



ADVENT  
MEDITATIONS  
With Joseph

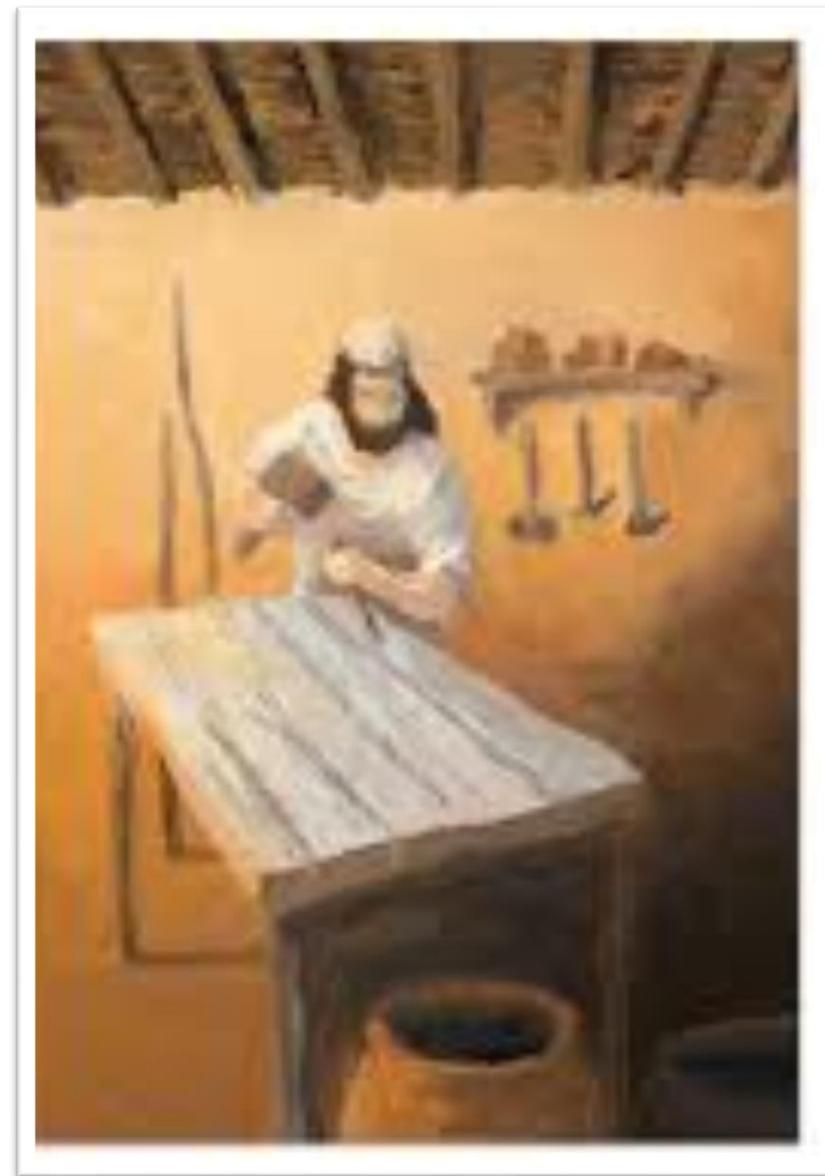
Week Three

Hello ...  
and welcome to our  
ADVENT MEDITATIONS WITH JOSEPH ...  
Week THREE.

It is our hope that this presentation and  
all the others for the weeks of Advent  
will allow you to come to know our  
Patron Joseph more fully.

The VIDEO and the excerpts from the  
Guide that are a part of this presentation  
are from the REJOICE series  
published by Ascension Press.

In a spirit of prayer, we begin.



By Fr. Mark Toups

Ascension Press

## INTRODUCTORY RITE

In the name of the Father ...

Come, let us worship Christ the Lord,

who was honored to be known as the carpenter's son.

**May our prayer enable us  
to see through Joseph's eyes and  
feel with Joseph's heart**

**so that we can be prepared to welcome Jesus  
this Christmas.**

# PSALM 62

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My soul rests in God alone,  
from whom comes my salvation.

God alone is my rock and salvation, my fortress;  
I shall never fall.

My deliverance and honor are with God, my strong rock;  
my refuge is with God.

