

Devotions to St. Joseph



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Caption: The cover depicts St. Joseph and the Christchild. He wears a pinkish robe over which is cast a purple mantle, purple being the colour of piety (as it combines Heavenly blue and the red of sacrifice). His undergarment might suggest a spirit of sacrifice (red). He holds a blooming white lily in his right hand. This symbolises his chastity and purity. In his left hand, He holds a white-clad Child Jesus. Jesus uses his right hand to crown him with a garland of roses. Twelve medallions surround the central figures. Each depicts an incident in the holy life of St. Joseph.

INTRODUCTION

Devotion to St. Joseph developed late in the Church, especially in the West. He was not mentioned at Holy Mass or in the Divine Office until recent times; nor was his name added until recently into the ancient Litany of the Saints. There is clear proof that he was venerated in the East in the Primitive Church, and the Copts apparently held a feast in his honour by early in the fourth century. While devotion to him in the East was constant from that time, it was not especially prominent.

There was no church dedicated to St. Joseph in the West until 1129, when Bologna was graced with this honour. The cultus was largely imported from the East in the thirteenth century, being promoted by such notables as SS. Thomas Aquinas, Bernard of Clairvaux, Gertrude the Great and Bridget of Sweden, the last of whom died in 1373. His feast first appears in local Western calendars in the fifteenth century but was not introduced into the universal calendar and fixed on 19th March until the pontificate of Pope Sixtus V (1471-1484). The rank of this feast was promoted by Innocent VIII (1484-1492) but it did not become a feast of precept (obligatory for priests to celebrate but not for people to attend) until 1621. It was promoted to a double of the second class by Clement XI (1700-1721), and this really did herald the rise of the cult of St. Joseph. For it was in the eighteenth century, in particular, that his veneration gained so much prominence in Europe. Many princes, emperors and kings were christened under his name in that century especially, and the female form Josephine also became very popular. This is especially true in such Catholic countries as Austria and France.

In 1725, the first secondary feast for St. Joseph was approved and set for 23rd January. It is the Feast of the Espousals of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. In 1726, Pope Benedict

XIII inserted Joseph's name into the ancient Litany of the Saints, but it is notable that it was placed after that of St. John the Baptist. This has led to some disputes over the respective rank of the two. St. John is known as the Prince of Prophets because our Lord remarked that no other prophet born of woman was as great as he (St. Matthew 11. 11; St. Luke 7. 28). However, in time, Joseph would be called Prince of Patriarchs, and patriarchs are always preferred to prophets in rank in Old Testament couplings of the two titles.

In 1689, the Carmelites introduced the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph and fixed it on the Third Sunday after Easter. The Carmelite Order cultivated a special devotion to St. Joseph and was instrumental in importing it from the East in the first place. However, it was not until 1847 that Blessed Pope Pius IX extended this feast to the universal calendar. Pope St. Pius X, who had a special devotion to St. Joseph, nevertheless thought it wrong for the feast of a saint, however august, to displace an ancient Sunday Mass. Therefore, he moved this festival to the third Wednesday after Easter, Wednesday being the weekday especially dedicated to St. Joseph. To compensate for this demotion, he gave this feast a common octave (second rank of three). St. Pius X also, on 18 March, 1909, approved a public litany for St. Joseph. It remains one of only six public litanies.

In 1956, Ven. Pius XII replaced the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph with a new festival, the Feast of St. Joseph the Workman. (The propers of the older feast, however, survive as the Votive Mass of St. Joseph.) This change was made to combat the scourge of communism. May Day, set on 1st May, is the main celebration for the communists. The Pope wanted to deprecate that, and so St. Joseph the Carpenter was given the new title of Patron of all who labour.

In 1962, the name of St. Joseph was added to the Canon of the Mass, a momentous decision, as the Canon had been regarded as untouchable. Except for additions of some *Amens* and other prayer closures in the Middle Ages, the Canon is ancient, for it is the core of the Mass in the Roman Rite. Adding the name of St. Joseph to it was the greatest possible honour which could be bestowed on any saint.

Wednesdays have become dedicated to St. Joseph gradually over time owing to the influence of Votive Masses. The oldest Votive Masses include those dedicated to the Holy Cross and the Blessed Trinity. In time, Votives came to be assigned to certain days without being restricted to those days. Fridays were dedicated to the Holy Cross; Saturdays, to our Lady; Sundays, to the Blessed Trinity (and, by extension, to Mondays, as Votives could not be celebrated on Sundays); Mondays, to the Holy Ghost because He ranks after the Blessed Trinity of Which He is One Person, and because He ‘proceeds’ from the Trinity into the first workday; Thursdays, to the Blessed Sacrament to honour its institution at the Last Supper, Maundy Thursday. This left only two days unassigned. Tuesdays became dedicated to the Holy Angels because they rank next after God and our Lady. The next day after Monday is Tuesday: hence the assignation. That left Wednesday alone open for dedication. Logically, it should be dedicated to the saints, as they rank after the angels. At first, Wednesdays were assigned specifically to SS. Peter and Paul, then, in addition, to All Apostles. Finally, they were assigned to St. Joseph as well. As veneration to St. Joseph grew in relation to all other saints save our Lady, the day became more and more dedicated to him. March was dedicated to St. Joseph because 19th March was believed to be his spiritual birthday in the East from quite early on. On 14 May, 1878, The Sacred Congregation of Rites granted that the statue of St. Joseph could remain unveiled in

