

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.*)

The faithful who pray any of these Litanies, under the usual conditions, receive a partial indulgence. When prayed, one person (or half the people) chants or reads the invocation while the others chant or read the responses which are in italics in the previous pages.



**SAINT JOSEPH GLORY OF FAMILY LIFE,  
PRAY FOR US!**

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## **LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH**



**SAINT JOSEPH PATRON OF THE DYING,  
PRAY FOR US!**

## The Six Litanies Approved for Public Recitation

From the Catholic Encyclopedia:

A litany is a well known and much appreciated form of responsive petition, used in public liturgical services, and in private devotions, for common necessities of the Church, or in calamities — to implore God's aid or to appease His just wrath. This form of prayer finds its model in Psalm cxxxv: 'Praise the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Praise ye the God of gods . . . the Lord of lords . . . Who alone doth great wonders . . . Who made the heavens', etc., with the concluding words in each verse, "for His mercy endureth forever."...

...Litanies appeared in honour of God the Father, of God the Son, of God the Holy Ghost, of the Precious Blood, of the Blessed Virgin, of the Immaculate Conception, of each of the saints honoured in different countries, for the souls in Purgatory, etc. In 1601 Baronius wrote that about eighty forms were in circulation. To prevent abuse, Pope Clement VIII, by decree of the Inquisition of 6 Sept., 1601, forbade the publication of any litany, except that of the saints as found in the liturgical books and that of Loreto. **Today the litanies approved for public recitation are of: All Saints, of Loreto, of the Holy Name, of the Sacred Heart, of St. Joseph [Ed. and, approved in 1960, of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ].**

**Many, many other litanies exist, and all of them may be prayed privately, but only these six are approved for public prayer.**

March, being dedicated to St. Joseph, is a common time to pray the Litany to Saint Joseph.

### 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 Spirit, *(have mercy on us.)*  
Holy Trinity, One God, *(have mercy on us.)*

Holy Mary,

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,

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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.)*

He made him the lord of his household.  
*(And prince over all his possessions.)*