

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
March 8, 2026



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Pastor: Fr. Dale Craig, S.O.L.T.
Director of Religious Education: Sherry Headlee
Deacon Cristobal Eloy Roybal
Deacon Clarence Montoya: O.C.I.A
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Office Hours: Monday — Thursday
10 am — 12 Noon, 1 pm — 3 pm

Website: www.stgertrudesmora.org
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Saturday & Sunday Masses

Weekday Masses

- * Monday—Friday: 7:30AM
- * Saturday: 8AM

Saturday Vigil Masses

- * Vigil Mass : 4:00PM

Sunday Masses

- * Spanish Mass: 9:00AM
- * English Mass: 11:00AM
- * English Mass: 5:00PM

Confessions: Saturday: 3:00PM-4:00PM

Sunday: 30 minutes before all Masses



Sunday Collection for

March 1, 2026: \$4,559.00
(Envelopes: \$3,492.00 Loose: \$1,064.00)
Envelopes used: 123

Thank you for your generosity!
God Bless You!

Altar Society:

March 9, 2026
Amy Duran/May Olivas

Celebration of Sacraments

Baptism: Parents may register their child for baptism at the parish office. Please turn in necessary paperwork two (2) weeks prior to class. Baptism Classes will be the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Baptisms are done on the fourth Sunday of the Month.

Marriage: Contact Parish Priest/Office at least six (6) months before the proposed wedding date.

Anointing of the Sick: Contact the Parish Priest /Office when a parishioner is seriously ill and/or is scheduled for major surgery. Emergency phone-505-604-9778.

10th Anniversary Mass for the death of
Fr. Jim Flanagan



We will be celebrating Fr. Jim Flanagan's 10th Anniversary of death with a Mass on Monday, March 23rd at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church (Holman Mission). We will begin with an evening prayer at 4:30pm and a 5pm Mass.

There will be a Pot Luck Dinner after Mass.

DEADLINE FOR THE BULLETIN IS: TUESDAY
AT 12 PM IN WRITING, PLEASE!

Catholic Relief Service Collection
will be collected on March 15th.

SATURDAY— March 7**4PM Mass****Celebrant: Fr. Tony Blount**

- * Special Intention /by Amy & Mario Duran
- + Pauline Aragon (Anniv) & Aragon deceased family /by David & Rita Griego
- + Noel Griego /by Wilton Rogers family

SUNDAY—March 8 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**9AM Mass****Celebrant: Fr. Tony Blount**

- + Dcn Ray Cordova, Steven & Gabrielle Cordova /by Evelyn
- * Complete healing & fast recovery for Jeremiah Duran /by Mom, Dad & siblings
- * Health of Margaret Cordova /by Evelyn Cordova

11AM Mass**Celebrant: Fr. Tony Blount**

- + Lillian Martinez, Jack & Terry Roper (Anniv) /by Inez
- + Francisco Hurtado /by Elena, Marty Marrujo & family
- + Ben Bustos, Antonio S. Romero & Urbano Trujillo /by Marcie Bustos

5PM Mass**Celebrant: Fr. Tony Blount****People of the Parish**

- + Charlie, Angelica & Cathy Garcia & Jeremy Valerio /by Albinita Garcia
- + Lucy Trujillo /by Frances

Ex 17:3-7 Ps 95:1-2,6-9 Rom 5:1-2,5-8 Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15,19b-26,39a,40-42

MONDAY— March 9 Saint Frances of Rome, Religious**7:30AM Mass**

- + Felipe, Eloisa (Anniv) & deceased family members /by Robert & Liz DeHerrera
- * Health of Liz DeHerrera & Michael Padilla /by Elaine Armijo
- * Healing & fast recovery for Jeremiah Duran /by family

2 Kgs 5:1-15ab Pss 42:2-3;43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

TUESDAY— March 10**7:30AM Mass**

- * Healing & fast recovery for Jeremiah Duran /by family
- + In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for all holy souls in purgatory /by David & Barbara Kuehl

Dn 3:25,34-43 Ps 25:4-5ab,6-7bc,8-9 Mt 18:21-35

WEDNESDAY— March 11**7:30AM Mass**

- + Phillip Bustos, Angela Romero & Tonya Romero /by Marsha & Richard Bustos
- * For the health of Margaret Cordova /by Evelyn Cordova
- * Complete healing for Jeremiah Duran /by family