March during Passiontide—even on Good Friday—as long as it stood outside the sanctuary. This was a sublime honour and tribute which remains in force throughout the Roman Rite for all forms of Mass.

St. Joseph has been regarded officially as Patron of the Universal Church since 1847, when the feast of his patronage was adopted universally. In the brief for this liturgical change, Bl. Pius IX also recognised him as prince of patriarchs without actually using that title. He did so by connecting him to the Old Testament Patriarch Joseph, son of Jacob. This earlier Joseph was regarded as one of the seven great patriarchs. Jacob, his father, prophesied on his deathbed that this Joseph would be the shepherd and strength of Israel and the heir of special blessings (Genesis 49. 24-26). The Epistle of this 1689 Mass refers to this authority to connect the two Josephs. The *Alleluia* in the same Mass refers to Joseph as the protector of the starving people of the promise at Pharaoh's court.

St. Joseph is regarded as the Patron of the Dying because he enjoyed the sublime privilege of expiring in the presence of Christ Himself and the Blessed Virgin Mary, both in the soul and in the flesh. He was also the first patriarch to be liberated from the Limbo of the Fathers by Jesus Christ, his adopted Son. He is the Head of the Holy Family because God Himself and His holy mother submitted to his just and gentle rule (St. Luke 2. 51).

Since the eighteenth century, Josephology has advanced greatly in Holy Church. From this, there arises a possible explanation of why the cult of St. Joseph developed so slowly: it was owing to the awesome position of St. Joseph as representative on earth of God in the Person of the Almighty Father. As the infallible Athanasian Creed teaches us, while all Three Persons of the

Blessed Trinity are co-equal and share equally in all divine properties and powers, the dignity of the Father is greater than that of the Manhood of Christ (Nos. 6, 26, 33). The Father is the very Person of the Dignity of God. Just as the Jews did not even deign to mention His august Name, we Catholics do not dedicate churches to the Father or assign a feastday to Him because that would imply a limiting of God by man: all churches and all days are implicitly dedicated to Him as Emperor of Heaven. It is different with our Lord, Who lowered Himself to come to save us as one of us and yet also as God; and it is different with the Holy Ghost, Who proceeds from Jesus as well as from the Father.

Since St. Joseph was the father and ruler of even God Himself in the flesh (by consent of God), it follows that he actually stood in the place of the Almighty Father here on earth, a fact too terrible even to contemplate. The best response to this privilege is unspeakable silence. It also suggests the theory that, while Joseph, like all people save Christ and our Lady, was born into original sin, it would be fitting that he never commit actual sin, given his sublime position. This is not a teaching of Holy Church; nor is it denied by Holy Church. In terms of celestial ranking, St. Joseph comes after our Lady and the holy angels in their choirs because the angels were also not created in original sin. At the time of the General Judgement, however, the saved will be promoted above the angels (*cf.* I Corinthians 6. 3) and, together with St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph stands at their head under his holy and immaculate spouse.



St. Joseph: Principal Patron Saint of Canada

Fr. Joseph le Caron, O.M.R., was a remarkable friar and missionary and a remarkable man by any account. He was born in about 1586 at Paris and was ordained to be tutor to the royal court. He later retired from that post to join the Recollects, the reformed Friars Minor, the order to which he was professed in 1611. The Recollects live in abject poverty. He was the first missionary to the Huron people and one of four pioneer missionaries to Canada.

Le Caron arrived at Quebec with Samuel de Champlain on 25 May, 1615. On 24 June, 1615, he assisted another pioneer priest at the first Mass to be celebrated in Canada. Le Caron was the first missionary to visit Huron settlements; the first European to see Lake Huron; and the first priest to solemnise marriage in Canada. In 1616, he was appointed Provincial Commissary of Canada for his order. On 19 March, 1624, le Caron celebrated Mass among the Huron to fulfil a vow all had made to dedicate themselves to St. Joseph. At that feast, he declared that the fledgling new colony was to be dedicated to St. Joseph, and this has been ratified by Holy Church ever since then. St. Joseph has been the Principal Patron Saint of Canada from the beginning, therefore. Le Caron died of the plague in France in 1632.

The cult of St. Joseph has also been promoted in Canada, in particular, by St. André Bessette, C.S.C., known popularly as Br. André. He was a lay Brother of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. Br. André was born as Alfred Bessette on 9 August, 1845 at Mont-Saint-Grégoire. The son of a poor carpenter, he was orphaned at the age of twelve. He entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross in 1872. He was known widely as the porter at the house of the institute at Côte-des-Neiges. He was also known for the numerous miraculous cures St. Joseph

performed at his hands. He would pray for the sick and rub onto their skin oil which was taken from the lamp that burned before a statue of St. Joseph. St. André built a small chapel dedicated to St. Joseph in 1904. It was replaced in 1917 by an oratory which could seat 1,000 people. But it was not until 1924 that construction of a minor basilica began, as local opposition to him as a supposed charlatan was common, although huge numbers of the sick came to visit him to be blessed by St. Joseph. When Br. André died at the age of 91 in 1937, over a million pilgrims came to pray at his casket.

The Basilica of St. Joseph was completed only in 1967. It is the largest church in Canada and has the most spacious dome in the world after that of St. Peter Basilica in Rome. An entire wall of the Basilica supports the enormous number of crutches of those who have been cured at the intercession of the spouse of our Lady. The Church declared that cures wrought there were authentic, and the frail Porter, André, was beatified in 1982. He was canonised by Benedict XVI on 17 October, 2010. He has no feastday (yet) in the universal calendar of the Traditional Roman Rite but his date of death is his Heavenly birthday, and that is 6th January, the Solemn Feast of the Epiphany, a traditional holyday of obligation in Canada and a day which celebrates an event at which St. Joseph himself was present. The first free day for St. André's feast on our calendar is 7th January, the very first Ferial day in the Octave of the Epiphany: little André, as a humble Porter, was last in his Order, but he is remembered first after the Epiphany. The heart of St. André of Montreal is contained in a reliquary which is housed in the Basilica. As this simple porter would tell all those who suffered any illness of any kind: "Go to Joseph, Go to Joseph".

Titles, Attributes and Orders Dedicated to St. Joseph

Patron of the Church Universal

Spouse of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary

Foster-father of Jesus Christ

Prince of Patriarchs

Head of the Holy Family and Pillar of Families

Patron and Model of all Fathers

Patron of the Dying

Patron of Canada, Austria, Belgium, China, Croatia, Peru, and Viet Nam.

Co-patron of the Americas (with our Lady of Guadalupe); Korea (with our Lady as Mother of the Church); Mexico (with our Lady of Guadalupe); the Philippines (with the Sacred Heart of Mary).

Patron of Carinthia, Styria, Tyrol, Sicily.

Patron of the Order of Mount Carmel.

Patron of Carpenters, Craftsmen, Engineers and all who labour.

Patron of expectant mothers, travellers (with St. Christopher), immigrants, house sellers and buyers,

Attributes: Child Jesus in his arms, lily, carpenter's square, rod, plane.

Orders Dedicated to St. Joseph:

Sisters of St. Joseph, founded in 1650

Josephite Fathers, founded in 1871

Oblates of St. Joseph, founded in 1878

Colours of St. Joseph:

The distinctive colour of St. Joseph is brown, as he was a carpenter and worked with brown wood. In statuary, he is often depicted wearing a purple gown over which is laid a brown mantle, and he holds a white lily. Purple is one of his colours. It stands for piety, as that colour combines a heavenly blue (*i.e.* of the sky) with sacrificial red, and piety is sacrifice for a spiritual (Heavenly) purpose. White is also one of his colours, standing for his chastity and purity. The vigil light standing before any image of St. Joseph should always be white.

PUBLIC NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

This is to be recited publicly or privately for the nine days preceding the Feast of St. Joseph (10th-18th March inclusive). It may also be used at other periods of nine consecutive days (*e.g.* before the Feast of St. Joseph the Workman or a Votive Mass of St. Joseph—perhaps even one offered on the Third Wednesday after Easter if this be a fourth-class day).

First, say the Memorare of St. Joseph.

Memorare of St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored thy help and sought thine intercession was left unaided. Full of confidence in thy power, I fly unto thee and beg of thee thy protection. Despise not my humble supplications, O foster-father of the Redeemer, but hear and answer me. *Amen.*

Novena Prayer

to gain any special favour

O blessed St. Joseph, tender-hearted father, faithful guardian of Jesus, chaste spouse of the Mother of God, I pray and beseech thee to offer unto God the Father His divine Son, bathed in blood on the Cross for sinners, and through the thrice-holy Name of Jesus, to obtain for us of the Eternal Father the favour we implore. *Name your request here.*

Appease the divine anger so justly inflamed by our sins. Beseech of Jesus mercy for thy children. Amid the splendours of eternity, forget not the sorrows of those who suffer, those who pray, those who weep. Stay the almighty arm which smites us that, by thy prayers and those of thy most holy spouse, the Heart of Jesus may be moved to pity and to pardon. *Amen.*

Now say the Principal Litany of St. Joseph, including its closing Collect.

PRINCIPAL LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

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 the Patriarchs, *pray for us.*

Spouse of the Mother of God, &c.

Chaste guardian of the Virgin,

Foster-father of the Son of God,

Watchful defender of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph most just,

Joseph most chaste,

Joseph most prudent,

Joseph most valiant,

Joseph most obedient,

Joseph most faithful,

Mirror of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Model of workmen,

Glory of domestic life,

Guardian of virgins,

Pillar of families,

Solace of the afflicted,

Hope of the sick,

Patron of the dying,

Terror of demons,

Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

✠. He made him the Lord of His household.

℟. *And prince over all His possessions.*

Let us pray.

O God, Who, in Thine ineffable providence didst choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy mother, grant that, as we venerate him as our protector on earth, we may deserve to have him as our intercessor in Heaven. Thou Who livest and reignest forever and ever. ℟. Amen.



CHAPLET OF ST. JOSEPH



THE CHAPLET OF ST. JOSEPH

The following devotion is to be prayed on one of the standard chaplets of St. Joseph. This one consists of a circlet of fourteen groups of beads. Each group consists of one large white bead and three small purple beads. A centrepiece substitutes for one of the white beads. The white beads stand for the purity of St. Joseph; the purple, for his piety (for piety is a spiritual or 'Heavenly' sacrifice and the colours of Heaven [as figured by the sky] and sacrifice [the colour of blood] are blue and red respectively: these combine to make purple).

There is a fifteenth group of one white and three purple beads on the pendant next to the centrepiece. One additional purple bead separates this pendant group from the medal, which terminates the same pendant. The medal shows St. Joseph holding the Christchild on his knee on its obverse side. Its reverse displays a lily and the invocation "Pray for us". The centrepiece depicts the bust of our Lady with an Infant Jesus on its obverse side. Its reverse side shows an image of Jesus as the Sacred Heart.

On the medal, say an Invitatory and then your intention:

✠. *Incline ✠ unto my aid, O God.*

℟. *O Lord, make haste to help me.*

On the first bead of the pendant, a coloured bead, say this versicle of the Holy Family:

Blessèd be Jesus, Mary and Joseph, image on earth of the Adorable Trinity.

On the next bead—the first white bead on the pendant—announce the first Mystery of St. Joseph and then say this ejaculatory invocation:

Praised and blessèd be Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Now say one *Ave Maria* on the same white bead.

On each of the following three purple beads, say this *Ave Joseph* while contemplating the mystery:

Hail Joseph!, son of David, spouse of the most Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus, blessèd art thou amongst men.

Close each group of beads with a Glory.

The next Mystery will be announced on the centrepiece, which substitutes for a white bead. Again, the ejaculatory invocation will be said on the same bead and then will follow the same prayers whilst the Mystery is contemplated.

At the end of the circlet, for the Pope's intentions, a *Pater* is said on the centrepiece, an *Ave Maria* on each of the three consecutive purple pendant beads, and a Glory on the white bead following.

On the last purple bead, once again is said this Versicle of the Holy Family, as at the beginning of this Chaplet:

Blessèd be Jesus, Mary and Joseph, image on earth of the Adorable Trinity.

On the medal following, say this Versicle and Response:

✠. *Pray for us, O Holy St. Joseph!*

℟. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Then say the closing prayer, followed by the following *Hail, holy Joseph!* and *Memorare of St. Joseph.*

O God, Who hast predestined St. Joseph from all eternity for the service of Thine Eternal Son and His blessed mother, and hast made him worthy to be the spouse of this most blessed virgin and the foster-father of Thy Son, we beseech Thee, through all the services which he hath rendered to Jesus and Mary on earth, that Thou wouldst make us worthy of his intercession and grant us to enjoy the happiness of his company in Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hail, Holy Joseph!

Hail!, through the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, O blessed Joseph, foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ, dearly beloved spouse of the most holy Mother of God, happy completion of the patriarchal line, most deeply rooted in humility, most ardent in love, most earnest in faith and hope, most strenuous in every good work, most anxious for the salvation of all, most highly raised in contemplation, most pure in virginity, and in the practice of all virtues most like unto thy spouse, the Mother of God: deign, then, to pray for me and for us all, that those who serve God faithfully may be increased both in number and in merit, to the greater glory of God, Who liveth and reigneth for ages and ages. *Amen.*

Memorare of St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored thy help and sought thine intercession was left unaided. Full of confidence in thy power, I fly unto thee and beg of thee thy protection. Despise not my humble supplications, O foster-father of the Redeemer, but hear and answer me. *Amen.*

Before saying this Chaplet, say the Principal Litany of St. Joseph (which has been approved for public use). Afterwards, say the second Litany of St. Joseph.

