

JOURNEY WITH SAINT JOSEPH
NOVENA IN PREPARATION
FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY



Journey with St. Joseph

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In *Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life*, Marcellino D'Ambrosio, includes the vital role Joseph played in Jesus' life. He points out that Joseph served as a mentor for Jesus, a teacher for the child Jesus, making him an ideal companion as we journey to Catholic Education Sunday.

Each day of this Novena, we will begin with the Shema, the Jewish confession of faith made up of Deuteronomy 6:4–9 and 11:13–21 and Numbers 15:37–41. Joseph would have taught and prayed this prayer with Jesus.

We will draw from scripture and tradition to focus our reflection, offer a suggested prayer starter in response, and conclude with the Memorare to Saint Joseph and the Litany for St. Joseph from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

DAY ONE- October 28

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

R. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for you a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and your gates.

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Reflection:

Like Mary, the angels' visit to Joseph is an invitation to a great act of faith. He is called to accept the responsibility of caring for Mary and the unborn child.

Prayer response:

Joseph, you were called to accept responsibility for Mary and the unborn child. Each year I am invited to accept responsibility for the students you bring to me. I think of the great privilege I feel and ask that you intercede for me to receive the grace to _____.

Memorare to St. Joseph:

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen

DAY TWO- October 29

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

R. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reading: Luke 2:1-5

Reflection:

The angel has spoken reassuring Joseph, and he has determined to step out in faith. Soon, this was challenged. The census was called, and Joseph and Mary set out on that arduous journey.

Prayer response:

Joseph, so often, I set out in trust and excitement as each new school year begins. Soon this is challenged. At present, it may be challenged by a student with special needs or district policy or Covid restrictions. Joseph, intercede for me in my need for _____. Right now, I am feeling_____.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen.

DAY THREE- October 30

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

R/. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reading: Luke 2:6-7

Reflection:

Joseph travelled to Bethlehem with Mary for the census in obedience to the decree in trust and faith. Despite his having extended family there, Joseph could not find accommodation. They were relegated to a stable. For sure, this was not what Joseph would have wanted. Yet, while they were there, Jesus was born. Joseph would have assisted in the birth. He would have been the first to see and welcome Jesus.

Prayer response:

Joseph, I can't imagine your discouragement, your exhaustion. You did the best you could to provide for Mary. But. You were there, granted the tremendous grace of assisting Jesus into the world. Please help me to trust the call to bring Jesus into our world daily. Particularly today, I sense the need for _____ and am feeling_____.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen.

DAY FOUR- October 31

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

R/. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reading: Luke 2:21

Reflection:

On the eighth day, Jesus was circumcised as prescribed by Jewish law. Scripture does not give details. Who? Where? No doubt, Joseph would have brought the infant Jesus. Women were not typically included. Did Joseph hold the child, or did he actually perform the circumcision? Here, we see Joseph carrying out his role as a father (foster father) and taking the first step in bringing Jesus up within the vision of the covenant.

Prayer response:

Joseph, as a Catholic educator, I am called to support parents as they seek to raise their children in the faith. Intercede for me that I may truly appreciate this great privilege. Today, I especially _____ as I am feeling_____.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen.

DAY FIVE- November 1

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

R/. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reading: Luke 2: 22-35

Reflection:

Again, we see Mary and Joseph acting in fulfillment of the law. They travelled to Jerusalem to bring Jesus to the temple. This would be the first of many such journeys with him. While they were there, Simion held the six-week-old child, praising God for him and prophesying his future. He addresses Mary, but Joseph is there. He hears the prediction of the sword piercing Mary's heart. His own heart must have been pierced at that moment.

Prayer response:

Yes, Joseph, your heart must have been pieced at that moment. Standing beside the one you love, knowing she will suffer but being powerless to prevent it. This is often our experience as we learn of the news that affects our family, friends, students. Remind me that while I may be powerless, God is not. Today I am concerned about _____. Today I feel_____.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen.

