



# Missionarii Sancti Joannis Baptistae

*Vox clamantis in deserto, parate viam Domini*

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## The Passion of Saint Joseph!

**W**HEN ONE LOOKS AT GOOD ST. JOSEPH, one sees that his life and death were like a Holy Mass. St. Joseph's life and death were a true sacrifice, a true passion. St. Joseph experienced his own Good Friday. We often speak about Our Lady of Sorrows, and rightly so, but what about Joseph as a Man of Sorrows who was called to unite with the Passion and Death of Christ, though he died well before Jesus' journey up Mt. Calvary? Before we consider the passion of Joseph further, first realize that since he is the greatest saint in Heaven after Our Lady, he has the third most tender heart in the whole universe. Our Lord's Sacred Heart is tenderness itself, then comes the Immaculate Heart of Mary, followed by the pure and just Heart of Joseph. These three Hearts are tender in that they are vulnerable and susceptible to great suffering. The more innocent and pure a heart seems to be in God's Plan, the more it seems open to suffering. All the world's sins landed upon the tender Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. But how is it that the Heart of Joseph suffered when he was not on Calvary?

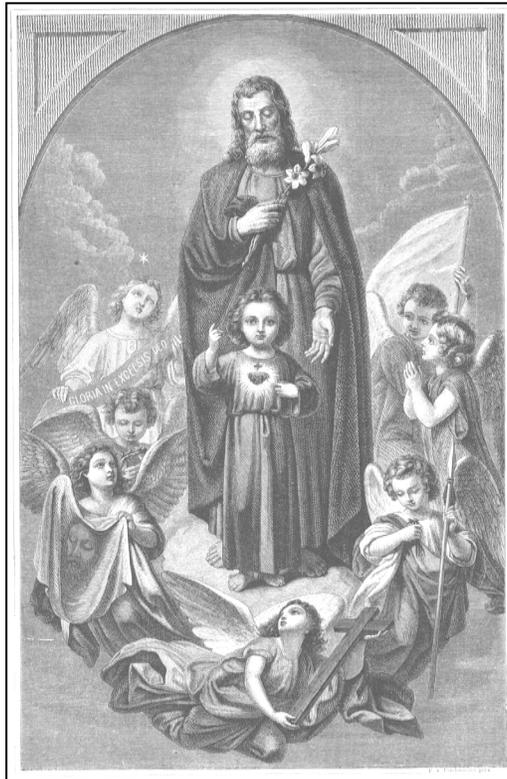
We can think of his struggle when he discovered the Child in Our Lady's womb. Although he loved his spouse beyond all telling, St. Joseph had to be responsible and separate from her since he felt unworthy to be in the presence of the Ark of the New Covenant. Joseph had absolutely no doubt regarding Mary's Virginity and Holy Purity, but he realized that his wife was God's Chosen Vessel. This planned separation caused him great pain until the angel assured Joseph to take Mary as his spouse. Consider, too, that men suffer in relation to their responsibilities. Before there was the

mystery of the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, there was the temporary loss of Jesus. Though Mary and Joseph could never lose God spiritually, as they were both confirmed and fixed in the state of grace, they could suffer by losing Jesus in a physical way. Note that when Jesus is found after three days, our Lady mentions St. Joseph first in speaking to Our Lord: *And seeing Jesus, they wondered. And His Mother said to*

*Him: Son, why hast Thou done so to us? Behold Thy father and I have sought Thee sorrowing.*

Yes, St. Joseph had his own seven sorrows, including the fourth sorrow, when the elderly Simeon took the Divine Child in his arms at the Presentation in the Temple and prophesied that Christ would be a sign of contradiction. The Son of God and Son of Mary would be opposed and would be the cause of the rise and fall of many in Israel. The sword of sorrow may have pierced the Immaculate Heart of Mary, but that same sword also cut and penetrated the most pure and just Heart of St. Joseph at the words of Simeon. This would be the result of the Incarnation of the Son of God. He would be a Divine Victim. But this was not all for St. Joseph, for another prophecy of Simeon predicted that his own

wife would endure untold sufferings, seven swords of sorrow, as the Co-Redemptrix of mankind. Poor Joseph... his tender, compassionate heart must have ached at these prophecies. But knowing that the Blood of the Redeemer and the tears of Mary would unite in bringing about the salvation of countless souls, St. Joseph also experienced joy in the midst of all the sorrows. As the mission of Redemption was about to begin, however, St. Joseph all of a sudden became bedridden.