PROPOSED MYSTERIES OF ST. JOSEPH

1. The Betrothal of St. Joseph to Blessed. Mary, the ever-Virgin Mother of God.
2. The Dream of St. Joseph to adopt the very Son of God.
3. The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ at Bethlehem.
4. The Adoration of the Magi.
5. The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
6. The Flight into Egypt.
7. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple.
8. St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family and model of all Fathers.
9. The Hidden Life of the Holy Family at Nazareth.
10. St. Joseph, Patron of all who labour.
11. The holy death of St. Joseph in the presence of Jesus and Mary.
12. Jesus' Liberation of St. Joseph from the Limbo of the Fathers.
13. St. Joseph, Prince of all Patriarchs: of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob; of Moses and Aaron; of the First Joseph, son of Jacob; and of David the King.
14. St. Joseph, Patron of the Dying.
15. St. Joseph, Patron of the Church Universal.

SECOND LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

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, spouse of St. Joseph, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph, confirmed in grace, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph, guardian of the Word Incarnate, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph, favourite of the King of Heaven, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph, ruler of the family of Jesus, &c.

Saint Joseph, spouse of the ever-blessed virgin,

Saint Joseph, foster-father to the Son of God,

Saint Joseph, example of humility and obedience,

Saint Joseph, mirror of silence and resignation,

Saint Joseph, patron of innocence and truth,

Saint Joseph, exiled with Christ into Egypt,

Saint Joseph, intercessor for the afflicted,

Saint Joseph, advocate of the humble,

Saint Joseph, model of every virtue,

Saint Joseph, honoured among men,

Saint Joseph, in whom is the union of all Christian perfections,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

✠. Pray for us, O holy St. Joseph,

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Assist us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, by the merits of the spouse of Thy most holy mother, that what our unworthiness cannot obtain may be given us by his intercession with Thee, Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end. ℟. Amen.

(This prayer is the Collect from the main Mass of St. Joseph that is celebrated on 19th March. It is not the Collect of the Votive Mass of St. Joseph.)

Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Dying, to be said after the Litany

O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I commit unto thee all my interests and desires. O thou St. Joseph, do assist me by thy powerful intercession, and obtain for me from Jesus Christ, thy foster-Son, all spiritual blessings so that, having engaged here below thy Heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee, and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His find head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for me. ℟. Amen.

TREASURY OF PRAYERS DEVOTED TO ST. JOSEPH

Responsory of St. Joseph*

Ye that would live and die secure,
In merit strong, of mercy sure,
Choose Joseph for your Heavenly friend,
To guide your steps and bless your end.

He was sweet Mary's consort dear,
Guardian of Jesus, when exiled here;
Just and true, of purity untold,
Say, shall he ask and God withhold?

He worshipp'd at the manger bed,
And then the Exile comforted;
And sought our Lord, and joyous found,
While on His Father's business bound.

He, through sweet toil and patient pains
The world's Artificer sustains;
And Whom th'angelic legions praise
Obedience to His creature pays.

And now he waxes old, and dies;
But first beholds with loving eyes
Jesus and Mary—gracious sight—
Then sleeps entranced in deep delight.

Antiphon. Behold the faithful and prudent servant whom the Lord set over His house.

✠. Pray for us, holy St. Joseph.

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, Who, in Thine ineffable providence, didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the husband of Thy most holy mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may have him for our intercessor in Heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. Who livest and reignest, world without end. *Amen.*

*We have made two changes to avoid scandalous misinterpretations. “And Jesus’ sire” has been changed to *Guardian of Jesus*; “his Son” to *our Lord*. “Just, true” has been changed to *Just and true* to fix the rhythm.

Prayer for Purity

Holy father Joseph, Guardian of Virgins, to whose faithful custody Christ Jesus, Innocence Itself, and St. Mary, Virgin of Virgins, were committed: I pray and beseech thee by these dear pledges, Jesus and Mary, that, being preserved from all uncleanness, I may, with spotless mind, pure heart and chaste body, ever serve Jesus and Mary most chastely all the days of my life. *Amen.*

Prayer for Direction

Dearest St. Joseph, accept the offering I now make of myself to thee. I dedicate myself to thy service, and that thou mayest ever be my father, my protector and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent love for the interior life. Grant that, after thine example, all my actions may be directed to the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and thine own paternal heart. Finally, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. *Amen.*

Prayer to St. Joseph for Graces

O Joseph, virgin father of Jesus, most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us daily to the Son of God that, armed with the weapons of His grace, we may fight as we ought in life, and be crowned by Him in death. *Amen.*

