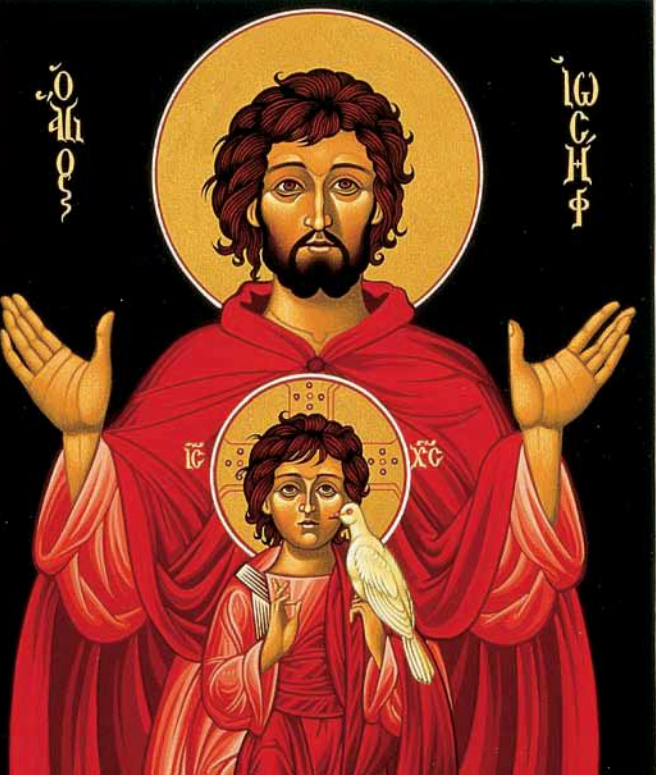


RAISING FAITH-FILLED KIDS

a parent page



Saint Joseph Shadow of the Father,
William Hart McNichols

Spirituality in Action

With your child prepare a package of nonperishable foods to deliver to a local food pantry. Explain to your child the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.



Focus on Prayer

The story of Joseph reminds us of the immense love that the Holy Family had for God and for one another. As God directed him through an angel, Joseph took Mary as his wife and helped to bring up Jesus with great care. Through Joseph we learn the importance of family and of doing God's will. Spend a few moments together in quiet reflection, examining Joseph's dedication to God and to his family.



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Focus on Faith

God Trusts Joseph With Jesus

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Joseph was a man one could trust. He was open to hearing God's revelation that Jesus would be the one who saves us. God trusted Joseph to care for Jesus and Mary. Joseph may have helped Jesus take his first steps. We can imagine Joseph walking through the village with Jesus' hand firmly in his. Joseph taught Jesus about the history of their people and what it means to be faithful to God. As parents, we have been entrusted with children who are precious to God. We are their anchors in a hectic world, and our firm and loving hold on their hands as we walk together communicates to them the loving presence of the God who saves.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss what it must have been like for Jesus to learn from Joseph how to be a carpenter. What do you think Joseph would have taught him first? Discuss things that you learn from each family member.

Hints for at Home

Work with your family to create an I Caught You Being Like Jesus bulletin board. Cut out hearts of colored paper and keep them in a special place, such as a basket with a marker tied to it. When one member of the family "catches" another being kind, loving, generous, or thoughtful, encourage him or her to write the name of the "caught" family member, along with a brief explanation of the Jesus-like act, on a heart. Post the hearts on a bulletin board.

