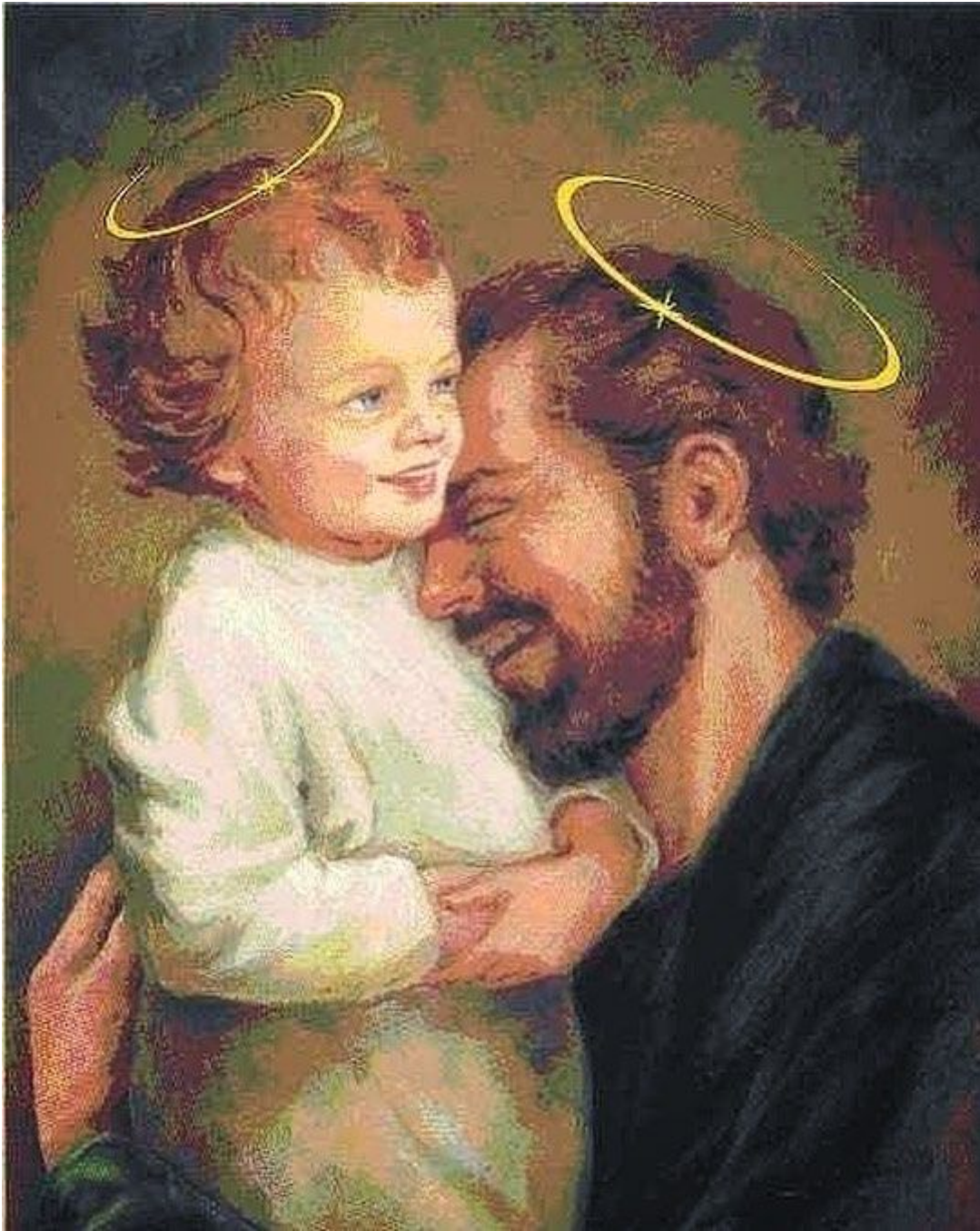




*Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents
Whose Children of Any Age Have Died by Any Cause,
No Matter How Long Ago*

**Your Emmaus Ministry
Remote Retreat Guide
June 26, 2021
9:30am EDT**



Saint Joseph *Second Only to Mary*

The Son of Mary is also Joseph's Son by virtue of the marriage bond that unites them: "By reason of their faithful marriage, both of them deserve to be called Christ's parents, not only his mother, but also his father, who was a parent in the same way that he was the mother's spouse:
in mind, not in the flesh."

