

2021

Gift of Prayer

Journey to Easter

Rediscovering Fatherhood

"With the heart of a father, so Joseph loved Jesus" (Patris corde, 1). So begins the Apostolic Letter in which Pope Francis has proclaimed an entire year dedicated to St. Joseph. The Pope highlights different aspects of Joseph's fatherhood: a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a working father, a father in the shadows.

This Lent you are invited to Journey to Easter with St. Joseph, to rediscover fatherhood through his example. The Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary on March 19 falls always in Lent. You are invited to join with all the families and households of our parish to make a commitment to journey with Joseph this season in prayerful reflection and Lenten actions, as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. This season is a special opportunity for all, but especially for fathers to rediscover the gift of fatherhood.

Prayers and Practices

The readings listed for each week provide an opportunity to journey with St. Joseph and reflect on his fatherhood and faithfulness to God.

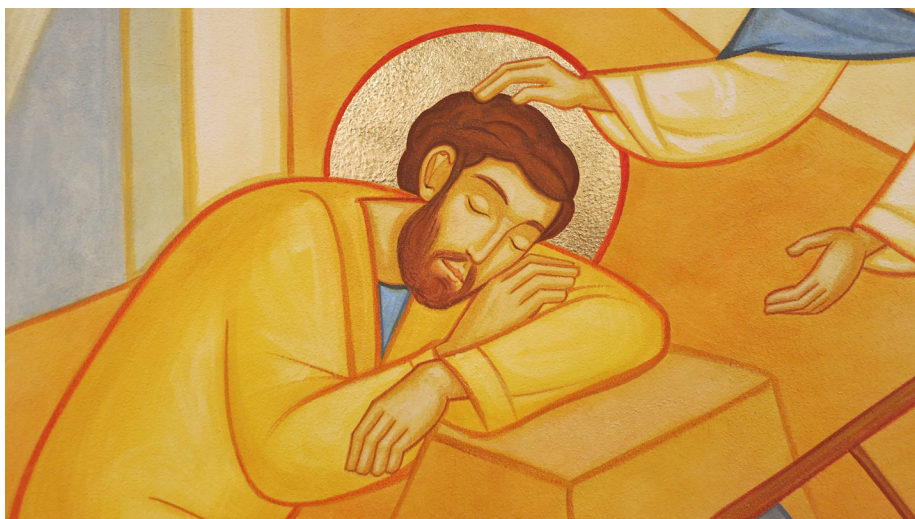
- **Prayer:** reading a Gospel reflection* on the life of St. Joseph OR praying a Family Rosary with St. Joseph.*
- **Fasting:** fasting on Friday OR fasting from screens on Sunday, OR your own proposal.
- **Almsgiving:** perform a corporal work of mercy* (see list at right).

**A plenary indulgence is attached, under the normal conditions.*

Gospel Readings: Mysteries of the Life of St. Joseph

These readings will provide an opportunity to journey with St. Joseph and reflect on his fatherhood and faithfulness to God.

- Matthew 1: 18–25: *Marriage with Mary—Doubts and Welcome.* “Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.”
- Luke 2:–20: The Census and the Birth of Jesus. “Joseph too went up... to the city of David, called Bethlehem ...”
- Luke 2: 21–40: *The Circumcision and Presentation of the Lord in the Temple.* “You shall call the child Jesus.”
- Matthew 2: 13–23: *The Flight to Egypt.* “Joseph, rise, take the Child and his Mother, and flee to Egypt.”
- Luke 2: 41–52: *Jesus Stays in the Temple.* “Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously.”

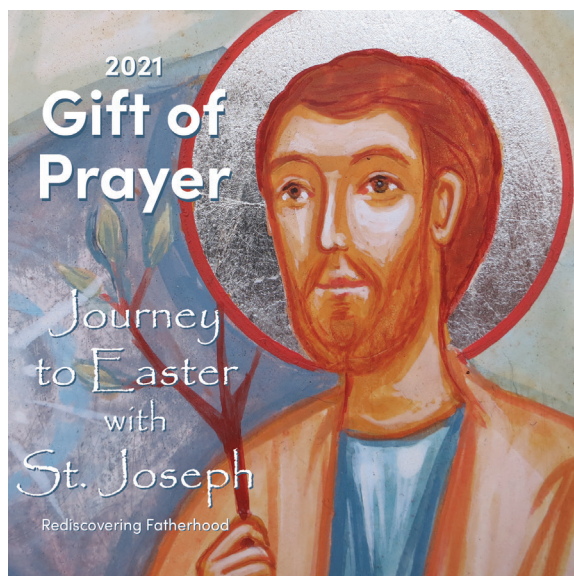


Corporal Works of Mercy

- *Feed the hungry:* make a special meal for your family to share together.
- *Shelter the homeless:* plan a weekend with your family, away from your normal work and school obligations.
- *Comfort the sick:* reach out to a family member or friend who may be ill or isolated due to Covid to give them hope and encouragement.
- *Bury the dead:* prepare a meal in memory of a deceased loved one. Serve some of their favorite food, call to mind the good times you shared with them, and offer prayers for the repose of their soul.

During our Gift of Prayer Commitment Weekend on Feb. 20–21, you will have the opportunity to sign a commitment card, pledging your intention to join your parish family in following the prayers and practices outlined above. An example of the commitment card is printed below. Please prayerfully consider joining us on this *Journey to Easter with St. Joseph!*

(front)



My 2021 Gift of Prayer Journey to Easter Commitment

Please place this section in
the basket by the altar.

Thank you for joining us for
our 2021 Gift of Prayer!



(back)

Each week, I/we will journey with St. Joseph
to Easter by:

- ☐ **Prayer:** reading a Gospel reflection*
on the life of St. Joseph OR praying a
Family Rosary with St. Joseph.*
- ☐ **Fasting:** fasting on Friday OR fasting
from screens on Sunday, OR your own
proposal.
- ☐ **Almsgiving:** perform a corporal work
of mercy* (see list at right).

*A plenary indulgence is attached, under the normal
conditions.

Signed _____

Journey to Easter with St. Joseph Practices for Lent

Gospel Readings

- Matthew 1: 18–25: *Marriage with Mary—Doubts and Welcome*
- Luke 2: 20: *The Census and the Birth of Jesus*
- Luke 2: 21–40: *The Circumcision & Presentation of the Lord in the Temple*
- Matthew 2: 13–23: *The Flight to Egypt*
- Luke 2: 41–52: *Jesus Stays in the Temple*

Corporal Works of Mercy

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