DAY SIX- November 2

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

R/. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reading: Matt. 1:13-18

Reflection:

Once again, an angel comes to Joseph in a dream. He needs to act swiftly to protect Mary and Jesus. Immediately. Right then, in the middle of the night, he is up, rouses Mary, and they flee to Egypt, remaining there until Herod dies and it is safe for Jesus.

Prayer response:

Joseph, you did not hesitate whenever the Lord spoke to you. You were always obedient to the direction you received. Intercede for me that I may always respond promptly when the Spirit is speaking to my heart. Right now I believe the Lord is calling me to _____. Today I feel _____.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen.

DAY SEVEN- November 3

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

R/. Amen.

Let us pray

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reading: Matt. 2:19-23

Reflection:

Joseph has led his family to safety in Egypt. When Herod dies, the angel again appears to Joseph in a dream, directing him to return to Nazareth with Mother and Child. Joseph was sensitive to the angel's guidance along the way as they travelled.

Prayer response:

Joseph, often I discern the direction my life should take only to see a possible obstacle. Intercede for me that I may not give in to fear but seek and trust the Lord's voice. Today I am concerned about _____ and feel _____.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen.

DAY EIGHT- November 4

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

R/. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reading: Luke 2:39; 2:59

Reflection:

We find Mary and Joseph bringing Jesus home from Jerusalem after presenting him in the temple. We hear no details in scripture other than "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favour of God was upon him." We pick up twelve years later when the Holy Family travelled to Jerusalem. Once more, there are not many details in scripture. Jesus remained behind and then obediently followed Mary and Joseph. What we read there is "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour." Joseph is Jesus' mentor for growing spiritually and learning a trade.

Prayer response:

Joseph, many of us are educators, others, parents. Others have been called to serve in both roles. Help us see that we are called to mentor our children as you did in Jesus' growth and development. Today I saw these opportunities _____. I am feeling_____.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

DAY NINE- November 5

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

R/. Amen.

Let us pray:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you today shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them thoroughly to your children, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road, when you lie down and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be for a reminder between your eyes. And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.

Reflection:

Scripture does not document Joseph's death. We know he would have died sometime between Jesus turning thirteen and thirty when he began his public ministry. We can imagine Joseph assisted by Jesus and Mary, filled with peace as he died. Who shall ever be able to understand the sweetness, the consolation, the blessed hope coming from Jesus and Mary?

Prayer response:

Joseph, the Church has named you a patron of a happy death. Your death is seen as peaceful and loving, having Mary and Jesus at your side. Many today do not have that experience. There is often fear, guilt or confusion. Be with those who have to face death alone or want to control their death, seeking medical assistance in dying.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster Father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph as found at the end of the Novena.

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

R/. Amen.

Litany 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 of heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete,
Holy Trinity, One God,

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

Holy Mary,

pray for us.

Saint Joseph,

pray for us.

Son of Adam,
Son of Abraham,
Son of David,

pray for us.

Righteous man,
Indigent man,
Patient man,

pray for us.

Man of unflinching faith,
Man of enlightening dreams,
Man of prudent silence,

pray for us.

Discreet servant,
Obedient servant,
Troubled servant,

pray for us.

Husband of Mary,
Vigilant husband,
Faithful husband,

pray for us.

Well-advised father,
Caring father,
Courageous father,

pray for us.

Guardian of your adopted Son, pray for us.
Guardian of the Holy Family,
Guardian of our Redeemer,

Witness of the joyous birth of Jesus, pray for us.
Witness of the praising of Simeon and Anna,
Witness of the wondering of the teachers,

Companion of the exiled, pray for us.
pray for us.
Sustainer of the families,
Model of workers,

Consoler of the afflicted, pray for us.
Hope of the sick,
Comforter of the dying,

Well-known Carpenter in Nazareth, pray for us.
Protector of the Church in Canada,
Patron of the universal Church,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, forgive us, Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, hear us, Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Leader: Pray for us, O holy husband of the Mother of God.
All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Or:

Leader: God made him the master of his household.
All: He gave him charge over all his possessions. (cf. Ps 105.21)

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, in your loving providence, you entrusted our
Saviour to the care of St. Joseph. By the help of his
prayers, may your Church continue to serve its Lord,
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

