

Year of St Joseph



In an Apostolic Letter entitled '[With a Father's Heart](#)', the Pope has proclaimed a special '**Year of St Joseph**', which will run until 8 December 2021.

Marking the 150th anniversary of St Joseph being declared patron of the universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a year long celebration dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

In the apostolic letter, "Patris Corde" ("With a father's heart"), the Pope said that Christians can discover in St Joseph, who often goes unnoticed, "**an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.**"



It was written against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, the Pope says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day.

In this, they resemble St Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”



Thank you



KEY
WORKERS

A special Prayer for the Year of St Joseph

Prayer for the Year of St Joseph - Pope Francis

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father,
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.



The Patron Saint of *OUR* school!

What do you already know about St Joseph, the patron of our school?



Some facts about Saint Joseph

Joseph is the husband of Mary.

Jesus' earthly father (a bit like a step-dad or foster father).

Joseph's lineage (family tree) is traced back to King David.

An angel came to tell him that his wife was carrying the Son of God in her tummy.

Joseph looked after Mary on the way to Bethlehem before Jesus was born.

He continued to look after them when they had to flee to Egypt because of King Herod.

The angel appeared again and told Joseph when Herod died and that it was safe to return to the Holy Land.

Joseph Mary and Jesus settled in Nazareth.

Joseph was a carpenter.

He taught Jesus to be a carpenter too!

**St. Joseph's Day is celebrated
on the 19th March.**



**Saint Joseph was the husband
of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**



Saint Joseph of Nazareth lived a life which was totally filled by faith. He was a righteous man.



Joseph was chosen by God as a trustworthy guardian and protector of Mary and Jesus.



Joseph spent his life working very hard as a carpenter. Joseph did not mind working hard. He was happy to work to provide for his family.



Although there are no words spoken by Joseph recorded in the Bible, he still shows his deep faith and great commitment to God.



**Joseph always showed a great
commitment to God, and did
as the Lord wanted him to do,
no matter how difficult it was.**

