



Pilgrim Icon Program





L'Osservatore Romano Photo

Introduction

By Patrick E. Kelly, Supreme Knight

Flowing from the Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, and inspired by his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, comes our new Pilgrim Icon Program in honor of St. Joseph.

Devotion to St. Joseph was understandably slow to develop in the history of the Church. The “just man,”¹ whom God chose to protect, defend and raise the most precious of his gifts to humanity had not a word of his recorded in Scripture. Tradition tells us that our Lord’s foster father died — likely with Jesus and Mary at his side — even prior to Jesus beginning his public ministry.

St. Joseph carried out his mission of raising, guarding and preparing Christ quietly, courageously and faithfully. For that faithful work, St. Joseph was rewarded — not with seeing the fruits of his labor in this life, but with the incomparable prize of glory in heaven.

This beautiful icon is housed at St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montréal, Canada’s preeminent Shrine to St. Joseph, founded by St. André Bessette. The original is written (prayerfully painted) by Elizabeth Bergeron, from a drawing by famed iconographer Alexandre Sobolev. In the image, St. Joseph stands with his eyes cast humbly down, but with a determined strength in his face. In his covered arm he bears the Child Jesus, whose own hand is raised, blessing the world. In his right arm, St. Joseph holds a flowering staff, a sign that he was chosen by God. The white lilies of the staff signify his purity and chastity. Taken together, the icon provides a window into the life and mission of this courageous father, a man who was one of us and yet called to a mission of incomparable significance. Our world desperately needs men and women of courage. But in a particular way, it needs courageous fathers — men willing to stand up and to carry out their own mission of protecting, defending and raising future generations. It needs men willing to risk it all, in order to offer the world Jesus. In short, our world needs men in the model of St. Joseph.

Since its inception in 1979, the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program has held more than 174,800 local council and parish prayer services with some 22 million participants. Featured images have included Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Charity, Our Lady of Persecuted Christians and the Holy Family.

In the first year of his pontificate, Pope Francis received the Order's Board of Directors in a private audience, during which the Holy Father said "I commend all of you in a special way to the intercession of St. Joseph, the protector of the Holy Family of Nazareth, who is an admirable model of those manly virtues of quiet strength, integrity and fidelity which the Knights of Columbus are committed to preserving, cultivating and passing on to future generations of Catholic men."

Bearing those words in mind, I chose to entrust my service as Supreme Knight to St. Joseph, and through this Pilgrim Icon Program, we can all turn in prayer to St. Joseph. We give thanks to God for the gift of his fatherly example, and we ask St. Joseph to be a father to us. Along the way, may we also grow in our own imitation of St. Joseph's quiet strength, integrity and fidelity.



Prayer Service in Honor of St. Joseph

Please stand. During the opening hymn, the blessed icon of St. Joseph may be carried in procession and put in a place of honor.

Opening Hymn

Faith of Our Fathers

Text: Frederick William Faber

1. Faith of our fa - thers, li - ving still, in spite of
2. Faith of our fa - thers, we__ will strive to win all
3. Faith of our fa - thers, we__ will love both friend and

dun - geon, fire, — and sword; O how our hearts beat
 na - tions un - to thee; and through the truth_ that
 foe in all — our strife; and preach thee, too, — as

high_ with joy when-e'er we hear that glo -rious word!
comes from God, we all shall then be tru - ly free.
love_ knows how by kind-ly words and vir -tuous life.

Refrain

Faith of our fa - thers, ho - ly faith!

We will be true to thee till death.

Greeting

Leader: St. Joseph offered his life in service and sacrifice to the Holy Family by following the will of God. As we gather to honor the Guardian of the Redeemer, let us ask God for that same trust and courage to embrace our own roles as guardians of the family and the truth.

In the name of the Father,
✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by St. Joseph's intercession
your Church may constantly watch over
the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
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.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

The Lord spoke to Nathan and said:

“Go, tell my servant David,

‘When your time comes and you rest with your ancestors,

I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins,

and I will make his kingdom firm.

It is he who shall build a house for my name.

And I will make his royal throne firm forever.

I will be a father to him,

and he shall be a son to me.

Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me;

your throne shall stand firm forever.”

The word of the Lord.

R Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29

R/ The son of David will live forever.

The promises of the Lord I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness,
For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R/ The son of David will live forever.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations."

R/ The son of David will live forever.

"He shall say of me, 'You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.'
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm."

R/ The son of David will live forever.

Second Reading

Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

It was not through the law
that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants
that he would inherit the world,
but through the righteousness that comes from faith.
For this reason, it depends on faith,
so that it may be a gift,
and the promise may be guaranteed to all his descendants,
not to those who only adhere to the law
but to those who follow the faith of Abraham,
who is the father of all of us, as it is written,
I have made you father of many nations.
He is our father in the sight of God,
in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead
and calls into being what does not exist.
He believed, hoping against hope,
that he would become *the father of many nations*,
according to what was said, *Thus shall your descendants be.*
That is why *it was credited to him as righteousness.*

The word of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
R Glory to you, O Lord.

