

ST. JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US

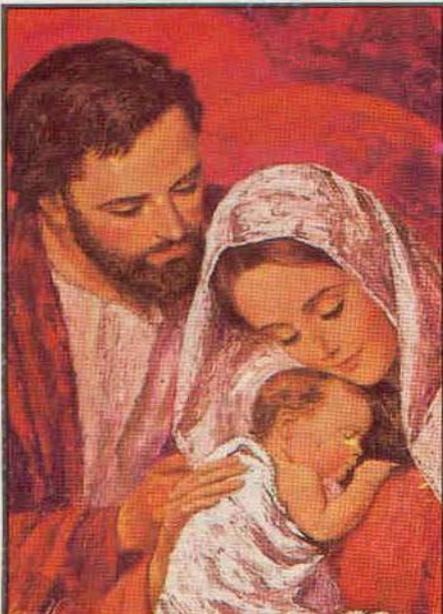
A Devotional E-Booklet

FOREWORD

Some people may argue that devotion to the saints keeps us from developing a closer relationship with God. I tend to disagree.

You see, true devotion to Saints like St. Joseph involves **seeing and imitating** how they, who have had a close relationship with God, lived and reflected Him in their lives. While this is certainly no substitute for imitating Jesus, I believe it teaches us how to better relate to our Saviour.

In real life, the way to know someone is through those who already know the person. As aptly said by Donald Thorman in the book 'Saints for All Seasons':



“Of course, we don’t have to pray to the saints; nor do I believe we are required to do so. But isn’t it very human for us to want to know and become friends with those who know the Hero, especially if they have had first contact with him or her?”

Don’t we often relate to the friend of someone from whom we wish a favor or about whom we wish to know more in order to get more of a feel for what kind of person the Hero is?

Of course we do this all the time and I see no reason why we shouldn’t do the same in case of those whom we call saints because of their unique relationship to the supreme transcendental source of our faith.”

I have been a St. Joseph’s devotee for several years now and I can honestly say that my devotion to him has paved the way for a closer relationship with my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ as well as with Mary. It is almost impossible to think of Joseph without thinking of Jesus and our Blessed Mother.

There are many prayers for St. Joseph. What I have included in this e-booklet are those which are not in the website I designed and published for my Patron Saint at www.stjosephsite.com. It is intended to be used with the Saint Joseph’s Prayer Accessories which contains a small statue of the beloved saint and a St. Joseph’s chaplet and oil.

This e-booklet is in Adobe PDF format and hence, could be read using Adobe Acrobat Reader. Although primarily intended to be viewed on your computer screen, you can also print this e-booklet depending on your preference.

It is my hope that this e-booklet would encourage you to have a devotion to St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of the Universal Church, of families, workers, children, fathers, craftsmen, carpenters, exile/immigrants, male religious, women, happy death, social justice, Korea, Mexico. France, and of Canada.

GOD BLESS YOU WITH HIS PEACE, PROSPERITY AND ABUNDANCE.

Babes Tan-Magkalas

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I. WHY A DEVOTION TO ST. JOSEPH

Everyone is free to choose any saint he/she wants to have a devotion to. People have their own reasons for choosing certain saints as their patron. Personally, my devotion to St. Joseph stems from the fact that I could count on his intercession on important aspects of my life:

FAMILY



WORK



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



I can count on St. Joseph's intercession for the protection of my family just as he protected Jesus and Mary.

I can count on His intercession in my work because he too worked to support his Holy Family.

I can count on His intercession for my spiritual development as he is the patron of the Universal Church of which I am a part. His virtues are certainly worth emulating.

Through the years, both popes and saints have encouraged devotion to St. Joseph. On August 15, 1889, Pope Leo XIII issued an encyclical letter on the Devotion to St. Joseph entitled **"*Quamquam Pluries*"**

One hundred years later, John Paul II issued an Apostolic Exhortation entitled **"*Redemptoris Custos*"** (**Guardian of the Redeemer**).

Various popes declared St. Joseph as:

- Patron of the Universal Church – Pope Pius IX

- Model for fathers of families – Pope Leo XIII
- Protector of Working Men – Pope Benedict XV
- Patron of Social Justice – Pope Pius X

Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1. Pope John XXIII inserted St. Joseph's name into the Roman Canon of the Mass.

St. Teresa of Avila is an example of a saint who had great devotion to St. Joseph. She has written:

"I took St. Joseph for my patron and advocate, and I recommend myself unceasingly to his protection. I do not remember ever to have asked anything of him that I did not obtain.

It seems as though God gives to other saints the grace to assist us in some certain necessity; but according to my experience, St. Joseph assist us in every want.

Our Lord, wishing to make us understand that, as He was obedient to His foster-father here upon earth, so He now can refuse no request in heaven.

Many persons who have invoked him by advice have experienced this truth, and the number of his clients increases daily and corroborates what I declare."

For several years past, I have asked a special favor at his festival, and it has always been granted. If the request was not judicious, he has denied it for my greater good.

I implore those who do not credit this to make the trial for themselves. Let him who has no guide in the way of prayer take this great Patriarch for his director. He will not go astray."

St. Augustine and St. John Chrysostom spoke admiringly of St. Joseph. So did St. Bernardine of Siena who said that Jesus respected St. Joseph so much on earth that He will not refuse him anything in heaven.

Blessed Andre Bessette has attributed all the miraculous works God has allowed him to do while he was ministering at the St. Joseph's Oratory, to the intercession of St. Joseph.

In the following pages are various prayers which one could use to honor St. Joseph. I personally selected them because not a lot of people know about them and yet they are efficacious ways to merit the patronage of this wondrous saint. Most of them are also prayed with an accompanying prayer aid (chaplet, rosary, oil) to help one focus on his/her prayer.

II. PRAYING THE CHAPLET OF ST. JOSEPH

A. About the Chaplet

The chaplet of St. Joseph is divided into fifteen groups, corresponding to the 15 mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Each group is composed of four beads, consisting of one white and three purple beads. There is a symbolism behind these colors. The white symbolizes St. Joseph's purity and the purple, his saintly piety.



Personally, I pray the chaplet at night before going to bed as I find it very calming. I usually culminate my nightly conversation with my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ with the St. Joseph's chaplet.

There were also times when I substituted the chaplet for novena prayers. Instead of praying the nine- or thirty-days novena for a specific intention, I pray the chaplet and say my specific prayer request in the beginning or at the end.

At times when my mind just can't stop spinning, I pray the chaplet and all disturbing thoughts cease. It helps me focus on God. The chaplet is really not for St. Joseph alone. It is a way of praising Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

B. Instructions On How To Pray The Chaplet

Praying the chaplet is easy. A mystery of the rosary is considered on each white bead and then two "**Hail Mary's**" are said. For each purple bead, say "**Praised And Blessed Be Jesus, Mary And Joseph**".

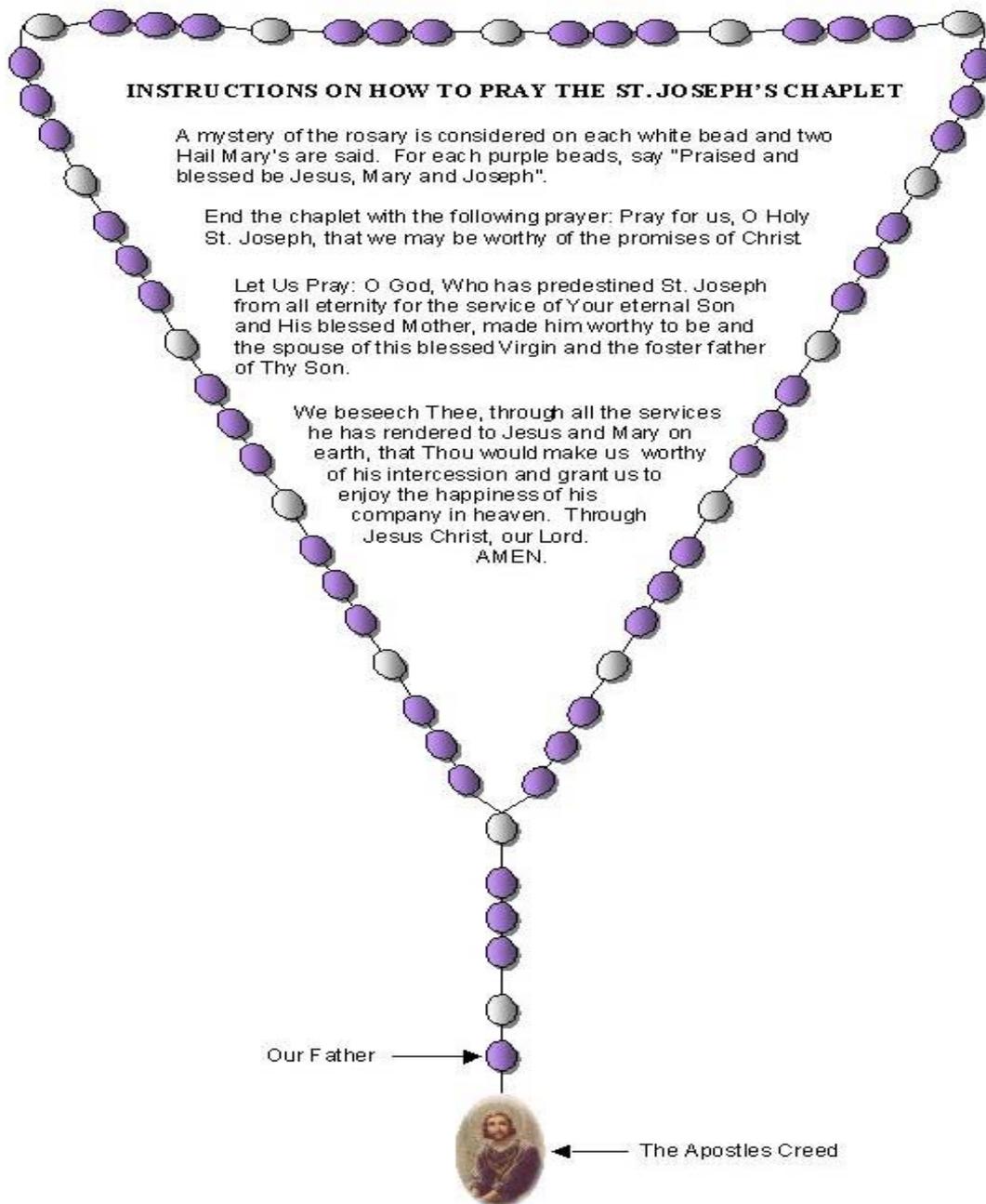
The chaplet ends with the following prayer:

**Pray for us, O Holy St. Joseph
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ**

O God, who has predestined St. Joseph from all eternity for the service of Thine eternal Son and His blessed Mother, and made him worthy to

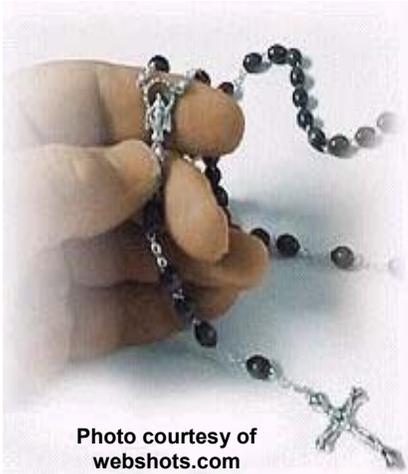
be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin and the foster-father of Thy Son. We beseech Thee, through all the services he has rendered to Jesus and Mary on earth, that Thou would make us worthy of his intercession and grant us to enjoy the happiness of his company in heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Below is a graphical illustration of how to pray the St. Joseph's chaplet.



III. PRAYING THE HOLY ROSARY FOR ST. JOSEPH

A. About the Holy Rosary



Praying the Rosary for St. Joseph is very similar to the way we pray the Rosary for our Blessed Mother. On the Crucifix, we also make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostle's Creed. On the large beads, we also pray the Our Father. The Fatima Prayer is also said after each set of 10 small beads.

One difference is instead of praying the Hail Mary in the small beads, we pray the Hail Joseph. In addition, the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries are different as they pertain to St. Joseph.

Others refer to the Rosary when prayed this way as the Chaplet of St. Joseph. I prefer to call it as the Holy Rosary for St. Joseph because I use our Blessed Mother's Rosary when I do this. As I mentioned earlier, I pray the Hail Joseph in place of the Hail Mary and I ponder on the Joyful, Sorrowful or Glorious Mysteries as they pertain to St. Joseph's life. The rest of the prayers are the same.

B. Instructions on How to Pray the Rosary for St. Joseph

On the Crucifix, make the **Sign of the Cross** and say the '**Apostle's Creed**'. On the first bead, pray the '**Our Father**' and in the 3 consecutive beads, pray the '**Hail Joseph**':

**Hail Joseph Full of Grace,
The Lord is with Thee.
Blessed are you among men,
And blessed is thy foster Son, Jesus**

**Holy Joseph, guardian of God's Son,
Pray for us sinners now
And at the hour of our death
Amen.**

Pray the '**Glory Be**' afterwards. On the first large bead, recite and ponder on a mystery then pray the Our Father. On the following ten small beads, pray the '**Hail Joseph**'.

After each set of 10 small beads, pray the Glory Be and the **'Fatima Prayer'**:

**O my Jesus, forgive us our sins,
Save us from the fires of hell,
And lead all souls to heaven
Especially those in most need
of Thy Mercy**

Do the same from the second up to the last (5th) set.