Prayer for Assistance

To thee, O blessed Joseph, do we fly in our tribulation, and having implored the help of thy most holy spouse, we confidently crave thy patronage also. Through that charity which bound thee to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and through the paternal love with which thou didst embrace the Child Jesus, we humbly beseech thee graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ hath purchased by His most Precious Blood, and with thy power and strength, to aid us in our necessities. *Amen.*

Prayer for Protection

Protect, most careful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen people of Jesus Christ. Keep us, most loving father, from all pestilence of error and corruption. Be mindful of us from thy place in Heaven, most powerful protector, in this warfare with the powers of darkness; and as thou didst snatch the Child Jesus from the danger of death, so now defend the Holy Church of God from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Guard each one of us by thy perpetual patronage so that, sustained by thine example and help, we may live in holiness, die a holy death and obtain the everlasting happiness of Heaven. *Amen.*

Supplication for those in their Agony.

Eternal Father, by the love which Thou bearest to St. Joseph, chosen by Thee from among all men to represent Thee on earth, have pity on us and on poor souls in their agony.

Pater, Ave, Glory.

Eternal and divine Son, by the love which Thou bearest to St. Joseph, thy most faithful guardian on earth, have pity on us and on all poor souls in their agony.

Pater, Ave, Glory.

Eternal and divine Spirit, by the love Thou bearest to St. Joseph, who with so great solicitude watched over most holy Mary, the spouse of Thy predilection, have pity on us and on all poor souls in their agony.

Pater, Ave, Glory.

Invocation for Intercession

St. Joseph, foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ and true spouse of Mary, ever-Virgin, pray for us.

Invocation for Innocence

Grant, O holy Joseph, that, ever secure under thy protection, we may pass our lives without guilt.

Ejaculation in love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

St. Joseph, model and patron of those who love the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.

Prayer for the Church Militant

O Glorious St. Joseph, chosen by God to be Head of the Holy Family, foster-father of Jesus and the most pure spouse of Mary, ever-virgin; and elected by the Vicar of Christ as the Heavenly patron and protector of the Church founded by Jesus Christ: with the greatest confidence, I implore thy powerful assistance for the whole Church Militant. Protect, in a special manner, with true fatherly love, the Sovereign Pontiff and all the bishops and priests in communion with the See of Peter. Be the guardian of all who labour for souls amid the trials and tribulations of this life; and grant that all the nations of the earth may submit with docility to that Church out of which there is no salvation. *Amen.*



St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

Prayer to St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

O most powerful Patriarch, St Joseph, Patron of that universal Church which has always invoked thee in anxieties and tribulations: from the lofty seat of thy glory, lovingly regard the Catholic world. Let it move thy paternal heart to see the mystical Spouse of Christ and his Vicar weakened by sorrow and persecuted by powerful enemies. We beseech thee, by the most bitter suffering thou didst experience on earth, that thou wouldst, in thy mercy, wipe away the tears of the reverend Pontiff to defend and liberate him, and to intercede with the Giver of peace and charity, that every hostile power being overcome and every error being destroyed, the whole Church may serve the God of all blessings in perfect liberty. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Observance of Sundays and Feastdays.

Most glorious Patriarch, St Joseph, obtain, we beseech thee, from our Lord Jesus Christ, a most abundant blessing for all who keep festival days holy; obtain for us that those who profane them may know, in time, the great evil they commit and the chastisements which they draw down upon themselves in this life and in the next, and that they may be converted without delay.

O most blessed St Joseph, thou who, on the Lord's day, didst cease from every labour of thy craft, and with Jesus and Mary, didst fulfil the duties of religion with most lively devotion, bless the pious work of the sanctification of feastdays erected under thy most powerful patronage; cause it to spread to every home, office, and workshop, so that the day may soon come when all the Christian populace may, on feastdays, abstain from forbidden work, seriously attend to the salvation of their souls, and give glory to God, who liveth and reigneth, world without end. *Amen.* (Here may follow The Divine Praises.)



A Workman's Prayer to St. Joseph

Glorious St. 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 inclinations; to work with gratitude 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, without ever recoiling before weariness or difficulties; to work, above all, with purity of intention, and with detachment from self, having always death before my eyes and the account which I must render of time lost, of talents wasted, of good omitted, of vain complacency in success, so fatal to the work of God. All for Jesus, all for Mary, all after thine own example, O Patriarch Joseph. Such shall be my watchword in life and in death. *Amen.*

Prayer to Discern One's Vocation

O great St. Joseph, who wast completely obedient to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, obtain for me the grace to know the state of life which God hath best provided for my good and the becoming help of others. Let me not be deceived in the following of a vocation; let me follow the course directed by Divine Providence and thereby glorify God in the work I perform, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who created me and hath fashioned all things in the unity of the Blessed Trinity. *Amen.*

