

**Day 24 Patron of the Dying Protector of the Holy Church** THEME REFLECTION, SCRIPTURE, PRAYER

St. Joseph probably didn't see himself becoming a central character in the history of salvation and being given a title like "Protector of the Holy Church." Yet, because he responded in faith to protect and provide for the Holy Family, the Church teaches that God has called him to protect and provide for the Body of Christ, which is the Church. In 1870, Pope Leo XIII explained the title of St. Joseph this way, "It is thus fitting and most worthy of Joseph's dignity that, in the same way he once kept unceasing holy watch over the family of Nazareth, so now does he protect and defend with his heavenly patronage the Church of Christ." This title shows how this simple, just, and good man continues to protect and intercede for us as members of the Church. He was a man of faith and action. Not a single word of his is recorded in all of Scripture, yet his quiet example can inspire us to remain faithful and diligent, working to fulfill our duties in the Church and in our families. St. Joseph is a wonderful intercessor for priests. The priesthood can be overwhelming given all the pastoral difficulties and challenges. St. Joseph was faced with many difficulties as well. Clearly, he was called to this, and God gave him the grace to do it. God gives that same grace to His priests. Being in a leadership role requires meeting unexpected trials that will test your abilities, but God does not expect you to meet these trials on your own. He wants you to depend on His grace through the intercession of your spiritual father, St. Joseph.

*St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church, pray for the Holy Father, all bishops, priests, and deacons, that they be renewed in their vocation and humbly and faithfully carry out their mission. Pray for all leaders, that they may have a servant's heart and rely on the wisdom of God in their decision-making. Pray for all lay members of the Church to fulfill their baptismal call to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ into every corner of the world.*

Pray the Litany of St. Joseph.

**Daily Challenge:** For priests, identify one pastoral challenge with which you are struggling and bring it to St. Joseph. For those who are not priests, pray for a priest that has been an important part of your (and your family's) faith journey. Pray for him by name, to thank God for his vocation and role in your faith life. Ask St. Joseph and Mary to intercede for all priests for their perseverance and fidelity and the Holy Trinity to confirm them in holiness with all the gifts of the Holy Spirit to sustain them in their call.

**LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 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.  
 Noble Offspring 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.  
 Zealous Defender of Christ, pray for us.  
 Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.  
 Joseph Most Just, pray for us.  
 Joseph Most Chaste, pray for us.  
 Joseph Most Prudent, pray for us.  
 Joseph Most Courageous, pray for us.  
 Joseph Most Obedient, pray for us.  
 Joseph Most Faithful, pray for us.  
 Mirror of Patience, pray for us.

Lover of Poverty, pray for us.  
 Model of Workmen, pray for us.  
 Glory of Domestic Life, pray for us.  
 Guardian of Virgins, pray for us.  
 Pillar of Families, pray for us.  
 Comfort of the Afflicted, pray for us.  
 Hope of the Sick, pray for us.  
 Patron of the Dying, pray for us.  
 Terror of Demons, pray for us.  
 Protector of the Holy Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.  
 V. He has made him lord of his household,  
 R. And prince over all his possessions.

**Let us pray.** O God, who, in your loving providence, chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. **Amen**

*Compiled from Unleash the Gospel – Recourses of the Year of St Joseph*

