

# NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

*Full Edition*



*“O Joseph, assist my labours and give me grace.”*

- Greek inscription, 4th or 5th century

The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of March to St. Joseph and urges people of faith to pay special attention to his life and example. Joseph’s words are not quoted anywhere in the Bible, but since the time of the early Church, he has been invoked as a powerful intercessor. He was the foster father of Jesus Christ, and the husband of the Virgin Mary. As a carpenter, he is seen as the patron saint of workers, and has also been named patron and protector of the Universal Church. He is called the “terror of demons” because of the effectiveness of his intercession, and is the patron of the sick and of a happy death, since it’s believed he died in the presence of Jesus and Mary. Because of his chastity, he is often portrayed with a white lily, and he, along with Mary, are models for the consecrated life, thereby making St. Joseph the patron of both the married and consecrated vocations.

St. Joseph is the patron of Canada, an honour that dates back to the earliest times of French settlement. The consecration of Canada to St. Joseph took place in 1624 by the Recollet missionary Fr. Joseph Le Caron in Quebec. Pope Urban VIII confirmed it in 1637, granting a plenary indulgence to all Canadians who pray to him on the feast-day, March 19. In 1834, the consecration was confirmed by Gregory XVI and St. Joseph officially became the first Patron of Canada.

*“We are redoubling our devotions, as our help can only come from Heaven. Seeing ourselves on the eve of the feast of the glorious Saint Joseph, Patron Saint of this country, we felt obliged to have recourse to such a powerful Protector.”*

- Fr. Paul Ragueneau, S.J., Superior of the Jesuit Mission of Sainte Marie, 1649

The Canadian Martyrs had a great love and devotion for St. Joseph, naming their chapel at Sainte-Marie after him. Today the church at Martyrs’ Shrine in Midland, Ontario, is called the church of St. Joseph. Outdoors, just above the church, a large statue of St. Joseph, surrounded by a fountain, is a place of great devotion for thousands of pilgrims.

Following the pattern of the Apostles and the Virgin Mary and other women, who gathered in the upper room and “devoted themselves to prayer” for the nine days between the Ascension and Pentecost (Acts 1:14), Christians have prayed novenas. A private or public devotion for nine successive days, a novena is considered a special means of accessing the grace of God through the communion of saints. The St. Joseph Novena is rightly considered among the most powerful of novenas.

The Jesuit Fathers  
Martyrs’ Shrine  
Midland, Ontario

## DAY ONE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall God's divine plan, which foresaw and led to the person of St. Joseph.

*“Jacob became the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.”*

(Mt 1:16)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. Praise the Lord, for he is good;  
R. for his mercy endures forever.

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.

O Illustrious Son of David,  
obtain for us through your divine Son  
the grace of abandonment to Divine Providence.  
Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

## DAY TWO

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall St. Joseph's vocation as husband of Mary, in which he receives and reveres Mary as God's gift.

*"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary."*

(Lk 1:26-27)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. Magnify the Lord with me;  
R. and let us exalt his name together.

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.

O Spouse of the Mother of God,  
obtain for us through your divine Son the grace  
of reverence for the human person. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

## DAY THREE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall St. Joseph's obedience to the angel.

*“When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him; he took her as his wife.”*

(Mt 1:24)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. I delight to do your will, my God;

R. Your law is in my inner being!

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.

O Foster-father of the Son of God,  
obtain for us through your divine Son the grace  
of obedience to the will of the Father. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

## DAY FOUR

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall the birth of Our Savior, whom Joseph and Mary are the first to adore.

*“So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child.”*

(Lk 2:16-17)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. The Lord has made his victory known;  
R. has revealed his triumph in the sight of the nations.

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.

O Watchful Defender of Christ,  
obtain for us through your divine Son the grace  
of adoration. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

## DAY FIVE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall the service of authority which St. Joseph carries out in the Holy Family.

*“After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”*

(Lk 2:21)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. You have given him rule over the works of your hands,  
R. put all things at his feet.

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.

O Head of the Holy Family, obtain  
for us through your divine Son the grace to  
accept God’s upward calling in Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

## DAY SIX

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall the worship that St. Joseph and Our Lady offer God in the temple.

*“When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.”*

(Lk 2:22)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord.

R. My heart and flesh cry out for the living God.

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.

O Joseph most faithful, obtain for  
us through your divine Son the grace of true  
worship. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*



## DAY SEVEN

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall the flight to Egypt, in which St. Joseph spares nothing to defend Christ and Our Lady.

**“Joseph got up, and took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt.”**

(Mt 2:14)

A brief period of silence is observed.

V. I have chosen David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him.

R. My hand will be with him; my arm will make him strong.

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.

O Protector of the Church, obtain  
for us through your divine Son the grace to  
bravely overcome every evil. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

## DAY EIGHT

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall the faithfulness of St. Joseph and Mary in the midst of confusion.

**“But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”**

(Lk 2:50-51)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. Make known to me your ways, Lord;

R. teach me your paths.

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.

O Solace of the Afflicted, obtain for us  
through your divine Son the grace of peace  
even when we do not fully understand your  
ways. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

## DAY NINE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As the solemnity of St. Joseph approaches, we recall St. Joseph's joyful acceptance of death in God's time.

