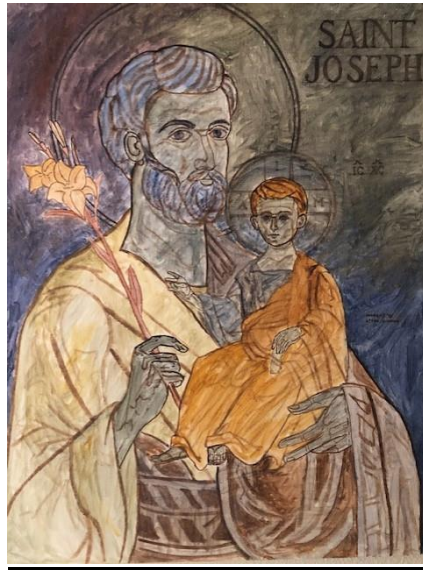


# Year of St Joseph



## Saint Joseph, Father in the Shadows

Ikon at St Joseph's Seminary (Josephite Fathers) in Santa Maria

**A Novena, using *Patris Corde*  
starts June 11<sup>th</sup> and ends on Father's Day, June 20<sup>th</sup>  
(The Feast of the Sacred Heart)**

***JUST CLICK ON THIS PAGE FOR THE ENTIRE NOVENA***

This Novena with St Joseph for Father's Day is offered to you for use in parishes or communities in honor of the Year of St Joseph and as a preparation for Father's Day. Please use it and copy it as you wish and celebrate it any way you think appropriate. It uses a simple structure day by day.

- The prayer for the Year of St Joseph
- An excerpt from *Patris Corde* (in general using the tile for Joseph therein).
- A quotation from scripture (or two)
- A short reflection
- Traditional prayers for intercession
- A final prayer to St Joseph, Patron of Fathers.

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## **Day 1**      *St Joseph, the Beloved Father*

### **Opening Prayer** [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### ***From Patris Corde***

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.”

### **Scripture**

**Malachi 4:6** “He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers”.

### **Reflection**

St Joseph is beloved of God and beloved of us. His strong, loving and wise presence in the Life of Jesus and Mary was the response to the love our Heavenly Father had for him, the good man He chose to watch over, guide and protect the Mother of God and the Son of God. God’s choice was an act of love; Joseph’s response to this call was one of agapeic love, putting aside all his own concerns to follow the will of God and to dedicate, in love, his life to the service of the Holy Family.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers:

For Pope Francis, the Holy Father and the Universal Church...

Our Father...

For Archbishop Jose Gomez, Father of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...

Hail Mary...

Ad libitum

### **Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph,

called to be the earthly Father of God’s only Son,

summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family,

empowered to name Jesus as your own,

help all fathers to rise to the holy task of Fatherhood

with the same qualities God saw in you.

May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.

May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.

We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name

which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,

Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## Day 2      St Joseph, the Tender and Loving Father

### **Opening Prayer** [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### **From Patris Corde**

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*).

### **Scripture**

**Luke 5:20** "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

### **Reflection**

Nowhere in Scripture do we see a more complete portrayal of what a Father's love should be than in the Father of the dissolute son. The Father had never given up on him, never stopped loving him even though the son had rejected him and wandered far. When the son returned, the Father rejoiced and embraced him. This is for all Fathers the model, especially when their children wander far from their love and protection and rule.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers:

For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...

Our Father...

For Archbishop Jose Gomez and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...

Hail Mary...

Ad libitum

### **Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph,

called to be the earthly Father of God's only Son,

summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family

and empowered to name Jesus as your own,

help all fathers to rise to the holy task of Fatherhood

with the same qualities God saw in you.

May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.

May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.

We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name

which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,

Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## Day 3      St Joseph, Obedient Father

### **Opening Prayer** [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### **From Patris Corde**

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. Joseph was deeply troubled by Mary's mysterious pregnancy. He did not want to "expose her to public disgrace," so he decided to "dismiss her quietly" (Mt 1:19).

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.

### **Scripture**

**Matthew 7:24** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

### **Reflection**

Obedience only comes about if one is truly open to listening out for and hearing what God is calling us to do. This not only takes an open ear but also an open heart and an open mind to follow the Will of God. Joseph, even in the midst of the confusion in which he found himself, was always open to God's call and guidance. All Fathers need to be open to how their Heavenly Father wishes them to raise their children. This obedience of Fathers to God's will is the bedrock of the family.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers:

For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...