Dt 4:1,5-9 Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20 Mt 5:17-19

THURSDAY— March 12**7:30 AM Mass**

- * Complete healing & speedy recovery for Jeremiah Duran /by Mom, Dad, & siblings
- * In Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes for Sebastian Denke & Barbara Kuehl (B-days) /by David & Barbara Kuehl

Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2,6-9 Lk 11:14-23

FRIDAY— March 13**7:30AM Mass**

- * Complete healing & speedy recovery for Jeremiah Duran /by Mom, Dad & siblings
- * Health of Margaret Cordova /by Evelyn Cordova
- + Devin Candelaria /by Grandma Viola
- + Holy Souls in Purgatory /by Marilyn & Andy

Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b,14,17 Mk 12:28-34

SATURDAY— March 14**8AM Mass**

- + All Souls in Purgatory from Mora, NM

Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4,18-21b Lk 18:9-14

SATURDAY— March 14**4PM Mass****Celebrant: Fr. Dale**

- + Maria Escolastica Martinez /by Matilda Martinez
- + Feliberto (13th Anniv) & Escolastica Casias (63rd Anniv) /by the family
- * Wilton Rogers family /by Rogers family

SUNDAY—March 15 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**9AM Mass****Celebrant: Fr. Dale**

- + Damian Pacheco (22nd Anniv) /by family
- * Complete healing & fast recovery for Jeremiah Duran /by Mom, Dad & siblings
- + Dolores Medina & Alex Mora /by Ida Mora
- + Josephine & Frank L. Trambley & departed family members /by Amy & May

11AM Mass**Celebrant: Fr. Dale****People of the Parish**

- + Pearl (1st Anniv), George & Clarence Garcia & Louie Grine /by family
- + Eloisa, Lupita Olivas, Leroy Abeyta & JoJo Martinez /by Inez

5PM Mass**Celebrant: Fr. Dale**

- + Mabel Mondragon (B-day) /by Priscilla Medina & family
 - + Rosa R. Martinez, Tonie Trujillo & JoJo Martinez /by Marcie Bustos
 - + Dennis Chavez, Osma & Leroy Chavez /by Danny & Bernadette Chavez
 - + Sacred Heart for all deceased family members /by Duran family
- 1 Sm 16:1n,6-7,10-13a Ps 23:1-6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1,6-9,13-17,34-38

Important Information...

- ◆ **Stations of the Cross:** Every Friday during lent there will be a 6pm Mass followed by the Stations of the Cross.
- ◆ **Lenten Retreat:** This year's Lenten Retreat will be Sunday-Tuesday, March 8th—10th, with Fr. Tony Blunt at 6pm in the Church.
Fr. Tony wants to talk to you about miracles, meaning & Mary!!
- ◆ **St. Joseph Novena:** The St. Joseph Novena begins, Wednesday, March 11th and ends on Thursday, March 19th. There will be a 6pm Mass in Honor of St. Joseph. The Novena is inserted in this weeks bulletin.
- ◆ **Church Cleaning:** We will be cleaning the Church on Monday, March 23rd at 9am. If your available to come help, we would appreciate it.
- ◆ **Chrism Mass:** The Chrism Mass date changed to Tuesday, March 24th at 5:30pm at the Cathedral Basilica in Sante Fe.
- ◆ **Rosary Rally:** Please join us for a Rosary Rally on Saturday, March 28th at 12pm at the Parish Hall.
- ◆ **Washing of the Feet:** We are needing 12 men to volunteer to get their feet washed on Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm. Please call the office to get your name on the list.

Adoration Chapel: The Chapel is now open 24 hours. Anyone who wants to devote an hour of adoration please contact Deacon Eloy at 505-948-6887 or Ellen Hagaman 505-504-4772.

Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 6PM in the Pastoral Center. Everyone Welcome.

Catechism: Classes are held on Tuesdays from 3:45 to 5pm at the Mora Elementary School. Please make sure your child signs in at the baptismal font to show they have attended Sunday mass.

Cemetery Plots: All plots need to be prearranged by Mission Mayordomos or the Church Office. Also please clean & maintain your family member's plot.

Charitable Giving: Charitable Giving is on Mondays from 10-12 & 1-3pm.

Commodities: The Commodities will be distributed on Tuesday, March 10th. [USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender]

Confirmation: Classes are held in the Pastoral Center on Mondays from 6 -7:30 pm. Please make sure you sign in at the baptismal font to get credit for Sunday Mass. The date for Confirmation is set for Monday, May 4, 2026 at Our Lady of Sorrows at 6:30 pm.