Prayer to St. Joseph for Employment

Dearest St. Joseph, who didst labour unceasingly to support God Himself and His holy and immaculate mother, look with compassion on me in thy prayers so that I may find the work I need to support my family also. Pray that I not be consumed with anxiety or tempted to bitterness or discouragement but that my present trials may fortify my resolve and benefit my vocation, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer to St. Joseph in a Difficult or Laborious Occupation

O Blessed Joseph, who passed thy life in the difficult labours of a humble trade, I adopt thee as my model and my protector. Obtain for me that I may bear patiently the trials and fatigues of my state, so that, like thee, I may sanctify my labours and thus merit an everlasting crown of glory in Heaven. *Amen.*

Prayer to St. Joseph for Carpenters

O St. Joseph, Patron of Carpenters, who, like God the Almighty Father, was a creator of new things, pray unto thy Foster-Son Jesus that I may be inspired by the Holy Ghost, source of sanctity and truth, to work diligently and assiduously in my vocation for the good of my neighbour, for the support of my family, and for mine own eternal salvation, all for the glory of the most Blessed Trinity, Who liveth and reigneth forever and ever. *Amen.*

ROSARY TRIMMINGS WITH ST. JOSEPH

It is customary to pray 'trimmings' after the close of the Rosary. These typically include one *Pater*, three *Aves* and a Glory on the pendant beads for the Pope's intentions and, on the pendant crucifix, the *Memorare* and the Leonine Prayer to St. Michael. Then may follow some invocations. On each day in March and on Wednesdays throughout the year, the invocation to St. Joseph is said thrice; otherwise, once. Here is a typical formula for this:

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, *have mercy on us*
[thrice, while beating the breast].

Immaculate Heart of Mary, *pray for us* [thrice].

Paternal Heart of Joseph, *pray for us*
[thrice in March and on Wednesdays; otherwise, once].

St. Michael the Archangel and All Angels, &c.

St. John the Baptist, &c.

[Saint(s) of the day, &c.]

[Other saints, &c.]

Live, Jesus and Mary (*in March and on Wednesdays:*
Jesus, Mary and Joseph), in our hearts, forever!

THE LITTLE OFFICE OF SAINT JOSEPH

(N.B. There is no Hour of Lauds in this Little Office of St. Joseph)

MATINS: Midnight
(or anticipated to the previous afternoon)

Hail!, glory of the patriarchs, steward of God's holy Church, who didst preserve the Bread of life and the Wheat of the elect.

℣. Thou shalt ✕ open my lips, O Lord.

℟. And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

℣. Incline ✕ unto mine aid, O God!

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

From Easter until Septuagesima: Alleluia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter: Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.*

Hymn

Mighty Joseph, son of David!
High and glorious is thy state
Of our Lord the foster-father,
Spouse of Mary Immaculate.
The Almighty's faithful servant
Of the Holy Family,
Head and father. Oh! I pray thee,
Be a father unto me.

Antiphon. He made him master of His house, and ruler over all His possessions (Psalm 104).

℣. Pray for us, most blessed Joseph,

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

May we, O Lord, we beseech Thee, be assisted by the merits of the spouse of Thy most holy mother, that what of ourselves we cannot possibly obtain, may, through his intercession, be granted to us by Thee, Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

℣. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

PRIME: 6.00 a.m.

Hail!, glory of the patriarchs, steward of God's holy Church, who didst preserve the Bread of life and the Wheat of the elect.

℣. Incline ☩ unto mine aid, O God!

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost,

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

From Easter until Septuagesima: Alleluia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter: Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.*

Hymn

Sorely was thy bosom troubled
Till the mystery was revealed
Which the Lord had wrought in Mary,
Who in all patience all concealed.
But an angel soon from Heaven
Bids thy loving doubts to cease:
So may every care and trial
Turn for me to joy and peace.

Antiphon. Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy spouse, for what is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

✠. Pray for us, most blessed Joseph,

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

May we, O Lord, we beseech Thee, be assisted by the merits of the spouse of Thy most holy mother, that what of ourselves we cannot possibly obtain, may, through his intercession, be granted to us by Thee, Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

✠. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

✠. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

✠. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

TERCE: 9.00 a.m.

Hail!, glory of the patriarchs, steward of God's holy Church, who didst preserve the Bread of life and the Wheat of the elect.

✠. Incline ☩ unto mine aid, O God!

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

✠. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

From Easter until Septuagesima: Alleluia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter: Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.*

Hymn

With the Virgin, young and tender,
In the winter-time forlorn,
Thou to Bethlehem didst journey
That Our Lord might there be born.
As thy God thou didst adore Him
While He in the manger lay.
Now is He in Heaven exalted
Turn to Him for us and pray!

