



Novena to St. Joseph

March 10 - March 18, 2021

In this Year of St. Joseph, we invite you to join our parish in praying this novena to St. Joseph, patron saint of our parish and the universal Church. The daily intentions of the novena will be for our parish: commissions, school, staff and clergy.

Order of the novena

Sign of the Cross, intro prayer, intention, reflection, concluding prayer, and sign of the Cross.

Sign of the Cross

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Intro Prayer

O Glorious St. 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 we now implore.

[Intention and Reflection, see each day of the novena]

Concluding Prayer for every day: Parish Prayer to St. Joseph

Let us pray — Blessed Saint Joseph, patron of our Parish and the Universal Church, we look to you as a model of discipleship, and ask you to intercede before your Son Jesus, to guide our families as we strive to be holy and loving, to give life to our ministries and small communities of faith, to open wide our hearts to the will of our loving Creator, and to turn our eyes to the poor, marginalized and refugees. Saint Joseph, intercede and obtain for us the grace to live as one with you, Mary and Jesus. Amen.

† In the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.



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Day 1 - Wednesday, March 10

Intention: *Today we pray for our Youth Commission as they create engagement, faith building and worship opportunities for the next generation of Catholics.*

Reflection

In declaring the “Year of St. Joseph,” Pope Francis reminds us that when reading the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act in a more direct and clear way. Yet God acts through events and people. St. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true “miracle” by which God saves the child and mother. God acted by trusting in St. Joseph’s “creative courage”! May the humble carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn problems into possibilities, by always trusting in God’s divine providence, continue to inspire in us the same “creative courage”.

Day 2 - Thursday, March 11

Intention: *Today we pray for our Community Building Commission as they promote hospitality and create an environment of belonging for all.*

Reflection

We strive to live as a community of faith, filled with kindness and a genuine connection to one another. St. Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally - “He appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man. Even though he does not understand the bigger picture, he makes a decision to protect Mary’s good name, her dignity and her life.” Joseph’s attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, the lonely, and the stranger in our midst.

Day 3 - Friday, March 12

Intention: *Today we pray for our Faith Formation Commission as they guide our lifelong catechesis and lead us in building and strengthening our small communities of faith.*

Reflection

As a descendant of the House of David, St. Joseph stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testament. After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. He has been declared the “Patron of the Catholic Church”, “Patron of Workers”, “Guardian of the Redeemer” and, “Patron of a happy death”. Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people. This is shown by the countless churches dedicated to him worldwide, the numerous religious institutes, and the ecclesial groups which bear his name. Every prayer book contains prayers to Saint Joseph because innumerable holy men and women were passionately devoted to him as a pillar of our faith.

Day 4 - Saturday, March 13

Intention: *Today we pray for our Social Justice and Service Commission who guide our care for the last, the least and the lowly.*

Reflection

During this pandemic we have all experienced how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, those who are often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or in the latest television show - those who understand that no one is saved alone. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all? Each of us can discover in St. Joseph - the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence - an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.

Day 5 - Sunday, March 14

Intention: *Today we pray for our Parish community, that we might be worthy disciples who know, love, serve, praise and glorify our God.*

Reflection

The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts. Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.

Day 6 - Monday, March 15

Intention: *Today we pray for our Parish School teachers and staff as they collaborate in forming our youth in mind, body and spirit.*

Reflection

During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. Joseph watched Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor" (Lk 2:52). Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, or frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

Day 7 - Tuesday, March 16

Intention: *Today we pray for our Prayer and Worship Commission as they lead us closer to our trinitarian God through communal prayer and the liturgy.*

Reflection

The greatness of Saint Joseph is that he was the spouse of Mary and the father of Jesus. In this way, he placed himself, in the words of Saint John Chrysostom, “at the service of the entire plan of salvation.” In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: “As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.” In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love, who is good to all, whose compassion is over all that he has made. Just as God told Joseph: “Son of David, do not be afraid!” (Mt 1:20), so he seems to tell us: “Do not be afraid!”

Day 8 - Wednesday, March 17

Intention: *Today we pray for our Parish Staff who responded to God’s call, that they are granted the knowledge, wisdom and enlightenment they need to serve.*

Reflection

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him we never see frustration but only trust. Our world today needs fathers in the model of St. Joseph - not tyrants who dominate others or who engage in authoritarianism and oppression; but rather those who embrace and promote service, charity, kindness and love. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.

Day 9 - Thursday, March 18

Intention: *Today we pray for our Parish Clergy: priests and deacons, that they receive the graces they need to shepherd and serve, and that they fulfill their vocation with charity and joy.*

Reflection

The faith Christ taught is what we see in Saint Joseph. He did not look for shortcuts, but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it. All of this makes it clear that Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his “fatherhood”. In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history. In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect the child and his mother, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love the child and his mother.