

# *Novena to St. Joseph*

## **Day One: Foster Father of Jesus**

### **Prayer to St. Joseph**

Glorious Saint Joseph,  
foster-father and protector of Jesus Christ,  
to you I raise my heart and my hands  
to implore your powerful intercession.  
Obtain for me  
from the Heart of Jesus  
the help and the graces necessary  
for my spiritual and temporal welfare.  
I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death  
and the special favour I now implore.

Guardian of the Word Incarnate,  
I feel animated with confidence  
that your prayers on my behalf  
will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

O glorious Saint Joseph,  
through the love you bear to Jesus Christ,  
and for the glory of His name,  
hear my prayers  
and obtain my petitions.

### **Hymn**

Dear St. Joseph, pure and gentle, guardian of the Saviour Child,  
treading with the Virgin mother, Egypt's deserts rough and wild.

*Hail St Joseph, spouse of Mary,  
blessed above all saints on high,  
when the death shades round us gather,  
Teach, oh, teach us how to die.  
Teach, oh, teach us how to die.*

He who rested on thy bosom, is by countless saints adored;  
prostrate Angels in His presence, sing hosannas to their Lord.

# St. Joseph the Man and his Work

## Litany of St. Joseph

The congregation responds to the priest with the words in italics.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

**Christ, have mercy.**

*Christ, hear us.*

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Lord, have mercy.*

**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 Spirit, have mercy on us.**

**Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.**

**Holy Mary, pray for us.**

**Saint Joseph, pray for us.**

**Renowned offspring of David, pray for us.**

**Light of Patriarchs, pray for us.**

**Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.**

**Chaste guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.**

**Foster-father of the Son of God, pray for us.**

**Diligent protector of Christ, pray for us.**

**Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.**

**Joseph most just, pray for us.**

**Joseph most chaste, pray for us.**

**Joseph most prudent, pray for us.**

**Joseph most strong, pray for us.**

**Joseph most obedient, pray for us.**

**Joseph most faithful, pray for us.**

**Mirror of patience, pray for us.**

**Lover of poverty, pray for us.**

**Model of artisans, pray for us.**

**Glory of home life, pray for us.**

**Guardian of virgins, pray for us.**

**Pillar of families, pray for us.**

**Solace of the wretched, Hope of the sick, pray for us.**

**Patron of the dying, pray for us.**

**Terror of demons, pray for us.**

**Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.**

**Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,**  
*Spare us, O Lord.*

**Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,**  
*Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

**Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,**  
*Have mercy on us.*

**V. He made him the lord of His house:**

*R. And ruler of all His substance.*

**Let us pray.**

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore.

### ***A Parent's Prayer to Saint Joseph***

O glorious St. Joseph,  
to you God committed the care of His only begotten Son  
amid the many dangers of this world.

We come to you and ask you to take under your special protection  
the children God has given us.

Through holy baptism they became children of God  
and members of His holy Church.

We consecrate them to you today,  
that through this consecration they may become your foster children. Guard them, guide  
their steps in life, form their hearts after the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

St. Joseph, who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent  
when the child Jesus was lost,  
protect our dear children for all time and eternity.  
May you be their father and counsellor.

Let them, like Jesus,  
grow in age as well as in wisdom  
and grace before God and men.

Preserve them from the corruption of his world,  
and give us the grace one day  
to be united with them in Heaven forever.

Amen

***Let us pray for the Holy Father, Pope Francis***

O God,  
Shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,  
look favourably on your servant Francis,  
whom you have set at the head of your Church as shepherd;  
grant, we pray, that by word and example  
he may be of service to those over whom he presides  
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

***Let us pray in the Spirit of faith that blessed the life of St. Joseph***

***Response: Christ Jesus, receive our prayer.***

*God established a covenant of faith with Abraham and Sarah; may the Church be fortified by the example of the blessed men and women of Israel who trusted God's Word. ®*

*God confirmed a covenant with David; may we, like St. Joseph, be mindful of God's enduring promise of salvation to Israel. ®*

*God has given the world Jesus Christ as the covenant of mercy for sinners; may the Church embrace God's gift as St. Joseph embraced the Word-Made-Flesh. ®*

*God has called husbands and wives to live a covenant of love; may the intercession of St. Joseph bring blessings to their households. ®*

*God, the Holy Spirit, is given as first fruit of the new covenant; may the Church's religious orders dedicated to St. Joseph be filled with the Spirit's gifts. ®*

*God, in Christ, has promised to fulfil all covenants in the city of joy; may the prayers of St. Joseph strengthen the hope of dying. ®*

*Glorious Saint Joseph,  
pattern of all who are devoted to toil,  
obtain for me the grace to toil in the spirit of penance,  
in order thereby to atone for my many sins;  
to toil conscientiously,  
putting devotion to duty before my own inclinations;  
to labour with thankfulness and joy,  
deeming it an honour to employ and to develop,  
by my labour, the gifts that I have received from Almighty God;  
to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience,*

*without ever shrinking from weariness and difficulties;  
to work above all with a pure intention  
and with detachment from self,  
having always before my eyes the hour of death  
and the accounting which I must then render of time ill-spent,  
of talents unemployed,  
of good undone,  
and of my empty pride in success,  
which is so fatal to the work of God.  
All for Jesus, all through Mary,  
all in imitation of thee, O Patriarch Joseph!  
This shall be my motto in life and in death. Amen.*

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

### ***Prayer for a happy death***

O Blessed Joseph, you gave your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. When the seal of death shall close my life, come with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this solace for that hour - to die with their holy arms around me. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul, living and dying, into your sacred arms. Amen.

### **MEMORARE**

Remember, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, my loving protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

### **Hymn**

Now to see no gift refusing,  
Jesus stoops to hear thy prayer;  
then, dear saint, from thy fair dwelling,  
give to us a father's care.

***Hail St Joseph, spouse of Mary,  
blessed above all saints on high,  
when the death shades round us gather.  
Teach, oh, teach us how to die.  
Teach, oh, teach us how to die.***

Dear St. Joseph, kind and loving,  
stretch to us a helping hand;  
guide us through life's toils and sorrows,  
safely to the distant land.