

Consecration the St. Joseph

Part 34

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

I promise to honor thee [St. Joseph] every day by some special act of devotion and by placing myself under thy daily protection. – St. Alphonsus Liguori

The fruit of consecration to St. Joseph is for you to resemble your spiritual father and become Joseph like in virtue. The purpose of Consecration to St. Joseph is to make you an "apparition of St. Joseph" in the world. People need to see the virtues of St. Joseph in you. Your words and actions should reflect his holiness, purity, love, humility, prayerfulness and sacrificial spirit.

Additionally, those who have consecrated themselves to St. Joseph are not required to wear an external sign of consecration. You may choose to wear a scapular or a medal, or some other sacramental in honor of St. Joseph, but it is not required. The most important thing to remember is that YOU are the sign.

Now, to prevent the initial fervor of having consecrating yourself to St. Joseph from wearing off, I suggest you do one or all of the items listed below.

1. Recite the daily act of consecration to St. Joseph from part 32.
2. Pray to St. Joseph every day. For example, St. Faustina recited an Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and a Memorare to St. Joseph every day.

(Remember, O Most Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, my spiritual father, and beg your protection. O Foster Father of the Redeemer, despised not my petitions, but in your goodness hear and answer me. Amen.

3. Continue to pray the Litany of St. Joseph on a regular basis. Try to memorize it.
4. On Wednesdays, spend a little more time with St. Joseph than on any other days of the week.
5. Practice the Seven Sundays devotion to St. Joseph.

(As a devotion, the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys consists of meditations on biblical passages from the life of St. Joseph. While meditating on the biblical passages, it is customary to pray an **Our Father, a Hail Mary, and, a Glory Be.**

The Seven Joys and Sorrows are to be recited on the **SEVEN SUNDAYS leading up to the feast of St. Joseph on March 19th.**

1st Sunday

1st Sorrow: St. Joseph Resolves to Leave Mary Quietly (Matthew 1:19)

1st Joy: St. Joseph's Annunciation (Matthew 1:20)

2nd Sunday

2nd Sorrow: The Poverty of Jesus' Birth (Luke 2:7)

2nd Joy: The Birth of the Savior (Luke 2:10 – 11)

3rd Sunday

3rd Sorrow: The Circumcision (Luke 2:21)

3rd Joy: The Holy Name of Jesus (Matthew 1:25)

4th Sunday

4th Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34)

4th Joy: The Effects of the Redemption (Luke 2:38)

5th Sunday

5th Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:14)

5th Joy: The Overthrow of the Idols of Egypt (Isaiah 19:1)

6th Sunday

6th Sorrow: The Return from Egypt (Matthew 2:22)

6th Joy: Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth (Luke 2:39)

7th Sunday

7th Sorrow: The Loss of the Child Jesus (Luke 2:45)

7th Joy: The Finding of the Child Jesus (Luke 2:46)

OUR FATHER:

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY:

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

6. Frequently pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in honor of St. Joseph. Especially on Wednesdays.
7. Make a pilgrimage to a Church or a shrine dedicated to St. Joseph.
8. Annually renew your long-form consecration prayer to St. Joseph. You do not necessarily have to re-do the 33 day preparation (though that is not a bad idea).
9. Start a consecration group in your parents, family, diocese, convent, seminary or religious community. It requires little effort and Jesus and Mary will greatly bless you for spreading devotion to St. Joseph. Consecration to St. Joseph is the first worldwide movement spreading consecration to St. Joseph in the 2000 year history of Christianity! Be a part of the movement!
10. Pray for the Pope to declare a Year of St. Joseph.
11. Pray for the Church to establish a feast in honor of St. Joseph's fatherhood.

Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph Prayer

Leader: *Chaste Lover of Mary, how overwhelmed you were when you thought that you would have to end your betrothal to her. But when the angel of God came to you in a dream, you were filled with awe to realize that Mary would be your wife, and you would be the guardian of the Messiah.*

All: Help us St. Joseph, help our families and all our loved ones to overcome all sadness of heart and develop an absolute trust in God's goodness.

Leader: *Faithful guardian of Jesus, what a failure you thought you were when you could only provide a stable for the birth of the Holy Child. And then what a wonder it was when shepherds came to tell of angel choirs, and wise men came to adore the King of Kings.*

All: Through your example and prayers, help us St. Joseph and all we love to become like sinless mangers where the Savior of the world may be received with absolute love and respect.

Leader: *Tender-hearted Joseph, you too felt pain when the blood of Jesus was first shed at His circumcision. Yet how proud you were to be the one privileged to give the name Jesus, Savior, to the very Son of God.*

All: Pray for us St. Joseph, that the sacred blood of Christ, poured out for our salvation, may guard our families, so the Divine Name of Jesus may be written in our hearts forever.

Leader: *Joseph, loving husband, how bewildered you were when Simeon spoke the words of warning that the hearts of Jesus and Mary would be pierced with sorrows. Yet his prediction that this would lead to the salvation of innumerable souls filled you with consolation.*

All: Help us, St. Joseph, to see with eyes of faith that even the sorrows and pains of those we deeply love can become the pathway to salvation and eternal life.

Leader: *Courageous protector of the Holy Family, how terrified you were when you had to make the sudden flight with Jesus and Mary to escape the treachery of King Herod and the cruelty of his soldiers. But when you reached Egypt, what satisfaction you had to know that the Savior of the world had come to replace the pagan idols.*

All: Teach us by your example, St. Joseph, to keep far from the false idols of earthly attractions, so that like you, we may be entirely devoted to the service of Jesus and Mary.

Leader: *Ever-obedient Joseph, you trustingly returned to Nazareth at God's command, in spite of your fear that King Herod's son might still be a threat to Jesus' life. Then what fatherly pride you had in seeing Jesus grow in wisdom and grace before God and men under your care.*

All: Show us St. Joseph, how to be free from all useless fear and worry, so we may enjoy the peace of a tranquil conscience, living safely with Jesus and Mary in our hearts.

Leader: *Dependable father and husband, how frantic you and Mary were when, through no fault of yours, you searched for three days to find Jesus. What incredible relief was yours when you found Him safe in the Temple of God.*

All: Help us St. Joseph, never to lose Jesus through the fault of our own sins. But if we should lose Him, lead us back with unwearied sorrow, until we find Him again; so that we, like you, may finally pass from this life, dying safely in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Leader: *And Jesus Himself, when he began His work, was about thirty years old being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph.*

Leader: *Pray for us, holy Joseph.*

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: *Let us pray.*

All: O blessed St. Joseph, tenderhearted father, faithful guardian of Jesus, chaste spouse of the Mother of God, I pray and beseech you to offer to God the Father my praise to Him through his divine Son, who died on the cross and rose again to give us sinners new life. Through the holy name of Jesus, pray with us that we may obtain from the eternal Father, the favor we ask . . . *(Pause)* . . . We have been unfaithful to the unfailing love of God the Father; beg of Jesus mercy for us. Amid the splendors of God's loving presence, do not forget the sorrows of those who suffer, those who pray, those who weep. By your prayers and those of your most holy spouse, our Blessed Lady, may the love of Jesus answer our call of confident hope. Amen.

