

March - St. Joseph



St. Joseph's role in Scripture is mainly as God's specially selected guardian and protector of His Son. This was his greatest undertaking. Thus, we honour him on March 19 and ask for his intercession and to imitate the virtues which he exhibited throughout his life.

St. Joseph was a humble man, being a carpenter, he wasn't rich. Matthew 13:55 states that for Jesus' circumcision, Joseph offered only two turtle doves, as a gift, not a lamb as expected. (Luke 2:24)

Yet, despite his humble origins, St. Joseph, came from royal lineage. The angel greets him as 'Son of David' , royal lineage, in his dream.

Through his actions, we see St. Joseph's compassion. Once he heard that Mary, to whom he was engaged, was pregnant, he quietly took Mary as his wife and saved her from embarrassment of social isolation or stoning. Later, when the angel appeared to him to explain Mary's Spiritual conception, St. Joseph immediately obeyed and took Mary as his wife and was the loving foster father to Jesus. That St. Joseph truly respected family life is evident from the rituals he followed for his family from Jesus' circumcision to the yearly Passover trips to Jerusalem.

As a husband and father, St. Joseph was also very concerned about his family's safety. When the angel warned him about Herod's plan, he immediately picked up his young wife and infant and fled to strange land of Egypt, till it was safe to return. Later on, when Jesus stayed behind in the synagogue to preach, Joseph worried about his safety, and searched for three days with Mary, to look for his son.

He truly loved Jesus and taught him his trade and treated him as his own. The Scriptures quote people asking, ' Is this not the Son of Joseph? When they heard Jesus preach as a young lad.

St. Joseph does not appear in Jesus' public life. He is not mentioned at the wedding feast of Canaan, the Crucifixion, or Resurrection of Jesus. In fact, Mary is depicted as a widow at the foot of the Cross, and Jesus asks His disciple to help His mother.

It is believed that St. Joseph died a holy death, around AD 18 in Nazareth, in the presence of his Son and Mary. He is reported to have been born in BC 90 in Bethlehem.

St. Joseph's legacy is as the Protector of the Church, Jesus' mystical body. He is also the patron of Canada, and the intercessor for a holy death.

Pope PiusXII added a new feast on May 01, 1955. to St. Joseph the worker.

Pope John XXIII inserted the name of Joseph in the Canon of the Mass and Pope Francis added St. Joseph's name to three Eucharist prayers, also proclaiming 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021 the year of St. Joseph.

From being one of the most underwhelming Saints in Scripture, St. Joseph has now through his piety and obedience become a well-loved patron saint.