

Novena to St. Joseph:  
Day One: Foster Father of Our Lord

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Saint Joseph, you shared in the support, upbringing, and protection of the Divine Child as His foster-father. For this purpose, the Heavenly Father gave you a genuine heart of a father -- a heart full of love and self-sacrifice. With the toil of your hands, you were obliged to offer protection to the Divine Child, to procure for Him food, clothing, and a home. You were truly the saint of the holy childhood of Jesus -- the living created providence which watched over the Christ-Child.

Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of having been chosen by God to be the foster-father of His Divine Son. As a token of your gratitude to God for this your greatest privilege, obtain for me the grace of a very devoted love for Jesus Christ, my God and my Savior. Help me to serve Him with some of the self-sacrificing love and devotion which you had while on this earth with Him. Grant that through your intercession with Jesus, your foster-Son, I may reach the degree of holiness God has destined for me, and save my soul.

MEMORARE:

Remember, most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, my beloved patron, that never has it been heard that anyone invoked thy patronage and sought thine aid without being comforted. Inspired by this confidence, I come to thee and I fervently commend myself to thee. Ah, despise not my petition, dear foster-father of our Redeemer, but accept it graciously. Amen.

Novena to St. Joseph:  
Day Two: Spouse of the Mother of God

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Our Lord Jesus Christ confided the guardianship and the support of His Immaculate Mother to your care. Her role was that of the Mother of the Savior, who did not come upon earth to enjoy honors and pleasures but to redeem the world by hard work, suffering, and the cross. You were the faithful companion, support, and comforter of the Mother of Sorrows. How loyal you were to her in poverty, journeying, work, and pain. Your love for Mary was based upon your esteem for her as Mother of God. After God and the Divine Child, you loved no one as much as her. Mary responded to this love. She submitted to your guidance with simplicity, grace, and childlike confidence. God, the Holy Ghost, Himself was the bond of the great love which united your hearts.

Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being the virginal husband of Our Lady. As a token of your gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace to love Jesus with all my heart, as you did, and love her with some of the tenderness and loyalty with which you loved her.

MEMORARE:

Remember, most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, my beloved patron, that never has it been heard that anyone invoked thy patronage and sought thine aid without being comforted. Inspired by this confidence, I come to thee and I fervently commend myself to thee. Ah, despise not my petition, dear foster-father of our Redeemer, but accept it graciously. Amen.

Novena to St. Joseph:  
Day Three: Man Chosen By The Blessed Trinity

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Saint Joseph, you were the man chosen by God the Father. He selected you to be His representative on earth; hence, He granted you all the graces and blessings you needed to be His worthy representative. You were the man chosen by God the Son. Desirous of a worthy foster-father, He added His own riches and gifts, and above all, His love. The true measure of your sanctity is to be judged by your imitation of Jesus. You were entirely consecrated to Jesus, working always near Him, offering Him your virtues, your work, your sufferings, your very life. Jesus lived in you perfectly so that you were transformed into Him. In this lies your special glory and the keynote of your sanctity.

Saint Joseph, I thank God for having made you the man specially chosen by Him. As a token of your gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace to imitate your virtues so that I too may be pleasing to the Heart of God. Help me to give myself entirely to His service and to the accomplishment of His Holy Will, that one day I may reach heaven and be eternally united to God as you are.

**MEMORARE:**

Remember, most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, my beloved patron, that never has it been heard that anyone invoked thy patronage and sought thine aid without being comforted. Inspired by this confidence, I come to thee and I fervently commend myself to thee. Ah, despise not my petition, dear foster-father of our Redeemer, but accept it graciously. Amen.

Novena to St. Joseph:  
Day Four: Faithful Servant

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Saint Joseph, you lived for one purpose -- to be the personal servant of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Your noble birth and ancestry, the graces and gifts so generously poured out on you by God -- all this was yours to serve our Lord better. Every thought, word, and action of yours was a homage to the love and glory of the Incarnate Word. You fulfilled most faithfully the role of a good and faithful servant who cared for the House of God.

