

## Prayer for Parents

Dear St. Joseph,  
You were a parent.  
You know about the hard  
work of raising a child in  
uncertain times. Pray with us  
to Jesus that:  
When there is suffering,  
May we model resilience;  
When there is despair,  
May we model hope;  
When there is fear,  
May we model love;  
When there is harshness,  
May we model gentleness;

We pray to Jesus that:

We may be diligent  
We may be patient  
We may be just  
We may be joyful;

We may be blessed  
in our holding and letting go

As parents as we embrace our  
children, may we also be  
embraced by your love.

Amen.

-Les Miller

## Closing

Loving God,  
You gave us the gift of St. Joseph the Worker,  
A model for parents  
A model for workers  
A model for Canadians

May your Spirit be with us always

Amen

-Les Miller



*Compiled by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo  
York CDSB*

# St. Joseph the Worker

***Canada's Patron Saint***



## introduction

The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker is celebrated on May 1 which is International Labour Day. St. Joseph, the earthly parent of Jesus, is Canada's patron saint. Today's prayer service remembers St. Joseph in his role of guardian of the divine and model of work.

## Scripture

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke:

Jesus went down with Mary and Joseph and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, stature, and in favour with God and people. The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



## Litany of St. Joseph the Worker

Leader: Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, we thank you for your care and loving concern for workers throughout the world. We remember all workers: men and women; young and old of all races; ethnic and language groups in Asia and Pacific, Europe, Africa, North Africa, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America and the Middle East.



Help all working persons to realize a deeper understanding of your presence and call them to do justice and build human community where they are employed.

For workers who face dangerous conditions or hazards in their work without sufficient warning or protection,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: For all those who face the conflicts of working and caring for children without adequate support,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: For all workers who cannot find work and for whom unemployment assistance is not available,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: For workers who are displaced by technical changes or global pressures to relocate jobs,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: For children whose childhood has been cut short because they are forced to work,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: For all who face difficulties or are discriminated against in getting work or at the workplace because of race, gender, ethnic group, physical disabilities, political or religious beliefs, or sexual orientation,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: For all workers who have been affected by labor disputes or who have been discriminated against as a result of their union activity or because they sought justice in their place of employment,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: For all workers whose work is taken for granted, is unappreciated or lacks meaning,

All: St. Joseph, worker and carpenter from Nazareth, pray for us.

Leader: Joseph you pray with us to your son Jesus who like you was a worker and carpenter from Nazareth.

For the gift of your work and love,

All: We give thanks.