

Consecration the St. Joseph

Part 14

Zealous Defender of Christ, Pray for Us

He [St. Joseph] protects those who revere him and accompanies them on their journey through this life – just as he protected and accompanied Jesus when he was growing up. – St. Josémaria Escriva

From the moment the angel revealed to St. Joseph that he was to be the father of the Messiah to when he took his final breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary, St. Joseph zealously defended Jesus.

St. Joseph always defended his Son from any threat against him. St. Joseph was a dutiful watchman, guarding, defending and sacrificing everything for Jesus and his safety. St. Joseph offered the same protection for his wife, too. He protected his Son and his wife as a loving father and faithful husband.

In some translations of the Litany of St. Joseph, the title "Zealous Defender of Christ" (in Latin, Christi Defensor Sedule) is given as "Diligent Defender of Christ" or "Watchful Defender of Christ." Both are acceptable translations and have similar meanings – namely, St. Joseph defended Jesus. As a child of St. Joseph, you can have great confidence knowing that your spiritual father also desires to zealously defend you.

St. Joseph zealously defends you. The paternal mission of St. Joseph is not finished. A father's work is never finished until his children are safely home. In heaven, St. Joseph no longer needs to watch over and protect Jesus. You, however, are not yet in heaven. You need the protection of St. Joseph. Your spiritual father knows what is harmful to your soul, and he wants to watch over you and help you arrived safely home. St. Joseph will never abandon you. Your role is to entrust yourself to his diligent care and never look back.

Our destiny is in the hands of St. Joseph. Joseph, the guardian of his Lord and the spouse of his Queen, Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and the head of the Holy Family, has in his kindness deigned to accept us as his children and permits us the call him father. – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

You have nothing to fear with St. Joseph at your side. What is there to be afraid of with such a zealous defender as your father who loves you? St. Joseph held the Maker of the Universe in his hands. St. Joseph fed the Creator of the heavens. In his role as earthly father to Jesus, St. Joseph lovingly commanded the Son of God. Heaven and earth obeyed him. All hell trembles before him!

Joseph's name will be a name of protection all during our lives. – Blessed William Joseph Charminade

St. Joseph will increase your zeal for Christ. As your father and model, St. Joseph will teach you how to defend Christ zealously. If you are a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, you are going to be criticized, hated, ridiculed and mocked by the world – often times by your own family and friends. Your suffering will be great, but your witness to truth – your witness to Jesus – will be greater. St. Joseph will help you be a zealous witness to the truth of Jesus Christ.

Your defense of Christ must be great. You should always strive to defend the person and name of Jesus Christ against all blasphemy, insult and sacrilege. You must defend the Church, as well as her teachings and Sacraments, from all attacks, heresies and falsehoods. To defend the Church is to defend Christ. You must resemble your spiritual father, always willing to sacrifice yourself for love of truth. Like St. Joseph, you, too, can bring many souls to Jesus.

How happy and blessed are they whom you [St. Joseph] love and whom you take under your protection. –
Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us
St. Joseph,
Noble scion of David,
Light of the Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Sedulous Defender of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most valiant,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of all who labor,
Glory of family life,
Protector of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Consolation of the afflicted,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of the demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of his household.

R. And prince over all his possessions.

Let us pray. God, Who, in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in Heaven whom, on earth, we venerate as our protector. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen

