

## MARCH: Month dedicated to Saint Joseph



The month of March is traditionally dedicated to honouring the Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, the nurturing father of Jesus and the most chaste husband of the Blessed Virgin, through whom the royal rights of the Davidic dynasty came to the Messiah. The devotion to Saint Joseph, however, had to wait centuries for his great expansion, as if he wanted to remain discreet, preferring that the attention be focused on the worship of Jesus and his Immaculate Mother. As we will see in the excellent exposition that we copied from the Catholic Encyclopedia, despite the fact that the cult of Saint Joseph is not

foreign to the Church from the earliest times and that during the Middle Ages it underwent a remarkable development, it was thanks to Saint Teresa of Jesus, most devoted to hers, and Carmel reformed by her as it began to extend prodigiously, to the point that the past two centuries can rightly be called "the Josephine era", which culminated with the insertion of the name of the patriarch in Canon of the Mass. Pope Francis, during the Christmas celebration in 2020, declared that 2021 be a Saint Joseph Jubilee Year.

## **Prayer to Saint Joseph, model for working people**

Glorious Saint Joseph, model of those who must work with the sweat of their brow, get me the grace to consider work as atonement, to satisfy so many sins. Make me work conscientiously, preferring the faithful fulfillment of my duties to my capricious inclinations; Make me work with gratitude and joy, putting all my effort and honor to take advantage of and develop, through work, all the talents that I have received from God. Send me to work calmly, moderately and patiently without being afraid of fatigue and difficulties. Inspire me often with thoughts of death and the account that I have to pay for lost time, wasted talents, omissions, and all vain indulgence in successes, so contrary to the honor of God. Everything according to your example, oh Patriarch Saint Joseph!

**28 MARCH 2021 - PALM SUNDAY**



What does this mean in our lives? It is an opportunity to proclaim Jesus as the king and center of our lives. We must resemble those people in Jerusalem who were enthusiastic about following Christ. Saying "Long live my Christ, long live my king ..." It is a day in which we can tell Christ that we too want to follow him, even if we have to suffer or die for him.

That we want him to be the king of our life , of our family, of our country and of the whole world. We want him to be our friend in every moment of our life.

## St. Faustina and the Year of St. Joseph

by Marc Massery



Turn to any page of St. Faustina's *Diary*, and you'll find spiritual gems. Like this one.

Do you have a devotion to St. Joseph? Saint Faustina sure did. She wrote:

Saint Joseph urged me to have a constant devotion to him. ... He looked at me with great kindness and gave me to know how much he is supporting this work [of mercy]. He has promised me ... special help and protection. (1203)

We know that St. Faustina frequently heard directly from Jesus and the Blessed Mother. But it seems that sometimes, she received visits from St. Joseph, too. This makes sense, because St. Joseph spent his life

beside Christ and the Blessed Mother. He's the most powerful intercessor we could go to, next to the Blessed Mother. So, St. Faustina implored his help and protection.

If you turn to St. Joseph, as St. Faustina did, he promises you special help and protection, too. Why? Saint Joseph's job was protecting the Holy Family. In his apostolic letter *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis said:

[E]very poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is "the child" whom Joseph continues to protect. For this reason, Saint Joseph is invoked as protector of the unfortunate, the needy, exiles, the afflicted, the poor and the dying.

Saint Joseph is also known as the Patron of the Universal Church, the Pillar of Families, the Hope of the Sick, the Patron of Workers, and the Terror of Demons. Scripture says that Jesus was "obedient" to His parents on earth. That's why the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph are such powerful intercessors. Jesus listens to them!

This year, the Church celebrates a "Year of St. Joseph." This means that the Church is calling us to learn more about St. Joseph throughout the year. If you haven't already, consider consecrating yourself to Jesus through St. Joseph. If you begin the book *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, on Feb. 15, you'll finish the consecration on March 19, St. Joseph's feast day.

So make it your goal this year to grow closer to St. Joseph in prayer. He will protect and support you just as he helped the Holy Family and St. Faustina.