After the fifth decade, say the **'Memorare of St. Joseph'**:

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, my loving protector St. Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief.

Confiding therefore in your goodness, I implore your intercession. Despise not my petitions, foster father of my Redeemer, but graciously hear and answer them. Amen.

The following are the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries as they pertain to the life of St. Joseph:

The Joyful Mysteries

1. **The Annunciation of Joseph.** The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream saying, "Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto yourself Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Spirit." (Mt 1:20)
2. **The Birth of Jesus.** "And she brought forth her firstborn Son." (Lk 2:7) Joseph glorifies God.
3. **The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus.** "Joseph, son of David....you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)
4. **The Presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple.** "A light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel....And Joseph and His mother were wondering at those things which were spoken concerning Him". (Lk 2:32-33)



5. **The Finding of the boy Jesus in the Temple.** And when Mary and Joseph saw Him in the temple, they were amazed....And He went down with them to Nazareth and was subjected to them”. (Lk 2:48;51)

The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. **Joseph’s spouse Mary is found to be child .** “Joseph, her husband, being a just man and not willing publicly to expose her, was minded to put her away privately.” (Mt 1:18-19)
2. **The Journey to Bethlehem.** “Mary, wife of Joseph, was great with child.... and there was no room for them in the inn.” (Lk 2:5-7)
3. **Joseph flees to Egypt with Mary and Jesus.** “an angel of the Lord appeared in sleep to Joseph saying: Arise, and take the child and His Mother, and fly into Egypt.” (Mt 2)
4. **Jesus is lost in Jerusalem.** When Joseph and Mary returned to Nazareth, “the child Jesus remained in Jerusalem; and His parent knew it not.” (Lk 2:43)
5. **The Death of Joseph.** Having faithfully fulfilled his role in God’s providence, Joseph expires in the presence of Jesus and Mary.

The Glorious Mysteries

1. **The Glorification of St. Joseph.** Joseph accompanies Jesus after His resurrection to share in Jesus’ glory for all eternity and become our intercessor.
2. **St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.** As he once cherished, nurtured and protected the Son of God, St. Joseph now continues his guidance and protection of His Mystical Body on earth, the Church.
3. **St. Joseph, to you we have recourse in our affliction.** Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, the chosen offspring of Jesus Christ.
4. **St. Joseph, Protector of Families.** As head of the Holy Family, St. Joseph blesses intercedes for all Christian families that they also may become holy families in the sight.

5. **St. Joseph, Patron of a Holy Death.** As he died in the presence and care of Jesus and Mary, St. Joseph will obtain for us that same blessed privilege at our passage from this life to eternity.

Below is a simple illustration of how to pray the Rosary for St. Joseph:



IV. THE HOLY CLOAK OF ST. JOSEPH

A. About the Holy Cloak of St. Joseph

I found out about the Holy Cloak of St. Joseph through some visitors of my website (www.stjosephsite.com) who asked me if I can provide them a copy of this novena. I searched the web and found the novena at www.holystjoseph.com which was designed and is maintained by Harry Holbrook.

In a commentary on the Holy Cloak Novena in the aforementioned website, it was said that:

"The extraordinary graces obtained by the prayer are innumerable. In fact, St. Theresa said, "...If you really want to believe in it, prove it to yourself by reciting the Novena - and you will be finally convinced."

To be even more assisted in receiving your petition....It would be well to offer a thoughtful prayer for the Souls in Purgatory. With the same solicitude that we help dry the tears of the suffering souls, so can we hope that St. Joseph will help us dry our tears in our necessities. In this way, St. Joseph's Holy Cloak will spread itself over us and will serve as a shield against all those dangers which beset us so that we may all one day, with the grace of God, reach the doors of eternal salvation."

This novena is to be prayed on thirty consecutive days in memory of the 30 years St. Joseph spent in the company of Jesus and Mary. If for some reason, you missed praying the novena in a particular day(s), you can make up for it by praying it on the last (30th) day as many times as you have missed reciting it.

