

## INTERCEDE



## PRAY

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

## REFLECT

In October, the Church in the United States observes Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is Respect Life Sunday. During this Year of St. Joseph, the humble and often hidden carpenter of Nazareth is guiding our reflections on the gift of life.

At the word of an angel, Joseph took Mary into his home, despite the mysterious nature of her pregnancy. He accompanied Mary in her pregnancy, assisted at the birth of the Messiah, presented Jesus in the Temple, fled with his family far from their homeland to protect them, and lovingly raised Jesus as his own son.

Like every other human family, the Holy Family had to confront real and concrete challenges. Yet, “in every situation, Joseph declared his own ‘fiat’” (*Patris corde*, 3). His “yes” to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own.

Joseph’s devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God

has entrusted to us. Joseph shows us how to say “yes” to life, despite our own fears, frailties, and weaknesses. May his witness of courage and faithful trust in the Lord inspire us to welcome, safeguard, and defend the precious gift of life.

## ACT *(choose one)*

- Offer “A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life” for this month’s intention: [respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph](https://respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph).
- Reflect more deeply on St. Joseph’s role as the faithful protector of both Mary and Jesus: [respectlife.org/reflection-joseph](https://respectlife.org/reflection-joseph).
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month’s intention.

## ONE STEP FURTHER

Join Catholics across the country in celebrating Respect Life Month: [respectlife.org/celebrate](https://respectlife.org/celebrate).

## DID YOU KNOW?

On the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the patron of the universal Church, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter entitled *Patris corde (With a Father’s Heart)*. In this letter the Holy Father offers his personal reflections on this great saint: [www.bit.ly/read-patris-corde](https://www.bit.ly/read-patris-corde).

