

TRIDUUM THEMES FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

“St. Joseph listens to God’s directions for him, as spoken through the angel, and he puts those directives into action. St. Joseph listens to God and acts immediately. ... St. Joseph models for us the family’s vocation to holiness. Two elements to a healthy Christian family are serving God and then serving each other in the family. ... That is the vocation of each member of the family: to be holy: To serve God and to serve each other with care and devotion.”

Bishop Peter Jugis
Homily, Feast of the Holy Family, December 29, 2019

Sacred Scripture describes St. Joseph as “*a Just man*” (Matthew 1:19) which can also be translated as “*righteous,*” “*upright,*” or, “*he who is virtuous in all things.*” If we want to learn from St. Joseph, we must begin by imitating the virtues he practiced daily in his quiet, hidden life.

The triduum themes for the Year of St. Joseph are taken from St. Joseph’s virtues and titles as prayed in the Litany of St. Joseph.

DAY ONE

Joseph Most Just

Joseph was first and foremost just unto God, rendering to Him what was His due. Since all things are due to God, Joseph was perfectly religious in prayer, in labour, and in love giving to God, even as an infant, the energy of his whole life.

DAY TWO

Joseph Model of Workers

We must not simply intend love, we must labour to fulfil love’s demands. Beneficence, labouring for the good of another, in Joseph’s case was direct labour for God. Working in Adam’s curse by the sweat of his brow was replete with purpose as it was all done to feed, to clothe, to shelter God Himself.

DAY THREE

Joseph Most Faithful

Fidelity connotes steadfastness. In the vicissitudes of life, one needs steadfast love, that is, fidelity, when encountering confusion, suffering, and failure. The image of Joseph finding a place in which the Child could be born was his movement in all of life. Failure simply meant one went on in fidelity and found by failure what God had intended for the fruitfulness of His will.

NOVENA PRAYER

Humble Saint Joseph, I pray not to abandon me during life and to assist me at the hour of my death. Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, pray for me to have a pure, humble, charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: (*Mention your request*) Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel confident that your prayers on my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. St. Joseph Most Just, Pray for us! Amen. 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.