How perfect was your obedience! Your position in the Holy Family obliged you to command, but besides being the foster-father of Our Lord, you were also His disciple. When God sent an angel to tell you to care for Our Lady, you obeyed in spite of the mystery which surrounded her motherhood. When you were told to flee into Egypt under painful conditions, you obeyed without the slightest word of complaint. When God advised you in a dream to return to Nazareth, you obeyed. In every situation your obedience was as simple as your faith, as humble as your heart, as prompt as your love. It neglected nothing; it took in every command.

You had the virtue of perfect devotedness which marks a good servant. Every moment of your life was consecrated to the service of our Lord: sleep, rest, work, pain. Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being God's faithful servant. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace to be a faithful servant of God as you were. Help me to share, as you did, the perfect obedience of Jesus, who came not to do His Will, but the Will of His Father; to trust in the Providence of God, knowing that if I do His Will, He will provide for all my needs of soul and body; to be calm in my trials and to leave it to our Lord to free me from them when it pleases Him to do so. And help me to imitate your generosity, for there can be no greater reward here on earth than the joy and honor of being a faithful servant of God.

**MEMORARE:** As on previous days

## Novena to St. Joseph: Day Five: Patron of the Church

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Saint Joseph, God has appointed you patron of the Catholic Church because you were the head of the Holy Family. For that reason you belong in a particular way to the Church.

I believe that the Church is the family of God on earth. Its government is represented in priestly authority which consists above all in its power over the true Body of Christ, really present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, thus continuing Christ's life in the Church. From this power, too, comes authority over the Mystical Body of Christ, the members of the Church -- the power to teach and govern souls, to reconcile them with God, to bless them, and to pray for them.

You have a special relationship to the priesthood because you possessed a wonderful power over our Savior Himself. Your life and office were of a priestly function and are especially connected with the Blessed Sacrament. You were prefigured by the patriarch Joseph, who kept supplies of wheat for his people. But how much greater than him were you! Joseph of old gave the Egyptians mere bread for their bodies. You nourished and, with the most tender care, preserved for the Church Him who is the Bread of Heaven and who gives eternal life in Holy Communion.

God has appointed you patron of the Church because the glorious title of patriarch also falls by special right to you. The patriarchs were the heads of families of the Chosen People, and theirs was the honor to prepare for the Savior's incarnation. Through Our Lady, the Church received Christ, and therefore the Church is indebted to her. But the Church owes her debt of gratitude and veneration to you also, for you were the chosen one who enabled Christ to enter into the world according to the laws of order and fitness. It was by you that the patriarchs and the prophets and the faithful reaped the fruit of God's promise. Alone among them all, you saw with your own eyes and possessed the Redeemer promised to the rest of men.

Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being the Patron of the Church. As a token of your gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace to live always as a worthy member of this Church, so that through it I may save my soul. Bless the priests, the religious, and the laity of the Catholic Church, that they may ever grow in God's love and faithfulness in His service. Protect the Church from the evils of our day and from the persecution of her enemies. Through your powerful intercession may the Church successfully accomplish its mission in this world -- the glory of God and the salvation of souls!

MEMORARE: As on previous days

## Novena to St. Joseph: Day Six: Patron of Families

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Saint Joseph, I venerate you as the gentle head of the Holy Family. Your family life at Nazareth was all radiant with the light of divine charity. There was an intimate union of heart and mind among the members of your Holy Family. You had for Our Lord a true fatherly love, enkindled and kept aglow in your heart by the Holy Ghost. And you could not cease to admire the workings of grace in Our Lady's soul, and this admiration caused the holy love which you had consecrated to her on the day of your wedding to grow stronger every day.

God has made you a heavenly patron of family life because you sanctified yourself as head of the Holy Family and thus by your beautiful example sanctified family life. How peacefully and happily the Holy Family rested under the care of your fatherly rule, even in the midst of trials. You were the protector, counselor, and consolation of the Holy Family in every need. And just as you were the model of piety, so you gave us by your zeal, your earnestness and devout trust in God's providence, and especially by your love, the example of labor according to the Will of God. You cherished all the experiences common to family life and the sacred memories of your life, sufferings, and joys in the company of Jesus and Mary. Therefore the family is dear to you as the work of God, and it is of the highest importance in your eyes to promote the honor of God and the well-being of man. In your loving fatherliness and unfailing intercession you are the patron and intercessor of families, and you deserve a place in every home.

Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of living in the Holy Family and being its head. As a token of your gratitude to God, obtain God's blessing upon my own family. Make our home the kingdom of Jesus and Mary -- a kingdom of peace, of joy, and love.

MEMORARE: As on previous days

## Novena to St. Joseph: Day Seven: Patron of Workers

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Saint Joseph, you devoted your time at Nazareth to the work of a carpenter. It was the Will of God that you and your foster-Son should spend your days together in manual labor. What a beautiful example you set for the working classes!

It was especially for the poor, who compose the greater part of mankind, that Jesus came upon earth, for in the synagogue of Nazareth, He read the words of Isaiah and referred them to Himself: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor...' (Luke 4:18).

The kind of work to which you devoted your time in the workshop of Nazareth offered you many occasions of practicing humility. You were privileged to see each day the example of humility which Jesus practiced -- a virtue most pleasing to Him. He chose for His earthly surroundings not the courts of princes nor the halls of the learned, but a little workshop of Nazareth. Here you shared for many years the humble and hidden toiling of the God-Man.

The light of divine faith that filled your mind did not grow dim when you saw Our Lord working as a carpenter. You firmly believed that the saintly Youth working beside you was truly God's own Son. Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being able to work side by side with Our Lord in the carpenter shop of Nazareth. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace ever to be content with the position in life, however lowly, in which it may please Divine Providence to place me. Teach me to work for God and with God in the spirit of humility and prayer, as you did, so that I may offer my toil in union with the sacrifice of Jesus in the Mass as a reparation for my sins, and gain rich merit for heaven.

MEMORARE: As on previous days

Society of Saint Pius X

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## Novena to St. Joseph: Day Eight: Friend In Suffering

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Saint Joseph, your share of suffering was very great because of your close union with the Divine Savior. All the mysteries of His life were more or less mysteries of suffering. Poverty pressed upon you, and the cross of labor followed you everywhere. Deeply painful must have been the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the disappearance of Our Lord at the Paschal feast. To these sufferings were surely added interior sorrow at the sight of the sins of your own people.

You bore all this suffering in a truly Christ-like manner, and in this you are our example. No sound of complaint or impatience escaped you -- you were, indeed, the silent saint! You submitted to all in the spirit of faith, humility, confidence, and love. You cheerfully bore all in union with and for the Savior and His Mother, knowing well that true love is a crucified love. But God never forsook you in your trials. The trials, too, disappeared and were changed at last into consolation and joy.

Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being able to suffer for Jesus and Mary. As a token of your own gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace to bear my suffering patiently for love of Jesus and Mary. Grant that I may unite the sufferings, works, and disappointments of life with the sacrifice of Jesus in the Mass, and share like you in Our Lady's spirit of sacrifice.

MEMORARE: As on previous days

Society of Saint Pius X

S S P X

## Novena to St. Joseph: Day Nine: Patron of a Happy Death

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Saint Joseph, how fitting it was that at the hour of your death Our Lord should stand at your bedside with Our Lady, the sweetness and hope of all mankind. You gave your entire life to their service; at death you enjoyed the consolation of dying in their loving arms. You accepted death in the spirit of loving submission to the Will of God, and this acceptance crowned your hidden life of virtue. Yours was a merciful judgment, for your foster-Son, for whom you had cared so lovingly, was your Judge, and Our Lady was your advocate.

You looked into eternity and to your everlasting reward with confidence. If Our Lord regards every corporal and spiritual work of mercy, performed in behalf of our fellow men out of love for Him, as done to Himself, and promises heaven as a reward, what must have been the extent of His gratitude to you who in the truest sense of the word have received Him, given Him shelter, clothed, nourished, and consoled Him at the sacrifice of your strength and rest, and even your life, with a love which surpassed the love of all fathers.

Saint Joseph, I thank God for your privilege of being able to die in the arms of Jesus and Mary. As a token of your gratitude to God, obtain for me the grace of a happy death. Help me to spend each day in preparation for death. May I, too, accept death in the spirit of resignation to God's Holy Will, and die, as you did, in the arms of Jesus, strengthened by Holy Viaticum, and in the arms of Mary, with her rosary in my hand and her name on my lips!

MEMORARE: As on previous days