

PRAYER PROMPT

Honoring St. Joseph

St. Joseph is one of the most powerful saints in the Church today, even though Scripture doesn't record any words he may have said. But Joseph had a powerful interior life with God and was a man of action who did the will of God. The Church traditionally dedicates the month of March to honoring St. Joseph, whose Solemnity is celebrated on March 19. We are invited to turn to St. Joseph's intercession for the needs of our daily lives and to help us advance in virtue. Here are seven tips for learning more.

- 1. Explore St. Joseph in the Gospels.** Read Matthew 1:16, 18-20, 24; Matthew 2:13-14, 19, 21; Luke 1:27; Luke 2:4, 16; Luke 3:23; Luke 4:22.
- 2. Learn and pray the Litany of St. Joseph.** Visit www.usccb.org/prayers/litany-saint-joseph to add it to your daily prayers. Select from the many titles in the Litany to offer short prayers as you go through your day.
- 3. Pray a novena from March 10 to St. Joseph's feast day, March 19.** Go to www.praymorenovenas.com/st-joseph-novena or look up the Novena of the Holy Cloak of Joseph, drawing on his protective care of Jesus and Mary. Many versions are available online.
- 4. Read St. John Paul II's apostolic exhortation *Redemptoris Custos*** ("Guardian of the Redeemer") extolling the exemplary faith and mission of St. Joseph in the life of Christ and the Church. See www.bit.ly/GuardianJoseph to find the text.
- 5. Discover St. André Bessette's wisdom regarding the intercession of St. Joseph.** Br. André Bessette of Montreal (1845-1937) first built a small shrine chapel to honor St. Joseph, whose intercession André championed as both a friend and guide: "He lets no one fall by the wayside." Br. André eventually led fundraising efforts to build one of the largest churches in the world to honor St. Joseph. Annually, thousands of pilgrims visit St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in Montreal. Visit www.saint-joseph.org/en to learn more.
- 6. Recall Pope Francis' recent Year of St. Joseph** in December of 2020. Since then, many more books and webinars about St. Joseph are available, including this free video presentation by Pflaum Publishing Group: www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2JE-EButmU.
- 7. Consider consecration to St. Joseph.** Go deeper with this special patron. If you have questions, visit www.consecrationtostjoseph.org for information.

Watch a video and download this resource at LivingFaith.com/prayer-prompt, and find Lent resources at Catholic.CreativeCommunications.com.