

*The Two Josephs:  
Guardian of Israel and Guardian of the Holy Family*

by Fr. Anthony Shonis

Participation Aid



May 1, 2021 | Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

OPENING SONG

At the Start, When All Was Chaos

Opening 1. At the start, when all was cha - os, God made heav'n and earth from  
2. So too Je - sus, God In - car - nate known to be a work - er's  
Closing 3. Give to God, cre - a - tion's Auth - or, give to Christ, the Work - er -

naught with cre - a - tive Word and Spir - it, so the  
son learned his trade from fa - ther Jo - seph, toiled from  
Lord, give to Spir - it, Work - In - spir - er, all the

an - cient Scriptures taught. Thus the u - ni - verse in  
dawn to set of sun. Work - ing hard with skill and  
glo - ry earth af - fords. Mod - eled on Christ's earth - ly

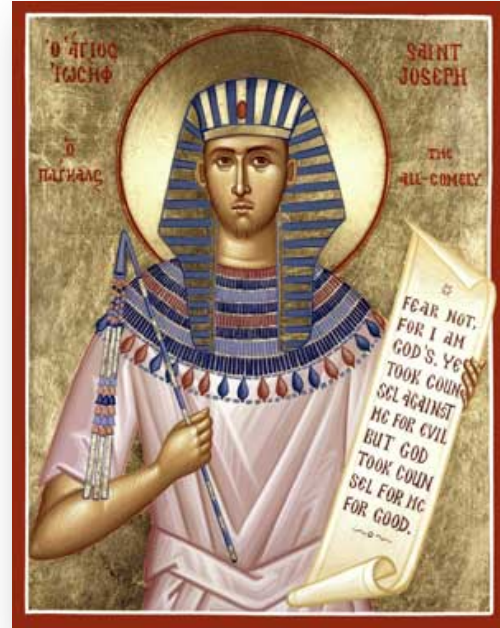
splen - dor, by our God has come to be; formed with  
vig - or, shap - ing wood for peo - ple's need, show - ing  
fa - ther, may our work to be God's praise; may the

love and skill and wis - dom in its great var - i - e - ty.  
thus to man and wom - an work's cre - a - tive grace in deed.  
grace of God the Ma - ker flow through all our working days.

Text: Martin Willett, © 2002, World Library Publications, Inc. Used with permission. All rights reserved.  
Tune: NETTLETON, John Wyath's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813  
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Read by Dr. Jill Sauerheber, parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bowling Green

When Joseph was taken down to Egypt, an Egyptian, Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh and his chief steward, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there. The LORD was with Joseph and he enjoyed great success and was assigned to the household of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and brought him success in whatever he did, he favored Joseph and made him his personal attendant; he put him in charge of his household and entrusted to him all his possessions. From the moment that he put him in charge of his household and all his possessions, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the LORD's blessing was on everything he owned, both inside the house and out. Having left everything he owned in Joseph's charge, he gave no thought, with Joseph there, to anything but the food he ate.



*Patriarch Joseph the All-Comely  
Orthodox Icon*

## PSALM

## Psalm 89



1. *"With my chosen one I have made a covenant;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your descendants forever;  
and set up your throne through all ages."*
2. *"He will call to me, 'You are my father,  
my God, the rock of my salvation.'  
I will keep my faithful love for him always;  
with him my covenant shall last."*

*Read by Bishop William F. Medley*

**N**ow this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.



*The Dream of St. Joseph*  
Anton Raphael Mengs (1728-1779)

**PRESENTATION**

**The Two Josephs**

*Presented by Fr. Anthony Shonis*



1. Je - sus, our di - vine com - pan - ion, by your low - ly  
 2. All who tread the path of la - bor fol - low where your  
 3. Ev - 'ry task, how - ev - er hum - ble, fills the soul with

hu - man birth you have come to join all  
 feet have trod; all who work with - out com -  
 grace a - new; ev - 'ry deed of love and

work - ers, bur - den - bear - ers of the earth.  
 plain - ing do the ho - ly will of God.  
 kind - ness done in faith is done to you.

Son of Jo - seph, gift - ed work - er, toil - ing  
 Christ, the peace sur - pass - ing knowl - edge, dwell with  
 Je - sus, our di - vine com - pan - ion, help us

for your dai - ly food, by your pa - tience  
 us in dai - ly strife; Christ, the bread of  
 all to do our best; bless us in our

and your cour - age, you have taught us toil is good.  
 heav - en bro - ken in the sac - ra - ment of life.  
 dai - ly la - bor, lead us to our heav'n - ly rest.

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933.  
 Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, *Christian Lyre*, 1830.



### Questions for Reflection:

- a) In Genesis 50:20 the Patriarch Joseph says: “Even though you intended harm to me, God intended good.” Can you remember a time in your life when God trumped a difficult situation in your life and brought good out of it?
- b) St. Joseph is a faithful Jew who keeps the whole law but does not want to expose Mary to the law of adultery which could result in her being stoned to death. Rather, he deals with her quietly in a humane way. How can you apply St. Joseph’s heart to keep the law mercifully in your own life? What about in the world we live in today? For instance, how does this apply to treatment of migrants who come to our borders without documents?
- c) There were many connections made between the Patriarch Joseph of the Old Testament and St. Joseph, spouse of Mary, in the New Testament. What does this tell us about how God reveals his saving plan to us in scripture? What does this tell us about how God communicates to us in our everyday life?
- d) It is clear that St. Joseph has an important and irreplaceable role in the Holy Family as Guardian. In this year of St. Joseph, in what ways can you call on St. Joseph as Guardian?



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