Trust God at all times, all people!  
Pour out your hearts to God, our refuge!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

PSALM 62  
*Rest in God*

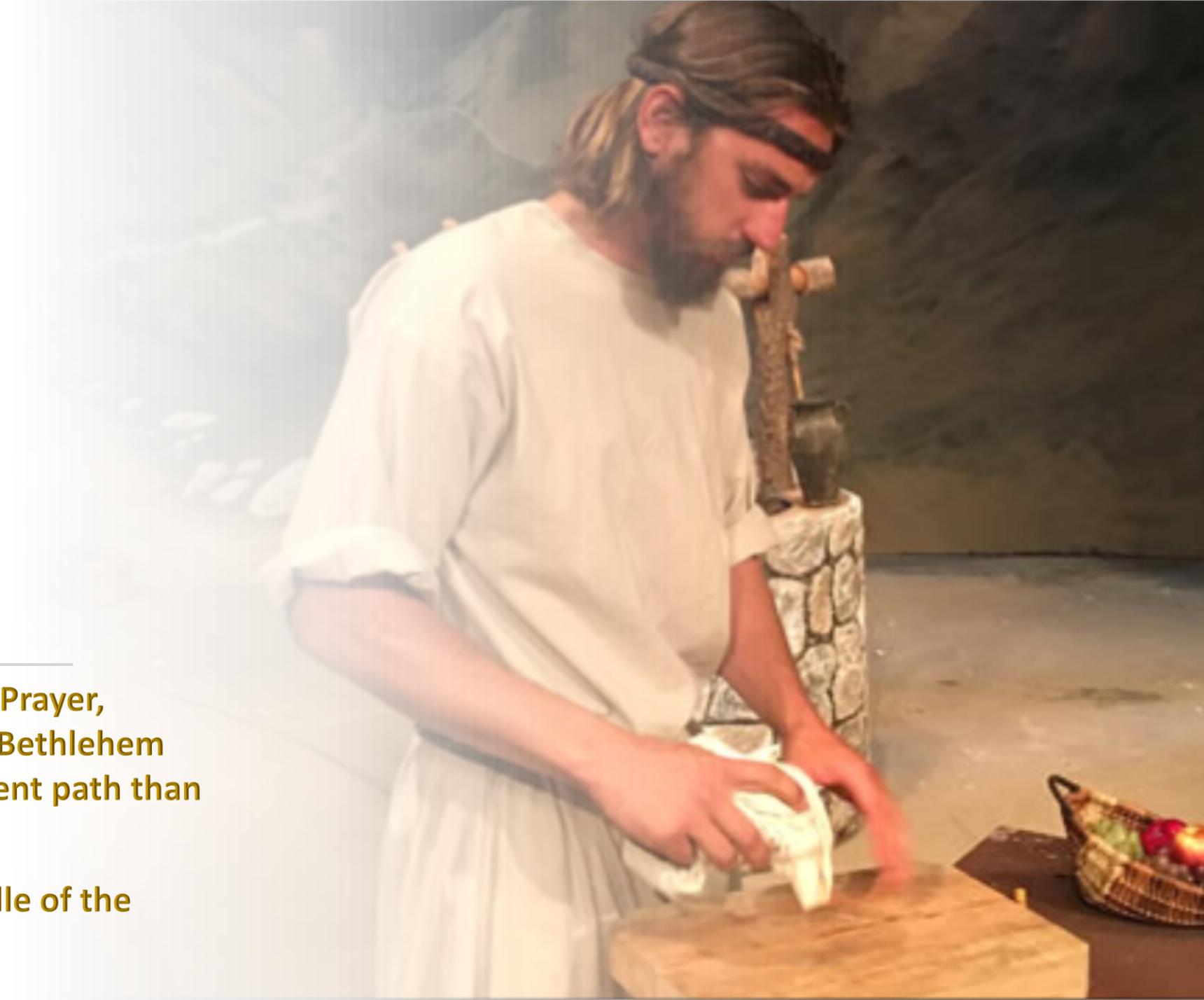


Joseph was a man  
chosen by God  
for one of the most  
important tasks  
in the history of the  
world.

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During this Third Week of Advent Prayer,  
we reflect on how the Journey to Bethlehem  
put Joseph on a completely different path than  
he had planned.