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.
Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Now 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.”
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

*If a deacon, priest or bishop is leading the prayer service, a homily may be given
in place of the following catechetical papal excerpts.*

A reflective pause is recommended after each catechesis is read aloud.

Catechesis of St. John Paul II

Redemptoris Custos

August 15, 1989

Leader: A reading from St. John Paul II's apostolic exhortation, *Redemptoris Custos*, on the person and mission of St. Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church.

At a difficult time in the Church's history, Pope Pius IX, wishing to place her under the powerful patronage of the holy patriarch Joseph, declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church."² For Pius IX this was no idle gesture, since by virtue of the sublime dignity which God has granted to his most faithful servant Joseph, "the Church, after the Blessed Virgin, his spouse, has always held him in great honor and showered him with praise, having recourse to him amid tribulations."³

What are the reasons for such great confidence? Leo XIII explained it in this way: "The reasons why St. Joseph must be considered the special patron of the Church, and the Church in turn draws exceeding hope from his care and patronage, chiefly arise from his having been the husband of Mary and the presumed father of Jesus... Joseph was in his day the lawful and natural guardian, head and defender of the Holy Family.... It is thus fitting and most worthy of Joseph's dignity that, in the same way that he once kept unceasing holy watch over the family of Nazareth, so now does he protect and defend with his heavenly patronage the Church of Christ."⁴

This patronage must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to evangelization in the world and to re-evangelization in those lands and nations where "religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and...are now put to a hard test."⁵ In order to bring the first proclamation of Christ, or to bring it anew wherever it has been neglected or forgotten, the Church has need of special "power from on high"⁶: a gift of the Spirit of the Lord, a gift which is not unrelated to the intercession and example of his saints.

Catechesis of Pope Benedict XVI

Angelus
March 19, 2006

Leader: A reading from Pope Benedict XVI's *Angelus* on the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

The figure of this great Saint, even though remaining somewhat hidden, is of fundamental importance in the history of salvation. Above all, as part of the tribe of Judah, he united Jesus to the Davidic lineage so that, fulfilling the promises regarding the Messiah, the Son of the Virgin Mary may truly be called the "son of David".

The Gospel of Matthew highlights in a special way the Messianic prophecies which reached fulfilment through the role that Joseph played: the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem; his journey through Egypt, where the Holy Family took refuge ; the nickname, the "Nazarene".

In all of this he showed himself, like his spouse Mary, an authentic heir of Abraham's faith: faith in God who guides the events of history according to his mysterious salvific plan. His greatness, like Mary's, stands out even more because his mission was carried out in the humility and hiddenness of the house of Nazareth. Moreover, God himself, in the person of his Incarnate Son, chose this way and style of life - humility and hiddenness - in his earthly existence.

From the example of St. Joseph, we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us.

Catechesis of Pope Francis

Patris Corde
December 8, 2020

Leader: A reading from Pope Francis' apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church.

The Gospel does not tell us how long Mary, Joseph and the child remained in Egypt. Yet they certainly needed to eat, to find a home and employment. It does not take much imagination to fill in those details.

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.⁷ Indeed, Jesus and Mary his Mother are the most precious treasure of our faith.⁸

In the divine plan of salvation, the Son is inseparable from his Mother, from Mary, who “advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son until she stood at the cross.”⁹

We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping. The Son of the Almighty came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, St. Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary's motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church.¹⁰

Please stand.

Intercessions

Leader: Confident in the powerful intercession of St. Joseph, Patron of the Church and Guardian of the Holy Family, let us bring to God the Father these petitions. The response is: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Pope Francis, and for all bishops and priests, that they may always lead the faithful in lives of prayer and virtue. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For the Church, that She may be united in love and reverence for the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For public authorities, that they may recognize the role of the family in building up societies where all human life is valued, served and protected from conception to natural death. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For all Christian families, that they may be given the grace to live out their faith amid a culture increasingly hostile to their beliefs. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For husbands, that like St. Joseph they may lead, love and serve their wives in fidelity to God's plan for marriage. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For fathers, that they may embrace their vocation to heroic generosity and self-sacrifice for the good of their families. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For all Catholics, that they may serve as guardians and exemplars of truth, bringing others closer to Christ and serving the common good. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For the cause for canonization of Blessed Michael Joseph McGivney, Founder of the Knights of Columbus: that this holy priest, who devoted himself to the protection and care of families, may soon be raised to the honors of the altar. Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

For the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts (*pause*). Through the intercession of St. Joseph, we pray to the Lord. **R**

Please sit or kneel.