B. Instructions on How to Pray the Holy Cloak Novena

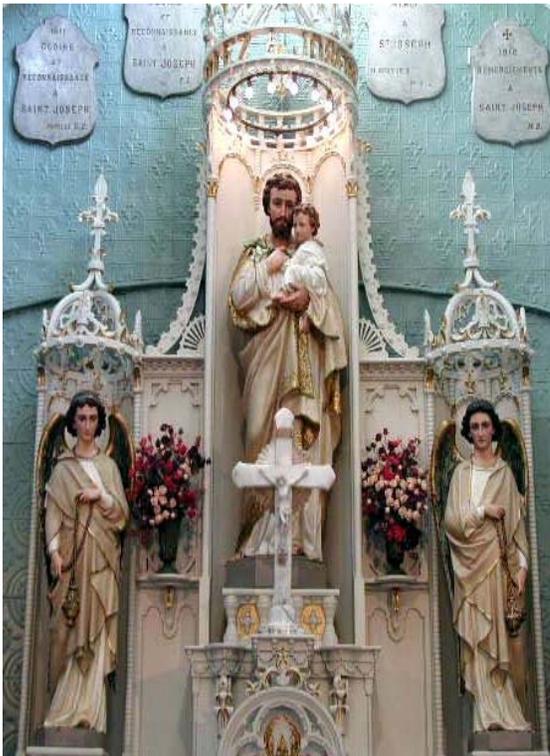
- ✦ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✦ Pray: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul."
- ✦ Recite 3 Glory be to the Father in thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity for having exalted St. Joseph to a position of such great dignity

OFFERING

Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, I humbly prostrate myself before you. I beg the Lord Jesus, your Immaculate Spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the angels and saints in the Heavenly Court, to join me in this devotion.

I offer you this precious cloak, while pledging my sincerest faith and devotion. I promise to do all in my power to honour you throughout my lifetime to prove my love for you.

Help me, St. Joseph. Assist me now and throughout my lifetime, but especially at the moment of my death, as you were assisted by Jesus and Mary, that I may join you one day in Heaven and there honour you for all eternity. Amen



Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, prostrate before you and your divine Son, Jesus, I offer you, with heartfelt devotion, this precious treasury of prayers, being ever mindful of the numerous virtues which adorned your sacred person.

In you, O Glorious Patriarch, was fulfilled the dream of your precursor the first Joseph, who indeed seemed to have been sent by God to prepare the way for your presence on this earth.

In fact, not only were you surrounded by the shining splendour of the rays of the divine Sun, but you were splendidly reflected in the brilliant light of the mystic moon, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

O Glorious Patriarch, if the example of the ancient Jacob, who personally went to congratulate his favourite son, who was exalted on the throne of Egypt, served to bring all his progeny there, should not the example of Jesus and Mary, who honoured you with their greatest respect and trust, serve to bring me, your devoted servant, to present you with this precious cloak in your honour?

Grant O Great St. Joseph, that the Almighty God may turn a benevolent glance towards me. As the ancient Joseph did not reject his guilty and cruel brothers, but rather accepted them with love and protected and saved them from hunger and death - I beseech you, O Glorious Patriarch, through your intercession, grant that the Lord may never abandon me in this exiled valley of sorrows.

Grant that He may always number me as one of your devoted servants who live serenely under the patronage of your Holy Cloak. Grant that I may always live within the protection of this patronage, every day of my life and particularly at the moment when I draw my dying breath.

PRAYERS

Hail, O Glorious St. Joseph, you who are entrusted with the priceless treasures of heaven and Earth and foster-father of Him who nourishes all creatures of the universe. You are, after Mary, the Saint most worthy of our love and devotion.

You alone, above all the Saints, were chosen for that supreme honour of rearing, guiding, nourishing and even embracing the Messiah, whom so many kings and prophets would have so desired to behold.

St. Joseph, save my soul and obtain for me from the divine mercy of God that petition for which I humbly pray.

And for the holy souls in Purgatory, grant a great comfort from their pain.

✦ Recite 3 Glory Be.

O powerful St. Joseph, you were proclaimed the Patron of the Universal Church, therefore, I invoke you, above all the other Saints, as the greatest protector of the afflicted, and I offer countless blessings to your most generous heart, always ready to help in any need.

To you, O Glorious St. Joseph, come the widows, the orphans, the abandoned, the afflicted, the oppressed. There is no sorrow, heartache or anguish which you have not consoled. Deign, I beseech you, to use in my behalf those gifts which God has given you, until I too shall be granted the answer to my petition.

And you, Holy Souls in Purgatory, pray to St. Joseph for me.

✦ Recite 3 Glory Be.

Countless are those who have prayed to you before me and have received comfort and peace, graces and favours. My heart, so sad and sorrowful, cannot find rest in the midst of this trial which besets me.

O Glorious St. Joseph, you know all my needs even before I set them forth in prayer. You know how important this petition is for me. I prostrate myself before you as I sigh under the heavy weight of the problem which confronts me.

There is no human heart in which I can confide my sorrow; and even if I should find a compassionate creature who would be willing to assist me, still he would be unable to help me. Only you can help me in my sorrow, St. Joseph, and I beg you to hear my plea.

