

MARCH 19, ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BVM

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(If the feast of St. Joseph falls on Passion Sunday, it is celebrated on the subsequent Monday. If it falls during Holy Week, it is celebrated on the Wednesday after Low Sunday in Paschal time.)

Joseph, says the Holy Scripture, was a just man; he was innocent and pure; he was gentle and tender; he was prudent and a lover of silence; above all he was faithful and obedient to divine calls. Devotion to St. Joseph has developed among Christian people in so marvelous a manner, following such wonderful laws, that it is impossible not to recognize therein the working of Divine Providence.

In the early Church the festivals were such as referred to the mystery of the salvation of the world. The golden period of devotion to Mary began with the Council of Ephesus. Second only to Mary comes Joseph who although not the Father of Jesus, had a father's authority over Him. He was invested with this authority by the Eternal Father. The commands of God to the Holy Family were delivered by an angel to Joseph. During the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries devotion to him grew rapidly fostered by St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Bernardine of Sienna.

Pius IX declared Joseph "Patron of the Universal Church." On November 13, 1962, Pope John XXIII took the unprecedented step of adding St. Joseph's name to the Canon of the Mass.

INTROIT Psalms 91: 13-14

Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Libani multiplicábitur: plantátus in domo Dómini: in átriis domus Dei nostri. (Ps 91: 2) Bonum est confiteri Dómino: et psállere nómini tuo, Altíssime. Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Justus ut palma florébit: sicut cedrus Libani multiplicábitur: plantátus in domo Dómini: in átriis domus Dei nostri.

COLLECT

Sanctíssimæ Genetrícis tuæ Sponsi, quæsumus. Dómine, méritis adjuvémur: ut, quod possibilitas nostra non óbtinet, ejus nobis intercessióne donétur: Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Ecclesiasticus 45: 1-6

Diléctus Deo et homínibus, cujus memória in benedictióne est. Símilem illum fecit in glória sanctórum, et magnificávit eum in timóre inimicórum, et in verbis suis monstra placávit. Glorificávit illum in conspéctu regum, et jussit illi coram pópulo suo, et osténdit illi glóriam suam. In fide et lenitáte ipsíus sanctum fecit illum, et elégit eum ex omni carne. Audívit enim eum et vocem ipsíus, et indúxit illum in nubem. Et dedit illi coram præcépta, et legem vitæ et disciplínæ.

GRADUAL Psalms 20: 4-5

Dómine, prævenísti eum in benedictiónibus dulcédinis: posuísti in cápite ejus corónam de lápide pretióso. Vitam pétiit a te, et tribuísti ei longitúdinem diérum in sæculum sæculi.

TRACT Psalms 111: 1-3

Beátus vir, qui timet Dóminum: in mandátis ejus cupit nimis. Potens in terra erit semen ejus: generatio rectórum benedicétur. Glória et divítiae in domo ejus: et justítia ejus manet in sæculum sæculi.

GOSPEL Matthew 1: 18-21

Cum esset desponsáta Mater Jesu María Joseph, ántequam convenirent, invénta est in útero habens de Spirítu Sancto. Joseph autem, vir ejus, cum esset justus et nollet eam tradúcere, vóluit occúlte dimíttere eam. Hæc autem eo cogitánte, ecce, Ángelus Dómini appáruit in somnis ei, dicens: Joseph, fili David, noli timére accíperere Mariám cóniugem tuam: quod enim in ea natum est, de Spirítu Sancto est. Páriet autem filium, et vocábis nomen ejus Jesum: ipse enim salvum fáciat pópulum suum a peccátis eórum.

OFFERTORY Psalms 88: 25

Véritas mea et misericórdia mea cum ipso: et in nómine meo exaltábitur cornu ejus.

SECRET

Débitum tibi, Dómine, nostræ réddimus servitútis, suppliciter exorántes: ut, suffrágiis beáti Joseph, Sponsi Genetrícis Filii tui Jesu Christi, Dómini nostri, in nobis tua múnera tueáris, ob cujus venerándam festivitátem laudis tibi hóstias immolámus. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF ST. JOSEPH

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: Et te in Veneratióne beáti Joseph débitis magnificáre præcóniis, benedícere et prædicáre. Qui et vir justus, a te Deíparæ Virgini Sponsus est datus: et fidélis servus ac prudens, super Familiam tuam est constitútus: ut Unigénitum tuum, Sancti Spirítus obumbratióne concéptum, patérna vice custodíret, Jesum Christum, Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli cælórúmque Virtútes ac beáta Séraphim sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces ut admítte júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessióne dicéntes:

COMMUNION Matthew 1: 20

Joseph, fili David, noli timére accíperere Mariám cónjugem tuam: quod enim in ea natum est, de Spirítu Sancto est.

POSTCOMMUNION

Adéstó nobis, quæsumus, miséricors Deus: et, intercedénte pro nobis beáto Joseph Confessóre, tua circa nos propitiátus dona custódi. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Filium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus: planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. (Ps 91: 2) It is good to give praise to the Lord: and to sing to Thy name, O Most High. 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. The just shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow up like the cedar of Libanus: planted in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.

We beseech Thee, O Lord, that we may be helped by the merits of the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother: so that what we cannot obtain of ourselves, may be given to us through his intercession: Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Beloved of God and men, whose memory is in benediction. He made him like the Saints in glory, and magnified him in the fear of his enemies, and with his words he made prodigies to cease. He glorified him in the sight of kings, and gave him commandments in the sight of his people, and showed him His glory. He sanctified him in his faith and meekness, and chose him out of all flesh. For He heard him and his voice, and brought him into a cloud. And He gave him commandment before His face, and a law of life and instruction.

Lord, Thou has prevented him with blessings of sweetness: Thou hast set on his head a crown of precious stones. He asked life of Thee, and Thou hast given him length of days for ever and ever.

Blessed is the man that fears the Lord: he shall delight exceedingly in His commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the righteous shall be blessed. Glory and wealth shall be in his house: and his justice remains for ever and ever.

When Mary the mother of Jesus was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Whereupon Joseph her husband, being a just man and not willing publicly to expose her, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep, saying: Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.

My truth and My mercy shall be with him: and in My name shall his horn be exalted.

We render unto Thee, O Lord, the duty of our service, humbly entreating Thee to preserve Thine own gifts within us through the prayers of blessed Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, on whose holy festival we offer to Thee this sacrifice of praise. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: and that we should with due praise magnify, bless, and proclaim Thee on the Feast of blessed Joseph; who being a just man, was given by Thee as Spouse to the Virgin Mother of God, and, as a faithful and prudent servant, was set over Thy Family, that with fatherly care he might guard Thine only-begotten Son, conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations adore, the Powers tremble: the heavens and the hosts of heaven, and the blessed Seraphim, together celebrate in exultation. With whom, we pray Thee, command that our voices of supplication also be admitted in confessing Thee saying:

Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is born in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Stand by us, we beseech Thee, O merciful God, and by the intercession of blessed Joseph the Confessor, mercifully preserve Thy gifts within us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.