

Diocesan Novena to Saint Joseph

(The Litany of Saint Joseph is ordinarily enriched with a partial indulgence (Manual of Indulgences, conc. 22). During the Year of Saint Joseph, however—which lasts from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021—the use of the Litany of Saint Joseph has been included among other prayers to St. Joseph enriched with a plenary indulgence (see Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary issued Dec. 8, 2020, section E), which may be earned once a day subject to the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and a total detachment to all sin, including venial sin.)

Leader: In preparation for the consecration of the Diocese of Bridgeport to Saint Joseph, the Husband of Mary and Foster Father of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, we embrace together the traditional practice of Novena. In this ancient style of devotion, the faithful make supplications for graces to embrace the teaching of Christ as contained in the Gospels and put Christian life into practice in an exemplary fashion, asking for either the intercession of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or of a particular saint as they seek to become better servants of the Lord. With this in mind, we enter into Novena to Saint Joseph, asking him to intercede before our heavenly Father on our behalf during this time of pandemic so that we might have the grace to have our faith strengthened, our sacramental life and practice renewed, and the ability to embrace mission in bringing all those who are hurting and afraid to the healing hands of the Lord himself.

Recalling our prior diocesan consecration to Our Lady of Fatima, together we will pray the Rosary every day of our Novena, asking for the protection and unique intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary as we embark upon this important mission.

(The Leader will then begin to pray the Rosary. The Joyful Mysteries will be prayed on days 1, 4 and 7; the Sorrowful Mysteries will be prayed on days 2, 5 and 8; the Glorious Mysteries will be prayed on days 3, 6 and 9.

Following the recitation of the Rosary, the Leader will then begin the Litany of Saint Joseph.)

Litany of St. Joseph

Leader

Lord, have mercy
 Christ, have mercy
 Lord, have mercy
 God our Father in heaven
 God the Son, Redeemer of the World
 God the Holy Spirit
 Holy Trinity, one God
 Holy Mary
 Saint Joseph
 Noble son of the House of David
 Light of patriarchs
 Husband of the Mother of God
 Guardian of the Virgin
 Foster father of the Son of God
 Faithful guardian of Christ
 Head of the Holy Family
 Joseph, chaste and just
 Joseph, prudent and brave
 Joseph, obedient and loyal
 Pattern of patience
 Lover of poverty
 Model of workers
 Example to parents
 Guardian of virgins
 Pillar of family life
 Comfort of the troubled
 Hope of the sick
 Patron of the dying
 Terror of evil spirits
 Protector of the Church
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
 He has made him lord of his household

Respondent

[illegible]

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, who in your inexpressible providence were pleased to choose Saint Joseph as spouse of the most holy Mother of your Son, grant, we pray, that we, who revere him as our protector on earth, may be worthy of his heavenly intercession. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Respondent: Amen.

Novena to Saint Joseph

Day One: St. Joseph, Hope of the Sick

O Benevolent Saint Joseph, to whom the responsibility of caring for the bodily needs of the Son of God was given, we ask you to intercede before our heavenly Father for all those in our diocese who are sick and homebound, and especially during this extraordinary time of pandemic. At your prompting, may the eternal Son whom you cared for on earth enfold them in their fragility with tenderness and compassion. Beseech dear Jesus to dispel any darkness the infirmed may experience with the comfort of his presence, to help them to find hope in their suffering, and – if it pleases him – to bestow his great love upon them in restoring them to full health. We also ask that you remember before the Almighty God all healthcare workers; may they be given the grace perform their work with the same charity and concern which Jesus himself gave to the infirmed who approached in him in faith. Help us become more sensitive to the needs of those experiencing illness, so as to help them in their struggles with our prayers, our patience and our support. Finally, we request your help in strengthening our faith in the ability of God to cure all ills and heal every malady, no matter how impossible it may seem. Amen.

