

# **A PRAYER in HONOR of SAINT JOSEPH**

**Let us praise Christ the Lord  
as we celebrate the life of Saint Joseph.**



**We recall that we are always and everywhere  
in the holy presence of our God.**

**Lord of land and sea and sky, hear Your people's cry.  
We praise You, we bless You, we adore You,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**



**Joseph, Spouse of Mary, pray for us.  
Joseph, Foster-father of Jesus,  
Joseph, Head of the Holy Family,  
Joseph, Model of husbands and fathers,  
Joseph, Patron of the universal Church,  
Joseph, Hope of the sick,  
Joseph, Patron of the dying,  
Joseph, Patron of Brothers,  
Joseph, Model of working people,  
Joseph most faithful,  
Joseph most just,  
Joseph most obedient,  
O God, You chose Saint Joseph  
as the husband of Mary  
and the guardian of Your Son.  
Grant that as we honor him  
as our protector here on earth,  
we may deserve to have him  
as our intercessor in heaven.**

## **Reflection by John Paul II in *Daily Meditations***

What emanates from the figure of Saint Joseph is faith. Joseph of Nazareth is a “just man” because he totally lived by faith. He is holy because his faith is truly heroic.

Sacred Scripture says little of him. It does not record even one word spoken by Saint Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth. And yet, even without words, he shows the depths of his faith, his greatness. Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words but above all, because he listens to the word of the Living God. He listens in silence. and his heart ceaselessly perseveres in the readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God.

We see how the word of God penetrates into the soul of that man, that just man. And we, do we know how to listen to the word of God? Do we know how to absorb it into the depths of our human personalities? Do we open our conscience in the presence of this word?

## **Psalm 112**

Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who takes delight in His commands.  
His sons will be powerful on earth;  
the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;  
his justice stands firm forever.  
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.

He has no fear of evil;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.  
With a steadfast heart he will not fear.  
Open-handed he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm forever.  
His head will be raised in glory.

## **Meditation of Saint John Baptist de La Salle**

Because Saint Joseph was made responsible by God for the care and external guidance of Jesus, it was important that he have the qualities and virtues necessary to fulfill worthily so holy and exalted a ministry. The Gospel tells us that Joseph was just, he was very submissive to God's orders, and he had a very special solicitude for the education of the Child Jesus.

You also have been charged, very much like Saint Joseph, with a holy work, a work that is very similar to his, and requiring that your piety and your virtue be more than ordinary. Take Saint Joseph as your model since he is your patron, and strive to make yourself worthy of your ministry, and to excel in virtue after the example of this great saint.

## **Intercessions**

**Saint Joseph was the spouse of the Most Blessed Mary;**

**May all husbands and wives grow in love through communicating and praying together.**

**Saint Joseph was the model, guide and teacher of the Child Jesus;**

**May we be such a model and guide  
for the youth entrusted to our care.**

**Saint Joseph knew the joys and sorrows of parenting;**

**Bless, guard and guide all parents and foster parents  
and give them ears that listen,  
minds filled with wisdom to direct,  
and hearts that love.**

**Saint Joseph supported the Holy Family by the work of his hands;**

**Give meaningful employment and an adequate wage to all.**

**Saint Joseph, Guardian of the universal Church  
and Patron of Brothers;**

**Watch over us that we may be true to our baptismal call.**

## **Hymn**

**Look down to us Saint Joseph, protector of our Lord**

**Who followed you through deserts, and gave you blessed reward;  
Our foes are yet about us, be strength now at our side;  
Be light against the darkness, Saint Joseph be our guide.**

**We venerate your justice, the Gospels praise your name;**

**You are the saint all humble who gained eternal fame;  
In your devoted Family our souls in trust confide;  
Direct our way to heaven, Saint Joseph be our guide.**

## **Prayer**

**O God, You gave Saint Joseph the joy of joining Mary in caring for the Child Jesus. Through his intercession, grant us the grace to nurture the life of Christ in our lives. Help us to support and guide one another in truth and in love, and so build up the body of Christ which is Your Church. We ask this in the name of Saint Joseph and his foster Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle**

**and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us;  
May we be obedient to the will of God as Saint Joseph was.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!**