

VOCATIONS SOCIETY OF ST JOSEPH

(formerly St. Joseph's Young Priests Society)

The Novena can be undertaken at any period throughout the year, but especially beginning or ending on:

March 19th - the Feast of St. Joseph
or

May 1st - the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

Novena Prayer to St. Joseph

Ever glorious St. Joseph, good and faithful servant, God was pleased to place his own family in your care. We thank you for being such a wonderful example of humility and faith, of prayerfulness and courage, in your ordinary daily life.

Through your intercession, may God grant us the blessing of living continually in his presence, and responding to his love in our daily lives.

When we have lived our days on earth, may God give us the great joy he gave you - that of entering eternal life in the company of Jesus and Mary.

Most loving St. Joseph, accept our Novena prayers and obtain for us through your powerful intercession, the favours and graces we ask for in this Novena. **Amen**



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NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

Each day please say the Novena Prayer and then read and contemplate the thought for the day given below.

(Use by kind permission of the Mill Hill Missionaries, 50 Orwell Park, Rathgar D06 C535. Then please say the Prayer for Vocations. *An Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father, and St. Joseph Pray For Us*, may be added.

DAY ONE

Isn't he the carpenter's Son (Mt. 13:15).

Joseph taught Jesus his trade. Joseph loved his work and knew its dignity. He also knew what people suffer in times of hardship and unemployment. Work is not just a means of making money. It is a service to others, a sharing in the redemptive work of Jesus, a means of creating order and beauty and making the world a better place. We ask Joseph to help us appreciate the dignity of work and grant us meaningful employment.

DAY TWO

Joseph was a just man who always did what was right (Mt. 1:19)

What a predicament Joseph was in when he discovered Mary was pregnant. He was a just man. God would show him. He trusted in God's guidance to show him the way. When we are troubled and worried, may we too learn to trust in God.

DAY THREE

If you listen to me you will know what is right and just (Prov.2:9)

Joseph was one who listened. No spoken word is recorded of him. God's word came to him in silence. Constant noise prevents us from listening and hearing. We ask Joseph to help us carve out a quiet time in our day to listen to God.

DAY FOUR

The Angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph (Mt. 1:20)

God spoke to him in dreams and visions, yet he was a very ordinary man. God speaks to each of us ordinary people. We ask Joseph to help us to be sensitive to God's presence with us.

DAY FIVE

Joseph took the child and his mother and left for Egypt (Mt. 2:14)

St. Joseph has been pointed out as a model of missionary life: steady, quiet work in an unusual situation, close to Jesus and Mary his mother.

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DAY SIX

Joseph went to David's town Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David. (Lk. 2:4).

Though of the Royal family of David, Joseph was ordinary and faced many family problems such as Mary's pregnancy, the threat to the life of Jesus, exile, how to make ends meet. We ask Joseph to protect our families too - and strengthen us in love.

DAY SEVEN

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival (Lk. 2:41).

As husband and parent in the Holy Family, Joseph observed religious feasts; he went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath and prayed the Psalms at regular times during the day. We ask Joseph to help us to live prayerful lives, by spending quiet time in prayer each day, and taking part in the church's liturgy.

DAY EIGHT

And Joseph named him Jesus (Mt. 1:25).

Joseph taught Jesus his prayers, brought him to the Synagogue, introduced him to the Scriptures and taught him all the religious practices of a devout Jew. Strong family guidance, setting Christian standards of behaviour and worship, are badly needed in families and society today.

DAY NINE

Who is the faithful and far-sighted servant whom the master has put in charge of his household (Mt. 24:45).

Joseph's life was one of loving service. He served his family, his neighbours and his God. He died peacefully in the arms of Jesus and Mary. He is revered as the patron of a happy death. May we too get the grace to love and serve God and others.

Please join us in our nine-day Novena to St Joseph, as we honour our powerful patron, asking his protection and guidance in all our needs.

A Prayer for Vocations

O Jesus, send labourers into
your fields,
which are awaiting holy apostles,
saintly priests,
heroic missionaries and
dedicated sisters and brothers.

Enkindle in the hearts of men and
women the spark of a vocation.

Grant that Christian families may
desire to give your Church,
helpers in the work of tomorrow.

St. Joseph - Pray for us
Amen

(Prayer of Pope St. John XXIII)