

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
February 26, 2023



Serving the Missions of:

Alto del Talco, Buena Vista, Cañoncito, Chacon, Cleveland, El Carmen, Golondrinas, Guadalupita, Holman, La Cueva, Ledoux, Lucero, Monte Aplanado, Ojo Feliz, Rainsville, Turquillo

**St. Gertrude the Great
Catholic Church**

Pastor: Fr. Dale Craig, S.O.L.T.
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Paul Grala, S.O.L.T.
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jim Mulligan, S.O.L.T.
Deacon Eloy Roybal
Administrative Assistant: Angelica Lujan
Tammy Alexander: Director of Religious Education
P.O. Box 599, Mora, New Mexico 87732
Phone: 575.387.2336
Office Hours: Monday — Thursday
10 am — 12 Noon, 1 pm — 3 pm
Website: www.stgertrudesmora.org
Email: stgertrudes.aa@gmail.com

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Weekday Masses

- * Monday—Friday: 7:30AM & 12:00 Noon
- * Saturday: 8AM

Saturday Vigil Masses

- * St. Gertrude's Missions: 4:00PM

Sunday Masses

- * Spanish Mass: 9:00AM
- * English Mass: 11:00AM
- * English Mass: 5:00PM

Confessions: Saturday: 3:00PM-4:00PM
Sunday: 30 minutes before all Masses



Celebration of Sacraments

Baptism: Parents may register their child for baptism at the parish office. Please turn in necessary paperwork two (2) weeks prior to class. Classes are on the 1st Friday of the month. Baptisms are done on the first Sunday of the Month.

Marriage: Contact Parish Priest/Office at least six (6) months before the proposed wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Priest /Office when a parishioner is seriously ill and/or is scheduled for major surgery. Emergency phone-505-835-0199

Sunday Collection for

February 19, 2023 : \$3,095.05
(Envelopes:\$2,262.00 Loose: \$833.05)
Envelopes used: 113

Thank you for your generosity! God Bless You!

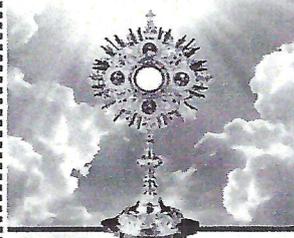
Altar Society:

March 6, 2023

Lucille Sandoval, Frances Martinez & Joann Martinez

First Friday 24 Hour Adoration of the Month

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC
Adoration



The best time you will spend
on earth is the time that you
spend with your Best Friend
Jesus in the Eucharist.
— Pope John Paul II

**March 3, 2023 at 8am to
Saturday, March 4, 2023
8am. If you are inter-
ested in signing up for
an hour please contact
Jessica Martinez at
575-643-5603 or Chelsea
Bustos at 505-803-0537.**

**DEADLINE FOR THE BULLETIN IS:
TUESDAY AT 12 PM IN WRITING, PLEASE!**

*During Lenten Season, it is a solemn
sacramental time, therefore NO flowers
are allowed in the Church.*

SATURDAY— February 25 Vigil Mass

4PM Mass Celebrant Fr. Dale Craig
+ Escolastica Casias (60th Anniv) /by Family

SUNDAY—February 26 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9AM Mass Celebrant Fr. Dale Craig
People of Our Parish
+ Reynaldo Gurule (4th Anniv) /by Family

11AM Mass Celebrant Fr. Paul Grala

+ Sophie & Damon Udy (Anniv) /by Mom
+ Lila Sanchez (Anniv) /by Husband, children, grandchildren, daughter in laws & son in law

5PM Mass Celebrant Fr. Dale Craig

+ Rafael, Ralph & Lupita Montoya /by Clarence & Yvonne

Gn 2:7-9;3:1-7 Ps 51:3-6,12-17 Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12,17-19 Mt 4:1-11

MONDAY— February 27 Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot, Doctor of the Church

7:30AM Mass
12:00PM Mass

Lv 19:1-2,11-18 Ps 19:8-10,15 Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY— February 28

7:30AM Mass
12:00PM Mass

+ Mary Griego (B-day) /by Betty Griego
Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7,16-19 Mt 6:7-15