Our Father...

For Archbishop Jose Gomez and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...

Hail Mary...

Ad libitum

### **Final Prayer - St. Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph, called to be the earthly Father of God's only Son,  
summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family  
and empowered to name Jesus as your own,  
help all fathers to rise to the holy task of Fatherhood  
with the same qualities God saw in you.

May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.

May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.

We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name

which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,  
Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## Day 4      St Joseph, An Accepting Father

### Opening Prayer [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### From Patris Corde

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment. The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments. Just as God told Joseph: "Son of David, do not be afraid!" (Mt 1:20), so he seems to tell us: "Do not be afraid!" We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage. In this way, we become open to a deeper meaning. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel.

### Scripture

**Deuteronomy 31:8**      "He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

**Isaiah 43:1**              "Don't fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine."

### Reflection

Fear can freeze us from acting; it can discourage us from speaking up. It is contrary to the resurrection message of Christ: "Peace be with you." It is only when we have that true peace in which we know we are one of God's chosen that we can accept the realities that face us and be able to respond to them with compassion, mercy and hope and be able to move forward in conformity to his Will.

### Intercessions

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers:

For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...

Our Father...

For Archbishop Jose Gomez and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...

Hail Mary...

Ad libitum

### Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers

Holy Joseph, called to be the earthly Father of God's only Son,  
summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family  
and empowered to name Jesus as your own,  
help all fathers to rise to the holy task of Fatherhood  
with the same qualities God saw in you.

May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.

May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.

We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name

which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,

Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## Day 5      St Joseph, A Creatively Courageous Father

### **Opening Prayer** [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### **From Patris Corde**

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. 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. God always finds a way to carry out his saving plan. So too, our lives may at times seem to be at the mercy of the powerful, but the Gospel shows us what counts. God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence. 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).

### **Scripture**

**2 Tim 1:7** “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

### **Reflection**

Another great text from St Paul, “The Peace of God which passes all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,” allows us to be filled with his creative power and be open to being his instruments of mercy in the world. It allows us the inner space to be at ease with difficulties so that we can move through them and help others to do the same, especially the broken, the poor, the rigid, the marginalized, the lost and the despondent.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers;

For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...

For ABp Jose and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...

Ad libitum

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

### **Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph,

called to be the earthly Father of God’s only Son,

summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family

and empowered to name and claim Jesus as your own,

help all fathers to rise to the righteous holy task of Fatherhood

with the same qualities God saw in you.

May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.

May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.



We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name  
which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,  
Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## **Day 6**      **St Joseph, Working Father**

### **Opening Prayer** [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### **From Patris Corde**

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. In our own day, when employment has once more become a burning social issue, and unemployment at times reaches record levels even in nations that for decades have enjoyed a certain degree of prosperity, there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron. 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. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement and even break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living? Working persons, whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.

### **Scripture**

**Proverbs 16:3**      "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."

**Colossians 3:23-24**      "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

### **Reflection**

Before the banishment of Adam and Eve from the Garden, their work was co-creative stewardship with God and it was no burden. After the banishment, work became the heavy lot of human toil. Now, in the age of the Spirit, we are called again to become co-workers with Christ in the work of our redemption. Our work now is a great one of playing our part in the building of the Kingdom. For this reason, it is a great concern for us all when unemployment is high and remuneration is unfair. It robs people of the dignity to provide for their families and loved ones, contribute to the wellbeing and stability of society and fully play their part in the Kingdom of God.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers;

For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...

Our Father...

For Archbishop Jose Gomez and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...

Hail Mary...

Ad libitum

### **Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph,

called to be the earthly Father of God's only Son,

summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family

and empowered to name and claim Jesus as your own,

help all fathers to rise to the righteous holy task of Fatherhood  
with the same qualities God saw in you.  
May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion; strong, loving and wise.  
May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.  
We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name  
which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,  
Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## **Day 7**      **St Joseph, A Father in the Shadows**

### **Opening Prayer** [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### **From Patris Corde**

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. In a similar way, Joseph acted as a father for his whole life. Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another, in some way he becomes a father to that person. 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. Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.

### **Scripture**

**Deut 1:31**      “[Moses said to the people]...“In the wilderness you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as one carries a child, all the way that you travelled.”