**He was humble, gentle
and wise.**



**People pray to Joseph for
lots of different reasons
including protection.**



**St. Joseph's Day is celebrated
all around the world.**

**Many different traditions
are carried out in countries
such as Italy, Spain, Malta
and Poland.**



**Saint Joseph is the patron
saint of many countries
including Mexico, Canada
and Belgium.**



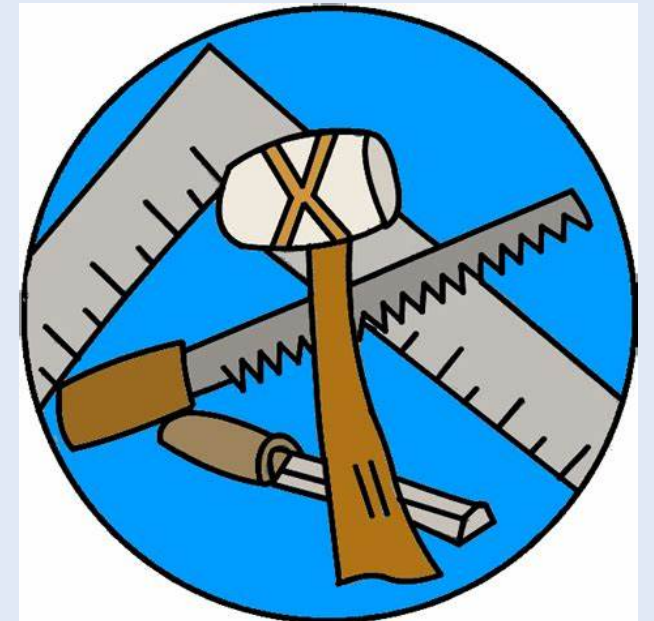
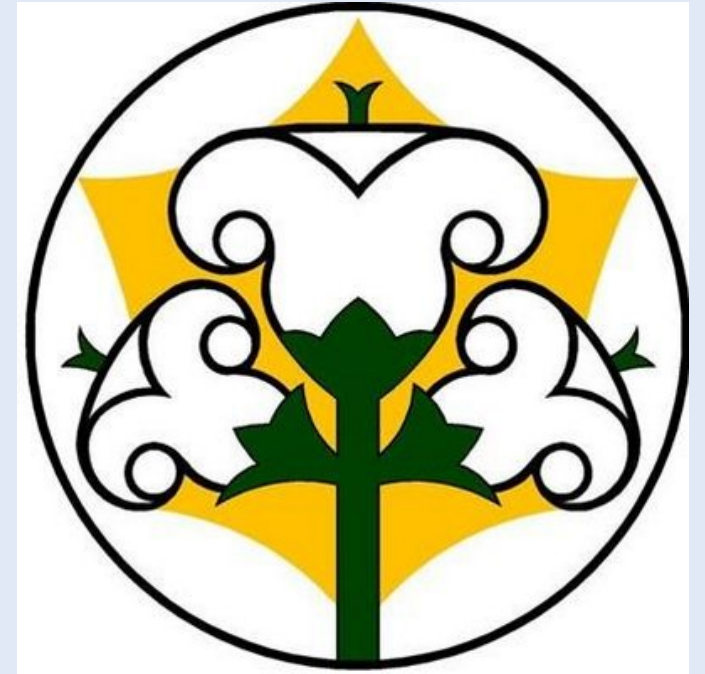
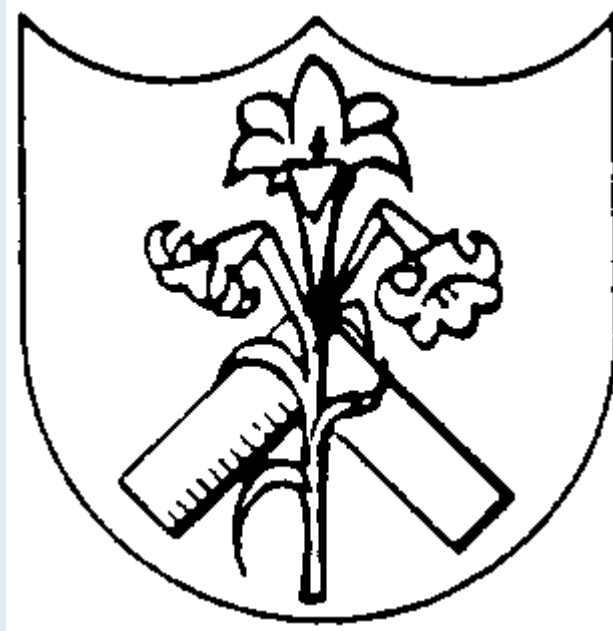
Saint Joseph is the patron saint of many things including the Universal Church, a happy death, families, fathers, expectant mothers, travellers, immigrants, craftsmen, engineers and workers.



As a child, Jesus spent a lot of time in the workshop with Joseph. Joseph taught Jesus lots about carpentry.



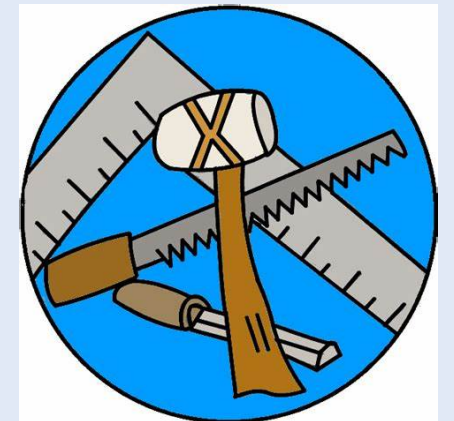
Signs and symbols of St. Joseph



Signs and symbols of St. Joseph

Three White Flowers or Lilies

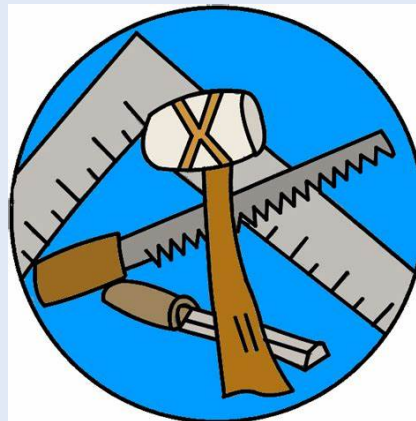
The white lilies symbolize that Joseph was a virtuous man who was obedient to God and didn't sin. He had the difficult large task of caring for and protecting the Holy Family, and he did so by always listening for the voice of God.



Signs and symbols of St. Joseph

Carpenter's Square or Tools

In the few descriptions the Bible gives us about St Joseph, we do learn that he is a carpenter by trade. In his life raising Jesus, Joseph also teaches Jesus his craft to use to earn a living.



Signs and symbols of St. Joseph

Baby Jesus

There are several saints depicted with the child Jesus in their arms, but Saint Joseph is the only Saint that had the privilege of raising the Son of God at this stage in His life.



Signs and symbols of St. Joseph

The Flowering Staff

Joseph wasn't just a random man that happened to pick Mary for his wife. God had chosen and prepared Joseph with special graces to care for the Holy Family. This symbol calls upon the imagery of the flowering staff of Aaron showing he had been chosen by God (Numbers 17:23).

There is an unofficial legend that a staff at the door blossomed when Joseph went to visit his future wife, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to show her he had been chosen by God.



Signs and symbols of St. Joseph

Sleeping Saint Joseph

There are icons and images of Joseph sleeping. While this may look like an odd action or pose for sacred art, it's deeply rooted in the few things we know for certain about Saint Joseph from Sacred Scripture.

On two separate occasions, we see that God speaks to Joseph through an angel in his dreams (Matthew 1:24 and Matthew 2:14,21,22). Joseph was a hard worker, and even in his sleep, he works to pursue the will of the Father.



St. Joseph's Day traditions from around the world

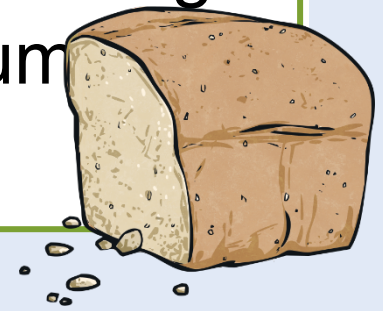


St. Joseph's Day around the World

Different traditions are practised in different countries on the feast of Saint Joseph.

