

Recommended Books for the Year of St. Joseph  
Last Updated: February 10, 2021  
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A. Papal Documents

- **Redemptoris Custos** by Pope Saint John Paul II (available online, 1989), 22 pages. Written on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's *Quamquam Pluries*, John Paul II offers a beautiful reflection on Joseph's role as "guardian" to Jesus and Mary. The Polish Pope sees in Joseph a way for every person to renew their Christian identity by reflecting on his response of faith and his role as husband, worker, and man of deep prayer.
- **Quamquam Pluries** by Pope Leo XIII (available online, 1889), 5 pages. From the Pope considered to be the "father" of modern Catholic Social Teaching, this document offers reasons for devotion not only to Mary but to her spouse Joseph. Written amidst the rising nationalism that preceded World War I, Pope Leo XIII recognized that Joseph would safeguard the church in the same way that he protected the Holy Family.

B. Daily Devotionals

- **St. Joseph Gems: Daily Wisdom on our Spiritual Father** by Father Donald Calloway, MIC (Marian Press, 2018), 245 pages. This book is one of the largest published collection of quotes on St. Joseph from various Saints and Popes. Father Calloway arranges these short reflections to help the reader find in Saint Joseph a model for daily life.
- **Day by Day with Saint Joseph** by Msgrs. Joseph Champlin and Kenneth Lasch (Catholic Book, 2010), 192 pages. Catholic Book offers a number of short daily prayer books that have been popular over the years. In this book, Msgrs. Champlin and Lasch provide a Scripture passage, short reflection, and prayer to St. Joseph for each day of the year.

B. General Books

- **St. Joseph and his World** by Mike Aquilina, with a foreword by Dr. Scott Hahn (Scepter, 2020), 121 pages. Aquilina is the executive vice-President of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. This very accessible work makes the "world" of Joseph – i.e. the town of Nazareth, life under King Herod, marriage in ancient Israel, etc. – come alive. A short, excellent read!
- **Joseph the Silent** by Father Michael Gasnier, O.P. (Scepter, 2002), 186 pages. Father Gasnier, a French Dominican priest and Scripture scholar, offers a beautiful set of meditations in which he expands on Joseph's work as carpenter, his marriage, Simeon's prophecy, and his return to Nazareth. A great book for spiritual reading or retreat.
- **The Truth about Saint Joseph: Encountering the Most Hidden of Saints** by Father Maurice Meschler, S.J. (Sophia Institute Press, 2017), 145 pages. Originally published in

German and translated into English in 1932, Meschler's work was re-published by Sophia Press in 2017. Part I presents St. Joseph in the Life of Christ while Part II describes his role in the life of the Church. This careful, methodical presentation is a helpful reference about St. Joseph.

- **The Life and Glories of Saint Joseph** by Edward Healy Thompson, M.A. (Tan Books, 2013), 488 pages. A summary of various dissertations on St. Joseph, this longer work is a theological exposition of the important moments of Joseph's life. If you have a scholarly bent or have specific theological questions, this book is a detailed resource.

#### C. Consecrations to St. Joseph

- **Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of our Spiritual Father** by Father Donald Calloway, MIC (Marian Press, 2020). Featured in a December 2020 Catholic News Agency article, this book is a 33-day preparation for consecration based on the Litany of St. Joseph. Calloway offers St. Joseph as a model in a world desperately in need of authentic examples of fatherhood and family life. This book is highly, highly recommended!

#### D. Children's Books

- **Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family** by Sister Marlyn Evangelina Monge (Pauline Books & Media, 2019). Board book, ages 1-5, 14 pages. This simple board book is great for reading aloud to toddlers. Makes a nice birth or baptismal gift!
- **Staircase for the Sisters: A Story of Prayer and Saint Joseph** by Pamela Love (Pauline Books & Media, 2018). Ages 4-7, 40 pages. An engaging story about the Sisters of Loretto in Santa Fe, New Mexico praying to St. Joseph for help to build their staircase. Teach children about intercessory prayer through this fun little book.
- **Good Saint Joseph** by Father Lawrence Lovasik, S.V.D. (Catholic Book, 1978). Ages 4-7, 32 pages. Beautifully illustrated and part of a classic series of children's books on the Saints by Catholic Book.
- **Mary and Joseph: Models of Faith** by Barbara Yoffie (Liguori, 2013). Ages 5-9, 32 pages. Yoffie, a longtime Catholic educator, helps show how Mary and Joseph respected each other and trusted in God. A good read for primary grade children.

Thanks to the Family Ministry and Religious Formation Team of the Family of Four Parishes, Mrs. Anne Jones, and Mrs. Monica Baumgardner for their helpful suggestions in the children's book section of this bibliography!