The Most Holy Rosary of The Blessed Virgin Mary

The Joyful Mysteries

with reflections from Pope Francis' apostolic letter,
Patris Corde (December 8, 2020).

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father,
✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Leader: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.

All: **I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Pray Three Times

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

I. The Annunciation of the Lord



Leader: The first Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation of the Lord.
The fruit of this Mystery is humility.

Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.

The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning.

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!"¹¹, so he seems to tell us: "Do not be afraid!" (*Patris Corde*, §4)

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Pray Ten Times

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Fatima Prayer

Leader: O my Jesus,

**All: Forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell;
lead all souls to heaven,
especially those most in need of thy mercy.**

II. The Visitation of Mary



Leader: The second Joyful Mystery, the Visitation of Mary.
The fruit of this Mystery is fraternal charity.

In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect *the child and his mother*, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love *the child and his mother*.

That child would go on to say: “As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”¹² Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is “the child” whom Joseph continues to protect. For this reason, St. Joseph is invoked as protector of the unfortunate, the needy, exiles, the afflicted, the poor and the dying. Consequently, the Church cannot fail to show a special love for the least of our brothers and sisters, for Jesus showed a particular concern for them and personally identified with them. From St. Joseph, we must learn that same care and responsibility. We must learn to love the child and his mother, to love the sacraments and charity, to love the Church and the poor. Each of these realities is always *the child and his mother*. (*Patris Corde*, §5)

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Pray Ten Times

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Fatima Prayer

Leader: O my Jesus,

**All: Forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell;
lead all souls to heaven,
especially those most in need of thy mercy.**

III. The Nativity of the Lord



Leader: The third Joyful Mystery, the Nativity of the Lord.
The fruit of this Mystery is a spirit of poverty.

Creative courage 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.

As we read the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act in a more direct and clear way. Yet 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.

A superficial reading of these stories can often give the impression that the world is at the mercy of the strong and mighty, but the “good news” of the Gospel consists in showing that, for all the arrogance and violence of worldly powers, 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. (*Patris Corde*, §5)

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Pray Ten Times

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Fatima Prayer

Leader: O my Jesus,

**All: Forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell;
lead all souls to heaven,
especially those most in need of thy mercy.**

IV. The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple



Leader: The fourth Joyful Mystery, the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The fruits of this Mystery are obedience and purity.

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. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus. (*Patris Corde*, §7)

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Pray Ten Times

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Fatima Prayer

Leader: O my Jesus,

**All: Forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell;
lead all souls to heaven,
especially those most in need of thy mercy.**

V. The Finding of the Lord in the Temple



Leader: The fifth Joyful Mystery, the Finding of the Lord in the Temple. The fruits of this Mystery are love of Jesus and devotedness to the duties of our state of life.

When fathers refuse to live the lives of their children for them, new and unexpected vistas open up. Every child is the bearer of a unique mystery that can only be brought to light with the help of a father who respects that child's freedom. A father who realizes that he is most a father and educator at the point when he becomes "useless", when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied. When he becomes like Joseph, who always knew that his child was not his own but had merely been entrusted to his care. In the end, this is what Jesus would have us understand when he says: "Call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven."¹³

In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a "sign" pointing to a greater fatherhood. (*Patris Corde*, §7)

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Pray Ten Times

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Fatima Prayer

Leader: O my Jesus,

**All: Forgive us our sins,
save us from the fires of hell;
lead all souls to heaven,
especially those most in need of thy mercy.**

Salve Regina

All: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile
show unto us the blessed fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Leader: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

All: That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, whose only begotten Son,
by his life, death and resurrection,
has purchased for us
the rewards of eternal life;
grant, we beseech thee,
that meditating on these mysteries
of the Most Holy Rosary
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain
and obtain what they promise.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please kneel.

Litany of St. Joseph

On the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (May 1, 2021), the Holy See announced that Pope Francis had approved integrating seven new invocations () into the Litany of St. Joseph “drawn from the interventions of the Popes who have reflected on aspects of the figure of the Patron of the Universal Church.”*

Leader: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.	All: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.	Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father in heaven, God the Son, Redeemer of the world, God the Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, one God,	have mercy on us. have mercy on us. have mercy on us. have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, St. Joseph, Illustrious son of David, Light of Patriarchs, Spouse of the Mother of God, Guardian of the Redeemer,* Pure Guardian of the Virgin, Provider for the Son of God, Zealous defender of Christ, Servant of Christ,* Minister of salvation,* Head of the Holy Family, Joseph, most just, Joseph, most chaste, Joseph, most prudent, Joseph, most brave, Joseph, most obedient, Joseph, most loyal, Mirror of patience,	pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us. pray for us.