Day Two: St. Joseph, Patron of Workers

O Glorious Saint Joseph, model of all those who are devoted to labor, obtain for us all during this call to renewal the ability to raise our work to a higher standard. Help us to see in our labor the opportunity to atone for our many sins; to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above personal gain; to be grateful for the jobs that we have, so as to develop the manifold gifts received from God; to work with order, peace, moderation and patience, so as to proclaim the Gospel message to a world starving for authenticity and truth. Under your patronage and through your intercession, may we never in our work succumb to weariness or avoid sacrifice to obtain our ideals, but rather dedicate ourselves with purity of intention to accomplish the tasks set before us for the sake of progress, with Christian values in mind and heart. As we enter into this period of renewal, we ask you, O Steadfast Saint Joseph, to intercede for the success of our labors, so that – with God’s blessing – the fruit to be born will be that which leads us all to rediscover the joy, fulfillment, contentment and peace that comes from Christian life. Amen.

Day Three: St. Joseph Comforter of the Troubled

O Blessed Joseph, you were a witness to Simeon’s prophecy that a sword of sorrow would pierce the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your spouse. Together, you both experienced sorrow, especially when the child Jesus was lost in the temple; however, you both received consolation from God in the fulfillment of His almighty will. As Mary herself has granted tremendous comfort to us as her children, so we ask you today to take us under your protection during this call to renewal, that we may experience comfort and consolation in

this unique time of affliction. As we bring our difficulties and pain before God, we ask you to fill our hearts with confidence in his power to heal, and trust in his everlasting mercy and compassion. Under your patronage, may our call to renewal provide ample opportunity to renew our faith and trust in the living God so as to not only seek, but find him in any future circumstance or trouble we may experience. Amen.

Day Four: St. Joseph Protector of the Church

O Brave Saint Joseph, collaborator in God's project for humanity, your tenderness enfolds the newborn Church as the recipient of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings were entrusted to your faithful care. Just as Jesus and Mary relied on your guardianship and protection, so we too as a diocesan community of faith now turn to your patronal care. Strengthen us with the Spirit that filled your Nazarene home and guide our footsteps on the road to the Kingdom, especially as we enter into this period of renewal of faith and practice. Accompany us with your presence as we embrace this important mission, and grant us the ability to become bright lights in our community which emanate the love of Christ within the culture of the larger community. Guide us in the renewal of pastoral activity, that our words, deeds and manner of life may be modeled on the Gospel message. Amen.

Day Five: St. Joseph Head of the Holy Family

O Beloved Saint Joseph, our heavenly Father saw in you the qualities desired to care for both His incarnate Son and for the Blessed Virgin Mary: as a just and holy man, you portrayed the virtues of prudence, discretion, purity of intention, unselfishness, and love as you took care of and led the Holy Family as its head. Your humility, thoughtfulness, kindness, wisdom, consideration, and faithfulness are examples to all heads of household and to all in positions of leadership and responsibility. As we enter into this call to renewal, we ask for your assistance in discovering anew these virtues so as to place them into practice in our homes, our parishes, our workplaces, our governments and within every other aspect of modern society. Aid all those in positions of leadership, especially throughout our diocese, so that their efforts may encourage and produce the fruit of lasting and authentic renewal in accordance with Gospel mandates. Amen.

Day Six: St. Joseph Guardian of the Religious

O Watchful Saint Joseph, just as you were made the lord and chief of the household of the Holy Family and guardian of its choicest treasures, we ask your assistance in defending all those who have offered their lives to God in embracing the religious life. Though modern society has embraced values which are at variance with those contained in the Gospels, these men and women bear witness to the kingdom to come in embracing a life of distance from the world to pursue holiness in common. Help them to continue being faithful to their vows and preserve their integrity of life and ministry. In this time of renewal, we ask that you open our minds and hearts to not only appreciate anew the gift of religious life, but to encourage

and support it with our time, talent and treasure so that it may be a fruitful symbol of our efforts to renew Christian life and practice in our diocese. At the same time, we also beseech you to ask the Father for fresh vocations to the secular priesthood to serve the faithful in our diocese in their renewed desire to encounter Christ in word and in sacrament. Bless our diocesan clergy in their life, work and effort, so that they may be refreshed to carry out their sacred duties with renewed vision and purpose. Encourage our diocesan seminarians in their resolve to hear, understand and answer the Lord's call to service in their lives. Grant us the ability to encourage, support and pray for all those whose lives have been placed at the service of others in the glorification of God and the sanctification of souls. Amen.

