



ADVENT
MEDITATIONS
With Joseph

Week Four

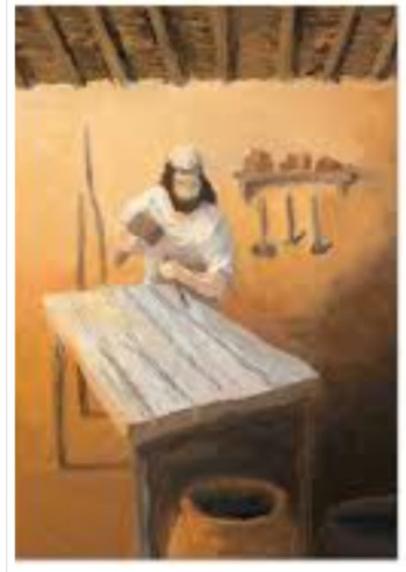
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Hello ...
and welcome to our
ADVENT MEDITATIONS WITH JOSEPH ...
Week FOUR.

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

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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.**

3

PSALM 113

Servants of God, praise the name of the LORD.
 Bless the name of God now and always.

The LORD towers above nations;
 God's glory shines over the heavens.
 Who compares to our God? Who is enthroned so high?

The LORD bends down to see heaven and earth,
 to raise the weak from the dust and lift the poor from the mire,
 to seat them with princes in the company of their leaders.

He came in splendor, the King who is our peace;
 the whole world longs to see him.

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.



4

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

During this Fourth Week of Advent Prayer,
we will be with Joseph and Mary
in a hillside cave of Bethlehem
as we await the Savior of the world.



5

JOSEPH KNEW DISCOURAGEMENT

Imagine being hand-picked by God, chosen to protect Mary and the vulnerable child in her womb.

But now imagine how discouraging it must have been for Joseph to hear the voice of NO when all he desperately wanted to hear was a single YES.

It was at the hour when he felt most fragile that Joseph felt most discouraged. His dependence on God is what tempered his disappointment and gave him hope.

Discouragement is a part of every life.

Discouragement

**When I am discouraged,
do I rely on my relationship with God
for strength and hope?**

6

JOSEPH KNEW POWERLESSNESS

With each step closer to Bethlehem, Joseph faced so many unknowns.

Where would they stay?

Would they arrive in time for Mary's delivery?

Joseph was trying to find a place for them to stay, but more importantly, he was trying to find a voice ... the voice of God.

powerlessness

When I am feeling powerless,
do I place myself
in a position of quiet and stillness
so that I can hear God speaking?

7

JOSEPH KNEW CHANGE.

God re-routed Joseph's life and placed him on a new path. Joseph soon realized that once Mary gave birth to the Christ Child, their lives would never be the same!

More than ever, Joseph's dependence on God and his love for Mary moved him forward into the unknown.

Even with all that was going on within Joseph, he was anchored in his relationship with the One who is unchanging.

Our lives rarely meet our expectations
or look like what we envisioned.

Do I bring to the LORD whatever may be different
from my expectations?

CHANGE

8

JOSEPH KNEW UNCERTAINTY.

Neither Mary nor Joseph fully understood the particular details of how the future would unfold.

They didn't have the answers to so many puzzling questions.

But both of them intentionally acknowledged all that was in their hearts and their dependency on God.

Uncertainty often makes us feel out of control.

Uncertainty

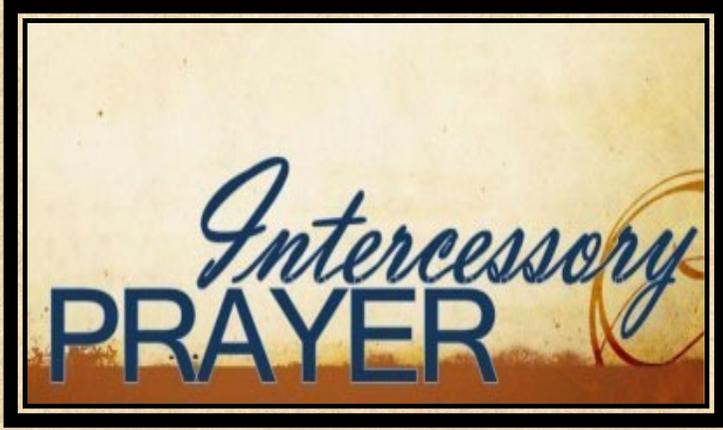
Can I let go of some of my anxiety and rely more intentionally on God?

