

Daily Homily
Fourth Week in Lent, Friday
St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Solemnity
19 March 2021
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

St. Joseph is one of the most influential people in the Gospels and not one of his words is recorded in Scripture. He is barely mentioned. Even in the Nativity narrative, he is more of an afterthought. Mary is given scene after scene, and phrases upon phrase, and even a canticle, a song, The Magnificat. Joseph, nothing. Except he was there. He too had to listen to Heaven. He too had angels speak to him. He too had to trust God. But as this happened and as he did this, not one word spoken. This is one reason he is called, the Silent Saint.

We can identify with that though. We can identify with various aspects of his faith and his life.

How about this? A man who knew the Seasons of the Soul ... the seasons of sadness that led to the seasons of joy. He lived in these seasons so that, as foster father, he could show and give example to Jesus how to live these seasons that were to be his own. Jesus would live the seasons of the Cross and the seasons of the Resurrection.

Season of sadness... Joseph is filled with fear and anxiety that Mary is with child. He wanted to keep her integrity. Divorce her quietly. Yet, the season of joy comes to his life. He is told by way of an angel not to be afraid – a phrase that is spoken most often than any other phrase in Scripture.

Season of sadness... A census takes place. Joseph and Mary must move back to Bethlehem. This is the worst possible moment for such a journey, a pregnant wife and an uncertain future. And yet they go. While nothing turns out the way they expected, all is provided. A season of joy gives way, a child is born.

Season of sadness... A jealous king, King Herod, catches word that a new King is about to take over his domain. So he pursues and seeks this new King to ensure that there will not be any competition. A season of joy, the heavens help, an angel is employed Joseph is given guidance to go to Egypt.

Season of sadness... While in Egypt they are in a foreign place, a strange place, they place they have never been. It is not home. Season of joy, it is said while there all the gods of Egypt trembled in the presence of the one, true God. All the superstitions of the people were struck dumb. False idols fell to the ground and shattered. Such was the impact of the child entrusted to Joseph's fatherly heart.

Season of sadness... while on pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover, a meal that would impact Jesus to the end, he goes missing. For three days, he is gone. For three days, he seems lost. For three days, the panic and worry and darkness must have seemed to Joseph and Mary like they were in some dark tomb. Season of joy, Jesus was found, alive, in His Father's house, doing the work of teaching and preaching.

Season of sadness... After these moments, Joseph is no longer mentioned in the Scripture. We can only assume he died before Jesus' public ministry, before his first miracle at Cana even. That sadness of loss would only give way, when Jesus his foster-son, would search for him along with Abraham and Moses, the prophets and kings, like David and Solomon, and our first parents, Adam and Eve and bring them all together into the family of Heaven.

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.***

([Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter: Patris Corde \(With a Father's Heart\). Written on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph declared Patron of the Universal Church. Written for the opening of The Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020-December 8, 2021](#))*