

# *Novena to St. Joseph*



March 11 to March 19, 2021

Saint David Church

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**ALL:** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

**LEADER:** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**ALL:** Who made heaven and earth.



## To You, O BLESSED JOSEPH

(*Ad te, beate Ioseph*)

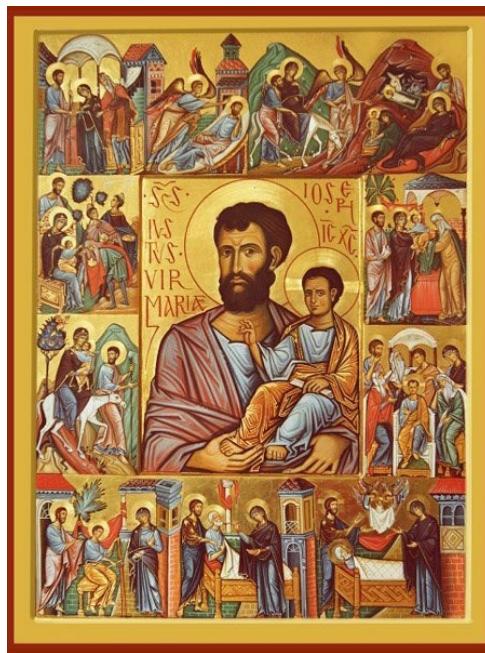
*The official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, Quamquam Pluries*

**ALL:** 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.



## PRAYERS IN HONOR OF THE SEVEN SORROWS AND JOYS OF ST. JOSEPH

*Composed by Ven. Januarius Sarnelli, C.S.S.R. (d. 1744)*

**LEADER:** **First Sorrow:** The doubt of St. Joseph. (Matt. 1:19)

*But Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was minded to put her away privately.*

**First Joy:** The message of the Angel. (Matt. 1:20)

*But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

**ALL:** O chaste Spouse of Mary most holy, glorious St. Joseph, great was the trouble and anguish of your heart when you were minded to put away privately your inviolate Spouse, yet your joy was unspeakable when the surpassing mystery of the Incarnation was made known to you by the Angel! By this sorrow and this joy, we beseech you to comfort our souls, both now and in the sorrows of our final hour,

with the joy of a good life and a holy death after the pattern of your own, in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.

**LEADER: Second Sorrow:** The poverty of Jesus' birth. (Luke 2:7)

*And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

**Second Joy:** The birth of the Savior. (Luke 2:10-11)

*And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people; for today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you, who is Christ the Lord."*

**ALL:** O most blessed Patriarch, glorious St. Joseph, who was chosen to be the foster father of the Word made flesh, your sorrow at seeing the Child Jesus born in such poverty was suddenly changed into heavenly exultation when you did hear the angelic hymn and beheld the glories of that resplendent night. By this sorrow and this joy, we implore you to obtain for us the grace to pass over from life's pathway to hear the angelic songs of praise, and to rejoice in the shining splendor of celestial glory.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.

**LEADER: Third Sorrow:** The Circumcision. (Luke 2:21)

*And when eight days were fulfilled for his circumcision, his name was called Jesus, the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

**Third Joy:** The Holy Name of Jesus. (Matt. 1:25)

*And he did not know her until she brought forth her first born son. And he called his name Jesus.*

**ALL:** O glorious St. Joseph you faithfully obeyed the law of God, and your heart was pierced at the sight of the Precious Blood that was shed by the Infant Savior during His Circumcision, but the Name of Jesus gave you new life and filled you with quiet joy. By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us the grace to be freed from all sin during life, and to die rejoicing, with the holy Name of Jesus in our hearts and on our lips.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.

**LEADER: Fourth Sorrow:** The prophecy of Simeon. (Luke 2:34)

*And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother, "Behold this child is destined for the fall and the rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be contradicted. And your own soul a sword shall pierce.*

**Fourth Joy:** The effects of the Redemption. (Luke 2:38)

*And coming up at that very hour, she began to give praise to the Lord, and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.*

**ALL:** O most faithful Saint who shared the mysteries of our Redemption, glorious St. Joseph, the prophecy of Simeon regarding the sufferings of Jesus and Mary caused you to shudder with mortal dread, but at the same time filled you with a blessed joy for the salvation and glorious resurrection which, he foretold, would be attained by countless souls. By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us that we may be among the number of those who, through the merits of Jesus and the intercession of Mary the Virgin Mother, are predestined to a glorious resurrection.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.

