech Republic
- Buenos Aires, Province
- Misiones, Argentina
- Styria, Austria
- Carinthia, Austria
- Ceara, Brazil

Cities and Towns

- **Colombia**
 - Cucuta
- **Italy**
 - Castelplanio
 - Florence
 - Fonte Nuova
 - Le Spezia
 - Ladispoli
 - Orvieto
 - Querceta
 - Randazzo
 - Spadafora
- **Malta**
 - Kalkara
 - Msida
 - Qala
- **Philippines**
 - La Pinas

Note: Any town, city or organization bearing the name of Joseph would be considered to have him as its patron.

Examples:

San Jose, New Mexico
San Jose, California
Saint Joseph, Missouri
Saint Joseph, Indiana
Saint Joseph Hospital
Sisters of Saint Joseph

Diocese and Archdioceses

- Anchorage, AK
- Verapoly, India
- Hyderabad, India
- Tellichery, India
- Neyattinkara, India
- Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka
- Balanga, Philippines
- Bangued, Philippines
- Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Biloxi, Mississippi
- Buffalo, New York
- Butuan, Philippines
- Cheyenne, Wyoming
- Cologne, Germany
- Daet, Philippines
- Hanoi, Vietnam
- Hartford, Connecticut
- Itanagar, India
- La Crosse, Wisconsin
- Lipa, Philippines
- Libmanan, Philippines
- Louisville, Kentucky
- Edmonton, Alberta
- Manchester, New Hampshire
- Mangalore, India
- Menevia, Wales
- Nashville, Tennessee
- Osnabrück, Germany
- Palghat, India
- Rarotonga, Cook Islands
- Romblon, Philippines
- San Jose, California
- San Jose in Mindoro, Philippines
- San Jose, Nueva Ecija, Philippines
- Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Diocese of Tagbilaran, Philippines
- Virac, Philippines
- Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia





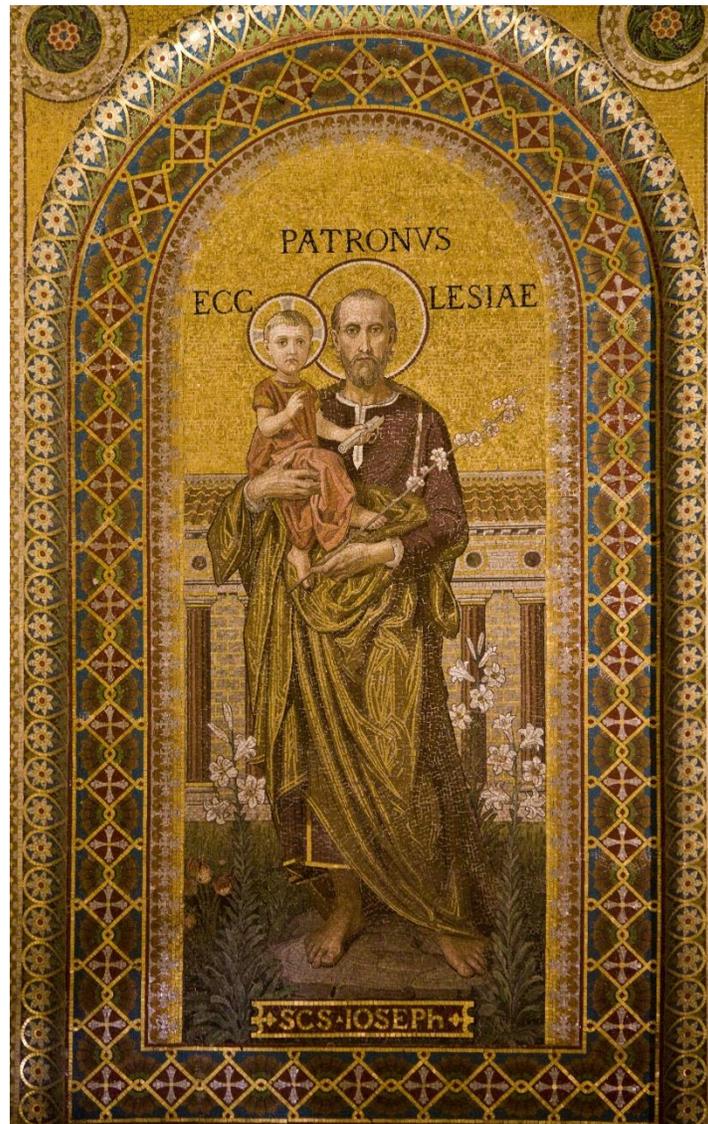
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St. Joseph
St. Dominic's Priory, London

