



Diocese of  
OWENSBORO

## YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH—CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARISHES

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December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

There are several considerations for parishes in celebrating the Year of St. Joseph (Dec. 8, 2020-Dec. 8, 2021)—proclaimed by Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 in his apostolic letter *Patris corde* (“A Father’s Heart”). In *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis describes St. Joseph in the following ways: a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a working father, and a father in the shadows.

### Votive Mass of St. Joseph

- According to the [decree](#) from the Apostolic Penitentiary, Wednesday is “a day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition.” When not impeded by an obligatory memorial or feast, priests are encouraged to celebrate a Votive Mass of St. Joseph (Roman Missal, Votive Masses, n. 13) on Wednesdays while using the daily readings or choosing appropriate readings according to the General Instruction of the Roman Lectionary. These Wednesday celebrations are an opportune time to develop a catechesis on the saintly figure of St. Joseph and expound upon the virtues of Christian manhood and family life.

### Special Feast Days

- March 19: *Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary*
- May 1: *Joseph the Worker* (optional memorial)

### Sample General Intercessions<sup>1</sup>

- St. Joseph was chosen to care for Jesus in childhood and youth. May God teach us to care for Christ’s body by caring for our brothers and sisters through St. Joseph’s example. Let us pray to the Lord.
- St. Joseph worked in the shadows, not seeking any glory for himself. May the Lord inspire us to work wholeheartedly in this world, seeking always to give God the glory. Let us pray to the Lord.
- St. Joseph labored for the Holy Family. May God grant that all who work have secure employment and a fitting standard of living. Let us pray to the Lord.
- St. Joseph was a beloved father. May Christ inspire us to follow the commandment to honor our fathers, whether earthly or spiritual. Let us pray to the Lord.

### Sample Bulletin Announcement

- On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis declared that the Church will be celebrating the Year of St. Joseph. The Year of St. Joseph began on December 8, 2020 and will end on December 8, 2021. This is a historic event for the Church because it is the first time celebrating a Year of St. Joseph.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from St. Joseph the Worker Shrine, Lowell, MA (Original intercessory prayers here: <https://www.stjosephshrine.org/Prayers-to-St-Joseph-For-Workers>)

Pope Pius IX declared him as “Patron of the Universal Church” (Sacred Congregation of Rites, *Quemadmodum Deus*, Dec. 8, 1870). Pope Pius XII proposed him as “Patron of Workers” (Address to ACLI on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph the Worker; May 1, 1955). Pope John Paul II called him “Guardian of the Redeemer” (Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*, August 15, 1989). Saint Joseph is traditionally considered the “Patron of a happy death” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, par. 1014). Pope Francis calls him “the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty”; he also considers St. Joseph the “protector of the unfortunate, the needy, exiles, the afflicted, the poor and the dying” (*Patris Corde*, 5). St. Joseph, pray for us!

## Devotions

### ***Consecration to St. Joseph***

To be consecrated to St. Joseph means that you have made a formal declaration that you accept St. Joseph as your spiritual father. This is similar to a consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary—just as we take Mary, the mother of Jesus, as our spiritual mother, it is good for us to take Jesus’ foster father, St. Joseph, as well. Being consecrated to Mary does not prevent you from also being consecrated to St. Joseph.

It is customary to prepare before making your act of consecration. This can be done by spiritual reading, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, etc. One resource that will teach you more about what it means to live a life in consecration to St. Joseph and how to prepare is Fr. Donald Calloway’s book, [\*Consecration to St. Joseph\*](#).

*Act of Consecration to St. Joseph:*<sup>2</sup> O dearest Saint Joseph, I consecrate myself to your honor and give myself to you, that you may always be my father, my protector and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a greater purity of heart and fervent love of the interior life. After your 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. O Blessed Saint Joseph, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen.