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VIDEO PRESENTATION

ADVENT MEDITATIONS WITH JOSEPH
WEEK THREE

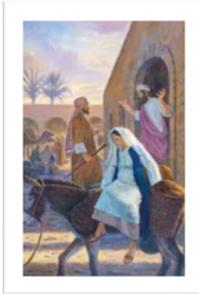
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**Our God is present to those who await the Gift of Love.
We now offer our prayers to God through the intercession of Joseph:**

11

In this Advent of Expectation,
we ask that you draw us together in service,
that the path we follow might lead us
from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.

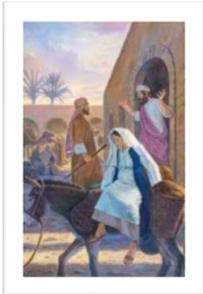


For this we pray:

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

12

In this Advent of Expectation,
we pray that Love will be born in all who wait
and in all who call on God's name.

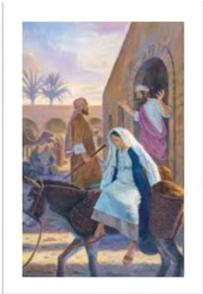


For this we pray:

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

13

In this Advent of Expectation,
help us to trust that when our hearts are heavy
and the destination seems so distant
we may know you as Emmanuel - - -
God with us..

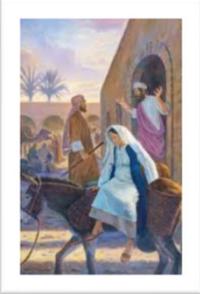


For this we pray:

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

14

In this Advent of Expectation,
we pray for those who
inspire and support us
as Joseph companioned Mary.



For this we pray:

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

15

In this Advent of Expectation,
may the homeless, the immigrants, and the refugees
know the presence and peace of God:
God-with-us.

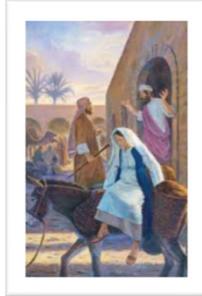


For this we pray:

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

16

In this Advent of Expectation,
we pray that those who have died
and those who grieve
will be enfolded in the love of God.



For this we pray:

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

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Let us pray:

**God of Great Love,
Your son, Jesus, was nurtured by St. Joseph.**

**May we look to Joseph as our model
of justice, gentleness, and humility.**

**May we, with Joseph, nurture the life of Christ
in our lives and in the lives of others,
uniting all people and all creation
with God and with one another.**

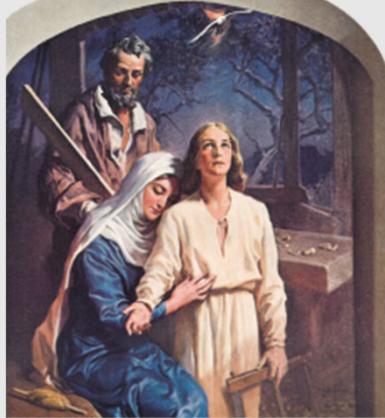
**May Joseph's life inspire us
to be a hopeful, healing presence within our world.**

Amen.



By Joanne Gallagher, CSJ. © 1999

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As Joseph and Mary taught their son Jesus to pray,
so we now join our voices
with those who await God's Gift of Love

OUR FATHER ...

19

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.



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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.

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

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

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