



A MOMENT OF PRAYER
IN HONOR OF SAINT JOSEPH
PATRON OF THE ORDER

Suggestion for the Order's Observance of the Year of St. Joseph
(from the collaborators of the Asia-Pacific Region)

1. Song

2. Sign of the Cross

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

3. Introduction

A moment of prayer in honor of Saint Joseph provides us with an opportunity to recall Decision 38 from the Ordinary General Chapter 2019: *We encourage the veneration for St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary, which the Order traditionally has chosen as protector, a true example of fidelity and adherence to the divine will. (CGO19, 38)*

4. Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,

pray for us
pray for us.
pray for us.

St. Joseph, Renowned offspring of David,
St. Joseph, Light of Patriarchs,
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of God,

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

St. Joseph, Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, Foster-father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*

St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, Diligent protector of Christ, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, Pillar of families, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, Glory of home life, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church, *pray for us.*

St. Joseph, who obeyed God's word with divine joy, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, irreplaceable model for justice, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, shining mirror of holiness, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, model of divine patience, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, who teaches divine silence, *pray for us.*

St. Joseph, model of religious life, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, protector of vocations, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, whose life inspired St. Augustine, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, whose holiness inspired our Augustinian saints, *pray for us.*
St. Joseph, protector of entire Augustinian family, *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, O Lord.*
Christ hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

Let Us Pray:

O God, you made St. Joseph, the protector of our saviour Jesus Christ and of the Virgin Mary. Grant to us the grace to care for each other, as St. Joseph protected the Holy Family. O God, you also blessed St. Joseph to trust in you with the grace to lead a holy life. We, who are striving to find rest in you and to become holy, may we put our trust in you and lead a holy life by reflecting on your word with one mind and one heart in our community.
We ask this through Christ our lord. Amen

4. Readings

a. Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying

to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

b. Patristic Reading: Augustine, Sermon 51, 30
(St. Augustine on Paternal Line of St. Joseph)

St. Joseph as father, is not by the flesh but by love. So, he is indeed a father, in his own proper way. The evangelists you see, count the generations through him and pick their words with the greatest care and good sense, whether its Matthew coming down from Abraham to Christ, or Luke going back up from Christ through Abraham to God. One counts downward, the other back upward, both through Joseph. Why? Because he is the father. Why is he the father? Because he is all the more definitely and solidly the father, the more chastely he is the father. It's true he was thought to be the father of our Lord Jesus Christ in another way, the same way as other men are fathers, begetting children in the flesh, not having them only by spiritual affection. Luke, you see, said *who was thought to be the father of Jesus*. (Lk 3:23). Why was he thought to be? Because people naturally assumed what is usually done by men. So, the Lord is not sprung from the seed of Joseph, though this was thought to be the case; and yet there was born of the Virgin Mary, to the piety and love of Joseph a son who was at the same time the son of God.

c. *Patris Corde* of Pope Francis, 5

In the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose, we must now add another important element: creative courage. This emerges specially in the way we deal with difficulties. In the face of difficulty, we can either give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it. At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had.

As we read the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act on a more direct and clear way. Yet God acts through events and people. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true “miracle” by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. Lk 2:6-7). Faced with imminent danger from Herod, who wanted to kill the child, Joseph was warned once again in a dream to protect the child, and rose in the middle of the night to prepare the flight into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14).

A superficial reading of these stories can often give the impression that the world is at the mercy of the strong and mighty, but the “good news” of the Gospel consists in showing that, for all the arrogance and violence of worldly powers, God always finds a way to carry out his saving plan. So too, our lives may at times seem to be at the mercy of the powerful, but the Gospel shows us what counts. God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence.

5. Intercessions

With St. Joseph, a man of great honor and great faith, let us, as a family, present our intentions to the father of all.

Lord, hear our prayer.

1. That the pilgrim Church may inspire people to renew their lives faithfully bearing witness to Christ in word and deed. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
2. That like St. Joseph, may we grow in our spiritual life and become tender and loving protector of others. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
3. That men and women in service to others, inspired by the commitment of St Joseph, may not fail in their duty to ensure the welfare of their constituents. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
4. That married couples after the example of Mary and St Joseph, may live in harmony with each other through mutual trust and understanding. *Let us pray to the Lord.*
5. That through the intercession of St Joseph, those who have died may enjoy God's everlasting peace in heaven. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord God, in your protection and providence and through the intercession of St. Joseph, grant what we ask you in faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

6. The Lord's Prayer

7. Closing Prayer

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, most chaste Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Guardian of the Redeemer and Patron of the Church, you are also the Protector of our Augustinian Family. Sustain us in our religious ideal of living together in one mind and one heart on the way to God. Help us to follow Christ and to live according to his will.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from peril, so now safeguard us from all evils, temptations and dangers. Shield, too, each one of us by your powerful protection, so that, supported by your constant help, we may be able to live harmoniously in our communities and come to perfection in the eternal life prepared for us. Amen.

Saint Joseph, Protector of the Augustinian Order, pray for us!

8. Blessing

+ The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

+ May almighty God bless you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

or:

+ May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

R/. Amen.

9. Final Song