Has not St. Theresa left it written in her dialogues - that the world may always know - " Whatever you ask of St. Joseph, you shall receive. "

St. Joseph, comforter of the afflicted, have pity on my sorrow and pity on those poor souls who have placed so much hope in our prayers.

✦ Recite 3 Glory Be.

Sublime Patriarch St. Joseph, for your perfect obedience to God, have mercy on me.

For your holy life, full of grace and merit, hear my prayer.

For your most sweet name, help me.

For your most generous heart, assist me.

For your most holy tears, comfort me.

For your seven sorrows, have mercy on me.

For your seven joys, console me.

From all harm of body and soul, deliver me.

From all danger and disaster, save me.

Assist me with your powerful intercession and obtain for me, through your power and mercy, all that is necessary for my salvation and particularly the favour of which I now stand in such great need.

✦ Recite 3 Glory Be.

Glorious St. Joseph, countless are the graces and favours which you have obtained for afflicted souls. Illness of every nature, those who are oppressed, persecuted, betrayed, bereft of all human comfort, even those in need of their life bread -- all who implore your powerful intercession are comforted in their affliction.

Do not permit, O dearest St. Joseph, that I alone be the only one of all who have appealed to you, to be denied this petition which I so earnestly beg of you.

Show yourself kindly and generous even to me, that I may cry out in thanksgiving, " Eternal glory to our Holy Patriarch St. Joseph, my great protector on Earth and the defender of the Holy souls in Purgatory. "

✦ **Recite 3 Glory Be.**

Eternal Father, who art in Heaven, through the merits of Jesus and Mary, I beg you to grant my petition. In the name of Jesus and Mary I prostrate myself before your divine presence and I beseech you to accept my hopeful plea to persevere in my prayers that I may be numbered among the throngs of those who live under the patronage of St. Joseph.

Extend your blessing on this precious treasury of prayers which I today offer to him as a pledge of my devotion.

✦ **Recite 3 Glory Be.**

SUPPLICATIONS

(In honour of St. Joseph's Hidden Life with Jesus and Mary)

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may come into my soul and sanctify me.

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may come into my heart and inspire it with charity.

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may come into my mind and enlighten it.

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may guide my will and strengthen it.

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may direct my thoughts and purify them.

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may guide my desires and direct them.

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may look upon my deeds and extend His blessing.

St. Joseph, grant that Jesus may inflame me with love for Him.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus the imitation of your virtues.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus true humility of spirit.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus meekness of heart.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus peace of soul.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus a holy fear of the Lord.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus a desire for protection.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus a gentleness of character.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus a pure and charitable heart.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus a holy acceptance of suffering.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus the wisdom of faith.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus His blessing of perseverance in my good deeds.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus the strength to carry my crosses.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus a disdain for the material goods of this world.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus the grace to always walk on the narrow path towards Heaven.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus the grace to avoid all occasion of sin.

St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus a holy desire for eternal bliss.



St. Joseph, obtain for me from Jesus the grace of final perseverance.

St. Joseph, do not abandon me.

St. Joseph, grant that my heart may never cease to love you and that my lips may ever praise you.

St. Joseph, for the love you bore for Jesus, grant that I may learn to love Him.

St. Joseph, graciously accept me as your devoted servant.

St. Joseph, I give myself to you; accept my pleas and hear my prayers.

St. Joseph, do not abandon me at the hour of my death.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

✦ Recite 3 Glory Be.

INVOCATIONS TO ST. JOSEPH

Remember O most chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my good protector St. Joseph, that never was it known that anyone who came to your protection, and sought your intercession was left unaided.

Confidently I prostrate myself before you and fervently beg for your powerful intervention. O foster-father of our dear Redeemer, despise not my petition, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Glorious St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and virginal father of Jesus, look upon me and watch over me; lead me on the path of sanctifying grace; take heed of the urgent needs which I now beg you to envelop within the folds of your fatherly cloak.

Dismiss those obstacles and difficulties standing in the way of my prayer and grant that the happy answer to my petition may serve for the greater glory of God and my eternal salvation.

As a pledge of my undying gratitude, I promise to spread the word of your glory while offering thanks to the Lord for having so blessed your power and might in Heaven and on Earth.

