

Celebrating The Year of Saint Joseph



Monthly Theme

Model of Vocations

August 3
Memorial of St John
Vianney

August 6
Feast of the
Transfiguration

August 11
Memorial of St Clare

August 14
Memorial of St.
Maximilian Kolbe

August 15
Solemnity of the
Assumption

August 20
Memorial of St
Bernard, Abbot

August 21
Memorial of Pope St.
Pius X

A Prayer for Vocations

O Great Saint Joseph, you were completely obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Obtain for me the grace to know the state of life that God in his providence has chosen for me. Since my happiness on earth, and perhaps even my final happiness in heaven, depends on this choice, let me not be deceived in making it. Obtain for me the light to know God's will, to carry it out faithfully, and to choose the vocation which will lead me to a happy eternity. Amen.

What can I do to encourage vocations in my family?

— *Identify the gifts of family members.* Through baptism each of us has received special gifts and talents. Reflect as a family on the gifts and talents of each person and how they can be used in service to the family and to the Church.

— *Tell Stories.* Recall times in your lives when a priest, deacon or religious showed kindness to you and helped make a positive difference. Talk about what these individuals mean to you and the service they offer to God's people.

— *Say "Thank you."* We all know that it feels good to be thanked. Say thanks to a priest, religious, deacon, or lay ecclesial minister. It is encouraging for them to feel that their generosity is being appreciated and the time they spend in service to the parish community is being recognized. Offering thanks also sheds a positive light on priests, religious, and service to the Church.

— *Perform Acts of Charity.* In the Gospels Jesus directs us to love our neighbor and he calls us to serve one another. Look into ways that your family can generously meet the needs of your neighbors. A charitable heart is a hallmark of holy vocations.

— *Pray.* Of all the ways we can work toward the increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and lay ecclesial ministry, prayer is undoubtedly the most essential. Make a commitment to pray for this intention everyday as a family, perhaps at mealtime. Also consider praying for a particular priest, religious, deacon, or pastoral minister in your parish.

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Monthly Theme *Model of Vocations*

Meet some of the seminarians studying for the Diocese of Buffalo. They study at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland. We asked them to reflect on how St. Joseph has served as a role model or inspiration as they pursue and discern a priestly vocation.



**Juan Sebastian
Aristizabal Arias**
*Pastoral Year,
Saint Mark Buffalo*

St. Joseph thought only of the good of Mary and of defending her against her possible accusers. He did not worry about himself, nor about the many difficulties of the journey to Egypt. From the little we know of St. Joseph, we can deduce that he was a person always at the service of others, quietly and silently. This is a great and difficult virtue to practice because we like to proclaim our good deeds.



Joseph Franz
Fourth Theology

St. Joseph's life wasn't about him or what he wanted, it was about being open to God and what God wanted, and St. Joseph acted on it. And he did so even in his own human brokenness! He let his actions speak for him, he led by example, and he sacrificed everything for the sake of the Kingdom. He truly lived an authentic human life by uniting his will with God's will – true human freedom! He was a true servant leader; the fruit of his vocation came from teaching, affirming and empowering others, through humility, and faith and trust in the Lord.

Kizito Teko-Agbo

In the age of Social media, it would seem paradoxical that one of the greatest saints of the Church has been named, but a few times in the Scriptures. St. Joseph's perfection in humility caused him to be almost hidden, although the greatest task in all of history was entrusted to him: to guard to Son of God. In this regards, I hope and pray to be, in the model of St. Joseph, silent and hidden in the midst of all that God has planned for me throughout my discernment.



C.J. Wild *First Theology*

When I was in middle school, it was brought to my attention that St. Joseph speaks no words in the Gospels. As I've grown deeper in my faith over these past several years, this silent spiritual father has underscored for me the beauty of saying "Yes" to the will of the Father. In his great emptying of self, he lived a life of tremendous charity—always putting Mary and Jesus before himself, just as a good father ought.



John Willett *Second Theology*

St. Joseph's faith and trust in God throughout his life serve as a model to me as a Christian and also as a seminarian. When I reflect on his trust and obedience in God when he took Mary as his wife and also when he led the Holy Family away from Herod and into Egypt, I am moved with wonder. Each of us can reflect on these instances in St. Joseph's life and ask God for help in imitating his faith and trust in God in our lives.

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