

***Wednesday Devotions***

***To***

***St. Joseph***

## The Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph

*Glorious St. Joseph*, first man to love Mary and hold Jesus in your arms, accept these prayers we now offer to honor you and ask Almighty God's blessing upon us. We pray that all the members of our families will be spiritually and physically protected through life, and guided to fulfill wisely and with love the vocations God has given us.

Bless our community; bless God's family of faith in churches throughout the world; bless all the good works we do to be faithful followers of your chosen son, Jesus. We pray especially that God will grant us the favor we now ask, or if it is His will, one that He knows is better for us...

I *Chaste Lover of Mary*, how overwhelmed you were when you thought that you would have to end your betrothal to her. But when the angel of God came to you in a dream, you were filled with awe to realize that Mary would be your wife, and you would be the guardian of the Messiah.

Help us St. Joseph, help our families and all our loved ones to overcome all sadness of heart and develop an absolute trust in God's goodness.

II *Faithful guardian of Jesus*, what a failure you thought you were when you could only provide a stable for the birth of the Holy Child. And then what a wonder it was when shepherds came to tell of angel choirs, and wise men came to adore the King of Kings.

Through your example and prayers, help us St. Joseph and all we love to become like sinless mangers where the Savior of the world may be received with absolute love and respect.

III *Tender-hearted Joseph*, you too felt pain when the blood of Jesus was first shed at His circumcision. Yet how proud you were to be the one privileged to give the name Jesus, Savior, to the very Son of God.

Pray for us St. Joseph, that the sacred blood of Christ, poured out for our salvation, may guard our families, so the Divine Name of Jesus may be written in our hearts forever.

IV *Joseph, loving husband*, how bewildered you were when Simeon spoke the words of warning that the hearts of Jesus and Mary would be pierced with sorrows. Yet his prediction that this would lead to the salvation of innumerable souls filled you with consolation.

Help us, St. Joseph, to see with eyes of faith that even the sorrows and pains of those we deeply love can become the pathway to salvation and eternal life.

V *Courageous protector of the Holy Family*, how terrified you were when you had to make the sudden flight with Jesus and Mary to escape the treachery of King Herod and the cruelty of his soldiers. But when you reached Egypt, what satisfaction you had, in knowing that the Savior of the world had come to replace the pagan idols.

Teach us by your example, St. Joseph, to keep far from the false idols of earthly attractions, so that like you, we may be entirely devoted to the service of Jesus and Mary.

VI *Ever-obedient Joseph*, you trustingly returned to Nazareth at God's command, in spite of your fear that King Herod's son might still be a threat to Jesus' life. Then what fatherly pride you had in seeing Jesus grow in wisdom and grace before God and men under your care.

Show us St. Joseph, how to be free from all useless fear and worry, so we may enjoy the peace of a tranquil conscience, living safely with Jesus and Mary in our hearts.

VII Dependable father and husband, how anguished you and Mary were when, through no fault of yours, you searched for three days to find Jesus. What incredible relief was yours when you found Him safe in the Temple of God.

Help us St. Joseph, never to lose Jesus through the fault of our own sins. But if we should lose Him, lead us back with unwearied sorrow, until we find Him again; so that we, like you, may finally pass from this life, dying safely in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

*And Jesus Himself, when he began His work, was about thirty years old being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph.*

*Pray for us, holy Joseph.*

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

*Let us pray.* Blessed St. Joseph, tender-hearted father, faithful guardian of Jesus, chaste spouse of the Mother of God, I pray and beseech you to offer to God the Father my praise to Him through his divine Son, who died on the cross and rose again to give us sinners new life. Through the holy name of Jesus, pray with us that we may obtain from the eternal Father, the favor we ask. [PAUSE]. *We have been unfaithful* to the unfailing love of God the Father; beg of Jesus mercy for us. Amid the splendors of God's loving presence, do not forget the sorrows of those who suffer, those who pray, those who weep. By your prayers and those of your most holy spouse, our Blessed Lady, may the love of Jesus answer our call of confident hope. Amen.

### Litany of St. Joseph

*Lord, have mercy*

*Christ, have mercy*

*Lord, have mercy*

*God our Father in heaven*

*God the Son, Redeemer of the world*

*God the Holy Spirit*

*Holy Trinity, one God*

*Holy Mary*

*Holy Joseph*

*Illustrious son of David*

*Light of patriarchs*

*Spouse of the Mother of God*

*Pure Guardian of the Virgin*

*Nurturer of the Son of God*

*Zealous defender of Christ*

*Head of the holy family*

*Joseph most just*

*Joseph most chaste*

*Joseph most prudent*

*Joseph most brave*

*Joseph most obedient*

*Joseph most faithful*

*Mirror of patience*

*Lover of poverty*

*Model for workers*

*Glory of family life*

*Guardian of virgins*

*Safeguard of families*

*Comfort of the sorrowing*

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

<i>Hope of the sick</i>	pray for us
<i>Patron of the dying</i>	pray for us
<i>Terror of demons</i>	pray for us
<i>Protector of Holy Church</i>	pray for us
<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world</i>	spare us, O Lord
<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world</i>	hear us, O Lord
<i>Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world</i>	have mercy on us

*God made him master of his household.*

And put him in charge of all that he owned.

