



# St. Joseph

## Head of the Holy Family

**Patron Saint of:** fathers, families, and workers

**Feast Day:** March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary and May 1, the Feast St. Joseph the Worker

St. Joseph is one of the most beloved saints in the Catholic Church and a powerful example for families. Everything we know about him comes from Scripture, and although the Bible records no words spoken by Joseph, his life shows deep trust in God. He came from the royal line of King David. Joseph was a humble carpenter who provided for Mary and Jesus with simple, steady faith. Scripture tells us that an angel of the Lord came to Joseph twice: first to reassure him that Mary would become the mother of God's Son and that he should welcome her into his home, and later to warn him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to protect the Child from King Herod. Each time, Joseph responded immediately, showing his courage and his willingness to follow God's plan no matter the cost.

Tradition holds that Joseph likely died before Jesus began His public ministry and likely had Mary and Jesus by his side, which is why he is honored as the patron of a peaceful and holy death. Throughout history, Christians have turned to St. Joseph for help in every need. He is best known as the patron saint of fathers, families, and workers, but the Church recognizes him as a powerful intercessor in many situations because of his unique role as the head of the Holy Family. For this reason, he is also patron of the Universal Church, travelers, immigrants, expectant mothers, craftsmen, engineers, home buyers and sellers, and all who work with their hands.

*"St. Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care.*

*May he always guard, protect, and enlighten families."*

*Pope John Paul II*

Symbols often seen with St. Joseph include the carpenter's square, representing both his trade and the idea of truth, and the lily, a sign of his purity and faithful heart. Even though he lived a quiet life, Joseph's strength, humility, and courage continue to guide the Church today. Except for the Blessed Virgin Mary, he is considered our most powerful intercessor in heaven because of the special mission God entrusted to him. He teaches us to listen for God's voice, protect those we love, work with integrity, and follow God's plan with peaceful trust.

### Fun Fact Story

The Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is home to a "miraculous staircase." When the chapel was built in the 1800s, the Sisters realized they needed a staircase to reach the choir loft, but because the space was too small, they couldn't be built safely. After praying a novena to St. Joseph, a quiet stranger arrived with simple tools and built a perfect spiral staircase made of wood not found in the region, using no nails and no visible support. When the work was completed, he disappeared. Many believe the mysterious craftsman may have been St. Joseph himself, coming to the sisters' aid.