



ST. JOSEPH FAQ

What does it mean to consecrate ourselves?

"Consecration means 'to make holy.' When one makes an act of consecration, it is made ultimately to God with the understanding that our consecration is a serious commitment on our part to respond faithfully to God's grace at work in our lives." www.denvercatholic.org

What does it mean to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph?

Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy.

Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of filial entrustment to your spiritual father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness. St. Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance.

Please know that by consecrating yourself to a saint, you are not raising that saint to a higher position than the Holy Trinity. Instead, you are growing in holiness and entrusting yourself to a saint which will lead you closer to God. If you still have doubts, we encourage you to read the book. We believe you will discover how drawing closer to St. Joseph will draw you into a deeper relationship with his son, Jesus.

Can I consecrate to St. Joseph if I have already consecrated myself to the Virgin Mary?

The answer is a resounding "Yes!" God desires that all children be committed to the care of a mother and a father. You are not a member of a single-parent spiritual family. Mary is your spiritual mother, and St. Joseph is your spiritual father.

The spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph is extremely important for your spiritual growth. Total consecration to Mary is not diminished by total consecration to St. Joseph. Mary wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Jesus wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Everything you have given to Jesus and Mary can also be given to St. Joseph. The hearts of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph are one.

What will I need to do if I participate?

Participation is very simple:

- **Decide** how you want to participate: individually, as a family, or as part of a small group
- **Register** to receive your free copy of Fr. Calloway's book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*
- **Follow** the 20 - 30-minute daily readings and prayer as outlined in the book, beginning June 7th
- **Meet** once per week if you are part of a small group
- **Ask** questions and give yourself grace
- **Attend** Consecration Celebration the morning of July 10th or pray an act of consecration on your own that day

Do I have to be part of a small group to consecrate myself?

No. A consecration is a personal journey with St. Joseph and the Holy Trinity. Each individual will need to read and pray for about 20 - 30 minutes a day. A small group can simply enhance your experience and help you unpack what you are learning with others.

Why should I participate in a small group?

It's helpful to meet with others for prayer, reflection, and to unpack some of the information. It's amazing how much deeper you can go by sharing with others. We also hope that this is an opportunity for St. Joseph to build our parish family through fellowship and formation.



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Celebrating

THE YEAR OF

St. Joseph

How can I help?

1. **Pray.** Please cover this initiative in your prayers!
2. **Organize a small group.** Create your own St. Joseph consecration group by inviting people you know or any small groups you are already part of.
3. **Be a small group leader.** Volunteer to lead a small group for those who may not be as connected in the parish. Meetings can be held in-person or virtually and can be scheduled around your availability.
4. **Spread the word.** Please share this opportunity with friends and family.
5. **Donate your time or resources.** We are looking for volunteers and donations of food/money for the Consecration Celebration.

If you can support this outreach in any way, please contact Jill Klubek-Alonzo: JAlonzo@saintfrancischurch.org

Do I have to wait until June 7th to consecrate?

Many are excited to get started and that is okay. If you choose to start your consecration before June 7th, please know you are still welcome to feast with your parish family at the celebration on July 10th.

Why are we consecrating on July 10th? It's not a St. Joseph feast day.

We realize it's recommended to consecrate on a St. Joseph feast day, but that weekend is special to our St. Francis community. July 11th, 2021, will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of our parish. What better way to commemorate this special occasion and come together as a community after a difficult year than to entrust ourselves into the hands of the caretaker of our Lord and Savior. St. Francis and St. Clare are our patron saints and now St. Joseph will be our spiritual father along with Mary, our spiritual mother.

Why are we doing this as a parish? Isn't it supposed to be personal?

Yes, making an act is a personal thing and we hope through this process you will grow in holiness and in your own relationship with St. Joseph. We are also part of the St. Francis parish family. In this Year of St. Joseph and during our 30th anniversary, we would like to come together as a family to be entrusted into the hands of St. Joseph who was the guardian and protector of the Holy Family.

What if I miss a day of my reading?

No problem - just make it up and continue your preparation. We do encourage you to try to pray the Litany of St. Joseph every day, but again, this process is meant to help you grow in holiness. It is not pass/fail.

What if I can't attend the Consecration Celebration?

Attending the Consecration Celebration on July 10th is not a requirement. The process only asks that you say a prayer of consecration on that day. It is ideal to go to confession, attend Mass, and feast on that day, but it is not necessary.