Imagine the struggle St. Joseph underwent as he lay dying. He felt like a failure since he would not be the Guardian of the Virgin at the Foot of the Cross. This was his duty. Blessed Mary always felt safe at St. Joseph's side and under his vigilant care. He felt as if he was abandoning her in her time of greatest need. His suffering was not about his own pain and loss, but in regard to others. Think of the intimacy between Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Head of the Holy Family loved Jesus more than any other created person outside of Mary. Furthermore, Joseph and Mary had the deepest love that can ever be shared between husband and wife. And here he was separating from them...not being able to be with them in their time of trial. Oh what suffering our dear Joseph endured! It is also said by many saints that Our Lord provided some revelation of how the work of Redemption was to be accomplished. Just as Abraham saw Our Lord's day, so did Joseph. We can just imagine what suffering the future Passion of Our Lord and the sorrows of His Mother brought to our Joseph, especially when Joseph realized that he would not be there with them in their suffering to support and comfort them. Yes, St. Joseph's life and death were like a Holy Mass with the Passion and Death of Christ being manifested in him.

Finally, we see this truth of Joseph's passion by way of type and prefiguration in Joseph the Patriarch. When this great man was wrongfully imprisoned, he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker who were later imprisoned with him. In three days the butler was to receive his freedom, while the baker the death sentence. These men prefigured the good and bad thieves on Calvary. Even though Joseph asked the butler, the one to be freed, to remember him when he was before Pharaoh, he remained in prison. Thus, the type tells us that although Joseph saw the outcome of others around him, he remained locked in prison, prefiguring how our beloved Joseph would indeed see the future Passion to take place on Calvary, but he himself would be in the Limbo of the Fathers, waiting for the King to release him and make him the head of his household. And this His Majesty did indeed do... such that what held for Joseph of old holds now for our Joseph all the more, namely, *Ite Ad Joseph...* Go to Joseph!



## ST. JOSEPH NOVENA (MARCH 10-18)

O GLORIOUS ST. JOSEPH, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to thee do we raise our hearts and hands to implore thy powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special intentions that have been committed to us.

O GUARDIAN OF THE WORD INCARNATE, we feel animated with confidence that thy prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the Throne of God.

*(Then the following V. & R. are to be said seven times in honor of the seven joys and sorrows of St. Joseph.)*

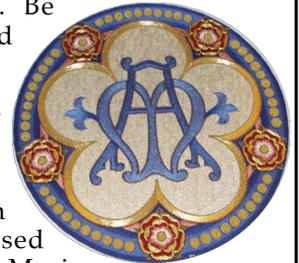
- V. O glorious St. Joseph, through the love thou dost bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name,
- R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Let us pray.

O GLORIOUS ST. JOSEPH, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, and charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the Divine Will. Be my guide, father, and model through life, that I may merit to die as thou didst in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

*St. Joseph, Friend of the Sacred Heart, pray for us.  
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.  
St. Joseph, Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.*

With your further support, we hope to continue to build up the Body of Christ, including not only a beautiful Grotto for the highest honor of our race, but also a traditional religious community of good men to carry out our apostolate of saving souls. Be assured we are indeed working diligently to hollow out a place in the rock for Our Lady of Lourdes to find a niche worthy of her. For the cave we are planning an authentic Italian mosaic based partly on the Auspice Maria design shown here. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated.



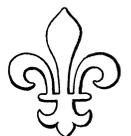
**Please join us in praying the Novena in honor of the great St. Joseph. An intention sheet is provided if you desire to unite your intentions with us before the holy Altar of God.**

*Should you wish to contribute to our work, please make out checks to:*

**The Missionaries of St. John the Baptist –or simply- MSJB**

*May God reward you!*

**The Missionaries of Saint John the Baptist ([www.msjb.info](http://www.msjb.info))**





## St. Joseph Novena Intentions & Petitions

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