**1 Cor 4:15**      “Though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many Fathers.”

### **Reflection**

The image of the shadow is very important for us all to understand, not least Fathers. A shadow provides protection from that which can scorch, as Jesus explains in the parable of the seed that grows into the bush that provides shade for the birds. We still experience the heat but we are not harmed by it; we can see the light out there but not be blinded by it. A Father’s love is that which protects but does not rob a child of the freedom to experience the world and the pathway ahead. It provides the space in which to learn, understand and from which to venture and act.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers;

For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...

For Archbishop Jose Gomez and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...

Ad libitum

Our Father...

Hail Mary...



### **Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph,  
called to be the earthly Father of God's only Son,  
summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family  
and empowered to name and claim Jesus as your own,  
help all fathers to rise to the righteous holy task of Fatherhood  
with the same qualities God saw in you.  
May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.  
May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.  
We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name  
which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,  
Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## **Day 8      St Joseph, Faithful Father and Patron of the Church**

### **Opening Prayer**      [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### **From Patris Corde**

With a father's heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "*the son of Joseph*." Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as *Patron of the Catholic Church* by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all." 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.

### **Scripture**

**Proverbs 27:17** Let love and faithfulness never leave you, bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

**Matthew 25:21** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

### **Reflection**

It is precisely because Joseph is the good and faithful servant par excellence, the man God chose to protect and guide Mary and Jesus, that Blessed Pope Pius IX 150 years ago and subsequent Holy Fathers have proclaimed Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. In times of trouble, we can and should turn to him to intercede before the throne of his son Jesus for our protection. His open heart and fidelity to God's call is an example we can all follow daily. His example of

Fatherhood is rooted in complete openness to God's will, not his own, and to acting as a compassionate man strong in faith reflecting God's will in all.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers;  
For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...  
For Archbishop Jose Gomez and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...  
Ad libitum

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

### **Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph,  
called to be the earthly Father of God's only Son,  
summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family  
and empowered to name and claim Jesus as your own,  
help all fathers to rise to the righteous holy task of Fatherhood  
with the same qualities God saw in you.  
May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.  
May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.  
We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name  
which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,  
Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen

## **Day 9      St Joseph, Approachable Father, Intercessor and Friend**

### **Opening Prayer**      [The Prayer for the Year of 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.*

### **From Patris Corde**

The aim of this Apostolic Letter [*Patris Corde*] 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 and Moses, and like Jesus, the "one mediator," who is our "advocate" with the Father and who "always lives to make intercession for [us]". The saints help all the faithful "to strive for the holiness and the perfection of their particular state of life [*Lumen Gentium 42*] ". Their lives are concrete proof that it is possible to put the Gospel into practice. 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*). By his eloquent silence, Saint Joseph says the same. Before the example of so many holy men and women, Saint Augustine asked himself: "What they could do, can you not also do?" And so he drew closer to his definitive conversion, when he could exclaim: "Late have I loved you, Beauty ever ancient, ever new!" We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.

### **Scripture**

**John 15:13-17** "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will

last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.”

### **Reflection**

Joseph knew His heavenly Father’s business: it was to protect, raise and love Jesus and Mary. It is our duty as Christians to discern the will of God for us and then to do it in this life to the best of our ability. Fathers, perhaps above all, can turn to Joseph as the example of accepting the great, wonderful and holy role of fatherhood. Joseph is our approachable and loving friend and powerful intercessor before God. Turn to him.

### **Intercessions**

Heavenly Father, we call upon you to hear our prayers;  
For Pope Francis and the Universal Church...  
For Archbishop Jose Gomez and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles...  
Ad libitum

Our Father...  
Hail Mary...

### **Final Prayer - St Joseph, Patron of Fathers**

Holy Joseph,  
called to be the earthly Father of God’s only Son,  
summoned to protect, guide and provide for the Holy Family  
and empowered to name and claim Jesus as your own,  
help all fathers to rise to the righteous holy task of Fatherhood  
with the same qualities God saw in you.  
May all Fathers be men of faith and devotion: strong, loving and wise.  
May they cherish the mothers of their children and love their children unconditionally.  
We ask this prayer in the spirit of that name  
which our Heavenly Father instructed you to give to His divine Son,  
Jesus our Lord and Savior, for ever and ever. Amen