

Priest's Prayer to St. Joseph

Fr. Joel Sember

O Blessed Joseph, with God's help you accomplished a holy and difficult mission. Be for me a Patron and Intercessor so that I too might be a just man, a priest after God's own heart.

You listened attentively and responded promptly to the messenger of the Lord. Help me to listen to His voice and do His bidding with joy.

God placed under your care His most perfect of creatures, the Holy and Immaculate Mary, blessed among women and the highest honor of our race. You did not put her to shame but protected her from all stain of sin. Help me to protect and defend the dignity of those entrusted to my care. May my life be free of sin and evil so as to present to Christ His Bride, spotless and without blemish.

Your strong hands cradled the only-begotten Son of the Father, incarnate as a defenseless child. Teach me how to hold the Flesh and Blood of Jesus in my own hands. As a steward of the mysteries of God, may I seek not to be served but to serve, that my life become worthy of the mysteries I celebrate.

Relying on God's help, you kept Jesus safe from harm to grow in wisdom, age and favor before God and man. May I always rely on God so that His people be kept free from evil and grow in holiness.

Last of the Patriarchs, you died in hope without seeing the fruit of your labors. Teach me to be content with the labors God gives me and to accept Him as payment for my work, for He must increase, but I must decrease.

Holy Joseph, patron of a happy death, when I come at last to the gates of Paradise, I bid you welcome me, for I long to hear Jesus say: *Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master.*

Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.