Saint Joseph is the Patron Saint of

- a happy death
- accountants
- attorneys
- bursars
- buying or selling a house
- cemetery workers
- children
- craftsmen
- the dying
- engineers
- expectant mothers
- fathers
- foster parents
- furniture makers
- immigrants
- married people
- orphans
- people who are in doubt
- social justice
- teachers
- travelers
- Universal Church
- unborn children
- workers, laborers



The Feasts of Saint Joseph



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
St. Joseph the Guardian
Basilica of St. Lawrence Outside the Walls
Rome, Italy



Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary and Patron of the Universal Church

March 19

This is the major feast of Saint Joseph in the Church's liturgical calendar. It celebrates Saint Joseph as the Husband of Mary who protected her and Jesus, and who will, therefore, continue to protect the Church which is the Mystical Body of Christ on earth.

Collect for the Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.

<http://www.liturgies.net/saints/joseph/mass.htm>



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"Go to Joseph"

Giuseppe Rollini (1842-1881)

Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy



Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

May 1

This feast day was instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII. The feast not only honors Saint Joseph, but also focuses on the great dignity of all labor and of those who labor. It also was to counter the Communist-sponsored “May Day” celebrations for workers.

Collect of the Mass for the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker:

God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe, in every age you call man to develop and use his gifts for the good of others. With St. Joseph as our example and guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
St. Joseph the Worker
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower
Detroit, Michigan



Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday after Christmas

The Feast of the Holy Family, while strictly speaking is not a feast of Saint Joseph, honors that family of which Saint Joseph is the head. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on the virtues needed for happy family life and to rejoice in the love and care given the Child Jesus by Joseph and Mary. We can pray for the needs and protection of all families.

Collect of the Mass for the Feast of the Holy Family

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.



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The Nativity
Chlorinda Chavez Galdos Bell, Peruvian painter



Prayers Asking Saint Joseph's Intercession



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
Joseph, a righteous man of God
Sir Ninian Comper
The Lady Chapel of Downside Abbey Church
Somerset, South West England



An Act of Consecration to Saint Joseph

O, my beloved St. Joseph, adopt me as thy child, take care of my salvation, watch over me day and night, preserve me from the occasion of sin, obtain for me purity of soul and body!

Through thy intercession with Jesus grant me a spirit of sacrifice, of humility and self-denial, a burning love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and a sweet tender love for Mary, my Mother.

St. Joseph, be with me living, be with me dying and obtain for me a favorable judgment from Jesus, my merciful Savior. Amen

A Child's Prayer to Saint Joseph

St. Joseph, watch over me
and care for me
just as you cared for
the child Jesus;
and by your help,
may I come to know your Son,
and so grow in strength
and wisdom and
the favor of God. Amen.

<https://teachingcatholickids.com/st-joseph-saints-for-kids/>



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
St. Joseph
Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Lille, France



Prayer used by Pope Francis found in a Prayer book, referred to in Patris Corde

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome.

My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.



Used with permission: Sr. Mary Christopher, OP
The Holy Family
Chlorinda Chavez Galdos Bell, Peruvian painter



****Official Prayer for the Year of Joseph Prayer to Saint Joseph of Pope Leo XIII***

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
Flight into Egypt
Abbey of Pontigny, Burgundy, France



Prayer of Pope Francis to Saint Joseph in Patris Corde

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
The Holy Family
Abbey of Pontigny, Burgundy, France



Prayer for Intercession for Special Intentions and for a Happy Death

O glorious Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you do we raise our hearts and hands, to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death and the special favor I now implore. (Make your petition here...)

O Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

O glorious Saint Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Let us pray. O glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for us pure, humble and charitable minds, and perfect resignation to the divine will. Be our guide, father, and model through life, that we may merit to die as you did, in the arms of Jesus and Mary.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
The Death of St. Joseph
The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the English Martyrs
Cambridge, England



Prayers of Pope Saint John XXIII in honor of Saint Joseph

Grant that those you protect understand that they are not alone in their work, but may they know how to find Jesus next to them, may they welcome Him with grace, and faithfully protect Him as you did. Grant that in every family, in every office, in every laboratory, wherever a Christian works, that they may all be sanctified in charity, in patience, in justice, trying to doing things well, so that the gifts of heavenly predilection might abundantly descend upon them. (May 1, 1960).

Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labor, and weariness. But amid the worries of material life, your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you, and, with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.

Amen

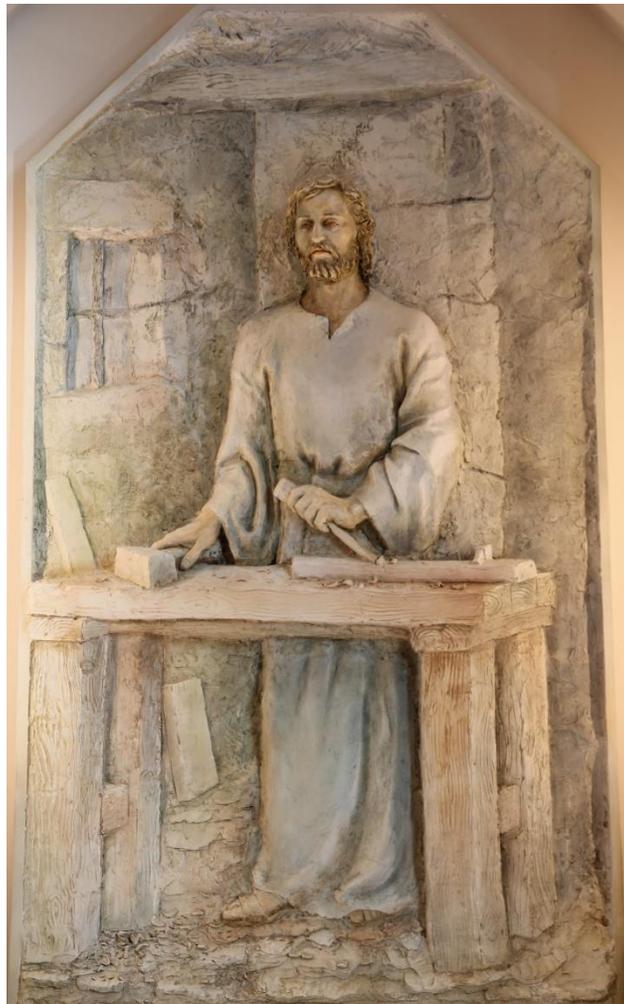


Used with permission: Sr. Mary Christopher, OP
The Holy Family
Angelo Zoffoli (1860-1910)
Basilica of Sts. Ambrose and Charles Borromeo
Rome, Italy

Prayer for the Sanctification of Labor

O God, the creator of all things, you framed the law of labor for the human race. Graciously grant, by the example and patronage of St. Joseph, that we may do the work You provide us and earn the reward You promise. Sustain us with Your grace to live up to our duties in charity and justice. Amen.

<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=2182>



Used with permission: Sr. Mary Christopher, OP
Saint Joseph the Worker (bas relief)
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel
Bethany Retreat House, Dickson, Tennessee



Memorarae to Saint Joseph

<https://osjusa.org/prayers/memorare-to-st-joseph/>

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Prayer to Know One's Vocation

<https://osjusa.org/prayers/to-know-ones-vocation/>

O Great St. Joseph, so docile to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, obtain for me the grace to know what state of life Divine Providence destines for me. Do not allow me to be deceived with regard to so important a choice, upon which depends my happiness in this world, and even my eternal salvation.

