

## Week 6



Pope Francis popularizes devotion to the Sleeping Saint Joseph. Pope Francis, who has had a statue of a sleeping St. Joseph on his desk for decades, brought the statue he had in Argentina with him to the Vatican when he was elected pope. He told the story that he places slips of paper under his statue of a sleeping St. Joseph when he has a special problem. The pope's

devotion to St. Joseph meant he chose to celebrate the inaugural Mass of his pontificate on March 19, the feast of St. Joseph. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So, when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath St. Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words, I tell him: Pray for this problem!" Pope Francis said. "Do not forget St. Joseph who sleeps! Jesus slept with the protection of Joseph." "The Scriptures seldom speak of St. Joseph, but when they do, we often find him resting, as an angel reveals God's will to him in his dreams. "But like St. Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act." - Valerie Schmalz

*Excerpts from: "Consecration to Saint Joseph", Father Donald Calloway, MIC*

## Week 7



Jesus is not offended when people entrust themselves to Mary and Joseph. He is the first one to have entrusted himself to them. Jesus more, than anyone wants you to love Mary and Saint Joseph, and resemble them. When Saint Joseph took Mary's hand in marriage, he became her beloved provider, protector, and servant. Saint Joseph earnestly desires for her to be loved by everyone. Saint Pope Paul the VI writes Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads over the earth. The savior began the work of salvation by this virginal holy union. Saint Joseph is the head of the new covenant family. The fatherhood of Saint Joseph is so important, our spiritual growth depends on it. If we love and honor Saint Joseph; we can trust that he will help us to get to heaven. The greatest thing any father can do for his children is help them to get to heaven. "Rejoice, devout servants of Saint Joseph, for you are close to paradise: the ladder leading up to it has but three rungs, Jesus, Mary, Joseph". - Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Saint Joseph is the delight of saints and popes. He should be, your delight as well.

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## Week 8



You are probably familiar with the story in the Book of Genesis about the sons of Israel selling one of their brothers into slavery. His name was Joseph. He ended up being taken to Egypt. But God had a plan. Incredibly Pharaoh adopted Joseph into his family. The Pharaoh placed Joseph in charge of all the granaries of Egypt. Joseph did an incredible job of storing up grain. Thanks to Joseph and his role as the keeper of grain, countless lives including his brothers were saved from famine and death.

Saint Joseph, our spiritual father, is much greater than the Joseph of the Old Testament. Our Joseph was the keeper of the bread from Heaven! God sent Saint Joseph to Egypt so that, out of Egypt, Saint Joseph could bring the Bread of Life to the nations. Saint Joseph saved our Bread from Herod; He protected and preserved him in Egypt; and now desires that we receive the Bread of Life at Holy Mass. Without Saint Joseph we would not have the Living Bread of the Eucharist.

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## Week 9



The word "patriarch" means father. What all the patriarchs of the Old Testament foreshadowed, and all Christian fathers are called to reflect, is the paternal light of God shining through the fatherhood of Saint Joseph. After Christ, Saint Joseph is the greatest of all the patriarchs; he is the greatest of all fathers! Saint Joseph is more faithful than Abraham, more obedient than Isaac, more generous than David, and wiser than Solomon.

In the beginning, God created the great luminaries in the heavens: the sun, the moon, and the stars. In the New Testament, the Father establishes a new creation in Christ. Through Christ, the Father places his divine life, love, and light within our hearts. Saint Joseph and his fatherhood play a very important role in God's plan. Saint Joseph is the perfect reflection of the Father of Lights, and he helps us to receive the light of Christ. Saint Joseph is the bearer of light. He brings Jesus, the true Light of the World, to us. You are a child of the light. In the Litany of Saint Joseph, he is given the title "Light of Patriarchs". The devil hates Saint Joseph and his light. Satan's other name is Lucifer, which means "light bearer". Lucifer lost the light because of his pride and disobedience to God. Satan lives in perpetual darkness and abhors the light. Satan fears Saint Joseph, who is a true and everlasting light bearer. Stay close to Saint Joseph and walk in the light.

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## Week 10



There has never been a man more in love with a woman than Saint Joseph was in love with Mary. What dignity and holiness were required of Saint Joseph to be the husband of Mary! The vocation of all men is to be at the service of the those entrusted to their love and care. Many men have forgotten this today, but Saint Joseph will help them remember. He will help men be holy, and chivalrous again. All men discover in Saint Joseph a model of strength, fidelity, heroism, and virtue. If man – husbands, fathers, priests, and bishops – follow the example of Saint Joseph, families will be loving and secure, husbands will be holy, priests will be dragon-slayers, and bishops will again be shepherds of souls and pillars of truth. Real men are gentlemen at the service of others. Real men love. Real men protect women and children against any and all threats. Real men are willing to die for their wives and children. Holy priests and bishops are willing to suffer and die for the souls entrusted their care. Men

like Saint Joseph are willing to protect what they love, what is good, true, and beautiful. May the church and families once again be filled with such men.

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