Legion of Mary: The Legion of Mary meets every Tuesday at 9am in the Pastoral Center. If your interested in joining the Legion please come and see what it's all about.

Men's Group: Men's group meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Chapel at 7pm.

Music Ministry: The Music Ministry will meet every second Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the Parish Hall. All Choir members please plan to attend. All interested in music ministry are welcome.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA): OCIA classes are held at the Pastoral Center on Tuesdays at 6 pm.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Society will be praying the rosary at 8:30 on the first Sunday of every month.

WINGS (Women In Need of God): The Wings group meets every Friday at 10am in the Pastoral Center for faith and fellowship. Please join us.

Ministry Schedule

March 14th 4 pm

Lector: Gina Pacheco

Choir:

Server:

EU Ministers:

Mavordomos: Jesus & Rhonda Baquera

March 15th 9 am

Lector: Sr. Mary Handmaid

Choir: Mi Señora de Guadalupe

Server:

EU Ministers: Den Eloy, Sr. Teresa & Sr. Esperanza

Mavordomos: Mike & Ann Lewitke

March 15th 11 am

Lector: Loretta Ashe

Choir: St. Therese

Server:

EU Ministers: Den Clarence, Joann Martinez & Patrick Ashe

Mavordomos: Garrick & Jessica Martinez

March 15th 5 pm

Lector: Anabelle Lopez

Choir: St. Francis

Server:

EU Ministers: Anita Roybal

Mavordomos: Rafael & Lucia Lopez

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For more info: theatholicfoundation.org



The Catholic Foundation
ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE

The Annual Catholic Appeal



The 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, is themed, "**Fearless in Faith, Boundless in Love,**" supports essential ministries, education, and services for the poor.

We ask that you pray about your pledge and encourage more families to participate in this years Annual Catholic Appeal.

This year, our goal has increased to \$17,000.

CRS Rice Bowls

Throughout Lent, God calls us to return to him with a sincere and humble heart. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we rediscover how deeply he loves us—and how deeply we are called to love in return.

Rice bowls are located at the entrance of the Church. Please return them by



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Prayer List

Natasha Abeyta, Nessa Abeyta, Robert Abbott, Michael Alexander, Patsy Aguilar, Cornelio Aragon, Ron Archuleta, Teresita Archuleta, Frances Aragon, Robert Archuleta, Isaac Avilucia, Marciana Baca, Carlos Barboa, Clara Bartlett, Michael Benavidez, Bert Berg, Angela Berry, Bella Blea, Bolte family, Jesse D. Bombersbach, Aaliyah Bustos, Salomon Bustos, Clorinda Casados, Evangelina Casaus, Rolando Cisneros, Ernestine Coleman, Margaret Cordova, Theodora Cordova, Jose Olmedo Cruz, Priscilla Cruz, Liz DeHerrera, Oscar Roy Doster, Isaac Duran, Jazzlyn Duran, Jeremiah Duran, Thomas W. Duran, Ulysses Duran, Velma Duran, Jacob Espinoza, Johnny Espinoza, Jennie Fresquez, Lisa Gallegos, Christine Garcia, Ethan J. Garcia, Juanita Gomez, Tom Gonzales, Walter Gonzales, Brayden Graston, Bridget Griego, MaryAnn Griego, Roxanne Griego, Olivama Gutierrez, Rolanda Gutierrez, Suzanne Hatch, Tom Headlee, Elaine Herrera, Eddie Holguin, Andy Jaramillo, Emilia Jaramillo, Pedro Jaramillo, James Johnson, Connie Krusemark, Isaiah Lovato, Michael Lovato, Angie Lucero, Lawrence Lucero Jr., Arjay Lujan, Lynn Lujan, Rosemary Lujan, Arthur and Angie Madrid, Debbie Maes, Roque Maes, Addie Maestas, Patricia Mascareñas, Albert Martinez, Beatrice Martinez, Frances Martinez, James Martinez, Jennifer E. Martinez, Jimmy Martinez, Lucille Martinez, Mario A. Martinez, Pat Martinez, Shallama Martinez, Frank Medina, Barbara Merkel, Barry Merkel Jr., Carmen Melendez, Kateri Melendez, Raymundo Melendez, Dakota Miller, Loretta Molinar, Alexis Montoya, Ben Montoya, Leo Montoya, Nazario Montoya, James Olivas, Mary Osuchowski, Cathy Pacheco, Michael D. Padilla, Alicia Pope, Monica Quintana, Margaret Rael, Erica Ramirez, Marilee Rivas, Gloria Rodriguez, Edulia M. Romero, Amos Romero, Angie Romero, Annabelle Romero, Denise Romero, Emelia Romero, Frank Romero, Jerry Romero, Joseph Romero, Katie Romero, Manuel Romero, Margaret Romero, Alice Romo, Jack Rousseau, Deacon Eloy Roybal, Irvin Salcido, Evelyn Sanchez, Fernando Sanchez, Gabriel Sanchez, Bill Shomaker, Lucia Sisneros, Shanna Sorrentino, Connie Thornburg, Juan Torres, Praxedes Trambley II, Benancio Trujillo, Benjamin Trujillo, Florence & Michael Trujillo, Ruby Trujillo, Larry Valdez, Nellie Valdez, Marian Valles, Jeri Lynn Warren, Karen White, Ruth Valencia, Alice Vasquez, Florentino Vasquez, Audra & Lorenzo Vigil, Floyd Vigil, Eufraico Vigil, Robert J. Vigil, Robert Warren, Angela Witte