It placed him squarely in the middle of the  
greatest story ever told.



## JOSEPH KNEW THE WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY.

*He was responsible for the provisions of the journey:  
the money to pay for the journey, the taxes, the lodgings they would need.*

*But more than that, he was entrusted with a sacred mission.*

*He was entrusted with that which belonged to God.*

*He was responsible for listening to God ...  
and God was responsible for everything else!*

**In the stillness of prayer, I ask myself:**

For what do I feel responsible?

Do I entrust everything for which I am responsible  
to God?

**RESPONSIBILITY**

## JOSEPH CELEBRATED THE ORDINARY.

*As Mary and Joseph walked to Bethlehem,  
they were aware that their journey was ordinary:*

*ordinary conversations ...*

*ordinary silence ... and*

*ordinary aches and pains.*

*Both of them found God in the ordinary.*

**In the stillness of prayer, I ask myself:**

How do I handle the ordinary?

Do I ask God to be present in my ordinary circumstances of life?

Do I recognize that by the very presence of God in my life,  
every moment is extraordinary?

The  
**Ordinary**

## JOSEPH TREASURED THE VALUE OF SILENCE.

*The 90-mile journey to Bethlehem was filled with silence.*

*In those moments, instead of panicking because God was silent, Joseph was attentive to the subtle movements of his heart, relating to God all that stirred within him.*

### **In the stillness of prayer, I ask myself:**

How do I handle silence when it gets too “loud?”

Do I remember that silence allows issues embedded deep within my heart to rise?



*silence*

**JOSEPH WAS PRESENT TO THE PRESENT.**

*He was attentive to Mary's every need on the arduous journey through the rough terrain.*

*He set a pace that honored Mary's pregnant condition.*

*Unlike the other pilgrims on the road,  
he was aware that he was in the presence of  
the most treasured gift in all of history.*

**In the stillness of prayer, I ask myself:**

Do I live in the present moment?

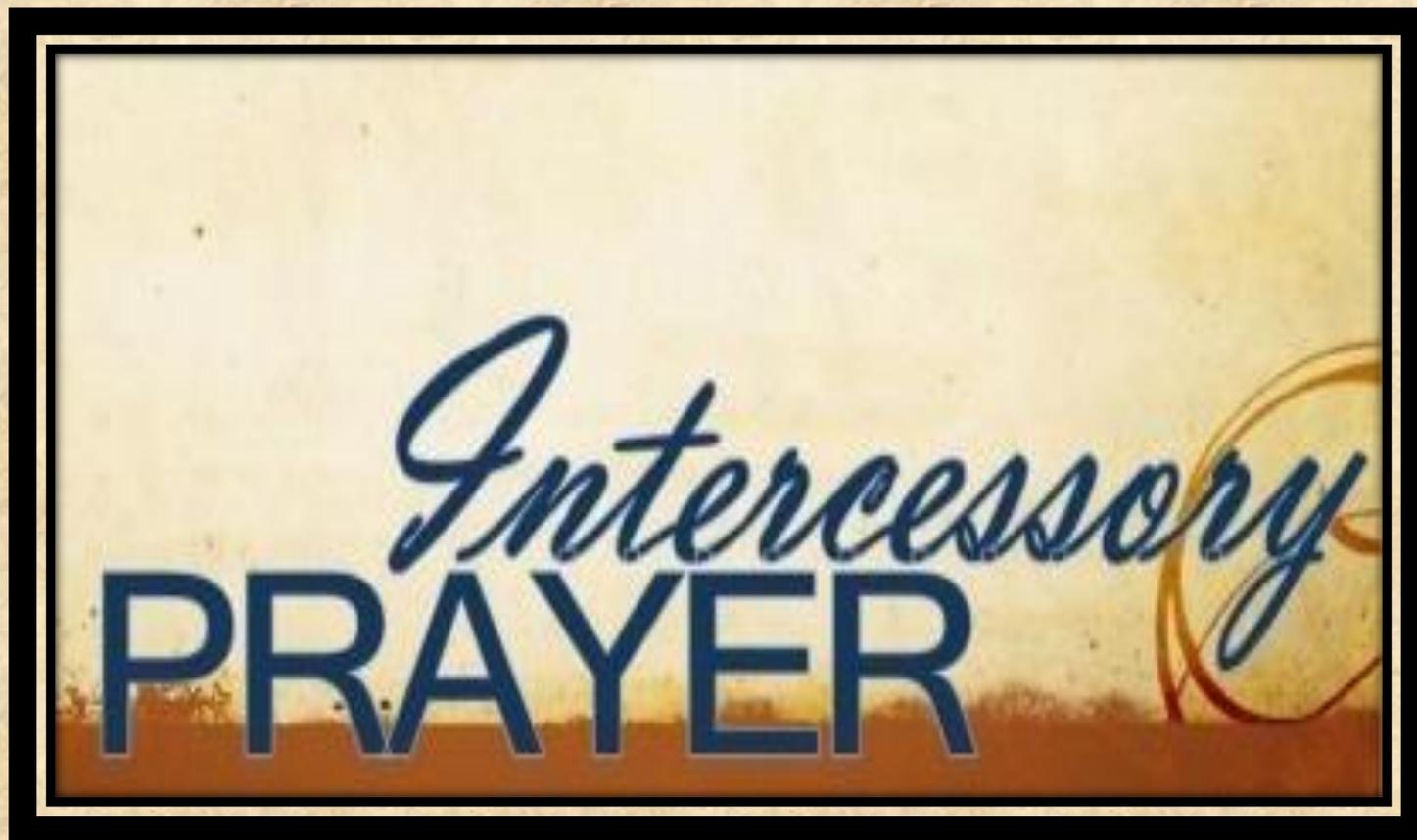
What prevents me from living in the present moment?

