

# ST. JOSEPH FACTS AND TRADITIONS

How well do you know this special saint?

1. When is St. Joseph's feast day?

*March 19*

2. To what religious group did St. Joseph belong?

*He was a Jew.*

3. Where did St. Joseph live?

*Nazareth*

4. Who was St. Joseph's wife?

*Mary*

5. What kind of work did St. Joseph do?

*He worked as a carpenter.*

6. What does a carpenter do?

*A carpenter makes things out of wood.*

7. Name three items that carpenters in St. Joseph's time would have made.

*At that time carpenters made tables, benches, wagons, toys, and wooden bowls.*

8. Why do we say that St. Joseph was Jesus' foster father?

*St. Joseph was not related by blood to Jesus, but he loved and cared for Jesus as if Jesus had been his own son.*

9. Who learned the carpenter trade from St. Joseph and helped him in his carpenter shop?

*Jesus*

10. What animal did St. Joseph use for travel and to carry wood that he used in his work?

*A donkey*

11. Why did St. Joseph have to go to Bethlehem for the census?

*Every head of the household had to go to the city from which his family first came. St. Joseph's family came from Bethlehem.*

12. St. Joseph is the patron saint of what group?

*Workers*

13. Why is St. Joseph the patron saint of workers?

*He was an honest and hard worker who took great pride in doing a good job and in working to earn enough money to care for his family.*

14. What foreign power ruled Israel at the time of St. Joseph?

*Rome*



15. Why do we pray to St. Joseph to protect families?

*St. Joseph loved and cared for his family, Jesus and Mary. He was totally devoted to their well-being and happiness. He made many self-sacrificing decisions so they could remain safe, comfortable and protected from all harm. His faith in God and family came first.*

16. Why did the Holy Family flee from Bethlehem and where did they go?

*The Holy Family fled after an angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph in a dream and told him not to return to Nazareth because King Herod was seeking to harm Jesus. Herod feared Jesus was the King of the Jews. St. Joseph listened and trusted in God. He took Mary and the Baby Jesus to Egypt.*

## CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

\* 17. Why is St. Joseph usually pictured wearing brown and green robes?

*Brown is the color most poor working men wore in Bible times; the color green symbolizes faithfulness to God's call.*

\* 18. Why do some artists draw St. Joseph holding white lilies?

*Lilies are a symbol of purity. St. Joseph was pure, simple and honest of heart. This means he tried with his whole heart always to do what God asked him to do.*

\* 19. Why did the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange choose St. Joseph to be the patron saint of their religious congregation? How do the Sisters live out the virtues of St. Joseph?

*St. Joseph was grounded in the ordinary things of human work and human relationships. With deep faith, courage and trust in God he stepped out into the future with its risks and uncertainties to carry out the plan of God. The Sisters of St. Joseph look to St. Joseph to intercede to God on their behalf, for they desire to be attentive to the needs of the "dear neighbor" without distinction, relying on God's generous grace to bless, guide and protect the congregation's shared mission; "that all may be one!" The Sisters stand with and by one another in their efforts to be faithful to God's invitation to be "reconcilers and unifiers," like their patron, St. Joseph.*



**CSJ EDUCATIONAL NETWORK**  
A Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange