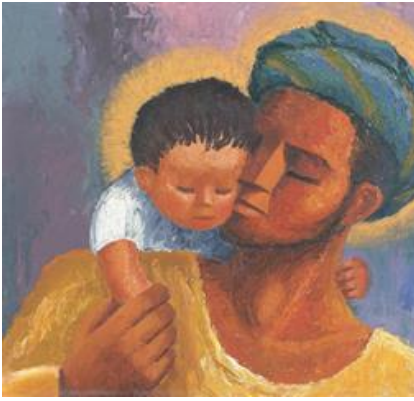




Feast of St. Joseph



When you work for the neighbor do it with a very unselfish love which expects no reward for its services, and aim at nothing other than helping him or her and being at the same time pleasing to God. Congregation of St. Joseph Maxim 55

Opening Prayer: *Joseph, by the work of your hands and the sweat of your brow, you supported Jesus and Mary. Teach us to work as you did, with patience and perseverance, for God and for those whom God has given us to support. Teach us to see in our co-workers the Christ who desires to be in them, that we may always be charitable and forbearing towards all. Grant us to look upon work with the eyes of faith, so that we recognize in it our share in God's own creative activity and so take pride in it. When it is pleasant and productive, remind us to give thanks to God for it. And when it is burdensome, teach us to offer it to God for the good of others.*

Reading: Mt. 1: 18-25

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. . . When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Reflection: *Joseph, you entered into the mystery of God's unfolding love. Your tender compassion, heartfelt mercy and great love toward Mary and Jesus reveal God's glory. You allowed the Merciful One to flow through your daily life. You experienced doubt, confusion, poverty and oppression. Yet you trusted God's mercy, remained faithful, and were grounded in God's unconditional love. Pray for us and for our world that in the midst of injustice, violence, and difficulties we may be constant witnesses to God's mercy and great love. Amen.*

*For all who work to build community around the world, we pray: **Faithful Joseph, hear our prayer.***



*For all involved in restoring broken relationships in families, in the church, among nations and religions, with Earth, we pray: **Loving Joseph, hear our prayer.***

*For all who do their work with love and mercy even in the face of violence, especially those who care for refugees, we pray: **Protector Joseph, hear our prayer.***

*For all who work for specific systemic change, especially in our criminal justice system, for the victims of crime and for the incarcerated, we pray: **Patient Joseph, hear our prayer.***

*For all involved in establishing relationships of respect and love in neighborhoods, among diverse races, creeds and cultures, we pray: **Provider Joseph, hear our prayer.***

*For all who work to connect people of various communities, religions, nations to shift a global culture of power and privilege to a global culture of inclusivity and mutuality, we pray: **Teacher Joseph, hear our prayer.***

*For all whose work is prayer, we pray: **Faithful Joseph, hear our prayer.***

Reading: Colossians: 3

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. . . Let every detail of your lives—words, actions, decisions be done in the name of Christ and giving thanks to God through Christ. . . whatever your work is, put your whole heart into it for whatever you do, it is for God!

Closing Prayer: *Bless the work of our hands, O God. May all that we do with these hands with pens and computers, kitchen utensils, hammers and hoes, in art and décor, music and healing contribute to building a culture of love and reverence, beauty, truth and justice for all of Earth now and in the future. This we ask in the name of Christ. Amen.*