

Saint Josaphat  
(Bishop and Martyr)  
12 November



### About Saint Josaphat

Saint Josaphat was born in Vladimir (Ukraine) in the year 1580, of Orthodox parents. In 1595 the Union of Brest brought the Ruthenian Church into communion with Catholic Rome while still preserving its own liturgy. The result was a schism within the church itself, with one party wanting to remain Orthodox and in the orbit of Moscow and Constantinople, while the other accepted the Union.

As a young man, Josaphat was excited about the possibility of the Orthodox metropolitan city of Kiev, made up of Belarusians and Ukrainians, reuniting with the Church of Rome. He joined the first monastery of the order of Saint Basil to be united with the Catholic Church. He was ordained a priest and eventually was appointed archbishop of Polotsk, Lithuania, where he worked tirelessly to continue the work of bringing the Orthodox communities of Kiev into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Unfortunately for Saint Josaphat, many people were strongly opposed to this reunion. Their response was to set up a rival hierarchy and set up groups to defame Saint Josaphat. While preaching in a particularly hostile city, Josaphat was murdered.

Saint Josaphat is the first saint of the Eastern Church to be formally canonized.

### What can we learn from Saint Josaphat's life?

Saint Josaphat had a sense of conviction and of what was right and wrong. He didn't let evil prevent him doing God's work or getting a job done. Unfortunately for him, he encountered a lot of hostility to the point where people schemed against him and plotted to murder him.

Saint Oscar Romero said that we are prophets of a future not of our own. We don't always get to finish the work we begin. Sometimes we only get to lay the foundation and then it is time for someone to finish what we started. In the end, we will get a ringside seat with the Lord and see everything brought to its completion.

Saint Josaphat  
(Bishop and Martyr)  
12 November



Collect

Stir up in your Church, we pray, O Lord,  
the Spirit that filled Saint Josaphat  
as he laid down his life for the sheep,  
so that through his intercession  
we, too, may be strengthened by the same Spirit  
and not be afraid to lay down our life for others.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel

Father, may they be completely one

John 17:20-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

**'Holy Father,**

I pray not only for these,

but for those also

who through their words will believe in me.

May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,

as you are in me and I am in you,

so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

I have given them the glory you gave to me,

that they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me,

may they be so completely one

that the world will realise that it was you who sent me

and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

Saint Josaphat  
(Bishop and Martyr)  
12 November



Father, I want those you have given me  
to be with me where I am,  
so that they may always see the glory you have given me  
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.  
Father, Righteous One,  
the world has not known you,  
but I have known you,  
and these have known that you have sent me.  
I have made your name known to them  
and will continue to make it known,  
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,  
**and so that I may be in them.'**

**Antiphon**

Whoever loses his life for my sake,  
will find it in eternity, say the Lord.

Saint Josaphat  
(Bishop and Martyr)  
12 November



## Hymn for the Memorial of Saint Josaphat

Just like the Father and His Son,  
may we always be One;  
for Christ is One in the Father,  
the Father in the Son.

Our Heav'nly Father sent His Son,  
and in their love are One.  
May we show God's love every day,  
and His will e'er be done.

Saint Josaphat, you always prayed  
**that God's children be One,**  
and worked to reunite the Church  
**so God's Kingdom might come.**

May we spread unity on earth,  
and to God remain true,  
so all will know the name of Christ,  
not just a chosen few.

Tune: Saint Columbia CM 86.86

## Other Music Suggestion

[Glory and Praise to our God](#)

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Jerusalem Bible Translation of Scripture used in Australian Lectionary for Mass, Vols I, II and III* (London: Collins Liturgical, 1981). All rights reserved.

COLLECT and ANTIPHON: *Roman Missal 2010* © International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

REFERENCES: Sourcebook 2019: © Liturgy Training Publications 2019  
Universalis App: 12 November 2020