### ***Seven Sundays Devotion***

The Seven Sundays in honor of St. Joseph are observed by receiving Holy Communion in his honor on seven consecutive Sundays, and on each Sunday reading the scriptures below associated with St. Joseph’s seven sorrows and seven joys with meditation. This devotion may be practiced at any time of the year, but especially on the seven Sundays preceding his solemnity on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

JOSEPH’S SEVEN SORROWS	JOSEPH’S SEVEN JOYS
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: The doubt of St. Joseph (Matt. 1:19)	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday: The message of the Angel (Matt. 1:20)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=440>

2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday: The poverty of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:7)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday: The birth of the Savior (Luke 2:10-11)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: The Circumcision (Luke 2:21)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday: The Holy Name of Jesus (Matt. 1:25)
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34)	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: The effects of the Redemption (Luke 2:38)
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: The flight into Egypt (Matt. 2:14)	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: The overthrow of the idols of Egypt (Is. 19:1)
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: The return from Egypt (Matt. 2:22)	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth (Luke 2:39)
7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: The loss of the Child Jesus (Luke 2:45)	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday: The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:46)

## Father's Day

### *Blessing of Fathers*

This blessing may be given to a group of fathers. On Father's Day, it may be given at Mass after the homily. In the singular form, it may be prayed for a father on any suitable occasion.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, our brother,

we praise you for saving us.

Teach us to love you and your Father

by keeping your commandments.

Bless + these fathers,

and deepen their love for their families.

By their work and example and prayer,

may they lead their children to follow you.

Lord Jesus,

hear our prayer as we offer you glory

for ever and ever. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishop's *A Book of Blessings*, "Blessing for Fathers", p. 52.

## Hymns

### **AT THE START, WHEN ALL WAS CHAOS**

*May be sung to the tune of "Sing a New Church"*

At the start, when all was chaos, God made heav'n and earth from naught  
With creative Word and Spirit, so the ancient scriptures taught.  
Thus the universe in splendor, by our God has come to be,  
Formed with love and skill and wisdom in its great variety.

So too Jesus, God Incarnate— known to be a worker's son—  
Learned his trade from father Joseph, toiled from dawn to set of sun.  
Working hard with skill and vigor, shaping wood for people's need,  
Showing thus to man and woman work's creative grace in deed.

Give to God, creation's Author, give to Christ, the Worker-Lord,  
Give to Spirit, Work-Inspirer, all the glory earth affords.  
Modeled on Christ's earthly father, may our work be to God's praise;  
May the grace of God the Maker flow through all our working days.

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### **O JOSEPH, MIGHTY PATRON**

*May be sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

O Joseph, mighty patron, your love and strength bestow  
Upon a pilgrim people who are the Church below,  
You were the Father's image, great prince of David's line;  
Obtain for us God's blessing that we may be God's sign.

Great Saint, you cherished Mary who loved and cared for you,  
You taught and nurtured Jesus, O teach us to be true,  
True to the Church you founded, until we form above  
A family united in bonds of lasting love.

Marie Keane, 1909-1981, © 1971, World Library Publications.  
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### **SAINT JOSEPH WAS A JUST MAN**

*May be sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

Saint Joseph was a just man, a man of upright life,  
Our Lord's kind foster father took Mary as his wife.  
He knew the pain of exile in far Egyptian land.  
Obedient, kind and faithful, he followed God's command.

As head of God's own fam'ly, Saint Joseph is renowned;

He searched the ancient city until his Child was found.  
All honor to Saint Joseph, whose merits we acclaim!  
God bless each home and fam'ly in good Saint Joseph's name.

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## **THE HANDS THAT FIRST HELD MARY'S CHILD**

*May be sung to the tune of "Amazing Grace"*

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood,  
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.  
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,  
But cradled from the head to heel our Lord newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,  
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,  
The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,  
And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,  
But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."  
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,  
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools which Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift  
And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.  
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the Child who's born today,  
But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in his way.

Thomas Troeger, © 1986, Oxford University Press  
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## **YOUR LOVE I'LL SING FOR EVER**

*May be sung to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

Your love I'll sing for ever through ev'ry age, O Lord!  
Your love endures for ever, your covenant and word.  
For you have sworn to David: "His throne shall e'er endure!  
My covenant is endless, my promises are sure!"

