



St. Joseph

*The Ordinary
Greatness of
Joseph as Priest,
Prophet, and
King within the
Holy Family*

with Michael J. Ruszala

On St. Joseph

“This greatest male Saint who ever lived was not a deacon, not a priest, not a bishop, not a pope, not a hermit, not a monk... he was a husband, father”

– *St. Jose Maria Escriva*





Some Review on St. Joseph



- Of the house of David
- Carpenter / *tekton*
- Betrothed to Mary
 - According to apocryphal sources, chosen by lots
- Was poor but provided what he had

Marriage of the Virgin – Giotto di Bondone – 1304-06

Sepphoris: Where Joseph Could Have Worked





**Annunciation to Joseph,
Anton Raphael Mengs,
c. 1767**





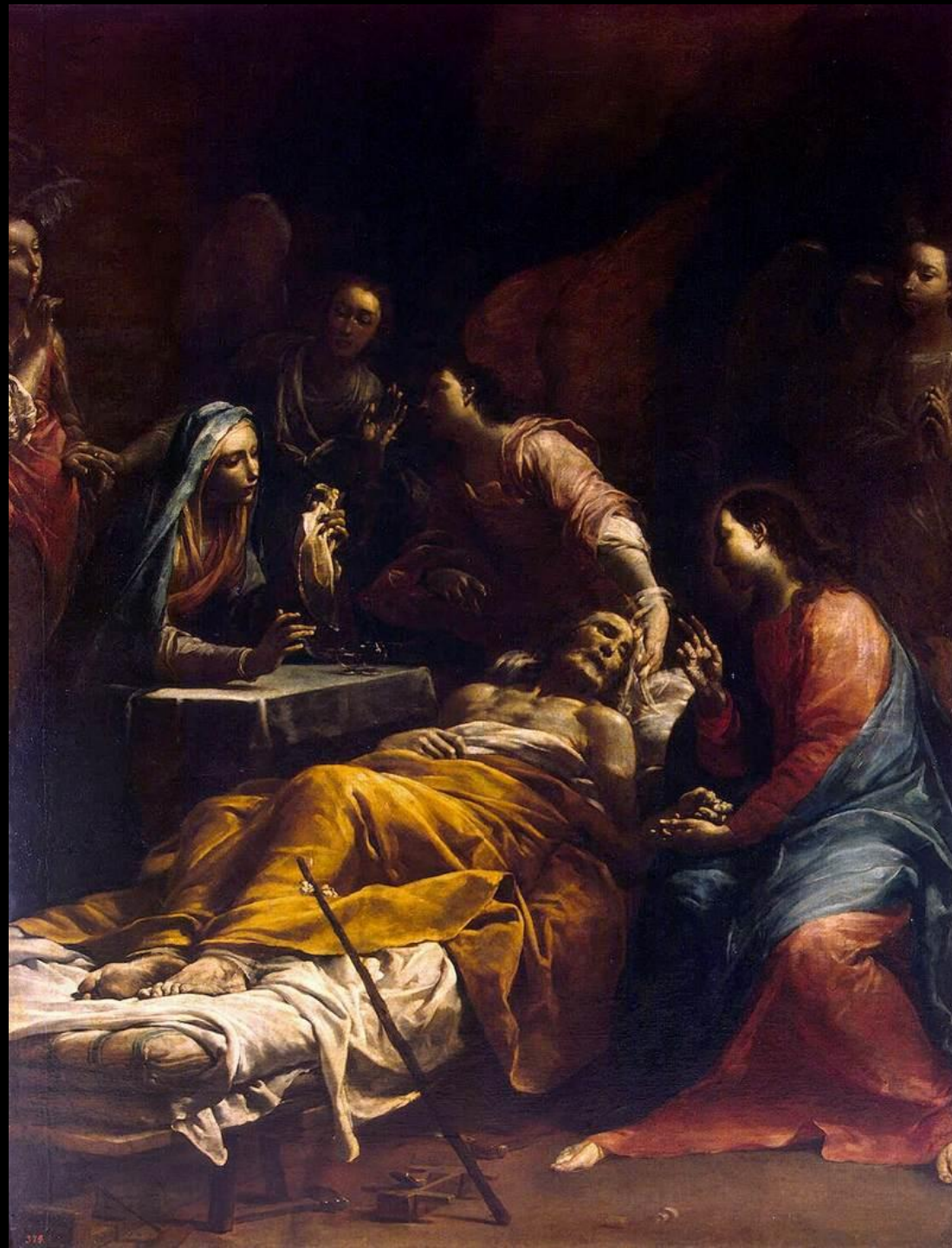
Rest on the Flight into Egypt by Luc Olivier Merson, 1880