Obtain for me that, being enlightened to know the Divine Will and being faithful in accomplishing it, I may embrace the state of life which God has destined for me and which will lead me to a happy eternity. Amen.

Prayer for Fathers of Pope Saint John XXIII

St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands.

Kindly protect all the fathers who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labor and weariness.

But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.



Prayer for Life

<https://osjusa.org/prayers/for-life/>

St. Joseph, you are the chaste and loving spouse of the Virgin Mary, the foster father of Jesus, the protector and provider of the Holy Family and of all families. We have complete confidence in your loving care for new life and in your fidelity to the family. We commend our efforts to your prayers and protection. Help us always to defend the gift of human life that it may grow to the abundance of eternal life promised and bestowed on us by your son, our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
St. Joseph with the Christ Child
Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Brixton, England



What the Saints and Popes Said about Saint Joseph



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
The Holy Family in the Temple
Vittoriosa, Malta



What the Saints Said about Saint Joseph

St. Padre Pio: “*Ite ad Joseph.* Go to Joseph with extreme confidence, because I do not remember having asked anything from St. Joseph, without having obtained it readily.”

St. Thomas Aquinas: “It is true that the other saints enjoy great power in heaven, but they ask as servants, and do not command as masters. Saint Joseph, to whose authority Jesus was subject on earth, obtains what he desires from his kingly foster Son in heaven.”

St. Teresa of Avila: “The Lord wants us to understand that just as he was subject to St. Joseph on earth — for since bearing the title of father, being the Lord’s tutor, Joseph could give the child commands — so in heaven God does whatever he commands.”

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade: “To give life to someone is the greatest of all gifts. To save a life is the next. Who gave life to Jesus? It was Mary. Who saved his life? It was Joseph. Ask St. Paul who persecuted him. Saint Peter who denied him. Ask all the saints who put him to death. But if we ask, ‘Who saved his life?’ Be silent, patriarchs, be silent, prophets, be silent, apostles, confessors and martyrs. Let St. Joseph speak, for this honor is his alone; he alone is the savior of his Savior.”

Blessed Conchita: “How greatly you suffered at the vision of her [Mary’s] martyrdom without you, the solitude of the wife whom you loved so well. Oh what martyrdom wracked your soul at the fore-vision of the Passion and the seven swords which would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. You dreamed of her alone, alone without Jesus — and this affliction embittered your happy life.”

St. Bernadette Soubirous: “If anyone cannot find a master to teach him how to pray, let him take this glorious saint as his master, and he will not go astray.”

St. Joseph Marelli: “Be in good spirits under the fatherly mantle of St. Joseph, a place of safest refuge in trials and tribulations.”

<https://aleteia.org/2020/03/19/are-these-5-of-the-best-saint-quotes-about-st-joseph/>

St. Teresa of Avila: “I am astonished at the great favors which God has bestowed on me through this blessed saint.” (*Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, chapter 6)