WEDNESDAY— March 1

7:30AM Mass
12:00PM Mass

* Joaquin Guadalupe Maes, Medical Staff & Caregivers /by Maxine

Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4,12-13,18-19 Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY — March 2

7:30AM Mass
12:00AM Mass

* DonnaLea Navarro (B-day) /by Family

Est C:12,14-16,23-25 Ps 138:1-3,7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

FRIDAY— March 3 Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin (USA)

7:30AM Mass
6PM Mass

+ Emma Casados, Clara Maes & Refugio Trujillo /by Brenda Casados

Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY— March 4 Saint Casimir

8AM Mass

Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2,4-5,7-8 Mt 5:43-48

SATURDAY— March 4 Vigil Mass

4PM Mass Celebrant Fr. Paul Grala
+ Sophie & Damon Udy (Anniv) /by Mom
* Joseph Gurule, Theresa Fore & Epimonia Chavez /by Florence Gurule
+ Tacha Gallardo, Jerry Romero & Julian Molinar /by Friend

SUNDAY—March 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

9AM Mass Celebrant Fr. Dale Craig

+ Deacon Ray Cordova, Steven Cordova, Antonio Urioste & Adam Cordova /by Evelyn
+ Nick & Paul Hernandez & Felia Montoya /by Niza, Steve & Tami
+ Rafael, Ralph & Lupita Montoya /by Clarence & Yvonne Montoya

11AM Mass Celebrant Fr. Dale Craig

+ Eloisa, Lupita Olivas, Leroy Abeyta & JoJo Martinez (All Anniv) /by Inez Abeyta

5PM Mass

Celebrant Fr. Jim Mulligan

People of Our Parish

Gn 12:1-4a Ps 33:4-5,18-20,22 2 Tm 1:8b-10 Mt 17:9



Parish Lenten Retreat

*Jesus went away and fasted and prayed by himself with His Father. Each of us should make time to be quiet with God. **Friday March 10th, 11th, and 12th**, Father Scott Brossart, SOLT, will be leading our Parish in a Lenten Retreat On deepening our relationship with God through intimate prayer. This is a great opportunity to make time for God and yourself.*



Novena Prayer to St. Joseph
Novena starts March 12th.

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ. Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach which He reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen.

Say for nine consecutive mornings for anything you may desire.

During Lent there will be NO 12pm noon Mass on Fridays. There will be a 6pm Mass followed by Stations of the Cross.



Pregnant? Need Help?
Call 505-504-4772

Adoration Chapel: The Chapel is now open. It will be open 24 hours. Anyone who wants to devote an hour of adoration please contact Deacon Eloy at 505-948-6887.

Cemetery Plots: All plots need to be prearranged by Mission Mayordomos or the Church Office. Also please clean & maintain your family member's plot.

Charitable Giving: Charitable Giving is on Monday's from 10-12 & 1-3pm.

Legion of Mary: Each of you are invited to grow in your faith. Join the Legion of Mary every Tuesday at 8:50am at the Pastoral Center.

Men's Group: Men's group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7pm in the Chapel. *Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 1st.*

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society will be praying the rosary at 8:30 on the first Sunday of every month.

WINGS: Women in Need of God meets every Friday at 10am in the Pastoral Center.

Women's Group: Women's group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 6pm in the Pastoral Center. *Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8th.*

We pray for the repose of the soul of: Clarence Garcia

Ministry Schedule

March 4th 4pm

Lector: Chris Kelly

Choir: Women's Choir

Server: Marcus

EU Minister: Frances Martinez

Mavordomos: William & Monica Romero

March 5th 9am

Lector: Alfredo Gomez

Choir: Leroy Blea/Alex Montoya

Server: Cristobal, Cristina & Adult Servers

EU Minister: Clarence Montoya

Mavordomos: Jason & Loretta DeHerrera

March 5th 11am

Lector: Lorinda Manuel

Choir: San Manuel

Server: Gabriel & Cory

EU Minister: Loretta Ashe

Mavordomos: Garrick & Jessica Martinez

March 5th 5pm

Lector: Fidel Trujillo Jr.

Choir: Santa Maria

Server: Haley, Vicente, Ysabela & Nieves

EU Minister: Michael Alexander

Mavordomos: Tammy & Michael Alexander



First Confession-First Communion - The next class is on Tuesday, February 28th in the Mora Elementary Building starting at 3:45 - 5pm.

Confirmation I & II: The next class will be on Sunday, February 26th at 3:30pm in the Pastoral Center.

Confirmation I & II Retreat will be March 24th, 25th and 26th

Family Night



Lenten Experiences:

6pm Mass followed

by Stations of the Cross and Adoration & Confession.

Children's packets will be provided for Adoration

Immaculate Conception Parish



Call Dominic or Crystal Mulroy at 505-429-1982 for more information or to register for the event.



You may pick up a registration form at the Office.

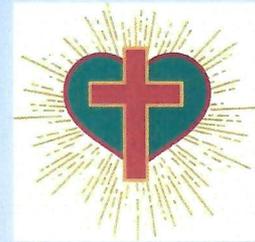
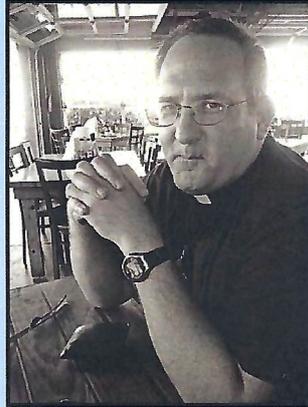
Annual Catholic Appeal

How do I donate to the Annual Catholic Appeal?

By mail using a personal check, money order or your bank's bill pay option. Online—You can make a secure online contribution from your credit card, debit card, or bank account. Over the phone—You may also call our office at 505.931.8138 or 8239 and we will be happy to assist you. IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) gift Charitable Giving—Many employers offer charitable giving programs through their Human Resources Department. ACA online giving website: www.acaarchdiosf.org

The rebate for 2022 ACA was \$1,564.00

St. Gertrude's Lenten Parish Retreat



Retreat Master:
Fr. Scott Brossart, SOLT

Topic: Tent of the Meeting
(Deepen your friendship with the Lord)

March 10 ~ 12, 2023

St. Gertrude's Church

Mora, New Mexico



Deepen Your Prayer Life This Lent
Registration forms are available in the Parish Office.

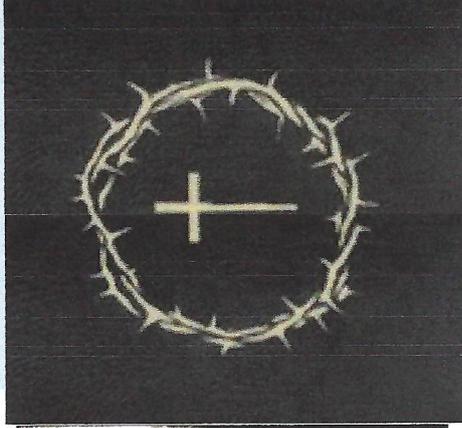
Fr. Scott Brossart entered the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT) in 1993 at the age of 23 after having gone through a major conversion. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Jubilee Year of 2000 in Subiaco, Italy, just outside of Rome. He has served in many SOLT missions, including Nairobi in Kenya, in England in the United Kingdom (U.K.), and Papua New Guinea. Fr. Scott has ministered in a wide range of ministries and apostolates, such as working with street children and in slum areas in Kenya, prison ministry, youth ministry, novice master, spiritual formation, pastor, retreat director, vocations director, and healing and deliverance ministry. He has also served at St. Ann's Mission and St. Michael's Catholic Church on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota. He was recently the parish priest at one of the SOLT missions in Hythe, Kent in England where he served for 3½ years. He is now the priest chaplain for the

SOLT community in Kansas City along with Our Lady's Montessori School, which is also in Kansas City.

In regards to retreats, Fr. Scott specialized in healing retreats through the Eucharist and contemplative prayer.

He has given a retreat to the Conventual Friars of Renewal (CFR's) for the UK religion, mission retreat at Divine Mercy parish in Ken-

ner, Louisiana, just outside of New Orleans, a Healing and Forgiveness Retreat in Corpus Christi, Texas, Tent of the Meeting Retreats, which focus on encounters with Our Lord through contemplative prayer given in Holywell, Wales, Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer in Dalmailly, Scotland, at Cold Ash Retreat Centre in Cold Ash, England, and in Sisters of St. Francis Retreat Center in Independence, Missouri.



