

Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”



With the Apostolic Letter “*Patris corde*” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from, December 8th, 2020, to December 8th, 2021.

The pope proclaimed a year dedicated to Mary’s husband, Joseph, foster father to Jesus. In his apostolic letter, Pope Francis explains that the aim of this special year is “to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal,” describing St. Joseph as a “beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.”

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

Week 2



Saint Jose' Manyanet, a priest in the 19th century Spain fervently promoted devotion to Saint Joseph and the Holy Family. He prophesied that a "time of Saint Joseph" would soon arrive in the life of the church.

We need the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph to help us protect marriage and the family. Marriage and the family have always been under attack, but in modern times, the threat have reached extraordinary heights.

The servant of God Sister Lucia, the longest-lived visionary of the Fatima Apparitions, knew the seriousness of the times and made a powerful statement about this issue. She wrote:

"The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about marriage and the family."

To combat and overcome Satan's deceptions, the church needs St. Joseph. His example and protection are the only way out of the confusing mess we are in. Who else can we turn to who can help us understand what marriage and the family are all about if not to the Head of the Holy Family and Terror of Demons?

Excerpts from: "Consecration to Saint Joseph", Father Donald Calloway, MIC



Week 3

Jesus loved, obeyed, and imitated his earthly father. Jesus delighted in being known as the "son of Joseph". We too should consider it an honor to be his children. If, according to the plans of the Father, Jesus needed Saint Joseph, how much more do we need him too!

In the nineteenth century, Jesus himself explicitly commanded the Servant of God Sister Mary Martha Chambon to call Saint Joseph "father". This holy nun is known as the "Mystic of the Holy Wounds." Jesus told Sister Mary Martha the following:

You must call Saint Joseph your father, for I have given him the title and the goodness of a father.

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Week 4



The entire life and mission of Saint Joseph points to Jesus. Saint Joseph never points to himself. His role is to lead everyone to Jesus just as Mary does.

In our day, marriage and family are under attack. Jesus and Mary want you to be consecrated to Saint Joseph because there is no father or husband who knows more about the sacredness of marriage and the family or the self-sacrificing love required of fathers and husbands than Saint Joseph. His paternal mission continues from heaven. He is our guardian, loving protector, and fearless defender. He is the model of saintly fatherhood. After Christ, Saint Joseph is the model of heroic manhood and the defender of marriage, chastity, and life itself.

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Week 5



The Holy Spirit wants you to know and love St. Joseph. With exception of Our Lady's life, the Holy Spirit was more active in the life of St. Joseph than any other saint. The earthly father of Jesus never did anything without seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit. St. Joseph's docility to the Holy Spirit made it possible for him to communicate with God even while he slept.

Wherever St. Joseph is present, the Holy Spirit is present. Saint Joseph would tell you that if you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit there is one absolutely necessary thing: prayer. Without prayer, you will never be able to have the intimacy with God. Without prayer you will not be able to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit.

After Jesus and Mary, St. Joseph is the holiest, most prayerful, and most virtuous person who has ever lived. He avoided anything that displeased the Holy Spirit. How did he do it? Prayer. Through prayer St. Joseph perfectly exercised the virtues of faith, hope, and chastity as well as the moral virtues of prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude.

Excerpts from: "Consecration to Saint Joseph", Father Donald Calloway, MIC



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Valerie Schmalz

Statues of a Sleeping St. Joseph are flying off the shelves in the Philippines and travelers are bringing them back to the United States, popularizing a novena to the foster father of Jesus and patron saint of the Catholic Church after Pope Francis spoke of his personal devotion during his visit to the Philippines in January.

Pope Francis, who has had a statue of a sleeping St. Joseph on his desk for decades, brought the statue he had in Argentina with him to the Vatican when he was elected pope. He told the story of his devotion during his Jan. 16 meeting with families in Manila, saying he places slips of paper under his statue of a sleeping St. Joseph when he has a special problem.

The pope's devotion to St. Joseph meant he chose to celebrate the inaugural Mass of his pontificate on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph.

“Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So, when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: Pray for this problem!” Pope Francis said. “Do not forget St. Joseph who sleeps! Jesus slept with the protection of Joseph.”

We also must rest in prayer and dream; the pope told the families in the Philippines.

“The Scriptures seldom speak of St. Joseph, but when they do, we often find him resting, as an angel reveals God’s will to him in his dreams,” Pope Francis said. “Joseph’s rest revealed God’s will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us.”

San Franciscan Florian Romero, who visits her family in the Philippines frequently, said the devotion to St. Joseph emphasizes Pope Francis’ focus on the importance of the family, quoting his Jan. 16 speech: “But like St. Joseph, once we have heard God’s voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.”

“Pope Francis said on that occasion that faith does not distance us from the world. On the contrary, it brings us closer. For that reason, St. Joseph is a model father for the Christian family. He overcame the difficulties of life because he rested with God,” Romero said.