

March 8, 2022

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** is the feast of **St. Joseph**, however, the whole month of **March** is dedicated to **Joseph**, the **patron saint** of the **Universal Church**, **families**, **fathers**, **expectant mothers**, **travelers**, **immigrants**, **house sellers and buyers**, **craftsmen**, **engineers and working people**, as well as **advocate** of the **sick** and the **dying**. Quite a list!



Joseph is also **patron** of a **happy death**. Perhaps, because Mary and Jesus were present when he was dying. There is a special prayer that many of us say to St. Joseph for the grace of a **happy death**. I pray it each day and often for **all** those who are **dying** from **Covid**.

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 **die** in peace in your holy company. Amen.

Why not include it in your night prayers.

It important to understand the **true meaning** of the words “**a happy death**”, even though the dying person may be experiencing **great pain** from health issues as well as **fear** and **anxiety** over the unknown. The term “**happy**,” in this context, **does not** imply the emotion of being glad, or even cheerful. Rather, it signifies **being peaceful**, full of Faith and Hope in **Jesus Christ**, which carries with it a certain **joy**. Since all of us will eventually face **death**, why not invoke St. Joseph, each day, for the grace of a peaceful, happy death.

St. Teresa of Avila had a great devotion to St. Joseph. She tells us that St. Joseph is a **great intercessor** because God has given him **power** to help us in **all things** and because he was given the title of **father** and guardian of Jesus and could command him — so now Our Lord in heaven grants **all** his petitions!

“His great help is even more than asked for or expected,” Teresa explained: “I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any time for anything which he has **not granted**; and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favors which God hath given me through this blessed saint, the dangers from which he hath delivered me, both of body and of soul.”

St. Joseph, pray for us.