*"The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them."*

(Wis 3:1-3)

*A brief period of silence is observed.*

V. You will show me the path to life,  
R. the delights at your right hand forever.

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.

O Patron of the Dying, obtain for  
us through your divine Son the grace  
of a happy death. Amen.

*Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.*

Dear Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the husband of Mary and protector of Jesus, the martyrs saw in you a model of quiet courage and charity, and chose you as their patron. Pray with me now, and ask Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, to grant me what I ask in this novena, if it be according to his holy will. Amen.

Holy Canadian Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
St. Joseph, Patron of Martyrs, *pray for us.*  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

# LITANY TO ST. JOSEPH

In the Litany of Saint Joseph, the Church invokes the most chaste Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the foster father and Guardian of the Redeemer, and patron saint of the Universal Church. In May 2021, in honour of the Year of Saint Joseph, Pope Francis added seven new invocations to the litany. It can be recited at any time, for example, at the end of each day of the Novena to St. Joseph.

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

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

Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.

Christ, hear us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father in heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

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

Holy Mary,  
Saint Joseph,  
Illustrious son of David,  
Light of Patriarchs,  
Spouse of the Mother of God,  
Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Pure Guardian of the Virgin,  
Provider for the Son of God,  
Zealous defender of Christ,  
Servant of Christ,  
Minister of salvation,  
Head of the Holy Family,  
Joseph, most just,  
Joseph, most chaste,  
Joseph, most prudent,  
Joseph, most brave,  
Joseph, most obedient,  
Joseph, most loyal,

pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
pray for us.  
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pray for us.  
pray for us.

Mirror of patience,	pray for us.
Lover of poverty,	pray for us.
Model for workers,	pray for us.
Glory of family life,	pray for us.
Guardian of virgins,	pray for us.
Cornerstone of families,	pray for us.
Support in difficulties,	pray for us.
Comfort of the sorrowing,	pray for us.
Hope of the sick,	pray for us.
Patron of exiles,	pray for us.
Patron of the afflicted,	pray for us.
Patron of the poor,	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, you take away the sins of the world,	spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,	have mercy on us.

He made him master of his house, and ruler of all his possessions.

*Let us pray.*

O God, who in your inexpressible providence  
were pleased to choose Saint Joseph  
as spouse of your most holy Mother,  
grant, we pray,  
that we, who revere him as our protector on earth,  
may be worthy of his heavenly intercession.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

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*With ecclesiastical approval*  
*Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, S.J.*  
*Archbishop emeritus, Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall*  
*Feb 22, 2024 - Feast of the Chair of St. Peter*

# OTHER PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH

## ***Invocation***

*Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph assist me in my last agony.  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe out my soul in peace with Thee!*

## ***Ancient Prayer to St. Joseph***

O Saint 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 Saint 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 Saint Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while 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."

Saint Joseph, Patron of departed souls – pray for me. Amen.

## ***Saint Joseph, Model of Workers Prayer***

O Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labour, obtain for me the grace to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations, to work with gratitude and joy, in a spirit of penance for the remission of my sins, considering it an honour to employ and develop by means of labour the gifts received from God, to work with order, peace, moderation and patience, without ever shrinking from weariness and difficulties, to work above all with purity of intention and detachment from self, having death always before my eyes and the account that I must render of time lost, of talents wasted, of good omitted, of vain complacency in success, so fatal to the work of God.

All for Jesus, all through Mary, all after thine example, O Patriarch St. Joseph. Such shall be my motto in life and in death.

(May 1 - Feast of St. Joseph the Worker)

***Prayer to be recited at the end of the rosary during the month of October:***

To you, O blessed Joseph, we have recourse in our affliction, and having implored the help of your thrice holy spouse, we now, with hearts filled with confidence, earnestly beg you also to take us under your protection. By that charity with which you were united to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and by that fatherly love with which you did cherish the Child Jesus, we beseech you and we humbly pray that you will look down with gracious eye upon that inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His blood, and will help us in our need by your power and strength.

Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen off-spring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness. And even as of old you did rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity. Shield us ever under your patronage, that, following your example and strengthened by your help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain to everlasting happiness in heaven. Amen.

***Select Readings on St. Joseph:***

*Patris Corde*

Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, on the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, 2020.

*Redemptoris Custos*

Apostolic Letter of Pope John Paul II, on the person and mission of St. Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church, 1989.

*The Divine Favours Granted to St. Joseph*, Etienne Binet, S.J.

One of the first books on St. Joseph, written by one of the earliest Jesuits, with chapters that cover his titles, his natural gifts, his virtues, his specially abundant graces, and accounts of special graces received.

*Month of St. Joseph*, St. Peter Julian Eymard

This book contains 31 meditations for the month of March showing the important connection between Joseph and the Eucharist through his guardianship of Jesus in Nazareth.

*Consecration to St. Joseph: the Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*, Fr. Donald Calloway

A spiritual retreat in paperback, this book contains a 33-day preparation, readings and prayers.

*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*

Martyrs Shrine - Midland, Ontario

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