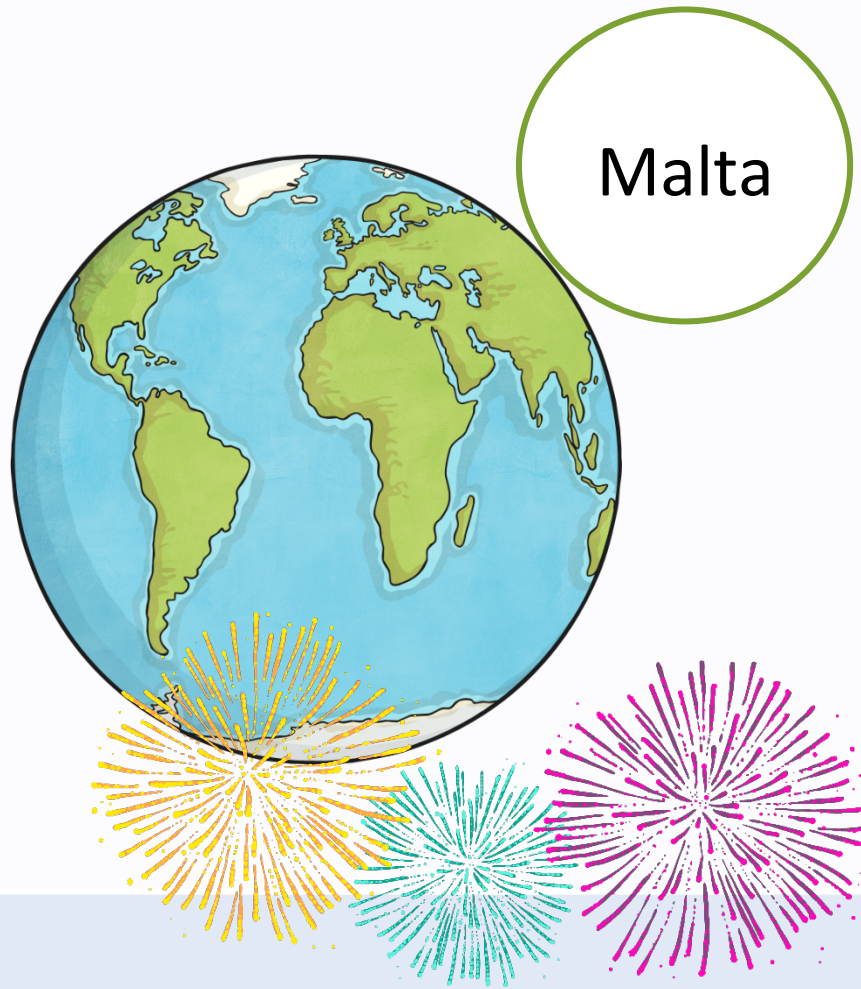


Special masses are held in Italy on St. Joseph's Day. Lots of items are placed on the altar including flowers, limes, candles, wine, fava beans, cakes, breads, cookies, meatless dishes and zeppole (Italian doughnuts). People bring foods containing bread crumbs represent saw dust.



St. Joseph's Day around the World

Different traditions are practised in different countries on the feast of Saint Joseph.



Three main events occur on St. Joseph's Day in Malta:

- special masses are held;
- musical bands take to the streets in a colourful procession, with fireworks at night;
- the main event of the day takes place in the evening. The statue of Saint Joseph is carried into the church of Saint Mary of Jesus.

St. Joseph's Day around the World

Different traditions are practised in different countries on the feast of Saint Joseph.



In Spain, St. Joseph's Day is their version Father's Day. It is referred to as **El Dia del Padre**.

The Spanish feel that Saint Joseph is a good example of what a father figure should be like.

It is traditional for children to cook for their fathers on this day.

They cook meatless dishes as the day falls during Lent.

Special mass services are also held to mark

Saint Joseph the Protector

Saint Teresa of Avila chose Saint Joseph as the protector of her order of the Carmelite Sisters.



Sister Teresa had a lot of trust in his prayers, maintaining that he always delivered what she prayed for.



How many facts about St. Joseph and St
Joseph's celebrations can you remember?



Follow-up activities

You could draw/paint/make a picture of St. Joseph and the Holy Family



Make a St. Joseph's Shrine



Instructions here:

[Look to Him and be Radiant: Quick & Easy Saint Joseph Shrine](#)

