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### **Protector of the Catholic Church**

From his throne in Heaven, St. Joseph holds many glorious titles and retains many important duties. One of his chief responsibilities is that of Protector of the Catholic Church. On December 8, 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the patron of the Universal Church. He entrusted the needs of the Catholic Church to the care and protection of St. Joseph. In our own time, the Church is, to an even greater degree, as Pope Pius IX wrote, “beset by enemies on every side and oppressed by heavy calamities.” How crucial it is then to pray to St. Joseph for Holy Mother Church, which has been entrusted to his powerful care.



### **St. Joseph, Model of Workers**

St. Joseph earned the title Model of Workers, having labored as a carpenter for long years, to support Our Blessed Mother and his foster Son. We learn from him the importance of working diligently and prayerfully, while fulfilling the duties of our state in life for the love of God. As Head of the Holy Family, St. Joseph is the perfect model for fathers as they fulfill their vital and God-given responsibility to support, protect, and give good example to their wives and children.