Day Seven: St. Joseph, Pillar of Families

O Glorious Saint Joseph, protector, model, and guide of Christian families, we beg you during this extraordinary time to guard the integrity of the Christian family. The modern age has witnessed attacks of both a social and moral nature on the concept of the family and on family life – and to an unprecedented degree. At this critical moment – and as we enter into a focused concentration of the renewal of Christian life and practice in our diocese – we ask your assistance. Help our parents to be good fathers and mothers to their children, and dedicated spouses who are faithful to one another. Assist them in fulfilling the role of being the first teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. Through your intercession, may they be strengthened by an exchange of love whose authenticity resembles that which enlivened the life of the Holy Family. Encourage our children to be ever mindful of God's commandments and to lead lives of faith in living out the Gospel message as faithful members of His Holy Church. We beseech you, O Revered Saint Joseph, to ask for the Father's abundant blessing upon all Christian households within our diocese, so that they may experience refreshment within this difficult time, and obtain the grace to persevere in following the essence of Christian life and practice. Amen.

Day Eight: St. Joseph, Patron of the Dying

O Compassionate Saint Joseph, you who are the foster father of the Eternal Judge, and do not hesitate to hear the supplications of those who are sick, we ask you to remember all those who at this time are approaching the moment of death. Having been consoled by our Lord Jesus Christ at your own death, we ask you to help all those who are dying to place their lives and their souls in God's compassionate hands, where they may experience the abundance of his mercy. Be with their families to console them in their grief, and to bolster their faith in the resurrection – especially in this time as the world is scathed by the coronavirus pandemic. Be beside us when the time for our own death arrives. Help us to place our confidence in the loving mercy of God, so that, supported by your example and strengthened by your help, we may be able to live a virtuous life, die a happy death, and obtain everlasting bliss in heaven. Amen.

Day Nine: St. Joseph, Terror of the Demons

Defend, O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen off-spring of Jesus Christ. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in our conflicts with the powers of darkness. As you rescued the Child Jesus from the perils of His young life, so now defend us from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity – especially during this pivotal moment when the powers of darkness regularly tempt us to lose faith in the omnipotence of God, and to abandon our trust in his love, and our confidence in his deliverance. As we battle against the devil and his minions in this life, and as we turn to Christ seeking forgiveness from our offenses and healing from our sinfulness, we ask that you shield us always under your patronage, so that – following your example and strengthened by your aid – we may come to the rewards of eternal life having remained faithful in God’s sight in the fight against the powers of darkness in the world. Amen.

Concluding Prayer: *(to be said at the end of each day)*

O Saint Joseph, you whose fatherhood was experienced by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as that which was beloved, tender and loving, as that which was obedient to our heavenly Father and accepting of His holy will, and as a fatherhood in the shadows exemplified in dedicated work observed as creatively courageous, we ask that you accompany us as we prepare for consecration to your fatherly care. In seeking to embrace anew the glory of Christian life and practice, we ask that you envelop us in your fatherly care so as to prepare our hearts for the joy of encounter with Jesus Christ our Lord in prayer, in Sacred Scripture and in Sacred Liturgy. Assist us in imitating your model virtue and give us confidence in God’s ability to hear prayer and grant requests. Above all, as we begin our journey towards renewal, inspire us to always place our faith and trust in God and in his omnipotence, that his holy will may be accomplished in all things and that we may serve him joyfully with hearts renewed in his love. Amen.