

**St. Joseph,
the Foster Father of Jesus Christ
and Patron Saint
in the New Covenant of the Universal Church**

St. Joseph was the first father ever to be challenged with accepting and understanding the universal church (meaning the Body of Christ both in heaven and on earth). He did this without any knowledge of what the New Covenant was to reveal. In the face of adversity, St. Joseph selflessly composed himself in a spirit of humility. With unwavering faith, he answered his call to action within the Holy Family.

We can all grow in our understanding of the New Covenant by learning from the example of St. Joseph, who employed his free will by trusting and following the will of God. St. Joseph shows all fathers how to be selfless. Through his example, we can make the hard choices required to hand on all that is known and shared through the New Covenant and the sacraments as the foundation of faith. We are accountable to God to lead our families. If we do this well, with intent and perseverance, like St. Joseph, then we can take our rightful place at the table of God as good and worthy servants.

This prayer to St. Joseph can help all spiritual and biological fathers, through the inevitable adversity they will face, as they work to preserve the sanctity of the family.

Prayer to Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church ⁹

O Glorious Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, I implore thee to obtain from the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, the preservation of our remnant Catholic Community and all its members, from all division, dissension, and discord.

Do thou, faithful Guardian of the Holy Family, grant that our spiritual family, all the members of our remnant Catholic Community, shall ever be united in the Bonds of Faith and Charity, and shall remain always of One Heart, Mind and Soul in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Saint Joseph, special Protector of our Community, do thou guide, bless, and protect us against the attacks, of all our enemies and detractors. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let's re-read and focus on one line from the prayer: "from all division, dissension, and discord." If you believe in Jesus Christ, you are my brother in the Universal Church, and nothing divides us from this truth. No one who believes in Jesus Christ is excluded. Wherever we are, on our spiritual paths, we are all called to treat each other with unconditional love and respect. We are all God's children, diverse and unique in our own ways, but sharing a common journey toward our eternal home and a seat at our Father's table. Faith always leads to love.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Fraternity of St. Joseph Men's Group