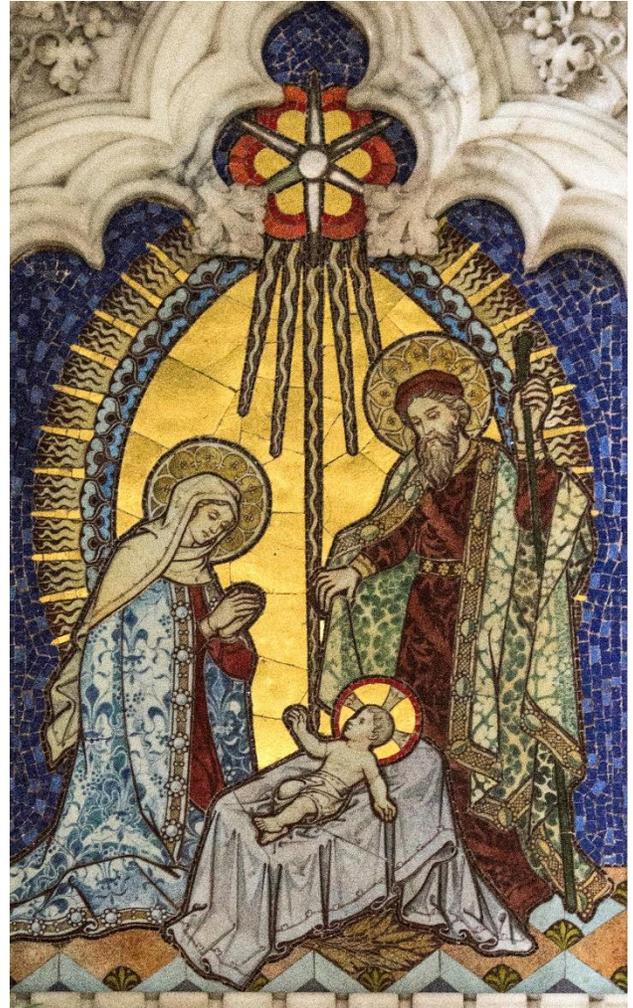
St. Josemaria Escriva: “He kept the commandments of God without wavering, even though the meaning of those commandments was sometimes obscure or their relation to the rest of the divine plan hidden from him... Joseph’s faith does not falter, he obeys quickly and to the letter. To understand this lesson better, we should remember that Joseph’s faith is active, that his docility is not a passive submission to the course of events. For the Christian’s faith has nothing whatever to do with conformity, inertia or lack of initiative.” (*Christ is Passing By*, 42)

St. Andre Bessette: “I am nothing...only a tool in the hands of Providence, a lowly instrument at the service of St. Joseph.”
<https://standrebessette.ca/st-andre-bessette/>

St. John Henry Newman: “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 Him, giving Him a home, sustaining and rearing Him, and providing Him with a trade.”
(*Meditations and Devotions*)

In 1868, **Blessed John Joseph Lataste, OP** “wrote to the pope [Pius IX] offering his life that St. Joseph would be declared Patron of the Universal Church. The pontiff remarked to the master general [of the Dominican Order], who had given him the letter, that he had received more than five hundred letters asking this favor, but only Père Lataste had offered his life in exchange. God took him at his word, and he died on March 10, 1869. A year later, St. Joseph was declared Patron of the Universal Church.”

(Dorcy, Marie Jean. *St. Dominic’s Family*. Tan Books and Publishers, 1983)



Used with Permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
The Nativity of Christ
The Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Good Aid
(Motherwell Cathedral), Motherwell, Scotland



What the Popes Said about Saint Joseph

Blessed Pope Pius IX: “Go to Joseph! Have recourse with special confidence to St. Joseph, for his protection is most powerful, as he is the patron of the universal Church.”

Benedict XV: “In fact, through Joseph we go directly to Mary, and, through Mary, to the origin of all holiness, Jesus, who consecrated the domestic virtues with his obedience to Joseph and Mary.”

Venerable Pope Pius XII: “If Joseph was so engaged, heart and soul, in protecting and providing for that little family at Nazareth, don’t you think that now in heaven he is the same loving father and guardian of the whole Church, of all its members, as he was of its Head on earth?...If you want to be close to Christ, I repeat to you *‘Ite ad Ioseph’*: Go to Joseph!”

Pope Leo XIII: “It is, then natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.”

Pope Saint John XXIII: “Together with his [Saint Joseph’s] example of labor, we also have the splendor of all the virtues: the exaltation of innocence, the basic principles of an harmonious social life, the obedience, the humility, the abnegation. What an incomparable school for the whole Christian family...” (May 5, 1961).

