

March 19th, Feast of St. Joseph
By Fr. Glenn McDonald, CSB

On Tuesday, March 19th, the Church will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. I can't wait. For me, St. Joseph is a dependable friend I can call upon for help whenever I find myself in a tough spot. You might be asking yourself, "What is he like?"

In my experience, St. Joseph prefers not to speak with words. This should not surprise me. The Gospels do not contain a single spoken word of St. Joseph. When I ponder how much I talk or text in a single day, I find St. Joseph's silence so mysterious and impressive. He is like a friend who prefers to listen than speak, giving me the space I need to find my own answer while feeling supported.

St. Joseph rarely draws attention to himself, but when you look for him, you will find him quietly present. You will probably encounter his name associated with a church, a school, or another institution entrusted to his care, because he likes to create a place of safety and flourishing for others.

If you would like to experience his care personally, I invite you to ask for his help. His response will be gentle, just, and patient. Allow me to share with you this novena prayer, which begins Monday, March 10th. Say the prayer each day until March 18th, the day before his feast day.

St. Joseph Novena Prayer
March 10th - 18th

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.