

Consecration to St. Joseph

September 29, 2021 - October 31, 2021

To the spiritual head of the household:

Thank you for joining us in our parish-wide consecration to St. Joseph. The following resource will assist you in leading your family closer to Christ through His father, St. Joseph. It is our hope that your family can prepare for this consecration together. The unity of our parish is founded in the strength of our families. We pray that through this consecration, your family’s faith is deepened through St. Joseph’s intercession and protection.

St. Joseph Parish Council
St. Joseph, pray for us.

For Adult Parishioners:

These resources are made so they can be used in personal prayer. Please reference the schedule below.

For Young Families:

The provided schedule is meant for adults. It will benefit you to look over the section on “For Young Families” (pg. 5) to substitute for more age-appropriate activities.

For Families with Adolescents:

The provided schedule is not conducive to families with adolescent children. Please refer to the section “For Families with Adolescents” (pg. 6) to substitute more family-friendly options.

Schedule

Week 1 (9/29 - 10/2).....	St. Joseph, Spouse
Week 2 (10/3 - 10/9).....	St. Joseph, Father
Week 3 (10/10 - 10/16).....	St. Joseph, Model of Piety
Week 4 (10/17 - 10/23).....	St. Joseph, Worker
Week 5 (10/24 - 10/30).....	St. Joseph, Protector
Consecration Day (10/31): Saturday Vigil Mass, Sunday Mass	

Other Events

- 10/6 - *Women’s Adoration (7:00-8:15 pm); guest speaker Fr. Caleb LaRue*
- 10/13 - *He’s Not Your Average Joe (7:00 pm); guest speaker Sharon Doran*
- 10/20 - *Men’s Adoration (7:00-8:15 pm); guest speaker Fr. Brian Kane*
- 10/23 - *LOCATED AT ST. JOHN’S - Emmaus Institute; The Biblical Portrayal of St. Joseph*
(register at emmausinstitute.net)

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, have mercy. *Chris, have mercy.*

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

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.*

St. Joseph, *pray for us.*

Noble Offspring 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.*

Zealous defender of Christ, *pray for us.*

Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*

Joseph most just, *pray for us.*

Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*

Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*

Joseph most valiant, *pray for us.*

Joseph most obedient, *pray for us.*

Joseph most faithful, *pray for us.*

Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*

Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*

Model of workmen, *pray for us.*

Glory of home life, *pray for us.*

Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*

Pillar of families, *pray for us.*

Comfort of the afflicted, *pray for us.*

Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*

Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*

Terror of demons, *pray for us.*

Protector of the Holy Church, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord!*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord!*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us!*

V. He made him the lord of His household,

R. *And prince over all His possessions.*

V. Let us pray.

R. *O God, who, in your loving providence, chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.*

Week 1: St. Joseph, Spouse

- 9/29 Litany
- 9/30 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Spend time in gratitude for the gift of St. Joseph's faithfulness.
 - *We see that at the beginning of the New Testament, as at the beginning of the Old, there is a married couple. But whereas Adam and Eve were the source of evil which was unleashed on the world, Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Savior began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union. - St. Pope Paul VI (p27)*
- 10/1 Meditation (*Matthew 1:18-25*)
- 10/2 Prompt
 1. *How is St. Joseph a model spouse?*
 2. *In what way is Jesus calling me to follow St. Joseph's complete self-gift?*

Week 2: St. Joseph, Father

- 10/3 Litany
- 10/4 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Spend a few moments recalling the blessing St. Joseph was to Jesus.
 - *Although you [St. Joseph] are not necessary for the [child's] conception and birth, nevertheless you will be necessary for [his] sustenance; and your first care will concern his name. - St. Albert the Great (p37)*
- 10/5 Meditation (*2 Samuel 7:8-13*)
- 10/6 Litany
- 10/7 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Consider the importance of fatherhood.
 - *The position of St. Joseph as husband and foster father gives witness to the dignity of fatherhood. - Venerable Joseph Mindszenty (p37)*
- 10/8 Meditation (*Luke 2:1-7, 16*)
- 10/9 Prompt
 1. *In what ways are fathers a great blessing to families? Why are they necessary, as Joseph was to Jesus?*
 2. *How have the experiences of my earthly father affected my ability to entrust myself totally to God the Father?*
 3. *What is one area of my life that I can entrust to the perfect fatherhood of St. Joseph?*

