

About the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker

The feast of Saint Joseph the Worker celebrates the same Joseph who was the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus. On this day though we celebrate how Saint Joseph provided for his family by the work that he did.

This feast was instituted in 1955 by Pope Pius XII as the Church's response to the Worker's Day or May Day celebrations. The work we do is a participation in the creative activity of God.

It should recognise that we have been blessed with gifts and talents, knowledge, and skills from the Lord and as such what we do should glorify God and help our neighbour.

Saint Joseph the Worker 1 May



What can we learn from Saint Joseph the Worker?

The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.

"Our work is an important part of our life. We work to pay bills, provide for and sustain ourselves and families. By our work we also contribute to the community through the use of skills as well as paying taxes to the government.

All of these factors are important. However, if we are working 24/7 and not able to rest, give time to God, to our families and friends and/or ourselves then our work has consumed us and we are working all for the wrong reasons.

The Collect

O God, Creator of all things,
who laid down for the human race the law of work,
graciously grant
that by the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage
we may complete the works you set us to do
and attain the rewards you promise.
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 Reading Matthew 13:54-58

A prophet is only despised in his own country

Coming to his home town,
Jesus taught the people in their synagogue in such a way that they
were astonished and said, 'Where did the man get this wisdom and
these miraculous powers?
This is the carpenter's son, surely?
Is not his mother the woman called Mary,
and his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Jude?
His sisters, too, are they not all here with us?
So where did the man get it all?' And they would not accept him.
But Jesus said to them,
'A prophet is only despised in his own country and in his own house',
and he did not work many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Antiphon

Whatever you do in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord,
giving thanks to God through him, alleluia.

Hymn

With a Father's Heart – A Hymn for the Year of Saint Joseph

Refrain:

Saint Joseph, with a father's heart,
you loved Jesus, your foster son.
From His Gospel may we not part,
so His will in all things be done.

1. A man of few words, Saint Joseph,
you show us how to daily hear
what God our Father asks of us,
when we hold fast to His Word dear.

2. You cared for Mary and Jesus
and would their daily needs provide
by your work as a carpenter,
putting all your own needs aside.

3. Fulfilling what God asked of you,
Jesus would be the given name,
of God's own Son, the living Word,
he saved us from sin – we proclaim.

4. Though unsure, you fulfilled God's will,
as was revealed to you by Law,
together with the heav'nly dreams,
in life, each day God's glory saw.

5. The Patron of Christ's Church you are
and for us you will take great care,
leading us all to follow Christ
with loving hearts in deed and prayer.