St. Gertrude's Lenten Parish Retreat

Retreat Master:

Fr. Scott Brossart,
SOLT

Topic: Tent of the Meeting
(Deepen your friendship with the Lord)

March 10 ~ 12, 2023

St. Gertrude's Church

Mora, New Mexico



Deepen Your Prayer
Life This Lent



St. Gertrude's Parish
Retreat Schedule

	Friday	March 10, 2023
	6:00 p.m.	Mass/Stations of the Cross
	7:00 p.m.	Introduction: Talk: Come
	8:15 p.m.	Healing Encounter with Our Lord
	9:00 p.m.	Confessions
	Saturday	March 11, 2023
	8:00 a.m.	Mass
	8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast (Provided)
	9:00 a.m.	Talk: The Invitation/Faith of Our Lady
	10:00 a.m.	Tent of the Meeting/ Pillow & Blankets/ Call of Child Samuel
	11:00 a.m.	Talk: Abide



St. Gertrude's Parish
Retreat Schedule

	Saturday	March 11, 2023
	11:45 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break (Provided)
	1:00 p.m.	Talk: How to Pray/ Tent of the Meeting
	2:00 p.m.	Talk: Communion with Angels & Saints
	3:00 p.m.	Confessions
	Sunday	March 12, 2023
	1:00 p.m.	Talk: GO & Prayer of Burning Embers/Laying on of Hands by Priests
	3:00 p.m.	Sharing of Fruits of Retreat with a Final Blessing



Registration Form for St. Gertrude's Parish Retreat
TENT OF THE MEETING
(Meeting Our Lord in His Tent)

Who: Fr. Scott Brossart, SOLT
What: Lenten Retreat
Where: St. Gertrude the Great Church
When: Fri., March 10th from 6-9 pm; Sat., March 11th from 8 am to 3 pm (Continental Breakfast & Lunch provided); Sun., March 12th from 1-3pm
Cost: Free

The following members of my family will be attending the Tent of the Meeting Retreat:

Total Number of Attendees: _____

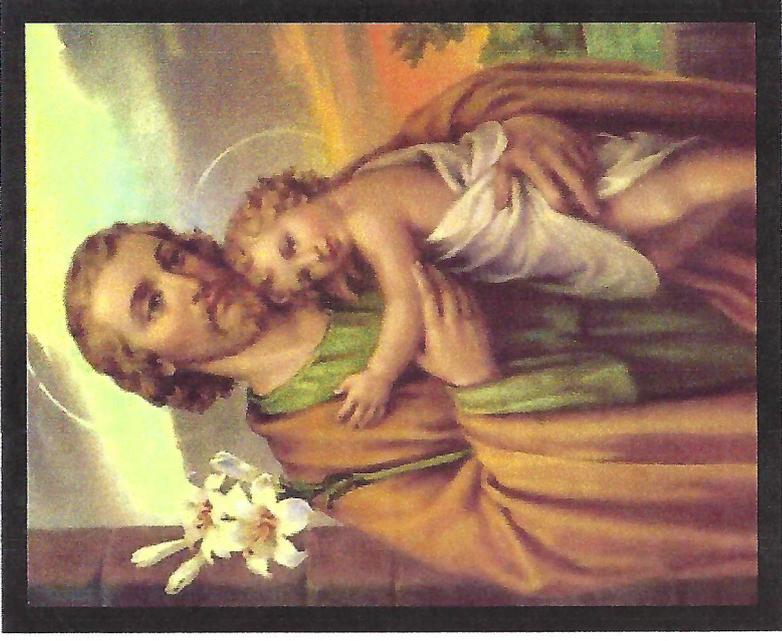


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Novena

In Honor of

Saint Joseph

March 11 to 19

Day One: Saint Joseph's Humility and the Plan of Salvation

Saint Joseph's life was one of humility and hiddenness. He is an important person in the drama of the Incarnation, yet if his role were measured by the number of lines that he has in Sacred Scripture, it would be judged a small one. But this is hardly the case.

