



March 19  
**Saint Joseph**  
PATRON OF THE LASALLIAN FAMILY



[sj2021.lasalle.org](http://sj2021.lasalle.org)

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Hymn: Holy Patron, Thee Saluting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZ4M4JYvLY8>

SAINTS & MARTYRS

389

HOLY PATRON, THEE SALUTING

Verses

1. Ho - ly pa - tron, thee sa - lut - ing Here we  
2. Thou who faith - ful - ly at - tend - ed Him whom  
3. May our fer - vent pray'rs as - cend - ing, Move thee  
4. Through this life, O watch a - round us! Fill with

1. meet, with hearts sin - cere; Blest Saint Jo - seph,  
2. heav'n and earth a - dore; Who with pi - ous  
3. for our souls to plead; May thy smile of  
4. love our ev - 'ry breath, And, when part - ing

1. all u - nit - ing, Call on thee to hear our prayer.  
2. care de - fend - ed, Ma - ry, Vir - gin ev - er pure.  
3. peace de - scend - ing, Ben - e - dic - tions on us shed.  
4. fear sur - rounds us, Guide us through the toils of death.

## **Lasallian Reflection**

John Baptist de La Salle had a special love for St. Joseph, so much so that in his last will and testament he named St. Joseph as the Patron and Protector of our Institute.

Another indication of our Founder's devotion is that the very first seal of the Institute depicts St. Joseph with the Child Jesus.

In his meditation for the Feast of St. Joseph, La Salle explains the main reasons why he considered love for St. Joseph so important. First, St. Joseph was a just man, that is holy in every way and therefore fully fit to care for and guide the son of God. Second, he obeyed God's will perfectly. He did not hesitate a single instant to do what God required. Finally, he cared for the child Jesus and protected him from all harm.

“Take St. Joseph as your model since he is your patron. You have been made responsible for your students just as St. Joseph was made responsible by God for the Saviour of the world.”

We are, then, to treat our students in the same way Joseph treated Jesus. A tall order indeed!

The original prayers of the Brothers included a Litany to St. Joseph and had this concluding prayer:

“O God, who in your unfathomable Providence was pleased to choose blessed Joseph for the husband of your most holy Mother, grant that we may deserve to have as our advocate in heaven him whom on earth we revere as our protector, you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.”

Note: When the Brothers first arrived in Hong Kong in 1875, they took over a small school called St. Saviour's but promptly renamed it St. Joseph's College. We believe they did so in honour of the Patron and Protector of our Institute.

### **Psalm 113:**

Praise O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!  
May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore!  
From the rising of the sun to its setting  
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all the nations is the Lord, above the heavens God's glory.  
Who is like the Lord, our God, the one enthroned on high,  
who stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven  
and earth?

From the dust God lifts up the lowly, from the dung heap God raises the poor  
to set them in the company of rulers, yes, with the rulers of the people.  
To the childless wife God gives a home  
and gladdens her heart with children.

## **Reading:**

I took for my advocate and lord the glorious St. Joseph and earnestly recommended myself to him. I saw clearly...this father and lord of mine came to my rescue in better ways than I knew how to ask for. I don't recall up to this day ever having petitioned him for anything that he failed to grant. It is an amazing thing the great many favours God has granted me through the mediation of this blessed saint, the dangers I was freed from both of body and soul. For with other saints it seems [God] has given them grace to be of help in one need, whereas with this glorious saint I have experience that he helps in all our needs and that the Lord wants us to understand that just as he was subject to St Joseph on earth-for since bearing the title father, being the Lord's tutor, Joseph could give the Child commands-so in heaven God does whatever he commands

St. Teresa of Avila

## **Intercessions:**

*R: Blessed are those whom you choose, O God.*

O God, you chose Joseph to be the guide and teacher of the child Jesus; direct our minds and hearts as we strive to instruct young people in your ways. R

Through the intercession of Joseph, spouse of Mary; give husbands and wives the grace to relate to each other with reverence and mutual respect. R

Joseph supported his family with the work of his hands; grant meaningful employment and an adequate wage to all. R.

Joseph knew the joys and sorrows of parenthood; bless all parents with the courage and patience to care for their children with love and compassion. R

Joseph cared for his family in an occupied land; be merciful to those who are in bondage and grant them freedom and peace. R

## **Concluding Prayer:**

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.  
(Pope Francis 2020)

St. John Baptist de La Salle,  
Pray for us,  
Live Jesus in our hearts,  
Forever.