"In this marriage none of the requisites of marriage were lacking: "In Christ's parents all the goods of marriage were realized-offspring, fidelity, the sacrament: the offspring being the Lord Jesus himself; fidelity, since there was no adultery: the sacrament, since there was no divorce."

--Pope John Paul II

Preparation:

Ahead of time, we recommend you find a quiet place in your home where you can immerse yourself in this retreat. Have your child's Emmaus Memorial Candle (or other candle) available along with a lighter or matches.

Take several deep breaths to cleanse your thoughts and open yourself to wherever the Holy Spirit is calling you today several minutes before the retreat is scheduled to begin.

At 9:30am EDT (our normal retreat beginning time) open your email and join other fellow Emmaus Parent Companions in getting away from the rest of the world, at least for a time, to focus on God and on your precious child.

CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER (Light your candle)

We begin... In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen

Lord, you are the Light of the World. *Help us feel your presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the gift of our children. *Help us feel their presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the hope of eternal life. *Help us confirm that hope in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us love. *Help us to know that, as much as we love our children, you love them even more.*

We ask you this through Christ, Our Lord
Amen.

OPENING SONG: [A Strange Way to Save the World](#)

Why Me? Why Her?

PRAYER OF THOSE MAKING A RETREAT

Loving Spirit of Wisdom,
Guide my thoughts and my memories.

In the light of your love,
May I see what is important for me to remember,
What is important for me to hold to my heart,
And what I need to simply let go of in peace.

I trust you to be my guide,
Even when the path seems unclear to me.

We pray this in the name of Your Son, the Healer,
Our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Scripture**Matthew 1: 18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit;

And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly.

But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit;

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us).

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife,
but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1: 18-25

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,
“Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is
about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt,

and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the
prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.”

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he
sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or
under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled,
because they were no more.”

The Word of the Lord.
Amen.

REFLECTION #1: [Saint Joseph: A Hidden Life](#) by James Martin, S.J.
Hidden From Others, But Known by God



Take a moment to pause... breathe... savor what you have received from the Reflection #1.

Clear your mind before focusing on Reflection #2.

REFLECTION #2: [Solemnity of Saint Joseph](#) by Fr. William Nicholas
Joseph Was Husband to Mary, “Dad” to Jesus, and Model of Submission to the Will of God

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

“Saint Joseph was a just man, he listened to God’s Word”

Loving God, You gave Saint Joseph, a man who trusted

his dreams and followed Your word, the great
joy of joining Mary in caring for the child, Jesus.
In him You have given us a model of humility,
faithfulness, and justice.

Through his intercession, grant us the grace
to nurture the life of Christ in our lives.
By the help of his prayers and the example
of his life, may we continue to faithfully
serve You and do Your holy will.

Help us to support and serve one another in
truth and in love, and so bring blessing to
our homes, to family life, to our
Church, our Country, and our world.

Saint Joseph trusted his dreams and followed
Your word and so with faith we ask...
(mention your personal intentions)
We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives
and who loves with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
AMEN

Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family,
pray for us.

Bro John Maganzini, OFM

CLOSING SONG: [JOSEPH'S SONG](#) by Michael Card
How Could It Be?

CLOSING BLESSING

Let us end our time of retreat...united with Brother John Maganzini, OFM and the Franciscan Friars
at Saint Anthony Shrine in Boston, MA by blessing one another.

Just as St. Joseph offered comfort and strength to Jesus and Mary, he consoles us today with this
blessing:

Raise your right hand and, together, let us receive this blessing of St. Joseph...

May the poverty of my sweet and suffering little child be your riches,

His sighs and his tears the consolation of your broken hearts,

The love of his adorable heart your earthly treasure, your true source of peace and comfort.

And may the clear vision of his glorified humanity be your eternal joy and certain hope.

We ask this in the name of the Father
And of the Son
And of the Holy Spirit
Amen



FOR FURTHER REFLECTION...

[A Miracle in Santa Fe, NM: Saint Joseph and the Spiral Staircase](#)

[On the Person and Mission of Saint Joseph in the Life of Christ and of the Church](#) by Pope Saint John Paul II (Lengthy but thought-provoking and interesting)



[A IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR SATURDAY MORNING REMOTE REREAT PARTICIPANTS...](#)

COMING SOON! **IN-PERSON** **EMMAUS MINISTRY** **RETREATS**

You will receive a new email next Friday.
Please join your fellow
Emmaus Parent Companions
again next Saturday at 9:30am EDT

Until then, may God bless you and keep you.
Sending many warm, virtual hugs

For past Remote Retreats, see [here](#).



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