L. OLIVIER-MERSON
MDCCCXXX

**Joseph the
Carpenter,
La Tour,
1642**



Death of St. Joseph



The Laity from the Catechism

(no. 871)

- **“Incorporated into Christ by Baptism”**
- **“Sharers in Christ’s priestly, prophetic, and royal office”**
- **“exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfil in the world, in accord with the condition proper to each one”**

We Share in the Offices of Christ

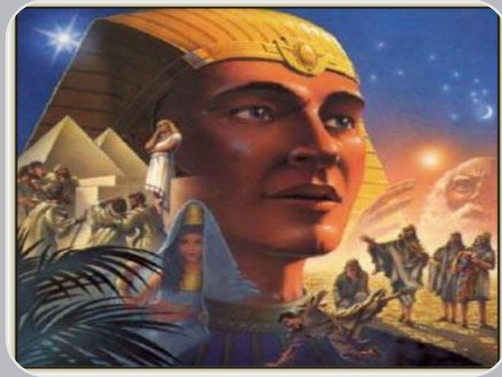
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Priest
worship



Prophet
proclaim



King
govern

Forefather: Joseph the Patriarch

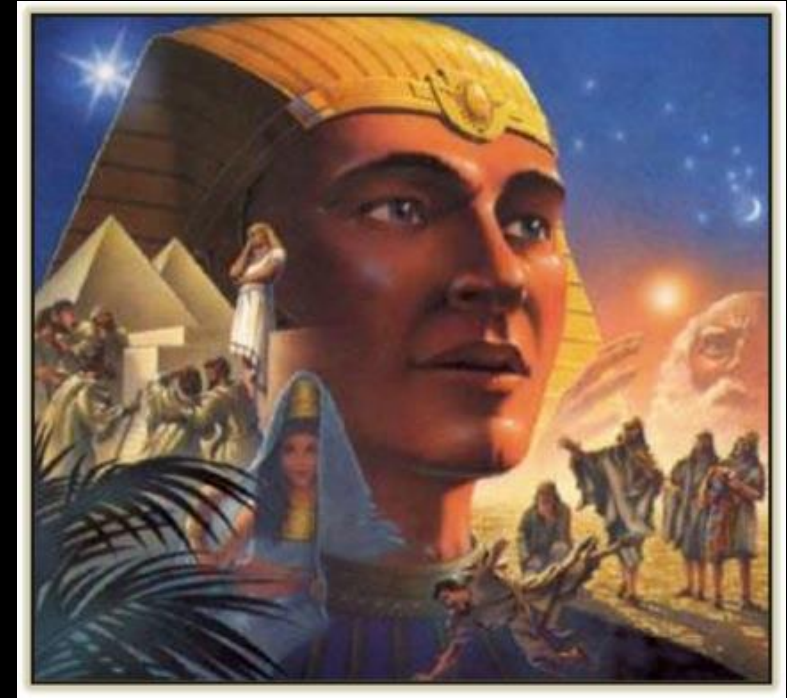


Joseph

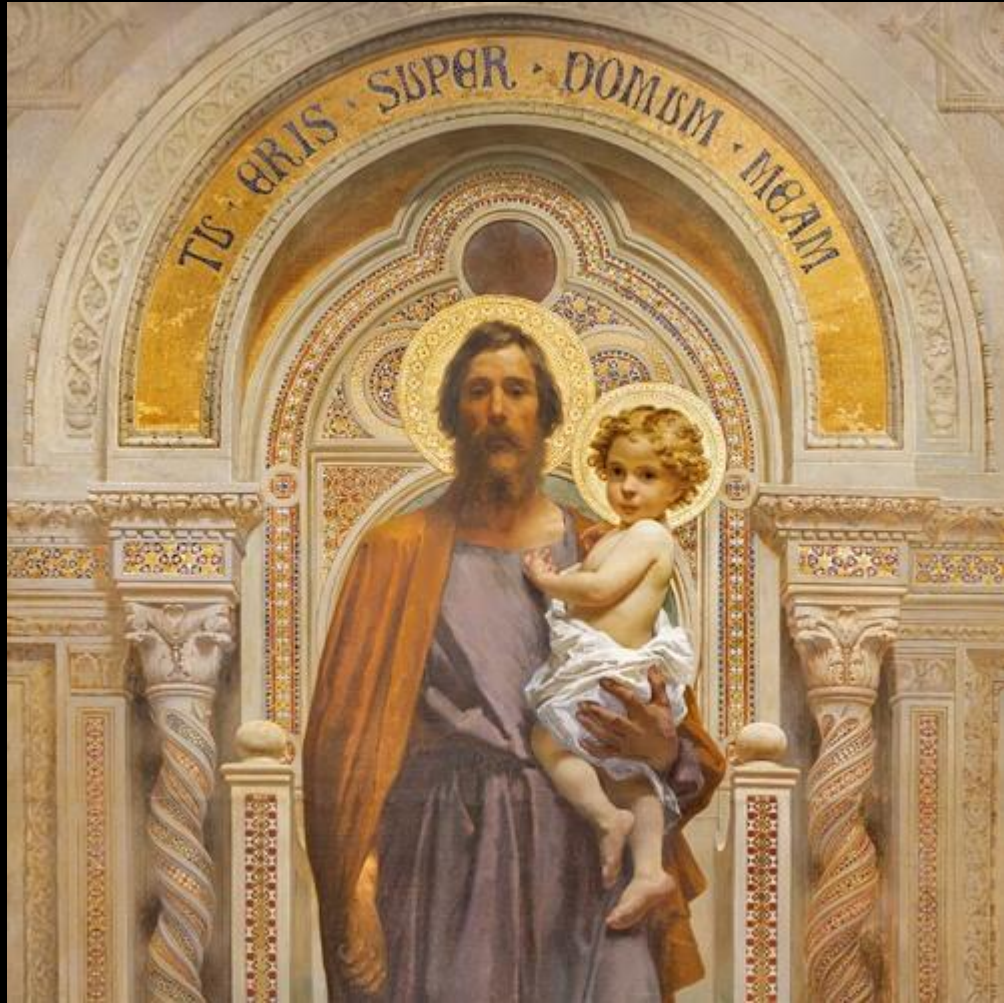
“Thanks to the unity of God's plan, not only the text of Scripture but also the realities and events about which it speaks can be signs”



Joseph the Patriarch (from Genesis 37-50)



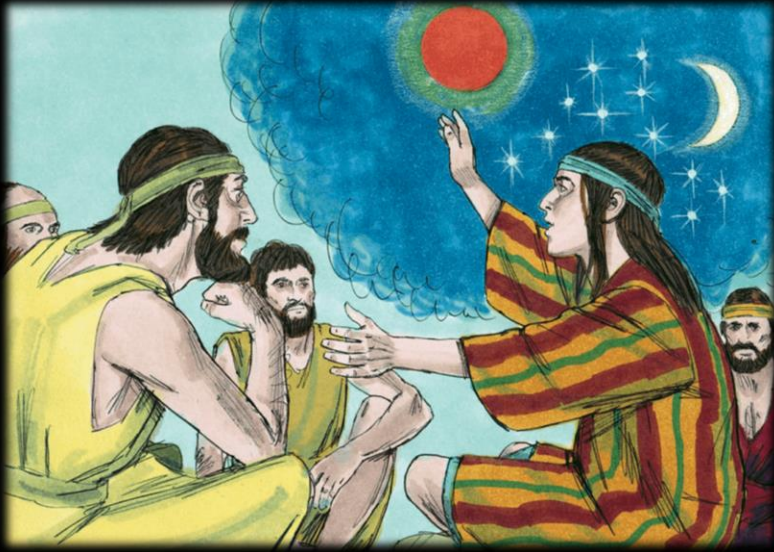
- Dreamer – Sun, moon, stars
- Steward of the household
- Provider
- Deliverance of Israel into Egypt
- Model of purity



