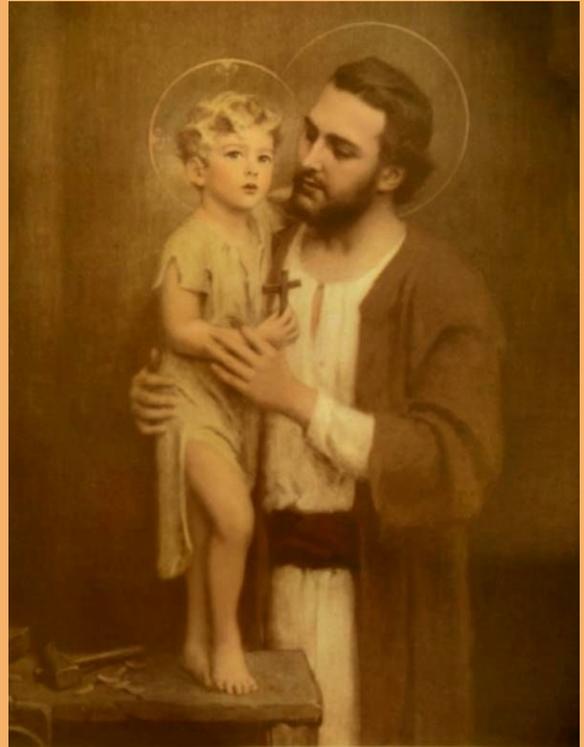


Third Day

St. Joseph, Worker of Nazareth



Antiphon

Joseph accepts the work of a carpenter and teaches Jesus human labor.

Reading: Mt 13: 54-58

“Is he not the carpenter’s son?”

Reflection:

“Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.” (Lk 2:52). Saint Joseph guided and protected the Child Jesus during his human development. He introduced him into the knowledge of the religious and social customs of the Jewish people and to his trade as a carpenter. With so many years of practice he had come to know the trade well and had become an expert. As St. Joseph taught Jesus the value of human labor, this divine child would work right at his side, listening and observing so he could learn to handle the tools of a carpenter with ease and follow the example of his dedicated foster father. This is a great lesson: if the Son of God willed to learn a human trade from a man, it was in order to show us the beauty of work with its specific moral value and precise meaning for man and his self-development. Through his work, man not only transforms his nature, adapting to its own needs, but he develops himself as man, and in a deeper sense, he makes himself “more human”. Saint Joseph knew his mission in life well. He transmitted to the Child Jesus, who grew at his side, the meaning of joyful and generous giving which he came to understand with each day’s toils. (John Paul II in his homily in Termoli, 3-19-83)

Invocations:

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
I give you my heart and my soul!
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Assist me in my last agony!
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
May I breathe forth my soul
In peace with you.*

Or

*Saint Joseph, protect and defend
Our Institute.
Saint Joseph, help to increase the
Number of vocations to our Congregation.
Saint Joseph, console the sick and
dying.*

Prayer

O Lord, we ask you through the intercession of Saint Joseph, for the grace to enter more deeply into the mystery of Nazareth. May the true family spirit of love, prayer and contemplation, of silence and work flourish in our Congregation and all of our communities. May the charism of our Mother Foundress be enkindled within our hearts. We ask you this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.