

Wednesday

# Saint Joseph

Wednesdays we give special devotion to Saint Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster father of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The little we do know about Saint Joseph comes from the Scriptures, mainly the Gospels of Saint Matthew and Saint Luke. We know that Saint Joseph was a carpenter living in Nazareth, but that he was originally from Bethlehem, the city of David and his decendents. We also know that Joseph is decended of the lineage of King David.

Saint Joseph says not one single word in the Bible! However, the Gospel of Matthew recalls four times the Angel of the Lord speaks to him in dreams and Joseph obeys:

1. Matthew 1:20–21 – Joseph is told not be afraid to take Mary as his wife because she has conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit.
2. Matthew 2:13 – Joseph is warned to leave Bethlehem and flee to Egypt.
3. Matthew 2:19–20 – while in Egypt, Joseph is told it is safe to go back to Israel.
4. Matthew 2:22 – Joseph is warned in a dream to depart for the region of Galilee instead of going to Judea.

In the old calendar (Extraordinary Form) there is a Votive Mass of the Saint Joseph, typically said on Wednesdays, though not restricted to only that day. Saint Joseph also has two feast days: 1) March 19th – Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and 2) May 1st – Saint Joseph the Worker.

“...behold the angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 1:20)



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## THE LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Under normal circumstances, a *partial indulgence* is granted to those who recite this litany. However, during the Year of Saint Joseph—December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021—this litany has been included among the prayers enriched with a *plenary indulgence*. A plenary indulgence may be earned once a day subject to the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and a total detachment to all sin, including venial sin.

Lord, have mercy on us  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Lord, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, hear us.  
Jesus, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven,  
\*have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the World, \*  
God the Holy Ghost, \*  
Holy Trinity, one God, \*

Holy Mary, \*\* pray for us.  
St. Joseph, \*\*  
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, spare us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins  
of the world, graciously hear us, O  
Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins  
of the world, have mercy on us, O  
Jesus.

He made him the lord of his household  
And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray:

O God, in your ineffable providence you  
were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to  
be the spouse of your most holy Mother;  
grant, we beg you, that we may be  
worthy to have him for our  
intercessor in heaven whom  
on earth we venerate as our  
Protector: You who live and  
reign forever and ever.  
Amen.