Saint Joseph, the Gospels tell us, was the son of Jesse. He was a carpenter and while he was betrothed to the Virgin Mary she was found to be with child. He, being a good man, was going to divorce her quietly to cause her as little embarrassment as possible. But when an angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and told him who this child was, he took Mary as his wife and became the protector of her and the child. Joseph was present at the nativity of the Lord and witnessed all the marvelous events surrounding the birth of the Messiah. Joseph was seen by the world to be the father of Jesus and he truly cared for the Christ Child with fatherly love and care. Joseph was named the Child Jesus in accord with the word of the angel, and was present at the circumcision of the Child Jesus. Joseph carried the offering of turtle doves or pigeons to the Temple when the time came for Mary and the child to be purified. At the angel's prompting he rescued them from the violence of Herod and brought them back to their home in Nazareth. When Jesus was twelve and was lost in Jerusalem both Joseph and Mary were troubled at Jesus' disappearance and looked for him in sorrow. His heart must have been full of joy when he found the child among the teachers of the law. After this account of Joseph's presence at the finding of the child Jesus in the temple, the Gospels are silent about the holy man Joseph except to mention in a few places that Jesus was thought to be his son.

Saint Joseph, nonetheless, has an important place in the plan of God to save mankind. Though Joseph has no words to speak to us from the pages of the Gospels. God chose him to be the spouse of the Virgin Mother of God and protector of his only-begotten Son. From this special work in the plan of salvation comes Joseph's special dignity. He is the silent man, but an important man. He is the man closest to our Lady and closest to our Lord.

Prayer: Remember, O most pure husband of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, my beloved patron, that never was it heard that any on invoked your patronage and sought your aid without being comforted. With this confidence I come before

you and fervently commend myself to you. O Foster Father of the Redeemer, do not despise my prayer, but receive it graciously. Amen.

Day Two: Joseph, the Just Man

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Saint Joseph was a righteous man, a just man (Matthew 1:19). Saint Bernard wrote, "There can be no doubt that the Joseph to whom the mother of the Savior was betrothed was a good and faithful man; he was a 'faithful and prudent servant.' (Matthew 24:45), whom God raised up to be His mother's helpmate, guardian of His own flesh, the sole and very faithful helper on earth in the great work of His Incarnation." The Gospel tells us that when Mary had been found with child, "Joseph her husband, an upright man unwilling to expose her to the law, decided to divorce her quietly." Joseph was an upright man, a just man, because he wished to follow the law of his ancestors, the old covenant. He must have had fears about what had happened to his betrothed wife. Saint John Chrysostom wrote, "Notice this holy man's forbearance. It is not simply that he does nothing to chastise his wife; why, he does not even tell her the grave suspicions that have been aroused in his mind: he keeps all these things to himself, hiding his anxiety and suffering even from Mary....Joseph did not confide his fears to anybody; he kept them locked in his heart." But an angel appears to him in a dream to calm his fears and tell him of the beginnings of a new covenant with the conception of the Christ Child. Saint John Chrysostom says that this message of the angel proves "that the angel was sent from God, for God alone can read the depths of the heart....So wise was Joseph's behavior that it shows how good and virtuous a man he was." Joseph is the prudent man, the just man. What does that mean? Saint Peter Chrysologus says that it means "a perfect man, one who has all the virtues."

Prayer: Saint Joseph, the just man, hear my petitions as I call to you. You are a model of all the virtues. You are a lover of truth and a man of prudence. Help me to imitate your virtue as I live my days with you as my patron. May I grow in the justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude, in the faith, in the hope, and in the love, which you had in their fullness. Bring my prayers before the throne of grace, my Protector, and help me to grow in the love of your blessed Spouse Mary and the Child she bore, Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

Day Three: The Virginal Spouse of Mary

Joseph was the husband of Mary, the Mother of God. Their relationship was truly a marriage, but a spiritual marriage. Their relationship was a spiritual one without physical intercourse, yet it was fruitful. Saint Francis de Sales wrote about St. Joseph's virginity: "The Blessed Virgin was not a wholly pure and unsullied maiden, she was virginity itself ('I know not how to utter your praises, O holy and spotless Virginity, 'as the Church sings at Matins); how perfect then had to be the purity of him whom the Eternal Father appointed to be it guardian, or rather, its companion, for it had no need to be protected by anything but itself. Apparently they had both vowed to remain virgin throughout life; and God willed that they should be joined in holy wedlock, not that they should gainsay or rue their oath, but in order that they should strengthen and confirm one another to persevere in their ed undertaking...What was the glorious Saint Joseph but a might rampart built around Our Lady, who as his wife was subject to him and in his care? So far from his being given to her that she might repudiate her vow of maidenhood, it was as her partner, to the end that Mary's purity might be the more strikingly maintained in its integrity under the veil and shelter of marriage and their hold association with one another. The most Holy Virgin is a gate, says the Eternal Father, and it shall not be opened, for it is an eastern gate and no man shall pass through it (Ezekiel 44:1-2); it must be made double with wood that will not decay, and the fellow door is the great saint, Joseph, whose purity must for this purpose excel that of all other saints, of the angels and cherubim themselves."

