AS Almighty God established Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob in Egypt, and made him governor of the land, in order that he might supply his people when they came to want the necessities of life—so when the time appointed to send His only Son upon earth had arrived, He chose another Joseph, of whom the first Joseph was the type, and, making him lord and chief of His house and goods, chose him as guardian of His greatest treasures.

So, also, He united to him the Immaculate Virgin Mary, of whom was born, by the Holy Ghost, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who before men deigned to be reputed the son of Joseph, and was subject unto him.

On account of this sublime dignity which God conferred on His most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised the most blessed Joseph, next to his spouse the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble.

And now that the Church is beset with enemies on every side . . . the Bishops of the whole Catholic world have most humbly implored the Sovereign Pontiff, in their name and in the name of all the faithful confided to their care, to declare St. Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church. . . . Therefore our most holy Lord, Pius IX. Pope, has been pleased to comply with the desires of the Prelates, and to commit to St. Joseph's powerful patronage himself and all the faithful, and has declared St. Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church.

Source of all: To Honor Saint Joseph, Imprimatur 1944
The Litany of Saint Joseph

Approved for public and private recital by His Holiness, Pope Pius X. March IS, 1909

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.

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!

Holy Joseph, Pray for us!

Illustrious Son of David, Pray for us!

Light of Patriarchs, Pray for us!

Spouse of the Mother of God, Pray for us!

Chaste guardian of the Virgin, Pray for us!

Foster-father of the Son of God, Pray for us!

Diligent protector of Christ, Pray for us!

Head of the Holy Family, Pray for us!
Joseph most just, Pray for us!

Joseph most chaste, Pray for us!

Joseph most just, Pray for us!

Joseph most chaste, Pray for us!

Joseph most prudent, Pray for us!

Joseph most valiant, Pray for us!

Joseph most obedient, Pray for us!

Joseph most faithful, Pray for us!

Mirror of patience, Pray for us!
Lover of poverty, Pray for us!

Model for workmen, pray for us!

Glory of family life, pray for us!

Guardian of virgins, pray for us!

Safeguard of families, pray for us!

Comfort of the sorrowing, pray for us!

Hope of the sick, pray for us!

Patron of the dying, pray for us!

Terror of the demons, pray for us!
Protector of Holy Church, pray for us!

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. He made him master of His house;

R. And ruler of all His possessions.
Let us pray

O God, Who in Thine unspeakable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in heaven; whom we venerate as our protector on earth; Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.
Prayer for Holy Purity

Saint Joseph, father and guardian of virgins, into whose faithful keeping were entrusted Innocency itself, Christ Jesus, and Mary, the Virgin of Virgins, I pray and beseech thee through Jesus and Mary, those pledges so dear to Thee, to keep me from all uncleanness, and to grant that my mind may be untainted, my heart pure and my body chaste; help me always to serve Jesus and Mary in perfect chastity. Amen.
Prayer for a Happy Death

O blessed Joseph, who didst yield thy last breath in the fond embrace of Jesus and Mary, when the seal of death shall close my career, come, holy father, with Jesus and Mary, to aid me and obtain for me this only solace which I ask for in that hour, to die encircled by their holy arms. Into your sacred hands, living and dying, I commend my soul, O Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Amen.

Ejaculations

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, let me breathe forth my spirit in peace with you.
Memorare to Saint Joseph

Remember, O most pure Spouse of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, my beloved patron, that never hath it been heard that any one invoked thy patronage and sought thine aid without being comforted. Inspired by this confidence, I come to thee and fervently commend myself to thee. Ah, despise not my petition, dear foster father of our Redeemer, but accept it graciously. Amen.