Week 3: St. Joseph, Model of Piety

- 10/10 Litany
- 10/11 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Spend time in gratitude for the simplicity of a life given to God.
 - *Consider that the entire life of Saint Joseph was interior and hidden in God; so little known to the world that but a few holy writers mention him in a few places; and of his death give no information. His was a life of prayer, quiet work, and constant sacrifice, and at the same time, a life shining with the splendor of all virtues. - St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar (p22)*
- 10/12 Meditation (*Matthew 6:5-8*)
- 10/13 Litany
- 10/14 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Consider the deep trust required of St. Joseph.
 - *Why was St. Matthew so keen to note Joseph's trust in the words received from the messenger of God, if not to invite us to imitate this same loving trust? - Pope Benedict XVI (p51)*

- 10/15 Meditation (*Luke 2:39-42*)
- 10/16 Prompt
 1. *How did St. Joseph's prayer life directly affect his actions?*
 2. *What is one way I can enter into prayer more deeply?*

Week 4: St. Joseph, Worker

- 10/17 Litany
- 10/18 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Consider how holiness begins by living out your vocation.
 - *Saint Joseph was an ordinary sort of man on whom God relied to do great things. He did exactly what the Lord wanted him to do, in each and every event that went to make up his life. - St. Josemaria Escriva (p43)*
- 10/19 Meditation (*1 Thes 4:9-12 or James 1:19-25*)
- 10/20 Litany
- 10/21 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Imagine St. Joseph in adoration of the child Jesus.
 - *Truly, I doubt not that the angels, wondering and adoring, came thronging in countless multitudes to that poor workshop to admire the humility of him who guarded that dear and divine child, and labored at his carpenter's trade to support the son and the mother who were committed to his care. - St. Francis de Sales (p57)*
- 10/22 Meditation (*Luke 2:41-52*)
- 10/23 Prompt
 1. *There are no recorded words of St. Joseph in the Bible. How does this highlight the importance of work and charity?*
 2. *What work is Jesus calling me to?*
 3. *How can I give my work more purposefully and completely to Jesus?*

Week 5: St. Joseph, Protector

- 10/24 Litany
- 10/25 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Spend time in gratitude for St. Joseph's role as protector.
 - *Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt, exalted Joseph and made him the highest prince in his kingdom, because he stored up the grain and bread and saved the people of his entire kingdom. So Joseph saved and protected Christ, who is the living bread and gives eternal life to the world. - St. Lawrence of Brindisi (p110)*
- 10/26 Meditation (*Matthew 2:13-15*)
- 10/27 Litany
- 10/28 Excerpt - Read slowly and reflect. Ask St. Joseph for his protection.
 - *He [St. Joseph] protects those who revere him and accompanies them on their journey through this life—just as he protected and accompanied Jesus when he was growing up. - St. Josemaria Escriva (p39)*
- 10/29 Meditation (*Matthew 2:19-23*)
- 10/30 Prompt
 1. *How can St. Joseph protect souls?*
 2. *What is an area of temptation or struggle that I can give to the protection of St. Joseph?*

Consecration Day

- 10/31 Sunday Mass Consecration, Home Consecration - *The parish will participate in a Consecration to St. Joseph during Mass. Please bring a statue of the Holy Family for a special blessing. After Mass, you will be provided with the materials needed to consecrate your home to St. Joseph. (Resources will be available in the Narthex.)*

For Young Families

To provide more age-appropriate resources, reference the following ideas and activities. Each family's commitments and habits are different; hopefully, we have provided a broad range of ideas allowing you to select what will be best for your family. Be confident in picking only a few ideas or activities.

Ideas

- Choose a small portion of the *Litany to St. Joseph* to include with your prayer before meals or nighttime prayers.
- Make a poster of the litany, only recording the selected portion, and hang in your kitchen or by the dinner table.
- At bedtime, teach your children to say, "St. Joseph, protect me tonight."
- Place a statue of the Holy Family or St. Joseph in a central location in your home. Use that space for night prayers.
- Use one meal time each week to go over the "questions to ask."
- Use quiet time to draw pictures of different scenes from Jesus' childhood.

