

The Litany of Saint Joseph

The litany dates back to at least the 16th century and has been prayed by countless saints. Through the Litany of St. Joseph, you will learn the virtues and wonders of your spiritual father and become an “apparition of St. Joseph” to the world. You are to become “another Joseph.”

St. Joseph is your Increaser. Let him increase your intimacy with Jesus and Mary.

St. Joseph is an all-powerful intercessor. We must, then, be devoted to him; we must honor him and consecrate ourselves to him. In that way we shall greatly please Jesus and Mary, who consider as done for themselves what is done for Joseph – St. Peter Julian Eymard

St. Theresa of Avila once suggested famously that, although we may have access to many saints as intercessors for our various needs, we should “go especially to Joseph, for he has great power with God.” In praying this litany of St. Joseph we are indeed going to the patron saint and “protector” of the Universal Church!

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father of Heaven, *Have mercy on us.*

- Our heavenly Father has had only one saint to represent Him on earth. Hence, He bestowed everything He could on that favored saint, and equipped him with all that he needed to be His worthy representative. – St. Peter Julian Eymard.
- The Fatherhood of St. Joseph increased the presence of the Heavenly Father in the life of Jesus.
- Consecration to St. Joseph will increase the presence of the Father in your life.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

- The holy example of Jesus Christ who, while upon earth, honored St. Joseph so highly and was obedient to him during his life, should be sufficient to inflame the hearts of all with devotion to this saint.
- Consecration to St. Joseph will increase your love for Jesus.

God the Holy Spirit, *Have mercy on us.*

- How great his [St. Joseph’s] union with God, how sublime his gift of prayer, how wonderful the direction of the Holy Spirit! – Blesses William Joseph Chaminade
- St. Joseph is a model of the interior life for all his children.
- St. Joseph will increase the Holy Spirit in your life.

Holy Trinity, One God, *Have mercy on us.*

- He [St. Joseph] is head of the Holy Family, father of trinity on earth (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) which resembles so closely the Holy Trinity on high. – St. Peter Julian Eymard.
- St. Joseph, your spiritual father, will help you become a true child of the Heavenly Father. St. Joseph will teach you how to love, pray, sacrifice and work; how to do the will of God.

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

- All Christians belong to St. Joseph because Jesus and Mary belonged to him. – St. Leonard of Port Maurice.
- St. Joseph will bless those who love the Virgin Mary, and will increase your love for her.
- Consecration to St. Joseph will make you a Knight of the Holy Queen!

Saint Joseph, *pray for us.*

- ...Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Savior began the work of salvation by the virginal and holy union.
- St. Joseph is the delight of saints.
- With the exception of our loving Mother, St. Joseph stands above all the saints. - St. Maximilian Kolbe

Noble Offspring of David, *pray for us.*

- ...Joseph was of the royal line of David and, in virtue of his marriage to Mary, would confer on the Son of the Virgin – on God's Son – the legal title of "Son of David," thus fulfilling the prophecies. – Pope Benedict XVI
- Since God has wanted to obey you [St. Joseph], allow me to be in your service, to honor you and love you as my Lord and Master. – St. Alphonsus Liguori

Light of the Patriarchs, *pray for us.*

- The word "patriarch" means father. What all the patriarchs of the Old Testament foreshadowed, and all Christian fathers are called to reflect, is the paternal light of God shining through the fatherhood of St. Joseph.
- The Light of Patriarchs terrifies Satan. St. Joseph is a true and everlasting light bearer, and icon of God the Father. After Jesus and Mary, there is no person whom Satan detests more than St. Joseph. Stay close to St. Joseph and walk in the light!

Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*

- How hard he [St. Joseph] must have prayed to come to know and ever increase in love toward his immaculate wife. – Blessed Gabriele Allegra
- St. Joseph is a model for all men. He will help men be holy and chivalrous again. All men discover in St. Joseph a model of strength, fidelity, heroism, and virtue. If men follow the example of St. Joseph, husbands will be holy, priests will be dragon slayers, and bishops will be shepherds of souls and pillars of truth.

Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*

- It was necessary that Divine Providence should commit her [Mary] to the charge and guardianship of a man absolutely pure. – St. Francis de Sales
- No husband and wife ever loved one another so much as Joseph and Mary. – Venerable Fulton J. Sheen
- To be chaste is to be pure of heart. St. Joseph's heart is exceptionally pure. As the foster-father of Jesus and husband of Blessed Mother Mary, his eyes and heart were pure-intended, chaste, and afire with love for Jesus and Mary.

Foster-Father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*

- St. Joseph's role in naming the Savior is an extremely important one. It is meant to signify to the world that St. Joseph is the legal father of Jesus.
- St. Joseph's dignity springs from his privilege of being the legal father of the Incarnate Son of God. Here, then, is a man whom the Son of God calls father, one whom he [Jesus] serves and obeys and before whom He kneels for paternal blessing. – St. Peter Julian Eymard
- Be in good spirits under the fatherly mantle of St. Joseph, a place of safest refuge in trials and tribulations. – St. Joseph Marelllo
- In Latin, the title given to St. Joseph to signify his role as foster father is *Filii Dei Nutricie*. Literally it means "Nurturer of the Son of God."

Watchful Defender of Christ, *pray for us.*

- He [St. Joseph] protects those who revere him and accompanies them on their journey through this life – just as he protected and accompanied Jesus when He was growing up. – St. Josemaria Escriva.
- St. Joseph zealously defends you. A father's work is never finished until his children are safely home.

Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*

- Jesus and Mary not only bent their wills to Joseph's, for he was head of the Holy Family, but they lovingly surrendered their hearts to him as well. – St. Peter Julian Eymard
- In Joseph, heads of the household are blessed with the unsurpassed model of fatherly watchfulness and care. – Pope Leo XIII
- Make St. Joseph the Spiritual Head of your family.

Joseph most Just, *pray for us.*

- He [St. Joseph] won for himself the title of "The Just Man," and thus serves as a living model of that Christian justice which should rein in social life.
- To be just is to be perfectly united to the Divine Will, and to be always conformed to it in all sorts of events, whether prosperous or adverse. That St. Joseph was this, no one can doubt. – St. Francis de Sales.
- St. Joseph will increase your virtue of justice.

Joseph most Chaste, *pray for us.*

- Who can ever understand how great he [St. Joseph] had to be in this virtue of virginity who was destined by the Eternal Father to be the guardian, or rather the companion, of Mary's virginity? – St. Francis de Sales
- St. Joseph has three treasures consuming his heart; Jesus, Mary, and you. The heart of St. Joseph is the heart of a loving father, and you have access to his heart. The Chaste heart of St. Joseph is your home. St. Joseph will help you to have a chaste heart.

Joseph most Prudent, *pray for us.*

- Prudence is a virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; it guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure.
- The prudence of St. Joseph was a supernatural prudence. Supernatural prudence does not seek to avoid suffering, but embraces the cross out of love and always strives for the greater good.
- St. Joseph will help you exercise supernatural prudence.

Joseph most Courageous, *pray for us.*

- So perfectly was he [St. Joseph] dead to the world and the flesh, that he desired nothing but the things of heaven. – St. Bridget of Sweden
- The root word of courage is "*cour,*" meaning heart. To be courageous is to love the good more than you fear evil and suffering. The courageous are stouthearted, bold, and brave in the midst of trials.
- St. Joseph will help you be courageous. To be a saint, you must be courageous.
- St. Joseph will increase the virtue of fortitude in you.

Joseph most Obedient, *pray for us.*

- If you want to know St. Joseph's obedience, look at how he rose at night at the angel's voice and, giving no care to hunger, hardships, or cold, went to Egypt where he led a hard life until the next command of God. – St. Joseph Sebastian Pelzcar
- Obedience requires trust. Lack of trust on the part of our first parents (Adam and Eve) is what caused all mankind to fall into sin. Pope Benedict XVI states – Why was St. Matthew so keen to note Joseph's trust in the words received from the messenger of God, if not to invite us to imitate this same loving trust?

Joseph most Faithful, *pray for us.*

- The Church admires the simplicity and depth of his faith. – St. John Paul II
- St. Joseph is a model of faith. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb 11:1).