Saint Joseph was the virgin companion and husband of our Lady. His love for her must have been great. This pure love which asks nothing in return and which is life-giving is a great example for all the faithful, whatever their state in life. Saint Joseph is a great example for those who live lives of vowed chastity. May all the faithful imitate his love and his purity of heart.

Prayer: The Purity that made you stand out and the perfect innocence that shone forth from you, O just and most holy Joseph, have delighted the hearts of the faithful and shown us the way to angelic life and to the royal road. Wherefore the heavenly powers were amazed as they beheld the heights of your indescribable glory. We too sing a hymn to you: "Glory to the One who honored you! Glory to the One who crowned you! Glory to the One who consecrated you as the intercessor for our souls." Because you loved purity of heart, you have

become a close friend of the Heavenly King. Because He has chosen you to become the foster-father of his only begotten Son, the ever-virgin Mary was entrusted to you as a pure bride, wherefore you received the choicest gifts of the Holy Spirit. O Holy Joseph, intercede for the salvation of our souls. Amen.
(From the *Byzantine Liturgy*)

Day Four: Teacher and Protector of Jesus

Joseph watched over Jesus with true fatherly love and care. It was Joseph, along with Mary, who taught Jesus the traditions of His people, the Jews. He taught Jesus the worship, prayer and tradition of the Jewish people as well as his trade of carpentry. Joseph was both the one teaching and the one taught. He learned daily from the holiness and example of the child who lived with him. He grew in the love of God through his daily life with the Son of God. Saint Bernardine of Siena wrote, "Joseph had a burning love for Christ. Who, I ask, would deny that Christ, whether as child or man, would arouse the most unutterable feelings of joy and happiness in one who lived in intimacy with Him and held Him in his arms, who experienced Jesus' loving looks and embraces, who listened to His speech? How sweet must have been the kisses Joseph received from Him? How moving to hear the Child murmur the name of father, how delightful to feel His gently encircling arms! Or again, when the Child was growing bigger, but was wearied with much walking on the journeys that they took, think how Joseph was filled with compassion and rested Him in his arms. For Joseph had for Jesus all the fullness of adoptive love, as for a darling son given him by the Holy Spirit in his maiden bride."

The dignity which Joseph possesses is great, for he was chosen to hold in his arms the One who from eternity had dwelt in the bosom of the Eternal Father. He cared for Christ and Christ was obedient to him and to Mary. What a mystery that the Son of God should obey a man and a woman! From all eternity the providence of God, chose Joseph to be the foster father of the Son of God and willed that Jesus should obey him and learn from him.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, you were the teacher of him who was present at the creation of world and who knows all its secrets and who yet allowed himself to be subject to human parents. Saint Joseph, the Heavenly Father entrusted you with the care of our Savior and you cherished with an unselfish love Him who was born of the Virgin Mary. Now you are close to your blessed son in heaven

and he hears your prayers for all those who call upon you. Pray to him for my needs and lead me in His ways. Amen.

Day Five: Guardian of the Holy Family and Patron of The Universal Church

Saint Joseph was the special guardian of the Holy Family. Because Saint Joseph was the protector of the Holy Family, he is now the protector of all the Church, for the Holy Family was, in a way, the image of the Church, the Church in its first beginnings, united in love. Moreover in 1870 Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the patron of the Universal Church.