Optional Activities by Week

- Week 1 (St. Joseph, Spouse)
 - Questions to ask: What is a spouse? What makes someone a good husband or wife?
 - Draw a picture of Mary and St. Joseph's wedding.
 - YouTube "Mary and Joseph Christmas Story for Kids" (*Sharefaithkids.com* version) <https://youtu.be/0ib2-uPGMpE>
- Week 2 (St. Joseph, Father)
 - Questions to ask: Why are dads important? How did St. Joseph take care of Mary and Jesus? How does your dad take care of you? How does God the Father take care of you?
 - Draw a picture of the Nativity.
 - YouTube "Joseph's Song" by Michael Card (*lyrics and artwork* version) <https://youtu.be/f5RLChQZz-M>
- Week 3 (St. Joseph, Model of Piety)
 - Questions to ask: What is prayer? Why is it important to pray? How do mom and dad pray?
 - Draw a picture of St. Joseph taking Jesus to the synagogue to pray.
 - Pray with St. Joseph to his spouse, Mary. YouTube "Salve Regina" by Canto Catolico (*simple tone, 450 voices* version) <https://youtu.be/f0YWKLNhTvE>
- Week 4 (St. Joseph, Worker)
 - Questions to ask: Why is working hard important? How did St. Joseph work hard? How did Jesus work hard? How do mom and dad work hard? How can you do a better job of working for Jesus?
 - Draw a picture of St. Joseph and Jesus working in their carpentry shop.
 - YouTube "Who is Saint Joseph: Meet the Saints" (*Aleteia* version) <https://youtu.be/GEVikiTv1fA>
- Week 5 (St. Joseph, Protector)
 - Questions to ask: How does St. Joseph protect you? How does he keep you safe? What prayer can you pray when you are scared? How do your mom and dad protect you?
 - Draw a picture of St. Joseph helping Mary and Jesus escape to Egypt.
 - YouTube "Celebrating Saint Joseph" (version uploaded by *The Well*), reading the words to your child and pausing to view some of the images. <https://youtu.be/PBq1khJoTtk>

*See "Consecration Day" (pg. 4) for details about the parish-wide consecration.

For Families with Adolescents

Depending on how your family best communicates and how often you are able to spend time together, choose a few ideas or activities from the list below to prepare your family for the *Consecration to St. Joseph*.

Ideas

- Once a week, discuss the questions provided below during dinner.
- Place an image or statue of St. Joseph in a central area of the house.
- Once a week, select a meditation to pray together.
- Text your child small sections of the *Litany of St. Joseph* to pray each day.
- Text your child a picture of the saint's excerpts each week.
- Make a visit to church together and pray for your intentions in front of a statue of St. Joseph.
- Journal with your child about the prompts included at the end of each week.
- Make an on-going list of personal intentions to bring to St. Joseph throughout the 33 day preparation.

Activities by Week

- Week 1 (St. Joseph, Spouse)
 - Dinner questions: What is the difference between a covenant/sacramental marriage and legal, contractual marriage? Why does the church consider marriage a “vocation”? How can spouses help each other grow closer to Jesus and attain heaven? How do your parents strive to do that? What couples do you respect and wish to emulate if called to marriage?
- Week 2 (St. Joseph, Father)
 - Dinner questions: Why do you think it was important for Jesus to have a foster-father? Are fathers necessary in families? Why or why not? How does a father's role differ from a mother? What are some specific things you appreciate about your dad?
- Week 3 (St. Joseph, Model of Piety)
 - Dinner questions: What is the value of St. Joseph's silence? How did St. Joseph's commitment to prayer affect his decisions and actions? How does prayer affect your decisions and actions? What ways have you learned how to pray? How is prayer difficult or confusing?
- Week 4 (St. Joseph, Worker)
 - Dinner questions: Why was St. Joseph's work honorable and holy? How can our work bring us closer to Jesus? How can work pull us away from Him? What is “the work” you are called to right now? How can you more purposefully give these pursuits to Jesus?
- Week 5 (St. Joseph, Protector)
 - Dinner questions: What does it mean to be protected by St. Joseph individually, as a family, and as the church? What threatens or attacks the unity of your family? How can you turn to St. Joseph for help?

What is a Consecration? Why is it spiritually uplifting?

A consecration is a way to formally dedicate ourselves to the protection, guidance, and intercession of a saint. We ask the saint, in this case St. Joseph, to bring before Jesus all our prayers and actions. He, in turn, requests the graces we need to grow in relationship with Christ. St. Joseph is so deeply united with his son Jesus, that by consecrating our hearts to him, he will confidently lead us closer to God.

Guidelines for Meditation (*Lectio Divina*)

- Begin by inviting the Holy Spirit into your heart and mind.
- Spend a few moments resting in the Father's presence.
- Then, ask Christ what He wants to reveal or share with you.
- Read the excerpt for the day.
- Let your mind settle on the phrases or thoughts that stand out to you.
- If nothing stands out, read the scripture passage again. Go slowly.
- When a phrase or word draws your attention, stop to ponder it. Be content to think about that particular phrase or word.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the importance or meaning of His message.
- It is helpful to be able to review past prayer experiences. Consider writing down these revelations and reflections in a prayer notebook or journal.
- Conclude your time with gratitude for His Presence and anything He has chosen to reveal. Commit to humbly following His will the rest of the day.