Title:
St. Joseph,
Light of
Patriarchs



Prophet: proclaim God's word



Joseph the Patriarch:
*Dreams and interpretation of
dreams to save his family and the
world.*

St. Joseph:
*Three dreams to save his family
and the world.*

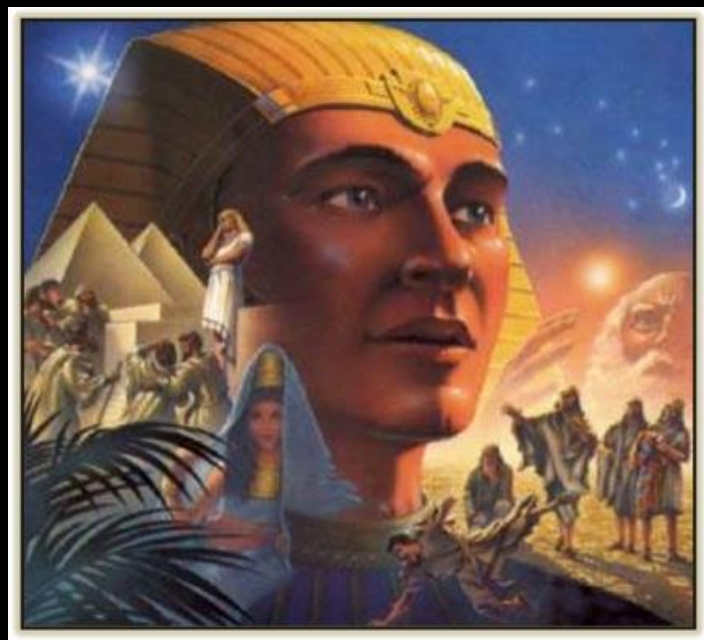


Lessons from 'the Josephs' as prophet

- Saving your family IS saving the world
- Faith in God's word even though all evidence seems to be to the contrary
- Faithfulness despite great adversity
- It may take a while, but speaking God's truth to your family will not be without its effect in God's time

King: govern, provide, order

"Go to Joseph" – Gen. 41:55



Joseph the Patriarch:
*Stored up and
dispensed provisions
to save the world
from famine*

St. Joseph: *provided security and
presence. Made tough decisions to
protect his family. Put self aside.*



Lessons from 'the Josephs' as king

- A good provider doesn't always make a lot of money
- Joseph's very name means "God will give increase"
- We model God to our children whether we like it or not. The way we do that can be very ordinary.
- We also have to take responsibility to put God first in our family

Priest: worship



Joseph the Patriarch:
*“the Lord was with
him”*

St. Joseph: *the light of the Christ
Child in the everyday. Taking his
family to the temple.*



Lessons from 'the Josephs' as priest

- We encounter God in the midst of the everyday of our family
- We must take responsibility for family prayer and bringing our family to Mass and the sacraments



“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.” – Hebrews 12:1-2

St. Joseph and us: priest, prophet, and king



YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH
December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

Extended through May 1, 2022!

Entrustment Prayer to St. Joseph

Dearest St. Joseph, to whom God entrusted the protection of his only Son Jesus Christ and gave as loving spouse to his Mother, Mary ever-virgin, I come to you today as my spiritual father. I entrust myself to you, asking that you may always be to me a father, protector, and guide in the way of salvation.

Entrustment Prayer to St. Joseph

Through your example, may I ever see the face of Christ in my family, friends, and everyone that God brings into my life. Guide me in purity of heart and in compassion and charity for others. Bless my work so it may help build up the kingdom of God. Help me to be a good steward of all that has been entrusted to me

Entrustment Prayer to St. Joseph

and grant me the gifts of humility and service, so I may grow closer to God and provide an example to others. Then when my time on earth is fulfilled, may I depart this life in the loving arms of Jesus and Mary and praise God together with you forever in eternity. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.



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