

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, 1ST MAY

Given the central role of Saint Joseph in the life of the Lord, it is perhaps surprising that he is so rarely mentioned in sacred scripture. Joseph is the quiet man of the Gospels. His actions reveal his paternal spirit, much more than the words he speaks.



The little we do know about his life and vocation is found in a few select passages of scripture. The evangelists Mark and Matthew reveal him to be a descendant of David who was the greatest and most famous king of Israel. Yet despite his royal lineage Joseph is a humble, working man. He was a carpenter by trade and provided for his family by the sweat of his brow.

In Nazareth he was betrothed to Mary which meant that they were promised to each other for marriage. After discovering that Mary was pregnant, he knew that this child did not belong to him. As a result, it seemed that his life with Mary was over.

His mind was changed when an angel came to him in a dream to tell him that the child was the Son of God. Immediately upon hearing this, Joseph took Mary home as his wife. At the appointed time Mary gave birth to Jesus. From that moment Joseph was set as the protector and guardian of the Holy Infant.

The Gospels recount a second visit from the angel, revealing to Joseph that his family was in danger. He left everything behind — his family, friends, and all that he owned — to go to Egypt with Mary and their new-born baby.

There is so much about the life of this holy man that remains hidden. We know nothing of his years at the carpenter's wheel, his home life, or even his death. Save to say that his life, marked by virtue and holiness, gained him a special place in the company of the Saints.

“This greatest male Saint who ever lived was not a deacon, not a priest, not a bishop, not a pope, not a hermit, not a monk... he was a husband, father, and a worker.”

St. Josemaria Escriva

“I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of Saint Joseph which he has failed to grant... To other saints the Lord seems to have given grace to succour us in some of our necessities, but of this glorious saint my experience is that he succours us in them all...”

From the Autobiography of Saint Teresa of Avila

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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<https://yearofstjoseph.org/devotions/prayers/>

NOVENA PRAYERS

Novena – Day One

Dear Saint Joseph, God the Father set you as the protector and guardian of the Holy Family. You were chosen from among all men to watch over Jesus and Mary with loving concern.

Look with love over my family, and enfold us in your fatherly care. Protect us from all harm, and safeguard especially the gift of faith that has been implanted in our souls. Keep us faithful to Jesus and true to our ancient faith.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, protector and guardian of the Holy Family, pray for us. Amen.

Novena – Day Two

Dear Saint Joseph, throughout your life you were continually in conversation with God. You stand before us as one who was faithful to prayer. In times of difficulty or uncertainty you sought God's guidance and inspiration, and the Father heard your humble petitions. Help me to imitate you and to turn to God in the concrete circumstances of my life.

May I present to God my joys and sufferings, my worries and uncertainties, and seek his purpose and resolution in all things.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, disciple of prayer, pray for us.

Novena – Day Three

Dear Saint Joseph, you made trusting in God's holy will the cornerstone of your life. Whenever God asked you to walk a path that was difficult or testing you responded with complete faith and trust. Help me to be led by God's hand, And to embrace His holy will in my life. Give me the courage to follow the path he has set out for me and to put my own plans, desires and ambitions to one side.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, trusting servant of God's holy Will, pray for us.

Novena – Day Four

Dear Saint Joseph, we turn to you as a living example of humility. You willingly accepted without complaint the unique vocation that God had marked out for you. You were humble and unassuming and sought the glory of God in all things. Help me to imitate your modesty and humility. Help me decrease so that God can increase in me.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, humble and obedient servant of God, pray for us.

Novena—Day Five

Dear Saint Joseph, you are the quiet man of the Gospel. In all of scripture you speak not a single word. You are a man of reflection and prayer. Give me the grace to embrace quiet and stillness, and there to find solace with God. Like dear Saint Joseph, may virtue and holiness be the language I speak.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, example of quiet and serenity, pray for us.

Novena—Day Six

Dear Saint Joseph, your life on Earth shows forth the transforming power of paternal love. You were a strong and gentle father to Jesus, and you blessed His holy youth with good example and fervent prayer. Help all fathers to grow each day in imitation of your paternal love. May they be faithful to their solemn responsibilities as fathers. Help them to be strong and gentle, and full of faith and love. May they be living examples of fatherly, sacrificial love.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, model of fatherly love, pray for us.

Novena—Day Seven

Dear Saint Joseph, we thank you for your example as the loving spouse of Mary. To Mary you gave your heart and your all. You provided for her and protected her from danger. You cherished her like a precious diamond beyond compare.

Help all those called to the vocation of married love. Help them to live their vows each day and to honour each other with loyalty, love and devotion. To those who find their marriage difficult, dear Saint Joseph, give strength and new resolve. Help those who are struggling to fall in love once again. May they advance together towards the eternal promise of heaven.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, model and faithful spouse, pray for us.

Novena—Day Eight

Dear Saint Joseph, you are the heavenly protector of God's Holy Church on Earth. You watch over the Church with a Father's concern. Extend your cloak of righteousness over us that we may live under your protection and wisdom. By your powerful intercession help banish the Church from all wickedness and falsehood. Make it a spotless bride for Christ, just as Mary was your pure and spotless Bride.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: ***(Make your request here)***. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, protector of the Church, pray for me.

Novena—Day Nine

Dear Saint Joseph, you are our heavenly friend and intercessor. Throughout your earthly existence, you set your gaze on the things of heaven. At every moment you desired to please God so that each day you would move closer to the promise of heaven. Accompany me on the pathways of my life. Help me to do all I can to assist my eternal salvation. May I seek to satisfy God in all things, and at the sunset of my life, be found pleasing in His sight.

Be my guide, my father, and my model through life, that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: **(Make your request here)**. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers, on my behalf, will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Saint Joseph, my heavenly friend and protector, pray for me.

Prayer Before Work to Saint Joseph the Worker

O Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labour, obtain for me the grace to work in a spirit of penance for the expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations; to work with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honour to employ and develop by means of labour the gifts received from God; to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience, never shrinking from weariness and trials; to work above all with purity of intention and detachment from self, keeping unceasingly before my eyes death and the account that I must give of time lost, talents unused, good omitted, and vain complacency in success, so fatal to the work of God.

All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after thy example, O Patriarch, Saint Joseph. Such shall be my watch-word in life and in death. Amen.

(Composed by Pope St. Pius X)

Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, *pray for us.*
Illustrious son of David, *pray for us.*
Light of patriarchs, *pray for us.*
Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*
Foster father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*
Watchful defender of Christ, *pray for us.*
Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*

Joseph most just, *pray for us.*
Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*
Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*
Joseph most valiant, *pray for us.*
Joseph most obedient, *pray for us.*
Joseph most faithful, *pray for us.*
Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*
Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*
Model of workmen, *pray for us.*
Glory of home life, *pray for us.*
Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*
Pillar of families, *pray for us.*
Solace of the afflicted, *pray for us.*
Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*
Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*
Terror of demons, *pray for us.*
Protector of Holy Church, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us!

v. He made him the lord of His household,
r. *And prince over all His possessions.*

Let Us Pray

O God, in Your ineffable providence You were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Your most holy Mother. Grant, we beg You, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.