

Prayers in Honor of the Seven Sundays of St. Joseph

First Sunday

The Sorrow of the Doubt of St. Joseph and the Message of Joy from the Angel



Reading

Mt. 1: 18-20, 24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Her husband, Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered this, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary, your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him."

Meditation

"In the course of the pilgrimage of faith which was his life, Joseph, like Mary, remained faithful to God's call until the end. While Mary's life was the bringing to fullness of that *fiat* first spoken at the Annunciation, *at the moment of Joseph's own 'annunciation'* he said nothing; instead he simply "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." (Mt. 1:24). And *this first 'doing' became the beginning of 'Joseph's way.'*"

"In the words of the 'annunciation' by night, Joseph not only heard the Divine truth concerning his wife's indescribable vocation, he also heard once again the truth about his own vocation. This 'just' man, who, in the spirit of the noblest traditions of the Chosen People, loved the Virgin of Nazareth and was bound to her by a husband's love, was once again called by God to this love."

"Joseph, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife into his home (Mt 1:24); what was conceived in Mary was "of the Holy Spirit." From expressions such as these, are we not to suppose that his love as a man was also given new birth by the Holy Spirit? Are we not to think that the love of God which has been poured forth into the human heart through the Holy Spirit molds every human love to perfection?"

"Through his complete self-sacrifice, Joseph expressed his generous love for the Mother of God, and gave her a husband's 'gift of self.' Even though he decided to draw back so as not to interfere in the plan of God which was coming to pass in Mary, Joseph obeyed the explicit command of the angel and took Mary into his home, while respecting the fact that she belonged exclusively to God."

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Holy Mary,
Saint Joseph,
Illustrious son of David, etc.
Light of the patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Watchful defender of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most valiant,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,

Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of workers,
Glory of domestic life,
Guardian of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the afflicted,
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,
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Christ, graciously hear us.

have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.

pray for us.
pray for us.

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pray for us.

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pray for us.

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spare us, O Lord.
graciously hear us, O Lord.
have mercy on us.

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

Let us pray:

O chaste spouse of most holy Mary, glorious St. Joseph, the trouble and anguish in your heart were great when you were perplexed over sending away your immaculate spouse; yet your joy was immense when the mystery of the Incarnation was revealed to you by the angel. By this sorrow and this joy, we ask you to comfort our souls, now and in the sorrows of our final hour, with the joy of a good life and a holy death like your own in the company of Jesus and Mary. Amen.