

Celebrating The Year of Saint Joseph



Prayer for Mothers in the Year of Saint Joseph

God of eternal peace and hope, we praise and thank You for the gift of all those who show us a mother's love. You give us life through them and through them, we see You, we embrace You, we hear Your voice.

We give thanks for Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. She was a mother so gracious and a woman of example in motherhood for all of us. She and Joseph, patron and guide of our Church, built a house, not just of stone or wood or shelter, but one of heart, courage, and strength to welcome the Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of Saint Joseph and your Blessed Mother, we pray for all mothers this day, that the beautiful journey they have accepted to care for and nurture life from God may lead them to witness the beauty of life as it grows and matures.

May they rejoice as we give thanks for all the pain, suffering and sacrifice they endure in raising their children; for the surrender of their time, pleasures and interest, as they build homes and lives of contentment, homes and lives built on your love.

Bless them, keep them, and strengthen them for the work they have done, the work You are calling them to do, Through Christ Our Lord.

How can I celebrate this month in my community?

- Congratulate and recognize recipients of the Diocesan Saint Joseph the Worker Award at Mass or another celebration.
- Offer the prayer of blessing (above) on Mother's Day.
- Highlight service opportunities and projects in and around your parish (see page two for some ideas). Perhaps begin a week of service.
- Pray the Rosary for expectant mothers and fathers.
- Pray for all workers and the unemployed.
- Reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost and pray how you might put your gifts and talents to work in service of the Church.
- Write a letter or card of thanks to a civil servant, volunteer, or other community leader.

Monthly Theme

*Model of
Workers
and Service*

*May 1
Blessing the Tools of
your Trade
at St. Martin —
1140 Abbott Rd,
12-1pm
(back parking lot)*

*Memorial of Saint
Joseph the Worker
Blessing of Children
in the Womb,
Saint Joseph
Cathedral, 4:30 pm*

*May 2
Saint Joseph the
Worker Award, Saint
Joseph Cathedral*

*May 9
Mother's Day*

*May 23
Pentecost*

May 2021

www.buffalodiocese.org/year-of-st-joseph

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Monthly Theme *Model of Workers and Service*

Service Ideas for All Ages!



- Collect non-perishable food (have a list of needed items) and then donate it to the local school district or food pantry who may be able to distribute it to children in need, especially for the weekend. (Have younger children decorate collection receptacles with images of Saint Joseph.)
- Donate an hour or two of time to sort food or put together 2-day meal kits. (e.g. a box of macaroni & cheese, fruit cups, individual cups of peanut butter, individual oatmeal packets, snacks, juice drink boxes etc.)
- Have a separate collection of health care items, brushes/combs, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, mouthwash, washcloth, soap, and women's health care items. Assemble a health care bag. These can be given to shelters for the homeless, or rescue missions. Include a prayer card with Saint Joseph's image.
- In the spirit of Saint Joseph the Worker, identify needs around your parish that could be done by a family or group of youth. (Spring cleaning outside for the homebound or elderly, sharing a meal with a neighbor, cleaning the church.)
- Schools and Faith Formation groups at any grade level could make thank you cards for first responders, hospital workers, garbage collectors, police, fire depts. (They sign only their first name.)
- Adopt a local fire station, police precinct, or hospital and drop off care packages or treats. Have children and families (after a Mass) take a lunch bag and decorate it and place treats in them.
- **When carrying out service, be sure to include prayer to St. Joseph the Worker before and after. Reflect on the impact the work may have in the future, on your life and the lives of others.**
- **Take pictures (with permission) or have youth shoot a video explaining these projects; send them to the Diocese (comm@buffalodiocese.org) or #JosephWorks #BuffaloJoe Then they can be shared to spark other ideas in all sorts of places!**

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