



How to Celebrate the Year of St. Joseph

As we devote an entire year to St. Joseph's honor, we will undoubtedly unlock many special graces not only for the Diocese of Charlotte, but for each of the faithful who increase their devotion to him during this special year. There is no greater model than St. Joseph from whom we can learn how to live virtuously in imitation of Jesus and Mary.

"Devotion to St. Joseph is one of the choicest graces that God can give to a soul, for it is tantamount to revealing the entire treasury of our Lord's graces," wrote St. Peter Julian Eymard, "When God wishes to raise a soul to greater heights, he unites it to St. Joseph by giving it a strong love for the good saint."

Below are ideas for how to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph:

For Individuals:

- Learn about St. Joseph's virtues and try to imitate them
- Participate in the 33-day consecration to St. Joseph
- Pray the Holy Rosary daily, reciting the Year of St. Joseph prayer at the conclusion
- Plan a pilgrimage to one or more of the St. Joseph parishes across the diocese
- Adopt St. Joseph traditions into your prayer life and family life
- Attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on his feast days: March 19th and May 1st
- Participate in the Year of St. Joseph events across the diocese
- Include prayers to St. Joseph in your morning and evening prayers
- Encourage others to foster greater devotion to St. Joseph
- Take advantage of the Year of St. Joseph indulgences granted by the Holy See

Obedience and Humility of Saint Joseph

We continue our reflections on St. Joseph borrowing from the excellent book, *Consecration to St. Joseph* (Marian Fathers of the Immaculate, 2020). The fact that he was called a “just man” in the Scriptures signifies his excellent character before God and men ([Mt. 1:19](#)).

St. Joseph was filled with a sense of his own unworthiness and, at the same time, a deep reverence for God. He feared offending Our Lord and Our Lady so much that he was more than willing to separate himself from the great mysteries surrounding him ([Mt. 1:20](#)). He humbly regarded others as greater than himself. He refrained from suspecting others of wrongdoing choosing rather to withhold his own judgment in favor of God’s.

St. Joseph joined great humility with great obedience. He promptly obeyed the voice of the Lord when the angel directed him to take Mary into his home. The Scriptures say he, “Did as the angel of the Lord commanded” ([Mt. 1:24](#)). St. Joseph teaches us to reserve judgment (even for a long time!) in situations which we cannot comprehend. The Lord will reveal His will for us in His time according to His Word. We have to remain faithful in the face of uncertainty knowing the Lord is fulfilling His will in our trials.

May the good St. Joseph be our example and guide in trusting God. If we are just and righteous in God’s sight He will use us to bring greater glory to Jesus and Mary and, thereby, bring salvation to those who seek it.

The Joys and Sorrows of Saint Joseph

The joys and sorrows of St. Joseph form the subject of this week’s article relying greatly on the book *Consecration to St. Joseph* (Donald J. Calloway, MIC, 2020). Just as Our Lady had many joys and sorrows, St. Joseph participated most closely in the lives of Jesus and Mary in the work of redemption.

Consider how the angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph to announce that he would be the guardian of the Redeemer. He was given naming rights for the Christ child. He was the first (after Our Lady) to see God in the flesh in the cave of Bethlehem. It was St. Joseph’s privilege to name Jesus at His circumcision. St. Joseph accompanied Mary into the temple in Jerusalem with a joy that is unimaginable.

St. Joseph also endured many sorrows in his chosen role. He heard the priest Simeon’s prophecy that the Christ would suffer and that his Wife’s heart would be pierced. He protected the Child from the blood-thirsty Herod who sought to destroy Jesus in His infancy as the holy family fled to Egypt. He searched sorrowing for the adolescent Christ when He was lost for three days before finding Him in the temple.

St. Joseph understands the delights and sufferings that accompany a disciple of Jesus Christ. No man was closer to Jesus than St. Joseph. Our Lord is a sign of contradiction; He is the cause of the rise and the fall of many. As Our Lord’s disciples will also experience joys and sorrows. Take great confidence in St. Joseph and pray to him that he may accompany, console, and inspire us on the road that leads to eternal life.