What intentional choices do I have to make in order to live in the present moment?

**PRESENT**

# VIDEO PRESENTATION

ADVENT MEDITATIONS WITH JOSEPH  
WEEK THREE



**Our God is present to those who walk the way of faith.**

**We now offer our prayers to God through the intercession of Joseph:**

On our Journey of Faith,  
we pray for Christians throughout the world:

- + may our words and actions  
declare God's all-embracing love  
for "the dear neighbor",



For this we pray:

**JESUS, SON OF JOSEPH,  
HEAR US.**

On our Journey of Faith,  
we pray for the leaders and members  
of religious congregations  
of Sisters of St. Joseph everywhere:

- + may they model Joseph's loving service  
as they minister to those in need  
of healing and peace.



For this we pray:

**JESUS, SON OF JOSEPH,  
HEAR US.**

On our Journey of Faith,  
we pray for future generations:

- + may God inspire in them  
a desire to continue Christ's mission of  
unifying love.



For this we pray:

**JESUS, SON OF JOSEPH,  
HEAR US.**

On our Journey of Faith,  
we pray for those whose lives are burdened  
and whose needs are many,  
especially those served by our ministries:

+ may they know the care and comfort of God  
through the loving response of  
our Sisters, Associates, and Agrégées.



For this we pray:

**JESUS, SON OF JOSEPH,  
HEAR US.**

**Let us pray:**

**O God, Joseph's story tells us that our willingness to take the journey of faith will require something of us, perhaps more than we thought we were capable of.**

**But it also tells us that as we say YES to the walk of faith, we too can find our place in the greatest story ever told—the story of God's purposes lived out in and through our simple existence.**

**Be with us on our journey and give us the graces we need to traverse the terrains of our lives.**

**We ask this through the intercession of Joseph, the Patron of this Congregation, Mary, the Model of faithful disciples, and Jesus, our Savior ... in whose name we pray. Amen.**





**As Joseph and Mary taught their son Jesus to pray,  
so we now join our voices with those  
on the Journey of Faith with us, and say:**

**OUR FATHER ...**

Ever-living God,  
you entrusted your Son Jesus  
to the care of Joseph, our Patron.

In his spirit of gentleness, peace, and joy,  
may we serve those whom you place  
in our care.

We offer this prayer  
in the name of Jesus  
who lives with you and the Spirit ...  
now and for all time.

Amen.



# Blessings

**I pray that the God in whom I place all my trust will bless my days with peace.**

**And may my time of prayer prepare me more worthily for Christ's coming.**



Thank you for joining us for this Reflection for the Third Week of Advent.

It is our hope that your week will be wrapped in prayer  
and abundant in blessings.