LITANY TO ST. JOSEPH

✦ Lord, have mercy on us	
✦ Christ, have mercy on us	
✦ Lord, have mercy on us	
✦ Christ, hear us	<i>Christ, graciously hear us</i>
✦ God the Father in heaven	<i>Have mercy on us</i>
✦ God the Son Redeemer of the World	<i>Have mercy on us</i>
✦ God the Holy Spirit	<i>Have mercy on us</i>
✦ Holy Trinity One God	<i>Have mercy on us</i>
✦ Hail Mary	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ St. Joseph	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Blessed offspring of David	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Light of Patriarchs	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Spouse of the Mother of God	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Chaste custodian of the Blessed Virgin	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Guardian of the Son of God	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Defender of Christ	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Head of the Holy Family	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ O Joseph most just	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ O Joseph most chaste	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ O Joseph most prudent	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ O Joseph most valiant	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ O Joseph most obedient	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ O Joseph most faithful	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Mirror of patience	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Lover of poverty	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Model of workmen	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Glory of domestic life	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Guardian of virgins	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Safeguard of families	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Consolation of the afflicted	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Hope of the sick	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Patron of the dying	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Terror of demons	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Protector of the Holy Church	<i>Pray for us</i>
✦ Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world	<i>Spare us O Lord</i>
✦ Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world	<i>Graciously hear us O Lord</i>
✦ Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world	<i>Have mercy on us</i>
✦ He hath made him master of His house	<i>And ruler of all His possessions</i>

Lord Jesus, through the merits of the devoted spouse of Your most Holy Mother, help us, we beseech thee, that what of ourselves we cannot obtain, may be granted through the intercession of the Most Holy Patriarch, St. Joseph. You who reign with God, the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER OF THE HOLY CLOAK

O, Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, you who were chosen by God above all men to be the earthly head of the most Holy of families, I beseech you to accept me within the folds of your Holy cloak, that you may become the guardian and custodian of my soul.

From this moment on, I choose you as my father, my protector, my counsellor, my patron and I beseech you to place in your custody my body, my soul, all that I am, all that I possess, my life and my death.

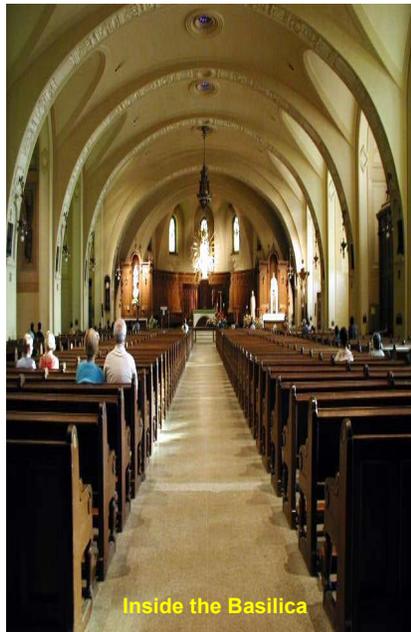
Look upon me as one of your children; defend me from the treachery of my enemies, invisible or otherwise, assist me at all times in all my necessities; console me in the bitterness of my life, and especially at the hour of my death.

Say but one word for me to the divine Redeemer whom you were deemed worthy to hold in your arms, and to the Blessed Virgin Mary, your most chaste spouse. Grant me those blessings which will lead me to salvation. Include me among those who are most dear to you and I shall set forth to prove myself worthy of your special patronage. Amen.

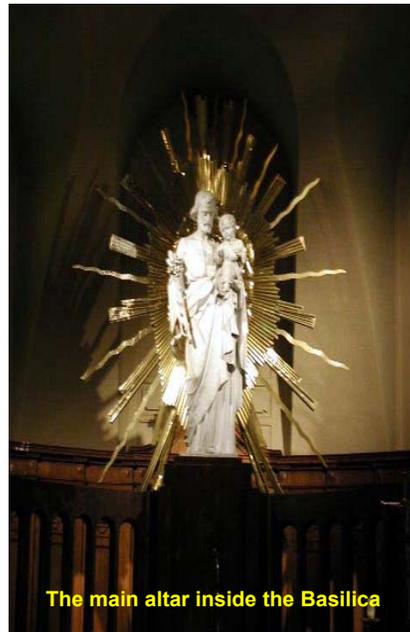
V. OIL OF ST. JOSEPH

A. About the Oil of St. Joseph

I came across the Oil of St. Joseph at the St. Joseph's Oratory at Montreal (Canada) which is a very important sanctuary in the world dedicated to this great saint. Since 1904, millions of people have come to the Oratory to pay homage to St. Joseph, to pray, to be healed, to find comfort and consolation and to renew their faith in God.



Inside the Basilica



The main altar inside the Basilica

The statue of St. Joseph at the main altar (shown in photo) is made of Carrara marble and is nine feet tall. It weighs more than 2,300 kilos (5,000 pounds) and was created by the Italian artist A. Giacomini. For more information about the Oratory, visit the website at www.stjoseph.org.

