

A FAMILY PILGRIMAGE
IN HONOR OF SAINT JOSEPH,
SPOUSE OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint James
Charles Town WV

Prayer:

God, who in Thine ineffable Providence did vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be made worthy to receive him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy Protector. This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

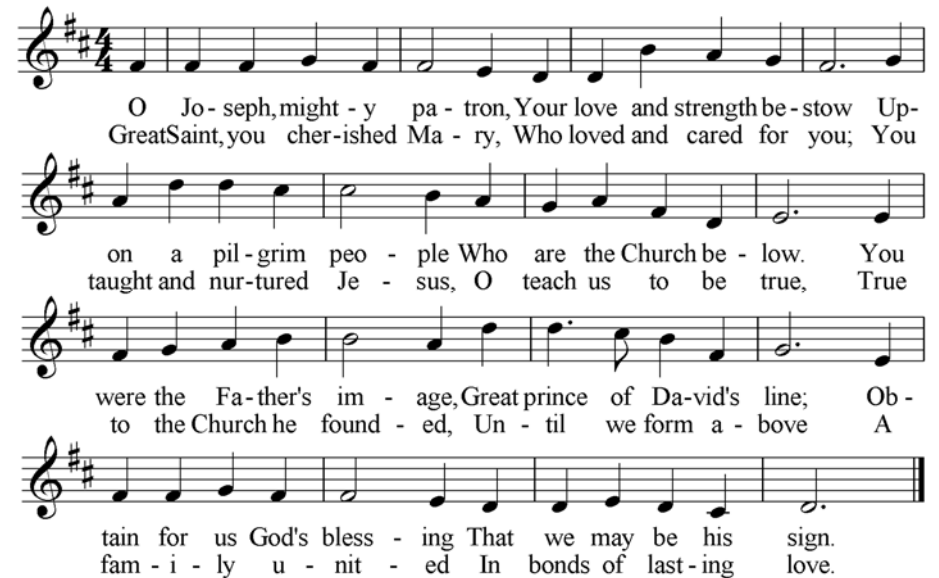
- *Amen.* [Saint John Henry Newman]

Blessing:

Generous God, as a husband and as a father, Saint Joseph cared for the needs of Mary and Jesus. We thank you, our heavenly Father, for the many ways you love and care for us. Receive the good works we do in honor of Saint Joseph on our journey to your heavenly kingdom. We ask that you bless us, ✠ protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

- *Amen.*

Closing Hymn: O JOSEPH, MIGHTY PATRON [tune: AURELIA]



O Jo-seph, might-y pa-tron, Your love and strength be-stow Up-
Great Saint, you cher-ished Ma-ry, Who loved and cared for you; You
on a pil-grim peo-ple Who are the Church be-low. You
taught and nur-tured Je-sus, O teach us to be true, True
were the Fa-ther's im-age, Great prince of Da-vid's line; Ob-
to the Church he found-ed, Un-til we form a-bove A
tain for us God's bless-ing That we may be his sign.
fam-i-ly u-nit-ed In bonds of last-ing love.

Father in heaven, you feed the birds of the air, and clothe the fields with the fruit of the earth,

- *give all your children their daily bread, to sustain soul and body.*

Maker of the universe, you have entrusted your creation to our safekeeping,

- *may all who work receive a just reward for their labors.*

God of all righteousness, you want us all to be like you,

- *may Saint Joseph inspire us to walk always in your way of holiness.*

Look kindly on those who have died, especially those of our family

[N. and N.] and grant them your mercy,

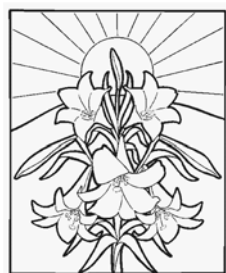
- *through the intercession of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.*

Remember us, Saint Joseph, and plead for us to your foster-child, Jesus. Ask your most holy bride, the Virgin Mary, to look kindly upon us, since she is the mother of him who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever.

- *Amen.* [Saint Bernadine of Siena]

Work of Charity:

In Italy, particularly Sicily, the Saint Joseph Table is an honored tradition. A table is set up in the church or house with three tiers or areas: one for flowers and decorations (especially lilies), one for baked goods (especially zeppoli and donuts) and one for fruits and vegetables (especially citrus and olives). Remembrance is always made of the poor, who may share in the table's bounty or who are rewarded with food baskets or alms. As a part of your pilgrimage, you may wish to set up a Saint Joseph Table and make a donation to a charity [perhaps the Saint Roch Fund at Saint James Church] that carries on good works among the poor and needy.



Opening Chant: THE LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God the Father in heaven,

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God

Holy Mary,

Saint Joseph,

Noble son of the House of David,

Light of patriarchs,

Husband of the Mother of God,

Guardian of the Virgin,

Foster father of the Son of God,

Faithful guardian of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph, chaste and just,

Joseph, prudent and brave,

Joseph, obedient and loyal,

Pattern of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Model of workers,

Example to parents,

Guardian of virgins,

Pillar of family life,

Comfort of the troubled,

Hope of the sick,

Patron of the dying,

Terror of demons,

Protector of the Church,

Lamb of God, you take away

the sins of the world,

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

pray for us.

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have mercy on us.

Reading: [sit] II Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16

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.

-*Thanks be to God.*

Responsory:

The just man shall blossom like the lily.

- *The just man shall blossom like the lily.*

He shall flourish for ever in the courts of our God,

- *like the lily.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

- *The just man shall blossom like the lily.*



Gospel: [stand] Saint Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

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.

-*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



Quiet Reflection: [sit]

Saint Joseph spoke not a word in the entirety of the Gospels. Let us take some silent time, pondering the just man in whom “the Old Testament finds a fitting close. He brought a noble line of patriarchs and prophets to its promised fulfillment. What the divine goodness had offered as a promise to them, he held in his arms.” [Saint Bernadine of Siena]

Intercessions: [stand]

All fatherhood in heaven and on earth has its origin in God. Let us turn to him and pray:

- *Our Father in heaven, hear our prayer.*

All-holy Father, you revealed to Saint Joseph your eternal plan of salvation in Christ,

- *deepen our understanding of your Son, true God and true man.* ⇨