*Let us pray. God, in your infinite wisdom and love you chose Joseph to be the husband of Mary, the mother of your Son. May we have the help of his prayers in heaven and enjoy his protection on earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### **Invocation to St. Joseph by Saint Joseph Marelo**

*Glorious Saint Joseph*, after the Blessed Virgin, you were the first to hold in your arms the Redeemer. Be our exemplar in our ministry, which like your own, is a ministry of intimate relationship with the Divine Word. May you teach us; may you assist us; may you make us worthy members of the Holy Family.

### **Prayer to St. Joseph for Vocations**

*Saint Joseph*, patron of the Church, we ask you to intercede before God, so that in our days as always in the Church, many young people may be attracted to the service of souls and to the ideal of evangelical perfection.

Among Christian nations, the faithful desire to better understand and practice the virtues preached by Christ, and among non-Christian peoples, a great number of men and women of good will hear the call of faith and want to receive the message of peace.

Please pray on our behalf that the Lord of the harvest will send workers into His vineyard. Obtain for us many priestly and religious vocations that correspond to the immense needs of the world today and that are fully dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. Amen.

### **Consecration of the Building Project**

We honor you, St. Joseph, husband of Mary whom we venerate as Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of our parish. As you protected and provided for the Holy Family, so do you continue to be Patron of the Universal Church. Our Parish family consecrates to your patronage the construction of new buildings for worship, religious education and community services. May these facilities help our parish celebrate more our unity as the family of God. As you fulfilled your vocation to help prepare the Child Jesus for his Mission, may we help prepare the children and youth of our parish for their roles as active Catholics. We want to follow your example of generosity and hard work to do our part in raising the necessary funds. We also follow your example in trusting divine Providence to give fruit to the work of our hands. St. Joseph, we consecrate this project to your powerful intercession so that it may be completed according to God's will and for his glory. Amen.

*O Sacrament most holy*, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

*O Mary, conceived without sin*, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

*St. Joseph, our protector* pray for us

*St. Joseph Marelo* pray for us

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* Amen

*Praised by Jesus Christ.* Now and forever

## Hymns to St. Joseph

### Sing of Mary, Sing of Joseph

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly,  
    Virgin Mother undefiled.  
Sing of God's own Son most holy  
    Who became her little child.  
Fairest Child of fairest mother,  
    God the Lord who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother,  
    Takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Joseph, foster father,  
    To the incarnate Son of God.  
Loving husband for God's mother  
    As toward David's town they plod.  
Filled with justice, strength and wisdom,  
    Joseph was their rock and guide.  
Now he guards God's pilgrim people,  
    Steadfast patron at our side.

Glory be to God the Father,  
    Glory be to God the Son.  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
    Glory to the Three in One.  
Hear the hearts of Joseph, Mary,  
    And all saints the hymn intone,  
While the Church, God's earthly family,  
    Echoes praise to heaven's throne.

### Hail, Holy Joseph

Hail, holy Joseph, Hail,  
    Chaste Spouse of Mary, Hail!  
Pure as the lily flower  
    In Eden's peaceful vale.  
Hail, holy Joseph, hail,  
    Prince of the house of God.  
May His best graces be  
    By thy sweet hands bestowed.

Hail, holy Joseph, hail,  
Comrade of angels, hail!  
Cheer thou the hearts that faint,  
And guide the steps that fail.  
Hail, holy Joseph, hail!  
God's choice were thou alone.  
To thee the Word made flesh  
Was subject as a son.

### **Look Down to Us, St. Joseph**

Look down to us, Saint Joseph,  
Protector of Our Lord,  
Who followed you through deserts,  
And gave you blessed reward;  
Our foes are yet about us,  
Be strength now at our side,  
Be light against the darkness.  
Saint Joseph, be our guide!

We venerate your justice,  
The gospels praise your name,  
You are the saint all humble,  
Who gained eternal fame;  
In your devoted family  
Our souls in trust confide,  
Direct our way to heaven.  
Saint Joseph, be our guide.

12/3/14

*The Oblates of St. Joseph*

*Shrine Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Co-patroness of the Unborn  
Bakersfield, California*