Make a tool box



Make three white flowers or lilies

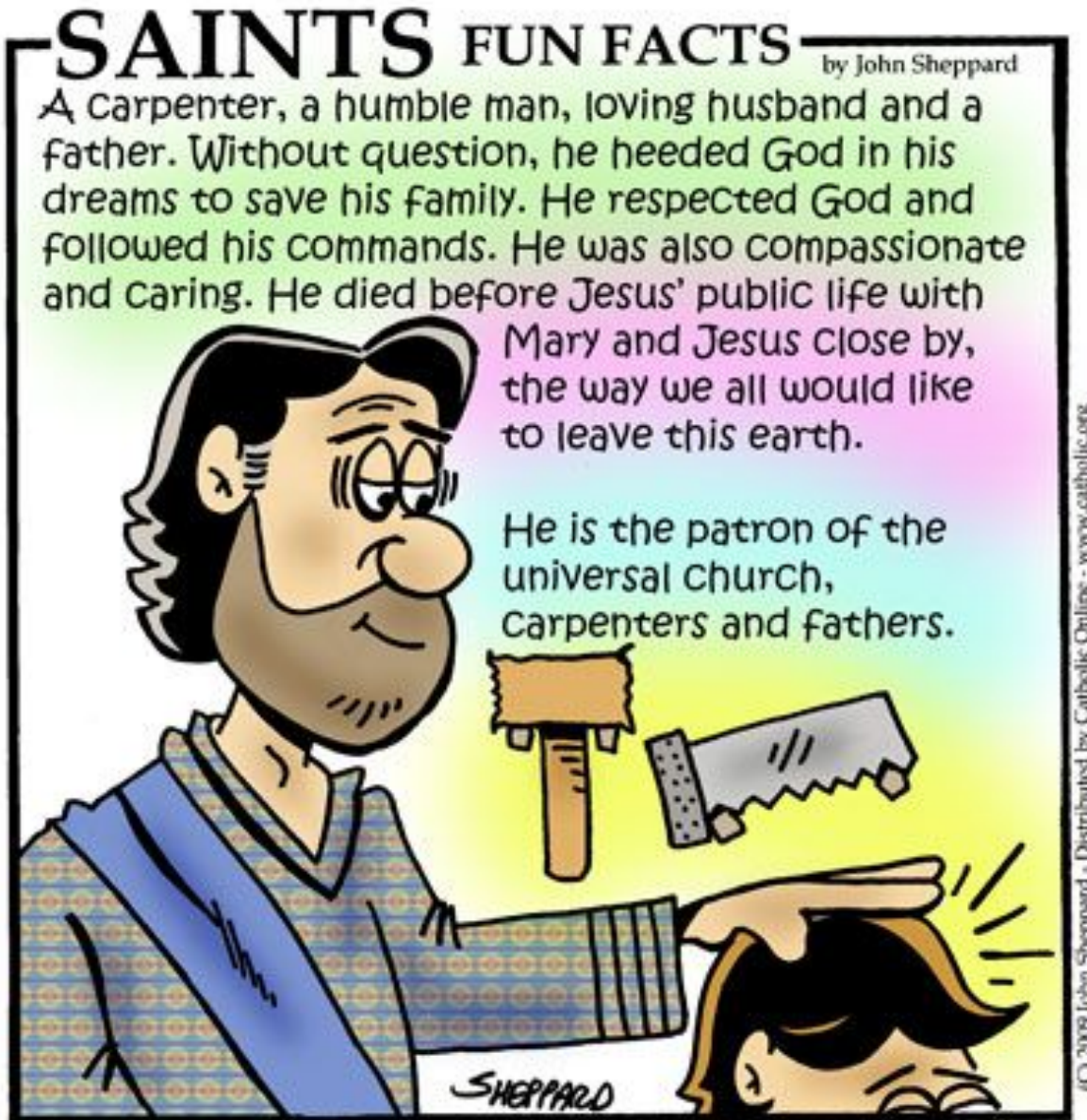
[How to Make Easter Lilies / Bouquet of Flowers Craft With Your Kids Handprints - Kids Crafts & Activities - Kids Crafts & Activities \(artistshelpingchildren.org\)](#)



