

Consecration to St. Joseph

Objective:

Now is the time to consecrate ourselves to St. Joseph! In order to defend marriage and the family, elevate morals, recover lost ground, and win souls for Jesus Christ, we need to bring St. Joseph onto the battlefield. He is the Terror of Demons! With his powerful spiritual fatherhood, incredible love for his spiritual children, and constant intercession, the Church can be renewed as a light to the nations. The objective is to introduce everyone to the Consecration to St. Joseph. This means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely to his paternal care so that he can lovingly help you acquire his virtues and become holy. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness.

Song Suggestion: Be Not Afraid (Blue 54, Red 596, Gather 263)

Bible and Catechism Readings:

Matt 1: 19-20, 24

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Matt 2: 13-14

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.

Luke 2:22-23

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord."

Catechism 437

God called Joseph to "take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit," so that Jesus, "who is called Christ," should be born of Joseph's spouse into the messianic lineage of David.

Catechism 532

Jesus' obedience to his mother and legal father fulfills the fourth commandment perfectly and was the temporal image of his filial obedience to his Father in heaven.

Catechism 1014

"From a sudden and unforeseen death, deliver us, O Lord", to ask the Mother of God to intercede for us "at the hour of our death" in the Hail Mary; and to entrust ourselves to St. Joseph, the patron of a happy death.

Saint: - St. Joseph who is the zealous defender of Christ and head of the Holy Family. Today, Christianity and the family are under attack. There is no greater earthly role model for fathers than St. Joseph.

Let us love Jesus above all, let us love Mary as our mother; but then, how could we keep from loving Joseph, who was so intimately united to both Jesus and Mary? And how can we honor him better than by imitating his virtues? Now, what else did he do in all his life but contemplate, study, and adore Jesus, even in the midst of his daily labors? Behold, therefore, our model.

- St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

Have you considered St. Joseph as a role model for fathers?

As head and guardian of the Holy Family St. Joseph is protector of the Holy Church. Were you aware that he held such stature in the Church?

During these difficult times how can we defend Family and the Holy Church.

Action Plan:

- Begin your Consecration to St. Joseph. There is a 33-day preparation of prayer and reflection which concludes with the Consecration to St. Joseph. The preparation is covered in Fr. Donald Calloway's book, Consecration to St. Joseph, The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father.
- This week reflect on how you can be a better protector of your family. How can you be a model for your family to show love for each other and a richer love for God and His Church.

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Resources:

Consecration to St. Joseph, The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father, Donald H. Calloway, MIC

Introduction to the Consecration to St. Joseph online:

<https://www.consecrationtostjoseph.org/introduction.html>

The Litany of St. Joseph, <http://osjusa.org/prayers/litany-st-joseph/>