Brother Andre (1845-1937), the founder of the St. Joseph's Oratory often advised those who came to him for healing, to rub their afflicted bodies with the Oil of St. Joseph which had been burning in front of the statue of the saint.

Note that in the New Testament, our Lord Jesus and his apostles had also used oil as a symbol of healing and to foster a manifestation of faith. In the Old Testament, oil had often been used as a symbol of God's blessing.

B. Instruction on How to Use the Holy Oil

Rub the afflicted part of the body with the oil as an expression of faith and pray:



Glorious St. Joseph, most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, I beg you through the heart of Jesus, to intercede for me that I may be healed of my illness (*mention your illness*). Your intercessory power extends to every need and knows how to change the impossible into the possible. Let your fatherly eyes look upon me and intercede for me that I may be restored to my perfect health. Today, I come to you in confidence. Since you are close to God, please unite my prayer with yours. Ask your Son to sustain me during the trial I am now facing. Help me to move beyond my suffering by sharing with me that same strength that sustained you through your own trials. May hope be for me as it was for you, a light in the darkness and a guide along the way every day of my life. Amen.

REMEMBER THIS:

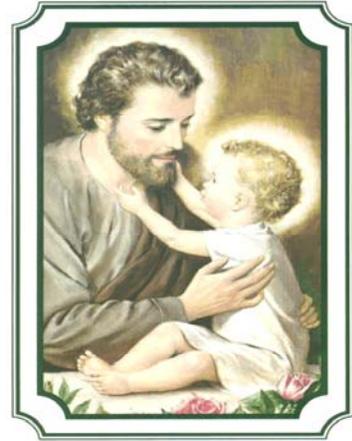
**IT IS NOT THE OIL ITSELF WHICH CURES
BUT THE LORD WHO HEARS THE
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

VI. A NINE-DAY NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST. JOSEPH

A. About the Nine-Day Novena

A novena is usually a nine-day prayer. It is a way of praying with perseverance, modeled after the nine days the apostles prayed before Pentecost.

A friend of mine from the Philippines sent me this novena. I personally like it because the prayers are very simple and yet, they touch the heart of the one praying because they reflect our needs and concerns in life.



B. Instructions on How to Pray the Novena

Pray the following for nine consecutive days. If you miss praying the novena for a day, go back to Day 1.

Daily Prayer

✦ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come to my aid, O God
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Almighty God, Father of mercies
and giver of all good gifts,
I come before you to honor you
in your saints and ask their help
in my many needs.

You promised those who ask,
would receive, those who seek,
would find, those who knock,
would have doors opened to them.

Hear the prayers of your church,
grant my requests, and pardon
my sins.
Amen

St. Joseph, just and true,
with a father's care you raised
the Child Jesus, and with a
husband's love you shared your life
with Mary, his mother.

I entrust myself to your care
and place in your hands
this request of mine. . .

In quiet Nazareth long ago,
the Holy Spirit spoke to your heart
and you followed God's will
with wonderful faith.

In the quiet of my days,
and in the hard choices I must make,
help me follow the Spirit's guidance
and believe when I cannot see.

Day 1

O God,
guide of those who listen
and helper of those who hear
your voice, speak of me,
as you did to St. Joseph
and help me accomplish
the things you give me to do.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 2

O God,
you love your people
and bless the ordinary lives
we quietly live.
As you blessed St. Joseph,
bless what I do, however hidden
and simple it may be,
and let all I do be done with love.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 3

O God, ever faithful,
you remember us always
and in time reveal your blessings.
Help me trust in your,
as St. Joseph faithfully trusted,
and never let me lose faith
in the wonderful gifts
you promise me.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 4

God of families,
bless the family that's mine.
Keep us safe from harm,
and never let evil come between us.
Let peace remain in our hearts.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 5

O God,
who love children,
be kind to our children today.
Give them eyes of faith
for seeing far,
a loving heart for welcoming life,
and a place always at your side.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 6

God of our heavenly home,
bless our home on earth.
Let the spirit of Mary and Joseph
rest at our table,
shape our words and actions,
and bring blessing to our
children.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 7

God, our Father,
give your fatherly spirit
to those who are fathers now.
Like Joseph,
give them hearts of devoted love
for their wives and children
and strength for forgiveness
and patience.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 8

Give shelter, O God,
to those who need it, and bring
together families divided.
Give us enough to eat,
and decent work to earn our bread.
Care for us, O God.

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be

Day 9

Bless all families, O Lord,
especially those in need.
Remembering the life of
your Son,
we pray for the poor,
for those who lack a good home,
for those in exile.
Grant them a protector
like Joseph, O God

✦ Say one Our Father, one Hail Mary and One Glory Be