In a subsequent encyclical Pope Leo XIII wrote: "Now the divine household that Joseph governed with what seemed a father's authority held within itself the beginnings of the nascent Church. As the Blessed Virgin is the mother of Jesus Christ, so she is the mother of all Christians, whom she brought forth on the hill of Calvary amidst the crowning sufferings of the Redeemer; Jesus Christ is, as it were, the first-born of Christians, who are His brethren by adoption and redemption. Such are the reasons why the blessed patriarch Joseph must look on the multitude of Christians who make up the Church as being particularly entrusted to him: they form a huge family distributed all over the earth, and he has a kind of fatherly power over it, because he is Mary's husband and Jesus Christ's father. It is then natural, right and proper for all the wants of the family at Nazareth and looked after it with religious care, so now from Heaven he should extend his protection and care to the whole Church of Christ.

Prayer: Having besought the aid of your most holy Bride, we turn to you in our distress, blessed Joseph, and confidently invoke your protection too. We beseech you to look kindly on the heritage that Christ Jesus made His own with His blood, and to use your power to help us in our needs through the love that bound you to the Immaculate Virgin, God's Mother, and through the fatherly love that bound you to the Immaculate Virgin, God's Mother, and through the fatherly love that you poured out on the Child Jesus. Most careful Guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ. Most loving Father, keep us from all stain of error and corruption. Most mighty Deliverer, look down on us from the height of Heaven: aid us in our battle against the powers of darkness, and defend God's holy Church from the guile of the Enemy and from all adversity, as once you snatched the Child Jesus from the jaws of death.

Assist us unceasingly, so that, upheld by your example and help, we may live in holiness, die a holy death and reach the everlasting happiness of Heaven. Amen. (From the encyclical, *Quoniam pluries*, of Pope Leo XIII.)

Day Six: Saint Joseph the Worker

Saint Joseph has been called the patron of workers. He was a carpenter himself and earned his bread and the bread of the Blessed Mother and Child by the sweat of his brow. By his work in the shop in Nazareth he provided for his holy charges. Not only that, but he taught the Lord his trade of woodworking. The Lord through whom all things were made learned the trade of a humble Jewish artisan.

Pope John Paul II in a homily in 1983 said, "Saint Joseph taught Jesus human work in which he was an expert. The Divine Child worked beside him, and by listening to him and observing him, he too learned to manage the carpenter's tools with the diligence and the dedication that the example of his foster father transmitted to him. This too is a great lesson, beloved brothers and sisters: if the Son of God was willing to learn a human work from a man, this indicates that there is in work a specific moral value with precise meaning for man and for his self-fulfillment."

Prayer: God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe, in every age you call man to develop and use his gifts for the good of others. With Saint Joseph as our example and guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Amen. (*From the Roman Missal*)

Day Seven: Saint Joseph, Man of Prayer

Saint Joseph was a man of prayer. He was a devout Jew. He was so faithful that he and Mary made it their practice to travel every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. This was not the ordinary practice, but only something which the very dedicated to the praise of God would do. This was the root of that love for prayer Jesus learned from Mary and Joseph. Very often Joseph must have raised his mind to God as he made his way through a work day. He would have prayed to God to bless his work and to keep a watchful eye over his family. Not only did Joseph speak to God; he was ready to listen. He listened, contemplating the mighty deeds God had performed in the history of his people, his life, in Mary's life and, finally, the mighty deeds God would perform through

Christ. Listening is a fitting attitude for the saint who has been called “the silent man.” Pope John Paul II has written, “Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the living God. He listens in silence. And his heart perseveres in readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God, in order to receive it and fulfill it with love.”

Prayer: Saint Joseph, look upon me in your love and help me to imitate your silent, prayerful way. May I keep the Lord’s mighty deeds before my mind and in my heart. May I remember the love you and Mary, your virgin bride, have for me. May I think always of Christ’s love for me which He proved through his dying on the cross and his rising to new life. Help me to live in constant remembrance of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You, blessed Joseph, lived in the presence of the Christ Child, may you help me to remember Christ’s presence in my life. Ask the Lord Christ to be with me, to bless me and to answer my humble petitions. Amen.

