



Family: A Community of Life and Love March 2021



Special points of interest:

- Year of St. Joseph
- March 14—Daylight Savings Time begins
- March 17—St. Patrick's Day
- March 19—St. Joseph's Feast Day
- March 20—First Day of Spring!
- March 25—the Annunciation of the Lord

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart) Pope Francis recalls the 150th Anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 2020 to December 2021. In his letter, Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an accepting father, an

obedient father who is creatively courageous, a working father who remains in the background. The Holy Father says this pandemic has helped us to see the critical importance of the unsung heroes far from the limelight, who exercise patience and offer hope each day. In this they resemble Joseph who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence who nonetheless played an incomparable role in salvation history.

St. Joseph offered himself with love to the service of Mary and Jesus who was growing to maturity in his home. He showed forth to Jesus the

gentle love of a father which is often, to a child, the first glimpse of the tender love of God.

Joseph accepted the will of the Father, even in things he did not understand, as he accepted Mary unconditionally. In this he is a model of faith and trust.

The carpenter of Nazareth was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.

With their flight into Egypt to escape wicked Herod, we are reminded that they walked the harsh way of all those who flee their native land in the face of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Vatican News



March 17—St. Patrick, Patron of the Archdiocese of New York

Yes, we remember St. Patrick as the Saint who drove the snakes out of Ireland. And we remember his teaching of the Holy Trinity—three persons in one God—using the shamrock, but there are some other very important things to know about this powerful and revered bishop. The “real” Patrick is known from his own writings. For example, he was a **missionary**. At the age of 16 Patrick was captured off the coast of Britain and forced into slavery in Ireland. He eventually escaped, but could not forget the Irish people he had grown to love. God spoke to him and asked him to return to Ireland and bring the Gospel with him. He stayed with the Irish people for the rest of his life bringing them hope and healing and the love and the Word of God.



St. Patrick worked for **Social Justice**. One of the worst conditions of his time was human trafficking—slavery. Patrick, himself, had been a victim and so had great compassion for those who were suffering from this social evil. He spoke out against these injustices saying “those who commit these evil deeds are the servants of demons.”

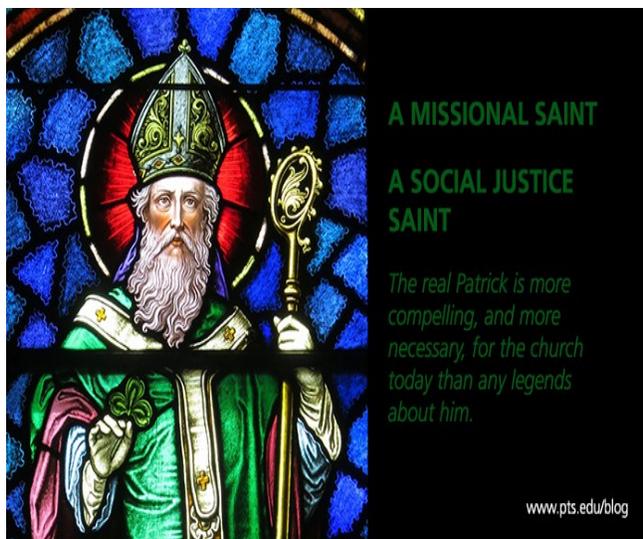
We can honor St. Patrick today by responding to the call to be “missionary disciples” bringing the Gospel to all those we meet not only with words but with our lives, our witness and our deeds.

We can become aware of the social injustices of our day and work to bring God’s love and mercy, forgiveness and healing into our world so much in need.

And, upholding all we do in the name of Jesus, we can pray.

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; ... a world where peace is built with **justice**, and **justice** is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesuit Resources



[Meet St. Patrick - My Catholic Kids](#)

Pray with your family: A shield for Divine protection:

[St. Patrick's Breastplate -](#)

March 19—The Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We know that Joseph was a carpenter. Scripture tells us the skeptics who listened to Jesus said, “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” (Matt 13:55). We know that Joseph wasn’t rich since when he and Mary took Jesus to the Temple to be circumcised; their offering was two turtle doves, the offering of the poor. But we also know Joseph came from royalty. He was an ancestor of the great King David. (Matt 1:1-16) When the angel first greeted him, he addressed him as “son of David.” This was also a royal title used to address Jesus. We know that Joseph loved and cared for Jesus and Mary and treated Jesus as his own son. (Luke 4:22) Joseph followed the Law of Moses and took his family each year to celebrate the feast of Passover in Jerusalem.

A Blessing for All of Humanity

With Mary, Joseph served as a model for the boy Jesus as he grew in wisdom and grace. (Luke 2:52) When families bring children into the world, train them in faith and sound values, and teach them to contribute to society they become a blessing in our world. Families can become a blessing for all of humanity! God’s love becomes present and active by the way we love and by the good works that we do; we extend Christ’s kingdom in this world. And in doing this, we prove faithful to the prophetic mission which we have received in Baptism. Pope Francis address to families, Manila, January 16, 2015



We also know that Joseph was a man of honor. He was a righteous man. (Matt 1:18)

Joseph is the patron saint of a happy death. We assume, since he was not mentioned during Jesus’ public life, that he passed away before this with Jesus and Mary at his side.

Joseph is also patron of the Universal Church, of families, fathers, expectant mothers, travelers, immigrants, house sellers and buyers, craftsmen, engineers, and working people in general.

[St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of Families](#)

[Litany of St. Joseph](#)

[A Prayer for Families by Pope Francis](#)

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families, too, may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Amen.

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[Feast Days and Saints We Honor During the Month of March—for information on the lives of the Saints go to: \[https://\]\(https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day\)](#)

www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day or

[https://](https://www.catholic.org/saints/)
www.catholic.org/saints/

Movie:

[Joseph of Nazareth: The Man Closest to Christ](#)

Watch on Formed.org

[The Annunciation of the Lord](#)

[March 25](#)

Once again the austerity of the Lenten season is illuminated by the light of the feast of the Annunciation. This feast commemorates the most wonderful moment when the Second Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus, the Son, assumes a human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a feast of Our Lord and of Mary. [Luke 1:26-38](#)

A tradition, which has come down from the apostolic ages, tells us that the great mystery of the Incarnation was achieved on the twenty-fifth day of March. The most holy Virgin was alone and absorbed in prayer, The Archangel Gabriel appeared before her, and asked her, in the name of the blessed Trinity, to consent to become the Mother of God.

Mary has heard the angel's explanation of the mystery; the will of heaven is made known to her. Mary bows down before this sovereign will, and says to the heavenly messenger, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to thy word."

This feast is very important in the defense of the life of unborn children. Even with small children, this is a good day to begin teaching about the high value God places on human life. He loved us so much that he became one of us, took on our human nature and became an innocent, completely dependent infant.

[The Annunciation of the Lord.](#)

[Beautiful Art Depicts the Annunciation accompanied by Gregorian Chant](#)



[The Annunciation for Children](#)

Book: [Joseph of Nazareth](#) by Frederico Suarez is a series of reflections on the life of Saint Joseph in the light of faith and based on revelation. At the end, the reader's love for and devotion to this great saint will have grown considerably. For Joseph, the last of the patriarchs, shows how any one of us can come to be a great saint.

Available on Amazon Books.