Pope Saint Paul VI: “Saint Joseph is the model of those humble ones that Christianity raises to great destinies, and he is the proof that in order to be good and genuine Followers of Christ there is no need of ‘great things;’ it is enough to have the common, simple, human virtues, but they need to be true and authentic.”

Pope John Paul II: “In the course of that pilgrimage of faith which was his life, Joseph, like Mary, remained faithful to God’s call until the end. While Mary’s life was the bringing to fullness of that fiat first spoken at the Annunciation, at the moment of Joseph’s own ‘annunciation’ he said nothing; instead he simply ‘did as the angel of the Lord commanded him’ (Mt 1:24). And this first ‘doing’ became the beginning of



‘Joseph’s way.’ The Gospels do not record any word ever spoken by Joseph along that way. But the silence of Joseph has its own special eloquence, for thanks to that silence we can understand the truth of the Gospel’s judgment that he was ‘a just man’ (Mt 1:19).”

Pope Benedict XVI: “From the example of St. Joseph we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us.”

Pope Francis: “Even when he [Saint Joseph] is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: ‘Pray for this problem!’”

Pope Francis: “Dear young friends, learn from Saint Joseph. He went through difficult times, but he always trusted and he knew how to overcome adversity.”



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St. Joseph, Malta



Ideas for Using this Resource: Celebrating the Year of Saint Joseph



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
St. Joseph
St. Dominic's Church, Washington, DC



These may be used in the home, at school or in the parish. The ideas and examples of activities include educational experiences, prayer experiences and service-oriented activities. Some are suitable for group activities as well. These ideas can also be adapted for various grade levels or ages of the children in a family.

- On a **world map**, indicate the places that are under the patronage and protection of Saint Joseph.
- Have a special **Saint Joseph prayer corner** in your home or classroom. Use a table or a shelf or a crate covered with a cloth. Have a statue or picture of Saint Joseph and any other items that would be appropriate: holy cards, prayer cards of Saint Joseph, a Bible with readings about Saint Joseph marked, rosaries, etc. You might have flowers or a bowl in which to put prayer intentions along with paper on which to write them and pens.
- Make individual **patronage posters** illustrating Saint Joseph and the individual causes for which he is patron. Use pictures to illustrate things like workers, carpenters, the Church, etc. as well. This could also be done in PowerPoint or Google Slides.
- Make posters of **countries** of which Saint Joseph is patron. Use a picture of Saint Joseph, the name of the country and something that represents the country such as a map, the flag, a picture of people from that country, a famous church or landmark, etc.
- Make a **visual litany** by making posters of the titles of Saint Joseph.
- Find out how to write say “Saint Joseph, pray for us” in **different languages**. You can use “Google translate” or other sources. For example: “Sint-Jozef bid voor ons!” is Dutch.
- The phrase **“Go to Joseph”** is now used to refer to Saint Joseph, but originally, it was applied to the Old Testament Joseph. (Refer to Genesis, chapter 37; chapters 39-50). Read the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. List as many similarities between the two “Josephs” as possible. Why does “Go to Joseph” apply to both of them? Some similarities might be: They both were spoken to in dreams; they both played a role in saving the people, the Old Testament Joseph in saving the Israelites from starvation and Saint Joseph in his role in Jesus saving us all from sin.
- Choose a **different prayer** to Saint Joseph for each day of the week to pray as a family or class. Talk about what the prayers themselves teach us about Saint Joseph.
- Modify the practice of the **Saint Joseph Table** to host a food drive for the poor. (See <https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/st-joseph-table/>.)
- Choose one of the **quotations** about Saint Joseph from the Saints or the Popes. Make a greeting card or prayer card to send someone.



- Make a **virtual pilgrimage** to the Oratory of Saint Joseph in Montreal.
<https://www.saint-joseph.org/en/>
- Make a collection of images of Saint Joseph You can start with the ones in this resource. Identify the different “items” or attributes with which he is usually pictured. Discuss what they are and what they represent about him. [lily, Infant Jesus, tools, pair of doves, etc.]

Note: The following activities also have indulgences attached to them. For a good summary of the teachings on indulgences, visit the Vatican website at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-12/apostolic-penitentiary-plenary-indulgence-year-st-joseph.html>

- Participate in a spiritual **retreat** for at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.
- Pray for St. Joseph’s intercession for **the unemployed** that they might find dignifying work.
- Recite the **Litany of Saint Joseph** for persecuted Christians.
- Entrust one’s **daily work** and activity to the protection of St. Joseph the Worker.
- Follow St. Joseph’s example in performing a **corporal work of mercy** (feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the imprisoned, visiting the sick, and burying the dead).
- Perform one of the **spiritual works of mercy** (comforting the sorrowful, counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries, and praying for the living and the dead).
- Pray the **rosary together with one’s family** in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- Meditate for at least 30 minutes **on the Lord’s Prayer**, because St. Joseph “invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”
- Celebrate the **feast of St. Joseph** on March 19 with an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph.
- Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on **the 19th of any month**.
- Honor St. Joseph with an act of piety or approved prayer on a **Wednesday**, the day traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph.



Helpful Links and Sources



Used with permission: Fr. Lawrence Lew, OP
The Nativity of the Lord
St. James Church, Piccadilly, London



Oblates of St. Joseph

<https://osjusa.org/st-joseph/>

- Wonderful section of resources on Saint Joseph, including Saint Joseph in Art, Scripture and liturgy. Also has links to magisterial teachings on Saint Joseph.

Saint Joseph Oratory of Mount Royal, Montreal, Canada

<https://www.saint-joseph.org/en/>

- The Oratory is the largest Shrine in honor of Saint Joseph in the world. It welcomes over 2,000,000 people each year and has been the site of many healings and miracles. Begun as the mission of Brother Andre Bessette (now Saint Andre), it is a testimony both to the special role of Saint Joseph in the life of the Church and to Saint Andre's cooperation with God's grace in his life.
- The website contains information about the nature, history, mission and development of the Shrine. One becomes acquainted both with Saint Joseph and with Saint Andre through this website.

Year of Joseph, Diocese of Charlotte, NC

<https://yearofstjoseph.org/>

- Developed by the Diocese of Charlotte, this website offers many suggestions and much helpful information. Main areas include: why Saint Joseph is honored, how the year of Joseph can be celebrated, the consecration to Saint Joseph and other devotions. Adaptable for family as well as classes. The Resources section contains a downloadable coloring sheet for younger children.

Saint Joseph's Table

<https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/st-joseph-table/>

- This devotion originated in Sicily after a major famine from which they were saved through the intercession of Saint Joseph. This website gives a brief but thorough description of this custom, which in many schools takes the form of the decorated table or Saint Joseph altar with food items brought in for the poor. Additional websites with examples of Saint Joseph Tables and devotions are accessible from this webpage, as well.

Year of Saint Joseph, Diocese of Wichita, KS

<https://catholicdioceseofwichita.org/year-of-st-joseph/>

- The website offers many opportunities for the holy year including pilgrimages, reflections on the virtues of Saint Joseph, information about the Consecration of Families to Saint Joseph, and prayers for his intercession. The link to a pdf of the *Blessing of a Family or household* is given here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VbwMHD7SuYK85PgfOiXTQL_jGsvSWWVI/view



Sources for Popes' letters/ homilies about Saint Joseph:

Patris Corde Pope Francis 2020

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

Redemptoris Custos Pope St. John Paul II 1989

http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_15081989_redemptoris-custos.html

Homily Pope Saint Paul VI 1969

http://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/fr/homilies/1969/documents/hf_p-vi_hom_19690319.html

Quamquam Pluries Pope Leo XIII 1889

http://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_15081889_quamquam-pluries.html

Quaemadmodum Deus Pope Pius IX 1870

<https://osjusa.org/st-joseph/magisterium/quaemadmodum-deus/>

Others

Patron Saints A-Z <https://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>

Patron Saint https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patron_saint

Saint Joseph https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Joseph