Day Eight: Saint Joseph, Patron of a Holy Death

Saint Joseph lived in the presence of God throughout his life. In caring for the Son of God and his Mother, Saint Joseph beheld on earth what the blessed King will see in heaven. His death took place in the presence of Mary and Jesus. This is the reason that Saint Joseph is the special patron of the dying. Although the Gospels do not tell us this, explicitly, we know it must have been so because of the love which existed between the members of the Holy Family. We do not know just when Saint Joseph died, but we know that it was probably during the “hidden time” of Christ’s life, between the time of His being found in the Temple and the beginning of His public ministry. Now Saint Joseph is united in heaven with the Lord for whom he cared on earth.

He died in the arms of our Blessed Mother and his foster Son, the Lord Christ. To die in such a way is the goal of every Christian. May we strive to imitate Saint Joseph and ask his intercession. At the hour of our death may Saint Joseph and Mary the Mother of God and Christ her Son be there to lead us to our heavenly homeland.

Prayer: O blessed Joseph, you offered up your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. Grant me grace to live my life as you lived. When the seal

of death shall close my life, come, holy father, with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this one comfort I ask for that hour, to die encircled by their holy arms. Into your sacred hands, living and dying, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul. Amen.

Day Nine: Call Upon Saint Joseph and Imitate Him

Saint Teresa of Avila wrote: “I wish I could persuade everyone to be truly devoted to this glorious saint, for long experience has taught me what blessings he can obtain from God for us. I have never known anyone to have a true devotion and particular veneration for him who did not notably advance in virtue, for he gives very real help to souls who commend themselves to him.”

Along with this saintly Doctor, the Church encourages the faithful to call upon Saint Joseph. And the Church encourages this devotion to Saint Joseph in many ways. She has built churches and shrines in his honor. She invites the faithful to call upon Saint Joseph as a special patron through the devotions to him she has approved. She invokes him in the liturgy. The Church sees him as a powerful intercessor and as a saint intimately connected with the plan of salvation. We must remember, though, that even if our prayers do not seem to be answered, if we are imitating the virtues of our patron, we are growing in the divine life. Saint Teresa wrote: “For some years now, I think, I have made some request of him every year on his festival and I have always had it granted. If my petition is in any way ill directed, he directs it aright for my greater good.” Let us follow Saint Teresa in taking Joseph as our patron. Let us call upon him and imitate his goodness. May he hear our prayers and bring us farther along the road which leads us back to our Father’s home.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, husband of Mary the Queen of the Angels, and foster father of the Son of God, hear my petitions. Ask the Lord to grant them if they are according to His will, for He knows how things on earth and in heaven are to be. And whether my petitions be answered as I wish or not, help me to grow in imitation of your goodness and in love of virtue. You are the just man, help me to grow in the righteousness of God. May all the virtues find root in my heart and spring up to provide a harvest of good works for all eternity. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Most Holy Joseph, adopted father of Jesus, and worthy spouse of the Mother of God, prostrate at your feet, I offer to you my most profound respect, together with all that I am and have, joyfully submitting to your guidance. I consecrate myself wholly to your service. If I am not worthy to be called your child, receive me as your servant. I prefer this honor to the greatest which the world could bestow upon me. Accept then, O blessed father, this, my oblation and do not let a day pass without letting me testify to my love for you. Amen. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give my heart, my soul, and my life. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary, Joseph may I die happily in your blessed company. Amen.

Invocation

Grant, O Holy Joseph, that ever secure under your protection, we may pass our lives without guilt.

Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, 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.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, pray for us.
Illustrious Son of David, pray for us.
Light of patriarchs, pray for us.
Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
Foster Father of the Son of God, pray for us.
Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, most just, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, most chaste, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, most prudent, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, most valiant, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, most obedient, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, most faithful, pray for us.
Mirror of patience, pray for us.
Lover of poverty, pray for us.
Model of workers, pray for us.
Ornament of home life, pray for us.
Guardian of virgins, pray for us.
Support of families, pray for us.
Solace of the afflicted, pray for us.
Hope of the sick, pray for us.
Patron of the dying, pray for us.
Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
V. He appointed him Lord of all his household.
R. And ruler over all his possessions

Let us pray,

O God, who by an ineffable providence did deign to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother; grant, we beseech you, that we may merit to have him as intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate as protector on earth, who live and reign world without end. Amen.

Act of Consecration to Saint Joseph

O dearest Saint 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 a fervent love of the interior life.

Following your example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, and with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And do you, O blessed Saint Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen.

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Pray for the people on our parish prayer list.