Colouring Pages



Make a fact file



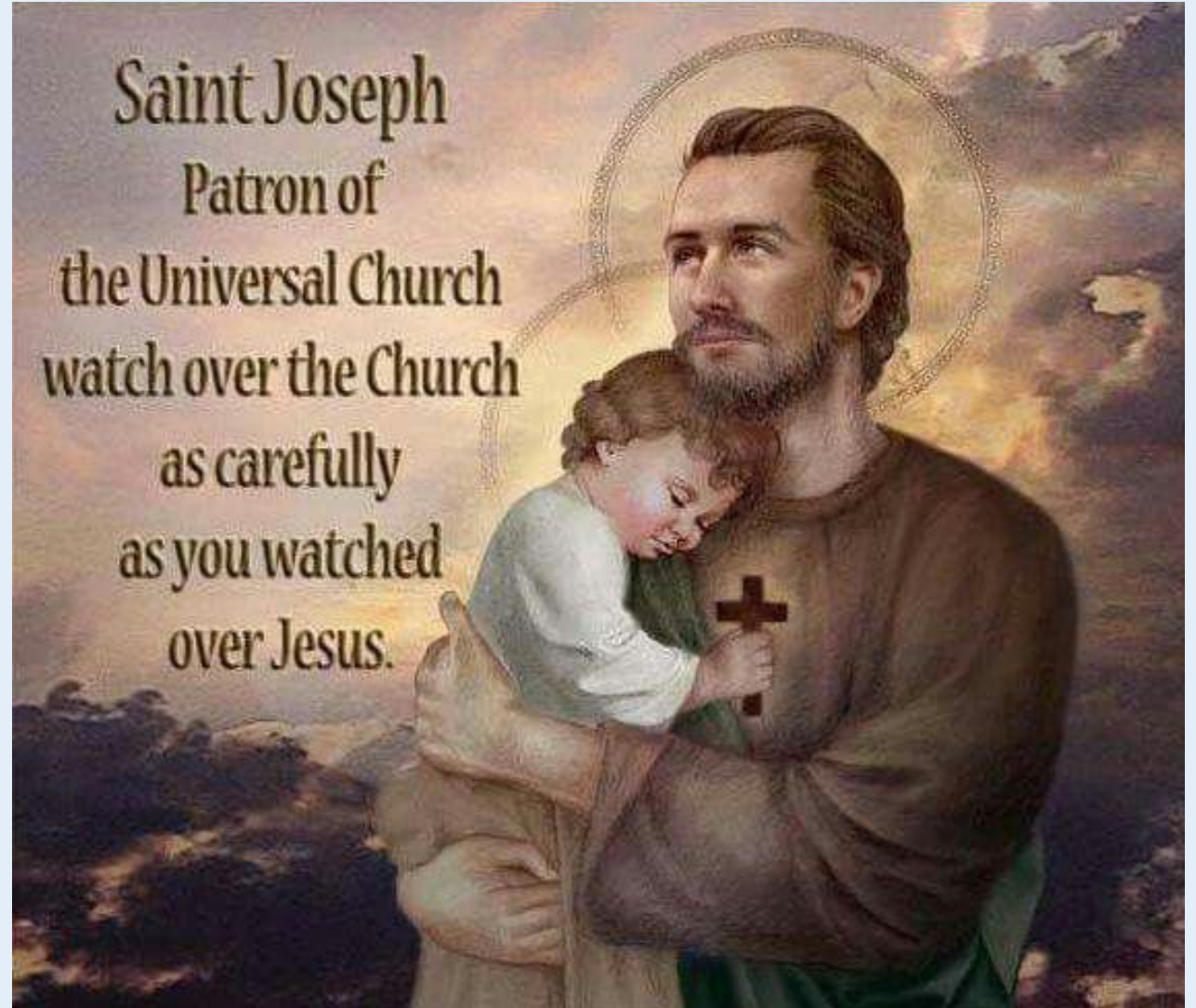
St. Joseph

"SAINT JOSEPH WAS A JUST
MAN, A TIRELESS WORKER, THE
UPRIGHT GUARDIAN OF THOSE
ENTRUSTED TO HIS CARE. MAY
HE ALWAYS GUARD, PROTECT
AND ENLIGHTEN FAMILIES."

-POPE JOHN PAUL II



Saint Joseph
Patron of
the Universal Church
watch over the Church
as carefully
as you watched
over Jesus.



“He is Holy Joseph, because according to the opinion of a great number of doctors, he, as well as St. John Baptist, was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate, and Mary, the holiest of creatures.”



St. John Henry Newman

“Knowing by experience St. Joseph’s astonishing influence with God, I would wish to persuade everyone to honor him with particular devotion. I have always seen those who honored him in a special manner make progress in virtue, for this heavenly protector favors in a striking manner the spiritual advancement of souls who commend themselves to him.”



St. Teresa of Avila

“Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.”



St. Thomas Aquinas

“The growth of Jesus ‘in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man’ (Lk. 2:52) took place within the Holy Family under the eyes of St. Joseph, who had the important task of ‘raising’ Jesus, that is, feeding, clothing, and educating him in the Law and in a trade, in keeping with the duties of a father.”



St. John Paul II