

Blessing of St. Joseph's Table

This blessing is adapted from the Book of Blessings (#1679-1700) and may be prayed before a meal, especially on the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19). It may be led by a lay person.

A song may be sung or a candle lit. All make the sign of the cross.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord
All: **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: We honor the memory of St. Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary and patron of the universal Church. We rejoice at this table, which is a sign of God's generous blessings and of our call to serve the poor and hungry. We pray that through the intercession of St. Joseph we too might join the saints at the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom.

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 13:54-55, 57*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house."

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

Leader: All-provident God,
the good things that grace this table
remind us of your many good gifts.
Bless this food,
and may the prayers of St. Joseph,
who provided bread for your Son and food for the poor,
sustain us and all our brothers and sisters
on our journey towards your heavenly kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**