



Prayers for a Happy Death  
And for the Dying

## THE REASONS ST. JOSEPH IS THE PATRON OF THE DYING

There are three reasons why St. Joseph is the special patron of the dying:

- 1) He is the foster father of the Eternal Judge, Who can refuse him no request.
- 2) He is terrible to the demons; the Church calls him the Terror of demons and Conqueror of Hell.
- 3) His own death was most beautiful, for he died in the arms of Jesus and Mary; this is the principal reason why he is the patron of a happy death; the death of no other Saint was so happy, so glorious.

St. Francis de Sales was of the opinion that St. Joseph died in the love of God; St. Alphonsus considered this most reasonable.

## PRAYER FOR A HAPPY DEATH

O Glorious St. Joseph, behold I choose thee today for my special patron in life and at the hour of my death. Preserve and increase in me the spirit of prayer and fervour in the service of God.

Remove far from me every kind of sin; obtain for me that my death may not come upon me unawares, but that I may have time to confess my sins sacramentally and to bewail them with a most perfect understanding and a most sincere and perfect contrition, in order that I may breathe forth my soul into the hands of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

O Jesus, I place all my trust in Thy bitter Passion!  
O Jesus, in Thy Sacred Wounds I hide myself!  
O Jesus, I enclose myself in Thy Sacred Heart!

Holy Mary, Mother of God, assist me!  
Holy Mary, protect me from the evil spirit!  
Holy Mary, turn thine eyes of mercy upon me!  
O Mary, Mother of mercy, obtain grace for me from thy dear Son!  
Come to my aid, O Mary, in this my anguish and need!  
O Mary, enclose me in thy virginal Heart!  
O Mary, commend me to thy Son, present me to thy Son, reconcile me with thy Son!

St. Joseph, obtain for me grace and mercy!  
St. Joseph, assist me in my struggle against the enemy of my salvation!  
St. Joseph, to thee do I entrust my soul: do thou save it for me!  
St. Joseph, remember me, and obtain mercy for me!

O holy Guardian Angel, do not abandon me,  
but combat for me and preserve me from the evil one!  
My dear Patron Saints, pray for me!

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
into Thy hands I commend my spirit!

ST. JOSEPH,  
ADVOCATE OF THE DYING AND THE SINNER,  
PRAY FOR US WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO THEE.

and even as of old, thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the peril of His life, so now defend God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity.

Shield us ever under thy patronage, that, imitating thy example and strengthened by thy help, we may live a holy life, die a happy death, and attain everlasting bliss in Heaven. Amen.

### ASPIRATIONS FOR THE DYING

*{From The Purgatorian Manual of the Purgatorian Society.} The Indulgence is a partial one.*

[To be pronounced in the presence of a dying person]

O God, be gracious to me;  
O God, have mercy on me;  
O God, forgive me my sins!  
O God the Father, have mercy on me;  
O Jesus, be gracious to me;  
O Holy Spirit, strengthen me!  
O God the Father, do not reject me;  
O Jesus, do not abandon me;  
O God the Holy Spirit, do not forsake me!  
O my God, into Thy hands I commend my spirit;  
O Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!  
O Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on me!  
O Jesus, I believe in Thee;  
O Jesus I hope in Thee;  
O Jesus, I love Thee!

### ANOTHER PRAYER FOR A HAPPY DEATH

O BLESSED ST. JOSEPH, who yielded up thy last breath in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me this grace, O holy Joseph, that I may breathe forth my soul in praise, saying in spirit, if I am unable to do so in words: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give Thee my heart and my soul."

Amen.

### A SHORT PRAYER FOR THE DYING

*The Special Prayer of the Pious Union of St. Joseph*

O St. JOSEPH, foster father of the Child Jesus and true spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us and for the dying of this day (or this night). Amen.

### PRAYER FOR THE AGONIZING

O St. JOSEPH, protector of those in agony, take pity on those who, at this very moment when I pray to thee, are engaged in their last combat.

O blessed St. Joseph, take pity on my soul too when the hour of the final battle shall arrive for me. Then, O my holy patron, do not abandon me, but grant me thine assistance; show that thou art my good father, and obtain that my Divine Saviour may receive me with mercy into that abode where the elect enjoy a life that shall never end. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SOULS IN THE  
AGONY OF DEATH

ETERNAL Father, by the love Thou bearest toward St. Joseph, who was chosen by Thee from among all men to exercise Thy divine fatherhood over Thy Son made Man, have mercy on us and upon all poor souls who are in their last agony.

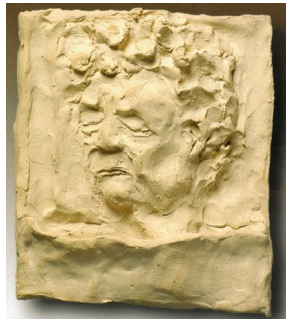
Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory Be . . .

ETERNAL Son of God, by the love Thou bearest toward St. Joseph, who was Thy most faithful guardian upon earth, have mercy on us and upon all poor souls who are in their last agony.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory Be . . .

ETERNAL Spirit of God, by the love Thou bearest toward St. Joseph, who guarded with such tender care most holy Mary, Thy beloved spouse, have mercy on us and upon all poor souls who are in their last agony.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory Be . . .



JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

JESUS, Mary and Joseph;

I give Thee 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 thee.

INDULGENCED PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

*To be said especially after praying the Rosary  
{from 'Favourite Prayers to St. Joseph' TAN books}*

To thee, O blessed St. Joseph, we have recourse in our affliction, and having implored the help of thy thrice holy Spouse, we now, with hearts filled with confidence, earnestly beg thee also to take us under thy protection. By that charity, wherewith thou were united to the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God, and by that fatherly love, with which thou didst cherish the Child Jesus, we beseech thee and we humbly pray that thou wilt look down with gracious eyes upon that inheritance which Jesus Christ purchased by His Blood, and wilt succour us in our need by thy power and strength.

Defend, O most watchful guardian of the Holy family, the chosen offspring of Jesus Christ. Keep from us, O most loving Father, all blight of error and corruption. Aid us from on high, most valiant defender, in this conflict with the powers of darkness,