Antiphon Joseph went up out of Galilee from Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child.

℣. Pray for us, most blessed Joseph,

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

May we, O Lord, we beseech Thee, be assisted by the merits of the spouse of Thy most holy mother, that what of ourselves we cannot possibly obtain, may, through his intercession, be granted to us by Thee, Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

℣. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

SEXT: Noon

Hail!, glory of the patriarchs, steward of God's holy Church, who didst preserve the Bread of life and the Wheat of the elect.

℣. Incline ☩ unto mine aid, O God!

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

From Easter until Septuagesima: Alleluia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter: Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.*

Hymn

Fleeing at the angel's warning,
Far from Herod's fury wild,
Long in Egypt didst thou tarry
With the Virgin and the Child.
By thy toil, and pain, and sadness,
In that exile dark and drear,
Help me in the cares and sorrows
Which may be my portion here.

Antiphon Arise and take the Child and his mother, and fly into Egypt, and be there until I shall tell thee; for it will come to pass that Herod will seek the Child to destroy Him (St. Matthew 2:13).

℣. Pray for us, most blessed Joseph,

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

May we, O Lord, we beseech Thee, be assisted by the merits of the spouse of Thy most holy mother, that what of ourselves we cannot possibly obtain, may, through his intercession, be granted to us by Thee, Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

℣. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

NONE: 3.00 p.m.

Hail!, glory of the patriarchs, steward of God's holy Church, who didst preserve the Bread of life and the Wheat of the elect.

℣. Incline ✠ unto mine aid, O God!

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

From Easter until Septuagesima: Alleluia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter: Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.*

Hymn

Home from Egypt's land returning,
Thou wouldst rest in Galilee,
But to Nazareth are bidden
That the Child secure may be.
Souls retiring, sweet, and humble,
Thou dost still for Jesus seek:
That my heart may be His garden,
Make it humble, pure, and meek.

Antiphon Who arose, and took the Child and His mother and came into the land of Israel ... and he dwelt in a city which is called Nazareth. (Matthew 2:23)

℣. Pray for us, most blessed Joseph,

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

May we, O Lord, we beseech Thee, be assisted by the merits of the spouse of Thy most holy mother, that what of ourselves we cannot possibly obtain, may, through his intercession, be granted to us by Thee, Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

℣. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

VESPERS: 6.00 p.m.

Hail!, glory of the patriarchs, steward of God's holy Church, who didst preserve the Bread of life and the Wheat of the elect.

℣. Incline ☩ unto mine aid, O God!

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

From Easter until Septuagesima: Alleluia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter: Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.*

Hymn

Thou didst search with loving anguish
For the little Jesus lost;
But, in finding Him, what rapture,
Purchased at that sorrow's cost!
Thee, my light, my life, my Jesus,
May I never lose by sin!
May my heart be pure and simple,
So that Thou may'st rest therein.

Antiphon Son, why hast Thou done so to us? Behold, Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing (St. Luke 2:48).

℣. Pray for us, most blessed Joseph,

℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

May we, O Lord, we beseech Thee, be assisted by the merits of the spouse of Thy most holy mother, that what of ourselves we cannot possibly obtain, may, through his intercession, be granted to us by Thee, Who livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

℣. Let us bless the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

℣. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

COMPLINE: 9.00 p.m.

Hail!, glory of the patriarchs, steward of God's holy Church, who didst preserve the Bread of life and the Wheat of the elect.

℣. Convert ☩ us, O God our Saviour.

℟. And turn away Thy wrath from us.

℣. Incline ☩ unto mine aid, O God!

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

℟. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

From Easter until Septuagesima: Alleluia.

*From Septuagesima to Easter: Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.*

Hymn

Jesus, Mary, hung above thee
On that sad, yet happy day
When, with their fond arms around thee,
Passed thy gentle soul away.
Oh! When death shall come to take me,
All its terrors I'll defy
If, with Jesus and with Mary,
Thou, dear Joseph, wilt be nigh.

Antiphon In peace in the self-same I will sleep, and I will rest, for Thou,
O Lord, singularly hast settled me in hope. (Psalm 4:9)

V. Pray for us, most blessed Joseph,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

May we, O Lord, we beseech Thee, be assisted by the merits of the spouse
of Thy most holy mother, that what of ourselves we cannot possibly
obtain, may, through his intercession, be granted to us by Thee, Who livest
and reignest, God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

V. O Lord, hear my prayer,

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

V. Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

COMMENDATION

Thus, O glorious saint, my homage
I, thy grateful client, pay.
Hear my prayer and smile upon me,
Guide and guard me on my way.
May I, 'neath thy kind protection,
Safely reach my journey's close,
And with thee in Heaven's bright palace
Through eternity repose!



Prepared by the *Una Voce Vancouver Island Association* (U.V.V.I.A.) R0

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