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ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE PLANNING STUDY



Archbishop Wester Would Like Your Feedback!

The Archdiocese of Santa Fe is conducting a comprehensive planning study now through the end of March. After months of prayer and discussion, Archbishop John C. Wester, along with archdiocesan and lay leaders, have identified several extraordinary opportunities and needs that go beyond the day-to-day. Needs that will help to fulfill our mission to “Rebuild our Church.”

For this reason, the archdiocese is considering a capital campaign to address these priorities. But we need your help, your voice and your gifts. The decisions we make now and the steps we take can help the Catholic Church flourish in central and northern New Mexico – not just for today, but for generations to come.

Archbishop Wester is asking every Catholic family within the archdiocese to share their thoughts regarding our needs and proposed funding priorities, including:

- Local Parish Needs (50% of funds raised stay in the parish)
- Forming and Sustaining Lifelong Vocations
- Strengthening Catholic Schools
- Enhancing Archdiocesan Ministries and Services in Support of Parishes

Your feedback will help us refine these goals and priorities and determine the potential level of support within our community. If together we choose to move forward, the planning study will also provide us with information to identify prospective campaign leaders and establish a realistic campaign goal. The Steier Group, a national Catholic development firm, is conducting the study on our behalf. The findings of the study, including the viability of a campaign, will be presented to us later this April. At that time, Archbishop Wester will make an informed decision regarding how best to move forward.

If you have received an invitation to participate in a personal interview, please schedule yours today. You may also return mail surveys to the parish office or place them in the offertory basket at any of the weekend Masses. Visit archdiosf.org/capital-campaign to access the planning study fact sheet, which details the proposed needs and priorities. Or you may scan the QR code below to take the survey today!





Novena

In Honor of

Saint Joseph

March 11th to 19th

Daily Introduction to the Novena

With entire confidence, I present myself before you, O holy Joseph, faithful foster father of Jesus. I beg your merciful intercession and support in my present needs. I firmly believe that you are near the throne of God, who chose you as a special guardian of His well-beloved Son Jesus Christ. O blessed saint, you who saved that Treasure of heaven, along with His virginal Mother, from the fury of His enemies, who supplied with untiring energy His earthly wants and accompanied with paternal care and protected Him in all the journeys of His childhood, take me also, for the love of Jesus, as your child. The infinite goodness of our Savior who honored and loved you as His father upon earth, cannot refuse you any request now in heaven. Assist me with your prayers before the throne of grace. Many have sought help from you in their needs, and they have experienced how good and how ready you are to assist. You quickly turn to those that call upon you with confidence. You are powerful in bringing help and restoring joy to anxious and dejected hearts. There I come to you, my dear Patron, Saint Joseph. I pray that because of the affectionate love you had for Jesus and Mary while on earth that you will console me in my present difficulties. May you present my petition to the heart of your Son Jesus. You only need to speak a word and your loving Son will bless me. Then joyfully I will praise him and thank him.

(Here reflect upon your petitions for a moment)

Day One: Saint Joseph's Humility and the Plan of Salvation

Saint Joseph's life was one of humility and hiddenness. He is an important person in the drama of the Incarnation, yet if his role were measured by the number of lines that he has in Sacred Scripture, it would be judged a small one. But this is hardly the case.

Saint Joseph, the Gospels tell us, was the son of Jesus. He was a carpenter and while he was betrothed to the Virgin Mary she was found to be with child. He, being a good man, was going to divorce her quietly to cause her as little embarrassment as possible. But when an angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and told him who this child was, he took Mary as his wife and became the protector of her and the child. Joseph was present at the nativity of the Lord and witnessed all the marvelous events surrounding the birth of the Messiah. Joseph was seen by the world to be the father of Jesus and he truly cared for the

Christ Child with fatherly love and care. Joseph named the Child Jesus in accord with the word of the angel, and was present at the circumcision of the Child Jesus. Joseph carried the offering of turtle doves or pigeons to the Temple when the time came for Mary and the child to be purified. At the angel's prompting he rescued them from the violence of Herod and brought them back to their home in Nazareth. When Jesus was twelve and was lost in Jerusalem both Joseph and Mary were troubled at Jesus' disappearance and looked for him in sorrow. His heart must have been full of joy when they found the child among the teachers of the law. After this account of Joseph's presence at the finding of the child Jesus in the temple, the Gospels are silent about the holy man Joseph except to mention in a few places that Jesus was thought to be his son.

Saint Joseph, nonetheless, has an important place in the plan of God to save mankind. Though Joseph has no words to speak to us from the pages of the Gospels. God chose him to be the spouse of the Virgin Mother of God and protector of his only-begotten Son. From this special work in the plan of salvation comes Joseph's special dignity. He is the silent man, but an important man. He is the man closest to our Lady and closest to our Lord.

Prayer: Remember, O most pure husband of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, my beloved patron, that never was it heard that any one invoked your patronage and sought your aid without being comforted. With this confidence I come before you and fervently commend myself to you. O Foster Father of the Redeemer, do not despise my prayer, but receive it graciously. Amen.

Day Two: Joseph, the Just Man

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Saint Joseph was a righteous man, a just man (Matthew 1:19). Saint Bernard wrote, "There can be no doubt that the Joseph to whom the mother of the Savior was betrothed was a good and faithful man; he was a 'faithful and prudent servant.' (Matthew 24:45), whom God raised up to be His mother's helpmate, guardian of His own flesh, the sole and very faithful helper on earth in the great work of His Incarnation." The Gospel tells us that when Mary had been found with child, "Joseph her husband, an upright man unwilling to expose her to the law, decided to divorce her quietly." Joseph was an upright man, a just man, because he wished to follow the law of his ancestors, the old covenant. He must have had fears about what had happened to his betrothed wife. Saint John Chrysostom wrote, "Notice this

holy man's forbearance. It is not simply that he does nothing to chastise his wife; why, he does not even tell her the grave suspicions that have been aroused in his mind: he keeps all these things to himself, hiding his anxiety and suffering even from Mary....Joseph did not confide his fears to anybody; he kept them locked in his heart." But an angel appears to him in a dream to calm his fears and tell him of the beginnings of a new covenant with the conception of the Christ Child. Saint John Chrysostom says that this message of the angel proves "that the angel was sent from God, for God alone can read the depths of the heart....So wise was Joseph's behavior that it shows how good and virtuous a man he was." Joseph is the prudent man, the just man. What does that mean? Saint Peter Chrysologus says that it means "a perfect man, one who has all the virtues."

Prayer: Saint Joseph, the just man, hear my petitions as I call to you. You are a model of all the virtues. You are a lover of truth and a man of prudence. Help me to imitate your virtue as I live my days with you as my patron. May I grow in the justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude, in the faith, in the hope, and in the love, which you had in their fullness. Bring my prayers before the throne of grace, my Protector, and help me to grow in the love of your blessed Spouse Mary and the Child she bore, Jesus, the Son of God. Amen.

Day Three: The Virginal Spouse of Mary

Joseph was the husband of Mary, the Mother of God. Their relationship was truly a marriage, but a spiritual marriage. Their relationship was a spiritual one without physical intercourse, yet it was fruitful. Saint Francis de Sales wrote about St. Joseph's virginity: "The Blessed Virgin was not a wholly pure and unsullied maiden, she was virginity itself ('I know not how to utter your praises, O holy and spotless Virginity, 'as the Church sings at Matins); how perfect then had to be the purity of him whom the Eternal Father appointed to be it guardian, or rather, its companion, for it had no need to be protected by anything but itself. Apparently they had both vowed to remain virgin throughout life; and God willed that they should be joined in holy wedlock, not that they should gainsay or rue their oath, but in order that they should strengthen and confirm one another to persevere in their blessed undertaking...What was the glorious Saint Joseph but a mighty rampart built around Our Lady, who as his wife was subject to him and in his care? So far from his being given to her that she might

repudiate her vow of maidenhood, it was as her partner, to the end that Mary's purity might be the more strikingly maintained in its integrity under the veil and shelter of marriage and their holy association with one another. The most Holy Virgin is a gate, says the Eternal Father, and it shall not be opened, for it is an eastern gate and no man shall pass through it (Ezekiel 44:1-2); it must be made double with wood that will not decay, and the fellow door is the great saint, Joseph, whose purity must for this purpose excel that of all other saints, of the angels and cherubim themselves."

Saint Joseph was the virgin companion and husband of our Lady. His love for her must have been great. This pure love which asks nothing in return and which is lifegiving is a great example for all the faithful, whatever their state in life. Saint Joseph is a great example for those who live lives of vowed chastity. May all the faithful imitate his love and his purity of heart.

Prayer: The Purity that made you stand out and the perfect innocence that shone forth from you, O just and most holy Joseph, have delighted the hearts of the faithful and shown us the way to angelic life and to the royal road. Wherefore the heavenly powers were amazed as they beheld the heights of your indescribable glory. We too sing a hymn to you: "Glory to the One who honored you! Glory to the One who crowned you! Glory to the One who consecrated you as the intercessor for our souls." Because you loved purity of heart, you have become a close friend of the Heavenly King. Because He has chosen you to become the foster-father of his only begotten Son, the ever-virgin Mary was entrusted to you as a pure bride, wherefore you received the choicest gifts of the Holy Spirit. O Holy Joseph, intercede for the salvation of our souls. Amen. (*From the Byzantine Liturgy*)

Day Four: Teacher and Protector of Jesus

Joseph watched over Jesus with true fatherly love and care. It was Joseph, along with Mary, who taught Jesus the traditions of His people, the Jews. He taught Jesus the worship, prayer and tradition of the Jewish people as well as his trade of carpentry. Joseph was both the one teaching and the one taught. He learned daily from the holiness and example of the child who lived with him. He grew in the love of God through his daily life with the Son of God. Saint Bernardine of Siena wrote, "Joseph had a burning love for Christ. Who, I ask, would deny that Christ, whether as child or man, would arouse the most

unutterable feelings of joy and happiness in one who lived in intimacy with Him and held Him in his arms, who experienced Jesus' loving looks and embraces, who listened to His speech? How sweet must have been the kisses Joseph received from Him? How moving to hear the Child murmur the name of father, how delightful to feel His gently encircling arms! Or again, when the Child was growing bigger, but was wearied with much walking on the journeys that they took, think how Joseph was filled with compassion and rested Him in his arms. For Joseph had for Jesus all the fullness of adoptive love, as for a darling son given him by the Holy Spirit in his maiden bride."

The dignity which Joseph possesses is great, for he was chosen to hold in his arms the One who from eternity had dwelt in the bosom of the Eternal Father. He cared for Christ and Christ was obedient to him and to Mary. What a mystery that the Son of God should obey a man and a woman! From all eternity the providence of God, chose Joseph to be the foster father of the Son of God and willed that Jesus should obey him and learn from him.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, you were the teacher of him who was present at the creation of world and who knows all its secrets and who yet allowed himself to be subject to human parents. Saint Joseph, the Heavenly Father entrusted you with the care of our Savior and you cherished with an unselfish love Him who was born of the Virgin Mary. Now you are close to your blessed son in heaven and he hears your prayers for all those who call upon you. Pray to him for my needs and lead me in His ways. Amen.

Day Five: Guardian of the Holy Family and Patron of The Universal Church

Saint Joseph was the special guardian of the Holy Family. Because Saint Joseph was the protector of the Holy Family, he is now the protector of all the Church, for the Holy Family was, in a way, the image of the Church, the Church in its first beginnings, united in love. Moreover in 1870 Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph to be the patron of the Universal Church.

In a subsequent encyclical Pope Leo XIII wrote: "Now the divine household that Joseph governed with what seemed a father's authority held within itself the beginnings of the nascent Church. As the Blessed Virgin is the mother of Jesus Christ, so she is the mother of all Christians, whom she brought forth on the hill of Calvary amidst the crowning sufferings of the Redeemer;

invites the faithful to call upon Saint Joseph as a special patron through the devotions to him she has approved. She invokes him in the liturgy. The Church sees him as a powerful intercessor and as a saint intimately connected with the plan of salvation. We must remember, though, that even if our prayers do not seem to be answered, if we are imitating the virtues of our patron, we are growing in the divine life. Saint Teresa wrote: "For some years now, I think, I have made some request of him every year on his festival and I have always had it granted. If my petition is in any way ill directed, he directs it aright for my greater good." Let us follow Saint Teresa in taking Joseph as our patron. Let us call upon him and imitate his goodness. May he hear our prayers and bring us farther along the road which leads us back to our Father's home.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, husband of Mary the Queen of the Angels, and foster father of the Son of God, hear my petitions. Ask the Lord to grant them if they are according to His will, for He knows how things on earth and in heaven are to be. And whether my petitions be answered as I wish or not, help me to grow in imitation of your goodness and in love of virtue. You are the just man, help me to grow in the righteousness of God. May all the virtues find root in my heart and spring up to provide a harvest of good works for all eternity. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

Most Holy Joseph, adopted father of Jesus, and worthy spouse of the Mother of God, prostrate at your feet, I offer to you my most profound respect, together with all that I am and have, joyfully submitting to your guidance. I consecrate myself wholly to your service. If I am not worthy to be called your child, receive me as your servant. I prefer this honor to the greatest which the world could bestow upon me. Accept then, O blessed father, this, my obligation and do not let a day pass without letting me testify to my love for you. Amen. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give my heart, my soul, and my life. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony. Jesus, Mary, Joseph may I die happily in your blessed company. Amen.

Invocation

presence in my life. Ask the Lord Christ to be with me, to bless me and to answer my humble petitions. Amen.

Day Eight: Saint Joseph, Patron of a Holy Death

Saint Joseph lived in the presence of God throughout his life. In caring for the Son of God and his Mother, Saint Joseph beheld on earth what the blessed long to see in heaven. His death took place in the presence of Mary and Jesus. This is the reason that Saint Joseph is the special patron of the dying. Although the Gospels do not tell us this, explicitly, we know it must have been so because of the love which existed between the members of the Holy Family. We do not know just when Saint Joseph died, but we know that it was probably during the “hidden time” of Christ’s life, between the time of His being found in the Temple and the beginning of His public ministry. Now Saint Joseph is united in heaven with the Lord for whom he cared on earth.

He died in the arms of our Blessed Mother and his foster Son, the Lord Christ. To die in such a way is the goal of every Christian. May we strive to imitate Saint Joseph and ask his intercession. At the hour of our death may Saint Joseph and Mary the Mother of God and Christ her Son be there to lead us to our heavenly homeland.

Prayer: O blessed Joseph, you offered up your last breath in the loving embrace of Jesus and Mary. Grant me grace to live my life as you lived. When the seal of death shall close my life, come, holy father, with Jesus and Mary to aid me. Obtain for me this one comfort I ask for that hour, to die encircled by their holy arms. Into your sacred hands, living and dying, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul. Amen.

Day Nine: Call Upon Saint Joseph and Imitate Him

Saint Teresa of Avila wrote: “I wish I could persuade everyone to be truly devoted to this glorious saint, for long experience has taught me what blessings he can obtain from God for us. I have never known anyone to have a true devotion and particular veneration for him who did not notably advance in virtue, for he gives very real help to souls who commend themselves to him.”

Along with this saintly Doctor, the Church encourages the faithful to call upon Saint Joseph. And the Church encourages this devotion to Saint Joseph in many ways. She has built churches and shrines in his honor. She

Jesus Christ is, as it were, the first-born of Christians, who are His brethren by adoption and redemption. Such are the reasons why the blessed patriarch Joseph must look on the multitude of Christians who make up the Church as being particularly entrusted to him: they form a huge family distributed all over the earth, and he has a kind of fatherly power over it, because he is Mary's husband and Jesus Christ's father. It is then natural, right and proper for all the wants of the family at Nazareth and looked after it with religious care, so now from Heaven he should extend his protection and care to the whole Church of Christ.

Prayer: Having besought the aid of your most holy Bride, we turn to you in our distress, blessed Joseph, and confidently invoke your protection too. We beseech you to look kindly on the heritage that Christ Jesus made His own with His blood, and to use your power to help us in our needs through the love that bound you to the Immaculate Virgin, God's Mother, and through the fatherly love that bound you to the Immaculate Virgin, God's Mother, and through the fatherly love that you poured out on the Child Jesus. Most careful Guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ. Most loving Father, keep us from all stain of error and corruption. Most mighty Deliverer, look down on us from the height of Heaven: aid us in our battle against the powers of darkness, and defend God's holy Church from the guile of the Enemy and from all adversity, as once you snatched the Child Jesus from the jaws of death. Assist us unceasingly, so that, upheld by your example and help, we may live in holiness, die a holy death and reach the everlasting happiness of Heaven. Amen. (From the encyclical, *Quanquam pluries*, of Pope Leo XIII.)

Day Six: Saint Joseph the Worker

Saint Joseph has been called the patron of workers. He was a carpenter himself and earned his bread and the bread of the Blessed Mother and Child by the sweat of his brow. By his work in the shop in Nazareth he provided for his holy charges. Not only that, but he taught the Lord his trade of woodworking. The Lord through whom all things were made learned the trade of a humble Jewish artisan.

Pope John Paul II in a homily in 1983 said, "Saint Joseph taught Jesus human work in which he was an expert. The Divine Child worked beside him, and by listening to him and observing him, he too learned to manage the carpenter's tools with the diligence and the dedication that the example of his

foster father transmitted to him. This too is a great lesson, beloved brothers and sisters: if the Son of God was willing to learn a human work from a man, this indicates that there is in work a specific moral value with precise meaning for man and for his self-fulfillment.”

Prayer: God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe, in every age you call man to develop and use his gifts for the good of others. With Saint Joseph as our example and guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Amen. (*From the Roman Missal*)

Day Seven: Saint Joseph, Man of Prayer

Saint Joseph was a man of prayer. He was a devout Jew. He was so faithful that he and Mary made it their practice to travel every year to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover. This was not the ordinary practice, but only something which the very dedicated to the praise of God would do. This was the root of that love for prayer Jesus learned from Mary and Joseph. Very often Joseph must have raised his mind to God as he made his way through a work day. He would have prayed to God to bless his work and to keep a watchful eye over his family. Not only did Joseph speak to God; he was ready to listen. He listened, contemplating the mighty deeds God had performed in the history of his people, his life, in Mary’s life and, finally, the mighty deeds God would perform through Christ. Listening is a fitting attitude for the saint who has been called “the silent man.” Pope John Paul II has written, “Saint Joseph is a man of great spirit. He is great in faith, not because he speaks his own words, but above all because he listens to the words of the living God. He listens in silence. And his heart perseveres in readiness to accept the Truth contained in the word of the Living God, in order to receive it and fulfill it with love.”

Prayer: Saint Joseph, look upon me in your love and help me to imitate your silent, prayerful way. May I keep the Lord’s mighty deeds before my mind and in my heart. May I remember the love you and Mary, your virgin bride, have for me. May I think always of Christ’s love for me which He proved through his dying on the cross and his rising to new life. Help me to live in constant remembrance of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You, blessed Joseph, lived in the presence of the Christ Child, may you help me to remember Christ’s

Grant, O Holy Joseph, that ever secure under your protection, we may pass our lives without guilt.

Litany of Saint Joseph

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, have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Illustrious Son of David, pray for us.

Light of patriarchs, pray for us.

Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.

Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.

Foster Father of the Son of God, pray for us.

Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, most just, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, most chaste, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, most prudent, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, most valiant, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, most obedient, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, most faithful, pray for us.

Mirror of patience, pray for us.

Lover of poverty, pray for us.

Model of workers, pray for us.

Ornament of home life, pray for us.

Guardian of virgins, pray for us.

Support of families, pray for us.

Solace of the afflicted, pray for us.

Hope of the sick, pray for us.

Patron of the dying, pray for us.

Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. He appointed him Lord of all his household.

R. And ruler over all his possessions

Let us pray,

O God, who by an ineffable providence did deign to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother; grant, we beseech you, that we may merit to have him as intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate as protector on earth, who live and reign world without end. Amen.

Act of Consecration to Saint Joseph

O dearest Saint Joseph, I consecrate myself to your honor and give myself to you, that you may always be my Father, my Protector, and my Guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a greater purity of heart, and a fervent love of the interior life.

Following your example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, and with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And do you, O blessed Saint Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Joseph, Patron Of the Universal Church

O glorious Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, chaste spouse of Mary ever virgin, head of the Holy Family, and therefore the heavenly patron and defender of the Church founded by Jesus, with fullest confidence I implore at this moment your powerful aid for all the Church on earth. With your truly fatherly love protect in a special way the Holy Father and all bishops and priests united to the Holy See of Peter. Be the defender of all who labor for souls amid this life's trials and tribulations, and bring all peoples of the earth to the light of the Church, the means of salvation for all men. Amen.