

Novena to Saint Joseph
March 11 – 19, 2021
Diocese of Erie

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, you entrusted to the faithful care of Joseph the beginnings of the mysteries of our salvation. Through his intercession may your Church always be faithful in her service so that your will may be fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture

Day 1 March 11 Genesis 37: 3-11

Day 2 March 12 Genesis 39: 1-5

Day 3 March 13 Matthew 1:18-25

Day 4 March 14 Luke 2: 1 – 20

Day 5 March 15 Luke 2:21

Day 6 March 16 Luke 2:22-35

Day 7 March 17 Matthew 2:13-15

Day 8 March 18 Matthew 2:19-23

Day 9 March 19 Luke 2:41-52

Novena Prayer

O Glorious Saint Joseph, you were chosen by God to be the foster father of Jesus, the most precious spouse of Mary ever Virgin, and the head of the holy family. You have been chosen as the heavenly patron and protector of the Church. Therefore, it is with great confidence that we implore your assistance for the Church on earth. Protect with fatherly love Pope Francis, Bishop Persico and all those who labor for souls amid the trials of life.

Dear Saint Joseph ever be our father, protector and guide. Obtain for us purity of heart. May all our actions be directed to the greater glory of God, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary and your own paternal heart. Finally, pray for us that we may share in the peace and joy of a holy death and be found ready to dwell in the glory of your Son. For He lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Pope Francis to Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.”

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

V. Pray for us, blessed Joseph

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your infinite wisdom and love you chose Joseph to be the husband of Mary, the mother of your Son. As we enjoy his protection on earth, may we have the help of his prayers in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

March 11
Genesis 37: 3-11
The Dreams of Joseph

Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons, for he was the child of his old age; and he had made him a long-ornamented tunic. When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of all his brothers, they hated him so much that they could not say a kind word to him.

Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers, they hated him even more.

He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had.

There we were, binding sheaves in the field, when suddenly my sheaf rose to an upright position, and your sheaves formed a ring around my sheaf and bowed down to it."

His brothers said to him, "Are you really going to make yourself king over us? Will you rule over us?" So, they hated him all the more because of his dreams and his reports.

Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look, I had another dream," he said; "this time, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

When he told it to his father and his brothers, his father reproved him and asked, "What is the meaning of this dream of yours? Can it be that I and your mother and your brothers are to come and bow to the ground before you?"

So, his brothers were furious at him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

March 12
Genesis 39:1-5
Joseph in Potiphar's House

When Joseph was taken down to Egypt, an Egyptian, Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh and his chief steward, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

The LORD was with Joseph and he enjoyed great success and was assigned to the household of his Egyptian master.

When his master saw that the LORD was with him and brought him success in whatever he did, he favored Joseph and made him his personal attendant; he put him in charge of his household and entrusted to him all his possessions.

From the moment that he put him in charge of his household and all his possessions, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the LORD's blessing was on everything he owned, both inside the house and out.

March 13
Matthew 1:18 – 25
The Birth of Jesus.

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord* appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, * and he named him Jesus

March 14
Luke 2:1 – 20
The Birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus* that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So, all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. * She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

March 15
Luke 2:21
The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

March 16
Luke 2:22-35
The Presentation in the Temple.

When the days were completed for their purification* according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) * so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

March 17
Matthew 2:13-15
The Flight to Egypt.

When the (magi) had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.

He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

March 18
Matthew 2:19-23
The Return from Egypt.

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee.

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."

March 19
Luke 2: 41-52
The Boy Jesus in the Temple.

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.