

ITALY

In Sicily, where St. Joseph is regarded by many as their Patron Saint, and in many Italian-American communities, thanks is given to St. Joseph ("San Giuseppe" in Italian) for preventing a famine in Sicily during the Middle Ages. According to legend, there was a severe drought at the time, and the people prayed for their patron saint to bring them rain. They promised that if he answered their prayers, they would prepare a large feast to honor him. The rain did come, and the people of Sicily prepared a large banquet for their patron saint. The fava bean was the crop which saved the population from starvation and is a traditional part of St. Joseph's Day altars and traditions. Giving food to the needy is a St. Joseph's Day custom. In some communities it is traditional to wear red clothing and eat a Sicilian pastry known as a zeppole on St. Joseph's Day. Sweets are popular because St. Joseph is the patron saint of pastry chefs.

Upon a typical St. Joseph's Day altar, people place flowers, limes, candles, wine, fava beans, specially prepared cakes, breads and cookies (as well as meatless dishes), and zeppole. Foods are traditionally served containing bread crumbs to represent saw dust since St. Joseph was a carpenter. Because the feast occurs during Lent, traditionally no meat was allowed on the celebration table. The altar usually has three tiers, to represent the trinity.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Saint Joseph's Day is also celebrated in many American communities with high proportions of Italians (to mention a few) New York City; Providence, Rhode Island, and Gloucester, MA.. Where observance often is expressed through "the wearing of the red", i.e., wearing red clothing or accessories similar to the wearing of green on St. Patrick's Day. The (wearing of the red) by Italian American communities which are also home to significant Irish American communities can take on the overtone of a challenge by the Italian Americans to the power and relevance of those Irish communities and Saint Patrick's Day.

St. Joseph's Day is also the day when the swallows are traditionally believed to return to Mission San Juan Capistrano after having flown south for the winter.

*(excerpted from: en.wikipedia.org)



St. Joseph's Day
(very popular pastry)
Zeppole's

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NOVENA TO Saint Joseph

MARCH 10—18TH
Feast Day March 19th



...on Saint Joseph's Day,
many parishes celebrate this Feast Day
by setting up altars,
which usually had three tiers,
to represent the Holy Trinity.

NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH MARCH 10-18TH

Novenas are usually prayed for nine days, ending on the day **before** the Feast day of the Saint.

The St. Joseph Novena

O glorious St. Joseph,
faithful follower of Jesus Christ,
to you we raise our hearts and hands
to implore your powerful intercession
in obtaining from the benign heart of Jesus
all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual
and temporal welfare,
particularly for the grace of a happy death
and the special favor we now request.

(mention your request)

O guardian for the Word Incarnate,
we feel animated with confidence
that your prayers in our behalf
will be graciously heard
before the throne of God.

O glorious St. Joseph,
through the love you bear to Jesus Christ
and for the glory of His name,
hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Amen.

3 Our Fathers, 3 Aves, 3 Glory Be's

Recite once a day for nine days.

Through the intercession of St. Joseph many prayers are answered.

SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY

SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY, March 19, is the principal feast day of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Solemnity in the Roman Catholic Church, and also a feast or festival in the Lutheran Church. Saint Joseph's Day is the Patronal Feast day for persons named Joseph, Josephine, etc., for religious orders, schools and parishes bearing his name, and for carpenters. It is also Father's Day in some Catholic countries, mainly Spain, Portugal, and Italy.

March 19 was dedicated to Saint Joseph in several Western calendars by the tenth century, and this custom was established in Rome by 1479, Pope St. Pius V extended its use to the entire Roman Rite by his Apostolic Constitution *Quo Primum* (July 14, 1570). Since 1969, Episcopal Conferences may, if they wish, transfer it to a date outside of Lent.

CATHOLIC TRADITIONS

March 19 always falls during Lent, and according to Canon law of 1983, if the feast day falls on a Friday, the obligation to abstain from meat or do penance is lifted.

If the feast day falls on a Sunday, it is observed on the next available day, usually Monday, March 20, unless another solemnity (e.g., a church's patronal saint) falls on that day. Since 2008, if St. Joseph's Day falls during Holy Week, it is moved to the closest possible day **before** 19 March, usually the Saturday before Holy Week. This change was announced by the Congregation for Divine Worship in *Notitiae* March-April, 2006 (475-476, page 96) in order to avoid occurrences of the feasts of St. Joseph and the Annunciation both being moved to the Monday after the Easter octave. This decision does not apply to those using the 1962 Missal according to the provisions of *Summorum Pontificum*; when that missal is used, its particular rubrics must be observed.