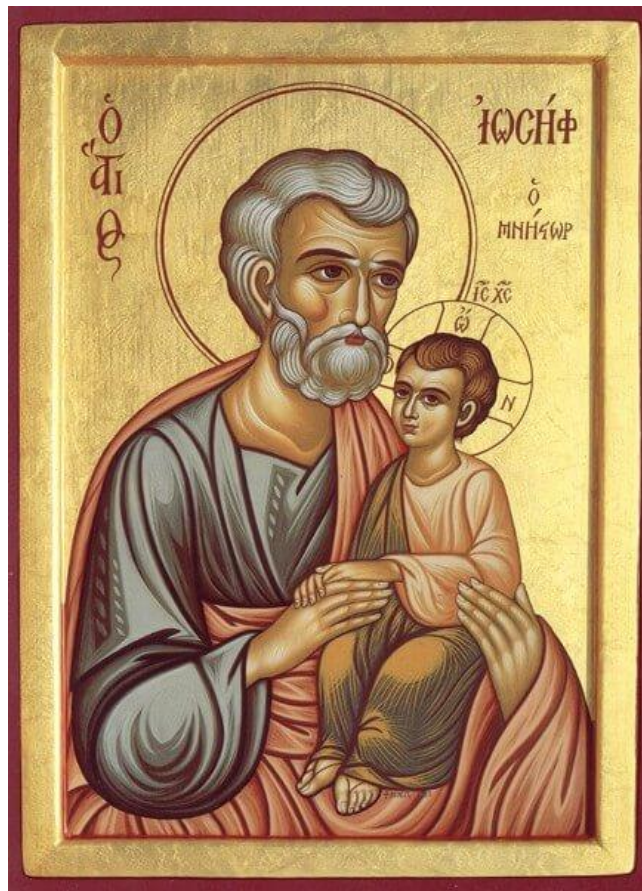


Novena to Saint Joseph

10th -18th March



Day 1: A Father who listened to God:

Scripture: ‘...the angel of the Lord, appeared to him in a dream and...when Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do’. (Matt 1:20,24)

Pope Francis: ‘With a Father’s heart: this is how Joseph loved Jesus’.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain for us today therefore hearts that listen for God’s will. Amen.

Day 2: A Father who is loved:

Scripture: ‘...her husband Joseph being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her secretly’. (Matt 1:19)

Pope Francis: ‘Thanks to his role in salvation history, Saint Joseph has always been venerated as a father by Christian people. Special prayers were offered to him each Wednesday and especially during the month of March, which is traditionally dedicated to him’.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain therefore for us today hearts that seek to love. Amen

Day 3: A Father who has compassion:

Scripture: ‘Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit’. (Matt 1:20)

Pope Francis: ‘In Joseph we see the tender love of God...Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weakness and frailty’.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain therefore for us today the gift of compassion Amen

Day 4: An Obedient Father:

Scripture: ‘the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt and stay there until I tell you’...so Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt’. (Matt 2: 13)

Pope Francis: ‘In every situation Joseph declared his own “fiat”, like those of Mary at Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane’.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain therefore for us today the virtue of obedience. Amen

Day 5: An Accepting Father:

Scripture: ‘So Joseph set out from Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David’s town called Bethlehem, since he was of David’s House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child’. (Lk 2:4-5)

Pope Francis: ‘Joseph’s attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses the weak (1 Cor 1:27).

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain therefore for us today the willingness to accept others and ourselves. Amen

Day 6: A Creative and Courageous Father:

Scripture: ‘ Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son...she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn’.

Pope Francis: If at times God seems not to help us, this does not mean that we have been abandoned, but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves’.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain therefore for us today the courage to be creative. Amen

Day 7: A Father who prays:

Scripture: ‘And when the time came...they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord’. (Lk 2:20)

Pope Francis: ‘Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He teaches us that amidst tempests of

life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer the course. At times we want to be in control, yet God always sees the bigger picture’.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain therefore for us today the courage to be creative. Amen

Day 8: A Working Father

Scripture: ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers? This is the carpenter’s son, surely?’ Matt 13:55).

Pope Francis: ‘Let us implore Saint Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work’.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal needs. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we are confident that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard. Obtain therefore for us today the enthusiasm to be co-workers. Amen

Day 9: A Father in the Shadows

Scripture: ‘So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger’. (Lk 2:16)

Pope Francis: ‘The logic of love is always the logic of freedom and Joseph knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the center of things. He did not think of himself but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus’.

Prayer: Hail Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son:
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil
Amen