Lover of poverty,	pray for us.
Model for workers,	pray for us.
Glory of family life,	pray for us.
Guardian of virgins,	pray for us.
Cornerstone of families,	pray for us.
Support in difficulties,*	pray for us.
Comfort of the sorrowing,	pray for us.
Hope of the sick,	pray for us.
Patron of exiles,*	pray for us.
Patron of the afflicted,*	pray for us.
Patron of the poor,*	pray for us.
Patron of the dying,	pray for us.
Terror of demons,	pray for us.
Protector of the Holy Church,	pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

He made him master of his house,
and ruler of all his possessions.

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: O God, who in your inexpressible providence
were pleased to choose St. Joseph
as spouse of your most holy Mother,
grant, we pray,
that we, who revere him as our protector on earth,
may be worthy of his heavenly intercession.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please stand.

Final Prayer

To you, O blessed Joseph (Ad te, beate Ioseph)

Pope Leo XIII, *Quamquam Pluries*

August 15, 1889

Leader: To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, 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.

All: **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.

*If a deacon, priest or bishop is leading the prayer service,
a final blessing may be also be given.*

Closing Hymn

Joseph, Be Our Guide and Pattern

Text: Muriel Newton-White

Tune: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



1. Jo - seph, be our guide and pat - tern, Faith - ful to your
2. Faith - ful to the guid - ing vi - sion, Lis - t'ning to the
3. Lead - ing them through man - y dan - gers To the home in
4. Work - man skilled with saw and ham - mer, Strong to earn the

sa - cred trust, Strong pro - tec - tor of the Vir - gin
an - gel's word; Shield - ing Mar - y from all slan - der,
Naz - a - reth, Hum - bly for their needs pro - vid - ing
dai - ly bread, From the gifts of God cre - at - ing

And the in - fant, Je - sus Christ. Jo - seph, firm and
Guard - ing Christ, both Son and Lord. Jo - seph, true and
In your wise and stead - fast faith. Jo - seph, brave, o -
Use - ful things for peo - ple's need. Jo - seph, strong and

faith - ful, guide us, Jo - seph walk the way with us.
trust - ing, guide us, Jo - seph walk the way with us.
be - dient, guide us, Jo - seph walk the way with us.
stead - fast, guide us, Jo - seph walk the way with us.

Please return prayer booklet and feel free to take a prayer card, if available.

*Please send us a photo of you and the icon, or a photo of the prayer service
to communications@kofc.org.*

You can also post to social media using #StJosephIcon.

Notes & Acknowledgments

- 1 Cf. Mt 1:19
- 2 Cf. Sacred Congregation of Rites, *Quemadmodum Deus*.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Leo XIII, *Quamquam pluries*.
- 5 St. John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, 34.
- 6 Cf. Lk 24:49; Acts 1:8
- 7 Cf. Mt 1:24; 2:14-21
- 8 Cf. Sacred Congregation of Rites, *Quemadmodum Deus*; Bl. Pius IX, *Inclytum Patriarcham*.
- 9 Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium*, 58.
- 10 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 963-970.
- 11 Mt 1:20
- 12 Mt 25:40
- 13 Mt 23:9

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The St. Joseph Icon was created by the hand of Elizabeth Bergeron. Based on a drawing by Alexandre Sobolev. Photograph by GrapheStudio.

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The reflections for the rosary are excerpts from Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*. Some excerpts of papal remarks presented in this booklet have been shortened for space.

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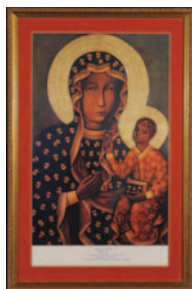
1979-80
Our Lady of Guadalupe



1981-82
Immaculate Conception



1984-85
Our Lady of
Perpetual Help



1986-87
Our Lady of Czestochowa



1988-89
Our Lady of Pochaiv



1990-91
Our Lady of the Assumption



1993-94
Holy Family



1995-96
Our Lady of Guadalupe



1997-98
Our Lady of the
New Advent



1999-2000
Millennium Cross



2000-01
Our Lady of Guadalupe



2002-03
Our Lady of the Rosary



2003-04
Divine Mercy



2007-08
Our Lady of Charity



2011-13
Our Lady of Guadalupe



2013-14
Immaculate Conception



2015-17
Holy Family



2018-20
Our Lady Help of
Persecuted Christians



2021-23
St. Joseph

“St. Joseph’s example of ‘creative courage’ in the fulfillment of his vocation as father of the Holy Family makes him a particularly good model for all those men who, in these times of uncertainty and unrest, seek to persevere in fidelity to our Lord and his Church, entrusting their lives and the lives of their families to his providential guidance and care.”

- Papal Message to the
139th Supreme Convention (2021)



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