From David's line came Joseph, a just and upright man,  
Engaged to Virgin Mary, and startled by God's plan,  
An angel came and told him what God's love had in mind;  
Obedient, he trusted, left all mistrust behind.

So let your Church, thus mentored by faithful, humble life,

See Joseph as a model for all in daily strife:  
To trust your Word whenever we seem to be distressed,  
To do our work with gladness, to know our love is blessed.

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## Indulgences

Information on indulgences and special indulgences granted for the Year of St. Joseph can be found [here](#).

## Prayers

### ***Pope Francis' Prayer to St. Joseph***

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

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

### ***Prayer to St. Joseph after the Rosary***

*To you, O blessed Joseph,  
do we come in our tribulation,  
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.*

*Litany of St. Joseph*

*Lord, have mercy on us*  
*Lord, have mercy on us.*  
*Jesus, hear us,*  
*God the Father of heaven,*  
*God the Son, Redeemer of the World,*  
*God the Holy Spirit,*  
*Holy Trinity, one God,*  
*Holy Mary,*  
*St. Joseph,*  
*Renowned offspring of David,*  
*Light of Patriarchs,*  
*Spouse of the Mother of God,*  
*Chaste guardian of the Virgin,*  
*Foster father of the Son of God,*  
*Diligent protector of Christ,*  
*Head of the Holy Family,*  
*Joseph most just,*  
*Joseph most chaste,*  
*Joseph most prudent,*  
*Joseph most strong,*  
*Joseph most obedient,*  
*Joseph most faithful,*  
*Mirror of patience,*  
*Lover of poverty,*  
*Model of artisans,*  
*Glory of home life,*  
*Guardian of virgins,*  
*Pillar of families,*  
*Solace of the wretched,*  
*Hope of the sick,*  
*Patron of the dying,*  
*Terror of demons,*  
*Protector of Holy Church,*

*Christ, have mercy on us.*

[illegible]

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
He made him the lord of his household,*

*spare us, O Jesus.  
graciously hear us, O Jesus.  
have mercy on us, O Jesus.  
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 we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever.*

*Saint Joseph, pray for us.*

### **Chaplet of St. Joseph**

**On the crucifix, pray:**

*O Lord, in order to honor St. Joseph as he deserves, Thou hast taken him body and soul to Heaven to Crown him with glory, thus signifying to the world, both visible and invisible, that Thou hast made Joseph Thy foster-father, the supreme steward of all Thy possessions.*

**After saying the above prayer, skip to the large bead and say the following prayer, which will be said on each of the large beads:**

*We beseech Thee, O Lord, that we may find aid in the merits of the Spouse of Thy Most Holy Mother, so that what we cannot obtain by ourselves may be given us through his intercession, who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.*

**For each decade of small beads, meditate on events in the life of Joseph:**

- Betrothal to Mary (Mt 1:18)
- Annunciation to Joseph (Mt 1:19-21)
- Birth and Naming of Jesus (Mt 1:22-25)
- Flight into Egypt (Mt 2:13-15)
- Hidden Life at Nazareth (Mt 2:23; Lk 2:51-52)

**Other mysteries that can be substituted for these mysteries are the “Finding of Jesus in the Temple,” the “Death of St. Joseph” and the “Coronation of St. Joseph in Heaven.”**

**On each small bead, pray:**

*Hail Joseph, Son of David, thou whose holiness surpasses that of all Angels and Saints, blessed art thou amongst men, thou who wert chosen to be the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary of whom was born Jesus. Glorious Saint Joseph, now reigning body and soul in Heaven, protector of the Universal Church, pray for us poor sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*



Similar to the typical Rosary, each decade is completed with a “Glory Be.”