**LEADER: Fifth Sorrow:** The flight into Egypt. (Matt. 2:14)

*So he arose, and took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt.*

**Fifth Joy:** The overthrow of the idols of Egypt. (Is. 19:1)

*The burden of Egypt. Behold the Lord will ascend upon a swift cloud and will enter into Egypt, and the idols of Egypt will be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst thereof.*

**ALL:** O most watchful Guardian of the Incarnate Son of God, glorious St. Joseph, what toil was yours in supporting and waiting upon the Son of the most high God, especially in the flight into Egypt! Yet at the same time, how you did rejoice to have always near you God Himself, and to see the idols of the Egyptians fall prostrate to the ground before Him. By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us the grace of keeping ourselves in safety from the infernal tyrant, especially by flight from dangerous occasions; may every idol of earthly affection fall from our hearts; may we be wholly employed in serving Jesus and Mary, and for them alone may we live and happily die.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.

**LEADER: Sixth Sorrow:** The return from Egypt. (Matt. 2:22)

*But hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there; and being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee.*

**Sixth Joy:** Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth. (Luke 2:39)

*And when they had fulfilled all things prescribed in the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, into their own town of Nazareth.*

**ALL:** O glorious St. Joseph, an angel on earth, you did marvel to see the King of Heaven obedient to your commands, but your consolation in bringing Jesus out of the land of Egypt was troubled by your fear of Archelaus; nevertheless, being assured by the Angel, you dwelt in gladness at Nazareth with Jesus and Mary. By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us that our hearts may be delivered from harmful fears, so that we may rejoice in peace of conscience and may live in safety

with Jesus and Mary and may, like you, die in their company.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.

**LEADER:** **Seventh Sorrow:** The loss of the Child Jesus. (Luke 2:45)

*And not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him*

**Seventh Joy:** The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. (Luke 2:46) *And it came to pass after three days, that they found him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*

**ALL:** O glorious St. Joseph, pattern of all holiness, when you did lose, through no fault of your own, the Child Jesus, you sought Him sorrowing for the space of three days, until with great joy you did find Him again in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers. By this sorrow and this joy, we supplicate you, with our hearts upon our lips, to keep us from ever having the misfortune to lose Jesus through mortal sin; but if this supreme misfortune should befall us, grant that we may seek Him with unceasing sorrow until we find Him again, ready to show us His great mercy, especially at the hour of death; so that we may pass over to enjoy His presence in Heaven; and there, in company with you, may we sing the praises of His Divine mercy forever.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to heaven especially those in most need of thy mercy.

**LEADER:** Pray for us, O holy Joseph.

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

**LEADER:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** O God, Who in Your ineffable Providence did vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Your most holy Mother, grant, we beseech You, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

**LEADER:** Our response is: *St. Joseph, intercede for us.*

(*Pray each day.*) For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for Pope Emeritus Benedict the XVI, for Archbishop Perez, for Father Windle, for our deacons and our IHM Sisters, that they remain steadfast in their guidance of the faithful, leading us ever closer to Our Lord, we pray ...

**Intention for March 11:** For the **Senior Citizens** of our Parish that they continue to share their faith, knowledge and wisdom to younger generations. We ask you to guide those that have never placed their trust in God into a saving relationship with Jesus, and for those that live in faith help them to seek Christ's peace in their hearts as they fulfill God's purpose for their lives, in whatever condition or situation they find themselves. We pray ...

**Intention for March 12:** For the **Families** of our Parish that they keep God at the center of family relationships with a bond that will not be broken and hearts filled with the love of Christ. May they look to your example, St. Joseph for strength when they are weak, guidance when they are in doubt and protection when they are tempted. We pray ...

**Intention for March 13:** For the **Young Adults** of our Parish that they learn to walk in spirit and truth and to trust in the Word of God, protect them from the temptations of this world and lead them on the path towards a closer relationship with Christ. We ask for your intercession, St. Joseph, so that our Young Adults will listen with a quiet heart and soul for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray ...

**Intention for March 14:** For the **Sick** of our Parish that they may experience the healing power of God. We ask also that they may turn to you, St. Joseph, to find an example of strength and courage to embrace the crosses that life brings. We pray that they receive love, respect and devotion from family, friends and our parish community in their time of need. We pray ...

**Intention for March 15:** For the **Lost Sheep** of the Parish that they may find their way to back to Our Lord. Dear St. Joseph, you led Mary on the journey to Bethlehem where Christ was born, you led Mary and Jesus during the flight into Egypt and on the return journey to Nazareth, you led the Holy Family in faith traditions, we ask that you now lead the members of our parish community that are away from their faith back into the loving embrace of Christ. We pray ...

**Intention for March 16:** For the **Unemployed and Underemployed** of the parish, we ask for you to look upon them with fatherly compassion and ease any anxiety. Help them to find employment so that a great burden will be lifted from their hearts and they will be able to provide for themselves and those in their care. St. Joseph, we ask that they will also be enriched spiritually having gone through these turbulent time. We pray ...

**Intention for March 17:** For the **Deceased** of our Parish that they are welcomed into the heavenly Kingdom where all tears are wiped away and pain is no more. We pray that they are rejoicing with all the angels and saints. St. Joseph, we ask for you to stand with them before Our Lord and guide them on this final journey. We pray ...

**Intention for March 18:** For the **Holy Souls** in Purgatory, that they will be immersed in the Divine Mercy of Our Lord. St. Joseph, intercede with Christ on their behalf so that they can receive indulgences from the treasury of the Church and soon enter into their heavenly rest. We pray ...

**Intention for March 19:** For the **Spiritual Growth** of our Parish, we thank you St. Joseph for your example of quiet obedience to the Lord. You have shown the way to faithfully follow the Lord, help our parish to grow in faith, help us to be a light for all in our community guiding everyone to a deeper relationship with God. Guide us in love and compassion for one another so that every breath brings us and those around us closer to the Lord. We pray ...

## **DAILY NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

**ALL:** O Saint Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires.

O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, so that having experienced here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers.

O Saint Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Hold Him close in my name and kiss His fine head from me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen.



## **CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH**

**ALL:** O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou may always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death Amen.

## LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

<b>Leader:</b> Lord, have mercy on us.	Joseph most chaste
<b>Response:</b> Christ, have mercy on us.	Joseph most prudent
<b>L:</b> Lord, have mercy on us.	Joseph most valiant.
<b>R:</b> Lord, have mercy on us.	Joseph most obedient
<b>L:</b> Christ, hear us.	Joseph most faithful
<b>R:</b> Christ, graciously hear us.	Mirror of patience
<b>L:</b> God the Father of Heaven,	Lover of poverty
<b>R:</b> have mercy on us.	Model of workmen
<b>L:</b> God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	Glory of home life
<b>R:</b> have mercy on us.	Guardian of virgins
<b>L:</b> God the Holy Spirit,	Pillar of families
<b>R:</b> have mercy on us.	Solace of the afflicted
<b>L:</b> Holy Trinity, One God,	Hope of the sick
<b>R:</b> have mercy on us.	Patron of the dying
<b>L:</b> Holy Mary,	Terror of demons
<b>R:</b> pray for us. (Repeat after each)	Protector of Holy Church
St. Joseph	<b>L:</b> Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Illustrious son of David	<b>R:</b> Spare us, O Lord!
Light of patriarchs	<b>L:</b> Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Spouse of the Mother of God	<b>R:</b> Graciously hear us, O Lord!
Chaste guardian of the Virgin	<b>L:</b> Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Foster father of the Son of God	<b>R:</b> Have mercy on us!
Watchful defender of Christ	
Head of the Holy Family	
Joseph most just	

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

*Excerpts from the Apostolic Letter Patris Corde  
of the Holy Father Francis*

**WITH A FATHER'S HEART:** that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph"....

Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21). As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or to a thing, as Adam did in the account in the Book of Genesis (cf. 2:19-20), was to establish a relationship. ....

Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

**Joseph, A beloved father:** 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". ....

Saint Paul VI pointed out that Joseph concretely expressed his fatherhood "by making his life a sacrificial service to the mystery of the incarnation and its redemptive purpose. He employed his legal authority over the Holy Family to devote himself completely to them in his life and work. He turned his human vocation to domestic love into a superhuman oblation of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home". ....

As a descendant of David (cf. Mt 1:16-20), from whose stock Jesus was to spring according to the promise made to David by the prophet Nathan (cf. 2 Sam 7), and as the spouse of Mary of Nazareth, Saint Joseph stands at the crossroads between the Old and New Testaments.

**Joseph, A tender and loving father:** Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

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” (Ps 103:13). ...

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, our 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.

**Joseph, An obedient father:** As he had done with Mary, God revealed his saving plan to Joseph. He did so by using dreams, which in the Bible and among all ancient peoples, were considered a way for him to make his will known.[\[13\]](#)

In the first dream, an angel helps him resolve his grave dilemma: “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” (Mt 1:20-21). Joseph’s response was immediate: “When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Mt 1:24). Obedience made it possible for him to surmount his difficulties and spare Mary.

In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph: “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; ... Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved ... In Egypt, Joseph awaited with patient trust the angel’s notice that he could safely return home. In a third dream, the angel told him that those who sought to kill the child were dead and ordered him to rise, take the child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel (cf. Mt 2:19-20). Once again, Joseph promptly obeyed. ... After being warned in a dream” – now for the fourth time – “he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth” (Mt 2:22-23). ... In every situation, Joseph declared his own “fiat”, like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. ... During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. That will was to be his daily food (cf. Jn 4:34). ...

All 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” and that in this way, “he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation.”[\[17\]](#)

**Joseph, an accepting father:** Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. "The nobility of Joseph's heart is such that what he learned from the law he made dependent on charity. ... he makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment".[\[18\]](#)

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. ...

The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. ....

Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (cf. 1 Cor 1:27).

**Joseph, A creatively courageous father:** If the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose, we must now add another important element: creative courage. This emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties. In the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it. At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had. ....

As we read 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. 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 his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph's creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. Lk 2:6-7).

At the end of every account in which Joseph plays a role, the Gospel tells us that he gets up, takes the child and his mother, and does what God commanded him (cf. Mt 1:24; 2:14.21). Indeed, Jesus and Mary his Mother are the most precious treasure of our faith.[\[21\]](#) ...

From Saint Joseph, we must learn that same care and responsibility. We must learn to love the child and his mother, to love the sacraments and charity, to love the Church and the poor. Each of these realities is always the child and his mother.

**Joseph, A working father:** Saint Joseph was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labour. ...

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfilment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. ...

Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us. ...

Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!

**Joseph, A father in the shadows:** The Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński, in his book The Shadow of the Father,[\[24\]](#) tells the story of Saint Joseph's life in the form of a novel. He uses the evocative image of a shadow to define Joseph. In his relationship to Jesus, Joseph was the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father: he watched over him and protected him, never leaving him to go his own way. ...

Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities. Perhaps for this reason, Joseph is traditionally called a "most chaste" father. That title is not simply a sign of affection, but the summation of an attitude that is the opposite of possessiveness. Chastity is freedom from possessiveness in every sphere of one's life. Only when love is chaste, is it truly love. A possessive love ultimately becomes dangerous: it imprisons, constricts and makes for misery. God himself loved humanity with a chaste love; he left us free even to go astray and set ourselves against him. The logic of love is always the logic of freedom, and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus. ...

Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. ...

In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Mt 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son.

"Get up, take the child and his mother" (Mt 2:13), God told Saint Joseph.

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal.

Indeed, the proper mission of the saints is not only to obtain miracles and graces, but to intercede for us before God, like Abraham[26] and Moses[27], and like Jesus, the "one mediator" (1 Tim 2:5), who is our "advocate" with the Father (1 Jn 2:1) and who "always lives to make intercession for [us]" (Heb 7:25; cf. Rom 8:34). ...

Jesus told us: "Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart" (Mt 11:29). The lives of the saints too are examples to be imitated. Saint Paul explicitly says this: "Be imitators of me!" (1 Cor 4:16).[29] By his eloquent silence, Saint Joseph says the same. ...

We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.

[vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](https://vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)





Year of St. Joseph  
December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021