

First Wednesday Devotions *in Honor of Saint Joseph*

Prayer to St. Joseph

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.

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.

Prayer for Purity

O guardian and father of virgins, Saint Joseph, * to whose faithful custody Christ Jesus, innocence itself, * and Mary, Virgin of virgins were committed; * I pray and beseech thee, by these dear pledges, * Jesus and Mary, * that, being preserved from all uncleanness, * I may with spotless mind, pure heart, and chaste body, * ever serve Jesus and Mary, most chastely all the days of my life. Amen.

Prayer for Workers

Glorious St. Joseph, * model of all who are devoted to labor, * obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance in expiation of my many sins; * to work conscientiously by placing love of duty above my inclinations; * to gratefully and

joyously deem it an honor to employ and to develop by labor the gifts I have received from God, * to work methodically, peacefully, and in moderation and patience, * without ever shrinking from it through weariness or difficulty to work; * above all, with purity of intention and unselfishness, * having unceasingly before my eyes death and the account I have to render of time lost, talents unused, good not done, and vain complacency in success, * so baneful to the work of God. * All for Jesus, all for Mary, all to imitate thee, O patriarch St. Joseph! * This shall be my motto for life and eternity. Amen.

Litany of Saint Joseph

V/ Lord, have mercy. R/ *Lord, have mercy.*
V/ Christ, have mercy. R/ *Christ, have mercy.*
V/ Lord, have mercy. R/ *Lord, have mercy.*
V/ Christ, hear us. R/ *Christ, graciously hear us.*
V/ God, the Father of Heaven, R/ *have mercy on us.*
V/ God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, R/ *etc.*
V/ God, the Holy Spirit,
V/ Holy Trinity, One God,

Holy Mary, R/ *pray for us.*
Saint Joseph, R/ *etc.*
Renowned offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Diligent protector of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most strong,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of artisans,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins,

Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R/ *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R/ *graciously bear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R/ *have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us R/ *Christ, graciously bear us.*

V. He made him the lord of His house.

R. *And prince over His possessions.*

Let us pray. O God, Who in Thine ineffable providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thine own most holy Mother: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in Heaven, whom we reverence as our defender on earth: who livest and reignest, world without end. R/ *Amen.*

