

# MY NOVENA to ST. JOSEPH

By

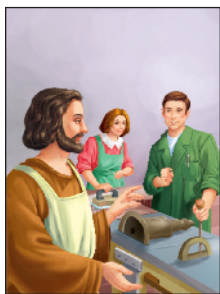
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**Illustrated**



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## THIRD DAY

### St. Joseph, Patron of Workers

**S**T. Joseph, we honor you today under the title *Patron of Workers*. For your life's mission God gave you the astonishing responsibility of providing for His Only-Begotten Son and His holy Mother Mary. To fulfill this task you worked faithfully and diligently with your hands as a craftsman. Although you were never wealthy with regard to material things, you were able to provide your family—the Holy Family—with those things that they needed to live. Grateful for what you had and, indeed, grateful even for your ability to work, you offered your labors in a spirit of devotion and generosity to God, for the sake of Jesus and Mary.

Today there are many people who live in poverty and cannot find life-sustaining employment. Many leave their homelands in search of work to provide a better life for their families. You know what it is like, Joseph, to be a refugee, with your family in a foreign land. You are familiar with the obstacles that aliens encounter: prejudice, misunderstanding, injustice, exploitation, in addition to differences in language, culture, and religion.

Accompany these men and women on their journeys, often perilous as well as hopeful. Help them to find dignified work with just pay and a kind welcome. May they soon be reunited with their families.

St. Joseph, pray for all of us that we may always have fruitful and meaningful work. Intercede for the unemployed and for single parent families. Help us to know that as we make sacrifices to provide for ourselves and for our families we cooperate in the providential plan of our Heavenly Father and we reflect God's loving generosity to the world. Pray for us that we may work in harmony and mutual respect with our co-workers and supervisors.

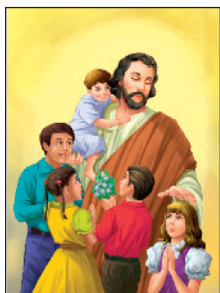
In our pursuit of material advantages may we never abandon our faith, nor the priority of love of God and neighbor. Help retired people know that each day of life they receive from God's hand is a gift and that one never retires from the work of love. May we work together for the building of God's Kingdom in our workplace, in our families, in our hearts, and, indeed, throughout the world. St. Joseph, *Patron of Workers*, we ask for all of these things, as well as the other needs we bring before you in this Novena (*pause*).

*Rosary and Litany of St. Joseph (see p. 32)*

## Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You Yourself engaged in human work at home by faithfully fulfilling Your childhood chores and by assisting Joseph in his carpenter projects. Accept our daily efforts; bless them and make them fruitful. May every sacrifice we make be made for Your glory and for the benefit of our brothers and sisters.

Grant work to the unemployed and hope to those who struggle with financial problems. May they always turn in their need to the Father and provider of all. We ask this, Jesus, and all the intentions of this Novena in Your Name and through the intercession of St. Joseph, *Patron of Workers*. *R*. Amen.



## SEVENTH DAY

### St. Joseph, Patron of the Unborn Child

**S**T. Joseph, we invoke you today under the title *Patron of the Unborn Child*. Just as God entrusted Mary with a critical role in the Incarnation of His Son, so too He called you to be intimately involved with this saving mystery. Mary lovingly carried God's Son in her womb for nine months and gave birth to Him. You were given the task of protecting and providing for Him, not only after His birth but also before He was born.

Your first reaction to this surprise pregnancy was to reject any responsibility for the Child. You had not planned on this Child, Joseph. He was not yours. You did not want Him—at least at first. So you decided to walk away from His Mother and from Him. But God had other plans for you and for your home in Nazareth. God had a plan for this Child. The Almighty had formed this Child in His Mother's womb; He knew His characteristics, talents, and potential. The All-knowing One knew this Child and He loved Him. It was God Who had sent Him to Mary and to you—and to us.

I wonder, Joseph, if you ever remembered your initial reaction to this gracious intruder into your life. Did you ever repent of your rash judgment of Mary and of your desire to “put her away quietly,” along with the unborn Baby that she carried? Did