### ***Novena to St. Joseph***

A novena is a series of prayers prayed for nine consecutive days. The first novena was said to be after the Ascension with Mary and the Apostles praying together in the days leading to Pentecost (Acts 1:14). The novena to St. Joseph is traditionally prayed leading up to his feast days, but most commonly prayed leading up to March 19<sup>th</sup>, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, you can pray the novena to St. Joseph any time. Sign up at *Pray More Novenas* for the daily prayers sent to your inbox as a reminder each day of your novena. [St. Joseph Novena - Pray More Novenas - Novena Prayers & Catholic Devotion](#)

### ***Prayer to St. Joseph before Work***

*O Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labor, 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 honor to employ and develop by means of labor 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 watchword in life and in death. Amen.*

– Composed by Pope St. Pius X

### **Resources**

- Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter, December 8, 2020, *Patris corde*, “A Father’s Heart”  
[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20201208\\_patris-corde.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html)
- St. Joseph in Magisterium: <https://osjusa.org/st-joseph/magisterium/>

Title	Description	Date
<a href="#"><i>Quemadmodum Deus</i></a>	Pope Pius IX declares St. Joseph to be Patron of the Universal Church.	Dec 8, 1870
<a href="#"><i>Inclutum Patriarcham</i></a>	Liturgical norms for the celebration of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.	Jul 7, 1871
<a href="#"><i>Quamquam pluries</i></a>	Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII on Devotion to St. Joseph	Aug 15, 1889
<a href="#"><i>Le Voci</i></a>	Saint Joseph is named Patron of the Second Vatican Council.	Mar 19, 1961
<a href="#"><i>Redemptoris Custos</i></a>	Apostolic exhortation in St. Joseph by John Paul II.	Nov 24, 2013
<a href="#"><i>Homily on the Feast of Saint Joseph</i></a>	Pope Paul VI preaches on the person of St. Joseph and his many virtues.	Mar 27, 1969
<a href="#"><i>Angelus Address</i></a>	Pope Benedict XVI considers the importance of the person of St. Joseph.	Mar 19, 2006
<a href="#"><i>Paternas vices</i></a>	Pope Francis inserts the name of Joseph into Eucharistic Prayers II, III, and IV.	May 1, 2013

- <https://aleteia.org/2018/03/05/how-to-pray-the-rosary-of-st-joseph/>
- A Spiritual Toolkit for the Year of St. Joseph: [https://stjosemaria.org/a-spiritual-toolkit-for-the-year-of-st-joseph/?mc\\_cid=3922f6dcb5&mc\\_eid=efbf505d4a](https://stjosemaria.org/a-spiritual-toolkit-for-the-year-of-st-joseph/?mc_cid=3922f6dcb5&mc_eid=efbf505d4a)
- For Children:
  - 3-D Cut and Color St. Joseph Altar: <http://virtualstjosephaltar.com/3daltar/>
  - Free printable St. Joseph coloring pages: <http://www.catholicplayground.com/st-joseph-coloring-page-march-19th/>
  - Make a St. Joseph doll: <http://paperdali.blogspot.com/search/label/Saint%20Joseph>
  - Free printable St. Joseph Memory Match Playing Cards: <https://www.showerofrosesblog.com/2010/03/st-joseph-memory-match-playing-cards.html>
  - Make a St. Joseph Lapbook: <https://www.showerofrosesblog.com/2010/03/st-joseph-lap-book.html>
  - “Exploring St. Joseph” by Mary Ellen Vice (“In this article, I will suggest some activities that help develop the relationship between father and children, and also give the children an understanding and appreciation of the role Dad plays in their lives.”): [https://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/19980501/FRIDGE/EXP\\_STJOE.HTM](https://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/19980501/FRIDGE/EXP_STJOE.HTM)
  - Other Misc. St. Joseph Crafts: <http://www.catholicinspired.com/2014/03/st-joseph-coloring-pages-and-activities.html>
  - <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2021/01/resources-for-year-of-st-joseph.html>
- Books:
  - “Joseph the Silent,” by Michel Gasnier, OP, published by Scepter Publishers
  - “The Life and Glories of St. Joseph,” by Edward Healy Thompson, published by Tan Books
  - “Go to Joseph,” by Fr. Richard Gilsdorf, published by Star of the Bay
  - “St. Joseph: Man of Faith,” by Jacques Gauthier, published by Catholic Book Publishing
  - “Consecration to St. Joseph,” by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC