

NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

INTRODUCTION

- V. In the Name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. **Amen.**
- V. O glorious St Joseph, through the love which you bear for Jesus Christ:
R. **Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.**
- V. O faithful St Joseph, through the love which you bear for the Virgin Mary:
R. **Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.**
- V. O humble St Joseph, through the love which you bear for the Church:
R. **Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.**

PRAYERS FOR EACH DAY

Day One: Foster Father of Jesus

Saint Joseph, you were privileged to share in the mystery of the Incarnation as the foster-father of Jesus. The Heavenly Father gave you a genuine heart of a father -- a heart full of love and self-sacrifice. When Herod sought to kill the Child Jesus, you obeyed the Angel's message, and with fatherly love You carried Jesus through the desert into Egypt until all enemies were removed. Then you brought Jesus to Nazareth, where you nourished and provided for Him for many years by the labour of your hands. You sheltered the Divine Child, providing Him with food, clothing, and a loving home. You served the Divine Child with great unselfishness, without any regard to self-interest. Under your care in your house at Nazareth, the redemption of humanity was prepared. What you accomplished for Jesus, you also did for us all. Guide all fathers to love their families without reserve.

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Two: Virginal Husband of Mary

Saint Joseph, I honour you as the true husband of Mary. Your marriage was a sacred contract by which you and Mary gave yourselves to each other. Mary really belonged to you with all she was and had; no other person so won her esteem, obedience, and love. You were also the protector and witness of Mary's virginity. By your marriage you vowed to safeguard each other's virtue; thus, in the Divine Plan of the Incarnation, motherhood and virginity in Mary could be united. Your marriage was the way which God chose to have Jesus introduced into the world, a great divine mystery from which all benefits have come to us. You were the faithful companion, support, and comforter of the Mother of Sorrows. Help all spouses to be loving and faithful in marriage.

Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Three: Man Chosen by the Blessed Trinity

Saint Joseph, God the Father selected you to be His representative on earth, and He granted you all the graces and blessings you needed to be His worthy representative. God the Son, Who desired a worthy foster-father, added His own riches and gifts, and above all, His love. And you were chosen by the Holy Spirit, the mutual Love of the Father and the Son – the heart of the Holy Trinity. As foster-father of Jesus and head of the Holy Family, you were chosen to prepare for the redemption of the world by the education and guidance of our Saviour in His youth. In doing this work, the Holy Spirit was your guide; you obeyed the messages of the God of Love! You gave yourself entirely to His service and to the accomplishment of His Holy Will. Help us to entrust ourselves Divine Providence.

Chosen Instrument of the Blessed Trinity, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Four: Faithful Servant

Saint Joseph, when God sent an Angel to tell you to take Mary as your wife, you obeyed despite the great mystery which surrounded her motherhood. When you were told to flee into Egypt under painful conditions, you obeyed without that very night, without any hesitation. And when God advised you in a dream to return to Nazareth, you obeyed without delay. In every situation, your obedience was as simple as your faith, as humble as your heart, as prompt as your love. It neglected nothing; it took in every command. You lived for one purpose: to serve Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. You had the virtue of unselfish devotedness, which marks a good servant. Every moment of your life was consecrated to the service of our Lord, whether at work or at rest. Faithful to your duties, you sacrificed everything unselfishly, even cheerfully. Show us how to serve others.

Faithful Servant of the Lord, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Five: Patron of the Church

Saint Joseph, as the father, protector, guide and support of the Holy Family, you belong in a particular way to the Church, the family of God on earth. You were prefigured by the patriarch Joseph, who kept supplies of wheat for the people in Egypt. But while Joseph of old gave the people mere bread for their bodies, you nourished with tender care Him Who is the Bread of Heaven and Who gives us eternal life in Holy Communion. In this way, you helped to provide the Church with spiritual nourishment through the ages. And so the Church owes a debt of gratitude to you, for by accepting your role as head of the Holy Family, you enabled the Messiah to enter the world as the fulfilment of God's promise to establish the House of David for ever – a House which endures in the Church. Watch over it, especially in these troubled times.

Patron of the Church, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Six: Patron of Families

Saint Joseph, gentle head of the Holy Family, your home at Nazareth was radiant with the light of divine charity. There was an intimate union of heart and mind which united you to Jesus and Mary. Jesus chose to fulfill toward you all the duties of a faithful son, showing you every mark of honour and affection due to a parent. And Mary showed you all the signs of respect and love of a devoted wife. How peacefully and happily the Holy Family rested in your fatherly care. You were the protector, counsellor and consolation of the Holy Family in every need. In your loving fatherliness and unfailing intercession, you are the patron and intercessor of all families. Wherever you are loved and honoured, that home can become God's Kingdom of love, joy and peace. And as you protected the Child Jesus and His Mother, so arise today to protect our loved ones.

Patron of Families, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Seven: Patron of Workers

Saint Joseph, you and your foster-Son Jesus spent your days together in manual labour, and gave an example of true nobility to all workers. What a beautiful example you set for the working classes! And while your hands were occupied with, your mind could turn to God in prayer. From the Divine Master Himself, Who worked along with you, you learned to work in the spirit of prayer, for as He worked He adored His Father and recommended the welfare of the world to Him. And while you were working at your trade, you were reminded of the greatness and majesty of God, Who, as a most wise Architect, formed this vast universe with wonderful skill and limitless power. Help us, in the light of faith, to see our own work as a contribution to God's continuing creation of the world.

Patron of Workers, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Eight: Our Friend in Suffering

Saint Joseph, your share of suffering was very great because of your close union with the Divine Saviour. Poverty pressed upon you, and the cross of labour followed you everywhere. Nor were you spared emotional crosses: from the start, there were misunderstandings among your neighbours regarding Mary's virginity. Simeon's prophecy about Jesus being a 'sign of contradiction' would have given you cause to worry about His future. And how you must have panicked when you could not find the Boy Jesus after the visit to Jerusalem. But God never abandoned you in your trials, which were

changed at last into consolation and joy. Because you yourself have experienced the sufferings of this valley of tears, you are most kind and sympathetic toward those in need.

Our Friend in Suffering, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

Day Nine: Patron of a Happy Death

Saint Joseph, you devoted your entire life to the service of Jesus and Mary; in the end, you enjoyed the consolation of dying in Their loving arms. You accepted death in the spirit of loving submission to the Will of God, and this acceptance crowned your hidden life of virtue. If Jesus regards every corporal and spiritual work of mercy performed for our neighbour as done for Himself, and promises Heaven as a reward, what must have been the extent of His gratitude to you! You gave Him shelter, clothed, nourished and consoled Him at the sacrifice of your strength and rest, with the love of a true father. Saint Joseph, obtain for me the grace of a happy death. May I, like you, accept death in the spirit of resignation to God's Holy Will. May I die, as you did, in the arms of Jesus, strengthened by the Sacraments, and with Mary at my side.

Patron of a Happy Death, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen. (*Mention your request, then pray the Concluding Prayer.*)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Holy Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary, be mindful of us, pray for us, watch over us. Guardian of the Child Jesus, take our affairs, both spiritual and temporal, into your hands, and obtain for us the grace to know God's will with certainty, and to accomplish it perfectly. O glorious Saint Joseph, hear our prayers and obtain our petitions. Amen.

V. St Joseph:

R. **Pray for us.**

V. In the Name + of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. **Amen.**