



***"Hail, Glory of the Patriarchs,
Steward of God's Holy Church,
who didst preserve the Bread of Life
and the Wheat of the Elect."***

~ from the Little Office of St. Joseph

This is a commission I recently completed for Fr. Larry Richards and St. Joseph's Church/the Bread of Life Community for the 150th anniversary of their parish. I was asked by Fr. Larry Richards to depict St. Joseph with the Child Jesus in front, while St. Joseph pointed to His Sacred Heart shown as the Eucharistic Host. The IHS on the Host is an iconic Christogram that means "Jesus Hominum Salvator", or, in English, "Jesus, Savior of Mankind." The boy Jesus points to His Eucharistic Heart with one hand while the other is raised in blessing, and His Halo bears the words "I AM" signifying the Divine Name of God revealed to Moses in the burning bush in Exodus 3:14. As in some of my other images of St. Joseph, I have here depicted him as a young man wearing a tallit (or Jewish prayer shawl), to represent his great piety and godliness as a just observer of the Law of Moses as well as reveal the Divine Nature of Christ, as Jews wear the tallit while they read from the Torah, the word of God. In this image, St. Joseph points to the Word of God Himself and presents Him to the viewer. The lily staff is a reference to St. Joseph's purity as the chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It also references the traditional story of Joseph being chosen as the husband of Mary when his staff miraculously sprouted with lilies, designating him as the one chosen by God. The six-pointed stars in his halo are a reference to Joseph's royal Davidic lineage and his green and white clothing also reference the line "the just man shall blossom like the lily" which is from the Responsory of the Feast of St. Joseph.

St. Joseph of the Bread of Life

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March 21st 2017

Acrylic, Ink, Gold Leaf

18 x 30 inches

37½ Hours

- It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.
- For the sake of those legitimately impeded, confessors can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin). Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth



PLENARY INDULGENCES - GENERAL CONDITIONS

The following "General remarks on Indulgences" from Gift of the Indulgence summarizes the usual conditions given in the Church's law (cf. Apostolic Penitentiary, Prot. N. 39/05/I):

1. This is how an indulgence is defined in the Code of Canon Law (can. 992) and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 1471): "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."
2. In general, the gaining of indulgences requires certain prescribed conditions (below, nn. 3, 4), and the performance of certain prescribed works [in this case, those granted for the Feast of Mercy]
3. To gain indulgences, whether plenary or partial, it is necessary that the faithful be in the state of grace at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed. [i.e. one must be a Catholic, not excommunicated or in schism.]
4. A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:
 - have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
 - have sacramentally confessed their sins;
 - receive the Holy Eucharist (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required);
 - pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.



Opening Song:

Look Down to Us, St. Joseph

Look down to us, Saint Joseph,
Protector of Our Lord,
Who followed you through deserts,
And gave you blessed reward;
Our foes are yet about us,
Be strength now at our side,
Be light against the darkness.
Saint Joseph, be our guide!

We venerate your justice,
The gospels praise your name,
You are the saint all humble,
Who gained eternal fame;
In your devoted family
Our souls in trust confide,
Direct our way to heaven.
Saint Joseph, be our guide.

Mass of St. Joseph or Mass of the Day



The St. Joseph Novena will begin after the Mass.

Novena Prayers

†In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

ALL:

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER

To you, O blessed Joseph (*Ad te, beate Ioseph*)

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

Litany Of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy. ***Lord, have mercy.***
Christ, have mercy. ***Christ, have mercy.***
Lord, have mercy. ***Lord, have mercy.***

Jesus, hear us. ***Jesus, 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.***



PLENARY INDULGENCE

The plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father) to the faithful who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of Saint Joseph on the occasions and in the manner indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary:

- Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Our Father
- Participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph
- Perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy
- Recite the Holy Rosary in families and between the husband and wife
- Entrust their work daily to the protection of Saint Joseph and to all believers who invoke with their prayers the intercession of the worker of Nazareth
- Pray the litany of Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to Saint Joseph, in its entirety or at least part of it (for the Byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to Saint Joseph, typical of the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all persecuted Christians
- Pray any lawfully approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example "To you oh blessed Joseph," especially on:
 - March 19th (Solemnity of St. Joseph)
 - May 1st (Feast of St. Joseph the Worker)
 - December 26th (Feast of the Holy Family)
 - The Sunday of Saint Joseph (according to the Byzantine tradition)
 - The 19th day of every month
 - Every Wednesday (a day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition)

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

ST. JOSEPH BLEST!

St Joseph blest St Joseph dear,
We ask thy prayers on high!
Oh, look upon us here,
From yonder tranquil sky.

All hail! All hail!
Oh, bless us with thy goodness, Saint
Divine!
All hail! Thy smile upon us shine!

Our homage sweet we give to thee,
For thou on earth did hold
The Babe of Love and Majesty
In thy kind arms of old!

All hail! All hail!
Oh, thou didst guide the infant feet of
Him
Who reigns o'er Saints and Seraphim!

Saint Joseph Kind, Oh, bless our youth,
And smile upon our way!
Give us the grace to seek the truth,
And honor thee each day.

All hail! All hail!
Oh, guide our feet: watch safely o'er us
here
All hail! Saint Joseph dear!

"I do not remember even now that I have ever asked anything of [St. Joseph] which he has failed to grant... To other saints the Lord seems to have given grace to succour us in some of our necessities, but of this glorious saint my experience is that he succours us in them all..."
- St. Teresa of Avila

Holy Mary, *pray for us!*
St. Joseph, *pray for us!*
Renowned 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!*
Diligent protector 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 strong, *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 artisans, *pray for us!*
Glory of home life, *pray for us!*
Guardian of virgins, *pray for us!*
Pillar of families, *pray for us!*
Solace of the wretched, *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 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.*

He made him the lord of his household, *And prince over all his possessions.*

Priest/Deacon

Let us pray. O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph over 1900 years old

O St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the Throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph do assist me by your powerful intercession and obtain for me from your Divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord; so that having engaged here below your Heavenly power I may offer my Thanksgiving and Homage to the most Loving of Fathers. O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss His fine Head for me, and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, pray for us. Amen

Novena Prayer

Saint Joseph, I, your unworthy child, greet you. You are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that I have special confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, I place all my hope of salvation in you, for you are specially powerful with God and will never abandon your faithful servants. Therefore I humbly invoke you and commend myself, with all who are dear to me and all that belong to me, to your intercession. I beg of you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore:

(Mention your request).

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

ANOINTING WITH ST. JOSEPH'S OIL

from St. Joseph Oratory Montreal, Canada

Songs during the anointing

HYMN TO ST. JOSEPH

Dear Saint Joseph, Jesus called thee
Father when on earth He dwelt;
With His infant arms twined round thee
Thou His loving kiss hast felt.

So, we too, would Father call thee
Show us then a father's care,
And beneath thy strong protection
Keep us safe from sinful snare.

Think how once the God-child, Jesus,
On thy tender bosom lay,
And for His dear sake, Saint Joseph,
Take us to thy heart today.

DEAR ST. JOSEPH NOW BEFORE THEE

Dear St. Joseph now before thee
See thy children kneel and pray,
Do take pity we implore thee
Let thy love e'er with us stay.

Chorus:

**Dear St. Joseph, hear our prayer,
Take us 'neath thy sheltering care;
Hear thy children's voices calling,
Let us thy protection share**

In our grateful hearts we love thee,
For thy kindness and thy care;
Thou hast always been our father,
To thy children gathered here.

When the hour of death draws near us,
Come and lead us to our home;
And bring Jesus, too to help us,
Ere the day of life is done.