- St. Joseph will increase your faith. Imitate his faith and loving trust. Be steadfast, trusting, and intrepid in your faith.

Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*

- The flower of Israel [St. Joseph] had the faith of Abraham, the piety of David his ancestor, the wisdom of the prophets, a patience more heroic than that of Job and of Tobias, and a zeal greater than that of Elijah for the glory of God. – Blessed Gabriele Allegra
- He [St. Joseph] was always imperturbable, even in adversities. Let us model ourselves after this sublime example and let us learn to remain peaceful and tranquil in all of life's circumstances. – St. Joseph Marelllo

Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*

- He [St. Joseph] lived content in his poverty. – St. Bonaventure
- The silence of St. Joseph proves his greatness and poverty of spirit. He trusted that God would bring good fruit from his labor and years of service to Jesus and Mary. And God did more than humble St. Joseph could ever imagine. He was poor in the world, but is rich in the Kingdom of Heaven; and his richness will last for all eternity.
- St. Joseph will help you to be poor in spirit. St. Joseph will teach you how to be detached from material things and to be abandoned to Divine Providence.

Model of workmen , *pray for us.*

- At the workbench where he [St. Joseph] plied his trade together with Jesus, Joseph brought human work closer to the mystery of the Redemption. – St. John Paul II
- St. Joseph was the model workman. He will teach you to be a diligent worker. Hard work benefits the person, the family, and society. Our Lord desired to do manual labor for many years before His public ministry because he wanted to sanctify work and teach us that work is honorable and pleasing to God. Neither Jesus nor Joseph were workaholics. God does not delight in a workaholic.

Glory of domestic life, *pray for us.*

- Joseph loved Jesus as a father loves his son, and showed his love by giving Him the best he had. – St. Josemaria Escriva
- St. Joseph loved domestic life and is the saint of the hidden years of Jesus. The reality is incredible to ponder. Consider your own family childhood. Yet, Our Lord, lived with Mary and St. Joseph for 30 years. The love, intimacy, and familiarity Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph shared is amazing.
- Let St. Joseph assist in your domestic life in sharing the Holy Family's Love, the Love of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in your own family.

Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*

- St. Joseph will help you be a guardian of virginity and purity. If you maintain a daily loving relationship with St. Joseph, your eyes, intentions, heart, and relationships can be pleasing to God and free of anything that goes against purity.
- In St. Joseph, everyone has a guardian and protector. Turn to him in times of temptation, trust in him, and you will grow in innocence and purity. Frequently ask for his intercession to keep your heart pure and chaste.

Pillar of families, *pray for us.*

- St. Joseph wants to be the pillar of your family. A pillar is a foundation. In order for your home to stand on a firm foundation and be unshakable, allow St. Joseph to be an integral part of your family. He will teach your family the importance of prayer, mutual respect, purity, honesty, forgiveness, love, and most importantly, placing God above all things.
- St. Joseph loves the family! He teaches us the importance of motherhood, fatherhood, and children. Let him guide your family to truth and holiness.
- I know not how anyone can ponder on the sufferings, trials, and tribulations that the Queen of Angels endured whilst caring for Jesus in his childhood, without at the same time thanking St. Joseph for the services he rendered the Divine Child and His Blessed Mother. – St. Teresa Avila

Comfort of the afflicted, *pray for us.*

- Nothing will be refused him [St. Joseph], neither by Our Lady nor by his glorious Son. – St. Francis de Sales
- St. Joseph will comfort you in difficult times.
- Let us commend ourselves to our good father, St. Joseph, who is the patriarch of troubled people, since he himself went through so much trouble. – St. Joseph Marcello
- Will he, the great saint whom Jesus and Mary obeyed, who provided Jesus and Mary with their daily bread, be invoked in vain? No! – St. Luigi Guanella

Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*

- St. Joseph offers hope in times of sickness. It's up to God whether or not physical healing will occur. St. Joseph always offers hope for an illness-free life in heaven.
- What could Jesus Christ refuse St. Joseph who never refused Him anything during His mortal life on earth? – St. Augustine
- St. Joseph will help you to be abandoned to Divine Providence.

Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*

- St. Joseph is everyone's personal patron because everyone is going to die.
- The name of St. Joseph will be our protection during all the days of our life, but above all at the moment of death. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

- Jesus granted to him [St. Joseph] the special privilege of safe-guarding the dying against the snares of Lucifer, just as he had also saved Him [Jesus] from the schemes of Herod. – St. Alphonsus Liguori
- St. Joseph dies a holy and happy death, gazing upon Jesus and resting in the arms of Mary. Ask St. Joseph for a holy and happy death, as his own, for those you are bound to pray for and for yourself.

Terror of demons, *pray for us.*

- It is true that the other saints enjoy great power in heaven, but they ask as servants, and do not command as masters. St. Joseph, to whose authority Jesus was subject on earth, obtains what he desires from his kingly foster Son in heaven.
- The power of St. Joseph is greater than that of the ancient Joseph, of Moses, and of St. Peter. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade
- It is a great blessing for souls to be under the protection of the saint whose name makes demons tremble and flee. – Blessed Bartolo Longo
- These wonders of St. Joseph terrorize demons; fatherhood, purity, humility, charity, poverty, obedience, silence, suffering, prayer, name, and sleep.

Protector of the Holy Church, *pray for us.*

- The Church invokes St. Joseph as her Patron and Protector through her unshakable trust that he to whom Christ willed to confide the care and protection of His own frail human childhood, will continue from heaven to perform his protective task in order to guide and defend the Mystical Body of Christ Himself, which is always weak, always under attack, always in a state of peril. – St. Pope Paul VI
- To be faithful as humble collaborators with the divine plan over our lives, we need, along with the protection of the Virgin Mary, that of St. Joseph, a most powerful intercessor. – St. Pope John XXIII

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *Graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

V. He made him the lord of His household, R. And prince over all His possessions.

Let Us Pray.

O God, Who in Your loving providence, choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in Heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, Who live and reign forever and ever. R. Amen.

Memorare to St. Joseph - Remember, O Most Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, my spiritual father, and beg your protection. O Foster Father of the Redeemer, despise not my petitions, but in your goodness, hear and answer me. Amen.

Consecration Day

Oh God, who, in Your loving Divine Providence, chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Your most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

St. Peter Julian Eymard - I have prayed to our Lord that He might give me St. Joseph for a father, as he had given me Mary for a mother; that he might put in my heart that devotion, that confidence, feel greater devotion to this great saint, and I am full of confidence and hope.

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph

O Glorious Patriarch and Patron of the Church! O Virgin Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God! O Guardian and Virginal Father of the Word Incarnate! In the presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose you this day to be my father, my guardian, and my protector.

O great St. Joseph, whom God has made the Head of the Holy Family, accept me, I beseech you, though utterly unworthy, to be a member of your "Holy House." Present me to your Immaculate Spouse; ask her also to adopt me as her child. With her, pray that I may constantly think of Jesus, and serve him faithfully to the end of my life. O Terror of Demons, increase in me virtue, protect me from the evil one, and help me not to offend God in any way.

O my Spiritual Father, I hereby consecrate myself to you. In faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary, I place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. To you, after Jesus and Mary, I consecrate my body and soul, with all their faculties, my spiritual growth, my home, and all my affairs and undertakings. Forsake me not, but adopt me as a servant and child of the Holy Family. Watch over me at all times, but especially at the hour of my death. Console and strengthen me with the presence of Jesus and Mary so that, with you, I may praise and adore the Holy Trinity for all eternity. Amen.

Daily Acts of Consecration to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to your honor and give myself to you, that you may always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a greater purity of heart and fervent love of the interior life. After your example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen.

Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary, virginal father of Jesus, and my spiritual father, I consecrate myself entirely to you. I lovingly embrace your fatherhood and take refuge under your paternal cloak. Help me to pray and be virtuous today. Instruct me in the wisdom of the saints, protect me from the snares of the enemy, and keep me from sinning. Should I take my last breath today, be by my side, and take me to heaven to be with Jesus and Mary. Amen.