



January 2026

LAY COMMUNITY OF St Joseph

The Caring St Joseph

According to the laws of Moses, the divine Child also had to be circumcised. Mary wanted the Priest of Bethlehem to perform the circumcision in a manner befitting the dignity of the Child. Mary lovingly discussed the upcoming circumcision with St Joseph and asked him to make the necessary preparations. Mary herself prepared some cloths to catch the first blood that was to be shed as the price for our redemption. Not a single drop of blood was to fall to the ground. In JESUS' life, Angels always collected every drop of blood. Joseph and Mary also discussed the name of the Child. Joseph said: „When the Angel of the Most High revealed this great secret to me, he also commanded me to give your SON the name JESUS.“

The circumcision was very painful for the divine Child and He wept. He had already then suffered for mankind. The stone knife was a great torment. But He wept even more over the hardness of people's hearts, as He also does today. Mary wept as well. St Joseph felt the Child's pain and the spilt blood penetrating deeply into his own heart, and he was very saddened. Mary endeavoured to soothe the Child's pain with the usual remedies. She asked the Angels to delight the Child with heavenly music. The Priest asked for the Child's name. Joseph gave Mary precedence and let her know that such a sweet name must come from her mouth. By divine Providence, both said at the same time: „JESUS is His name.“

Joseph and Mary were now alone again with the Child. They talked for a long time

about this high feast of circumcision. We will learn its high and holy meaning in eternity. It reminds us of redemption. Joseph also knows and sees the estrangement of people, of souls, from GOD. That is why he always feels the need to help people in their conversion. Let us ask him with great faith and trust for his certain help. Let us rejoice with Joseph over the powerful name of JESUS!

JESUS says:

„The long-awaited hour came, and I was now circumcised. I was in great physical pain, wept at that moment, and offered up to My FATHER the blood that I shed. At the same time, I offered Him My tears to soothe the wounds that sin tends to inflict on the souls of My brothers and sisters. ... At the moment when I was given the name 'JESUS', the entire heavenly court worshipped Me. All of hell was afraid. But at that moment, an unusual joy flowed through the world.

After the circumcision was completed, My beloved Mother took Me in her arms. Her heart was pierced with pain on account of My suffering and the sight of My spilt blood. She pressed Me to her breast with great love. On this occasion, I asked My FATHER to comfort her ... My FATHER indeed gave her new grace and consolation. My Foster Father Joseph also experienced this at that moment. He was very saddened by the circumcision, but afterwards he was filled with comfort.“

(from "The Inner Life of JESUS"
by M. C. Baij)



The Two-Hour Journey to Jerusalem

They had to travel about 8 km, the Mother with the Child on the little donkey and Joseph walking alongside them. They prepared the essentials and discussed everything together. Mary covered herself with a long veil to protect the Child at her breast from the cold. They were accompanied by countless hosts of holy Angels.

In the temple, it was revealed to Simeon and the widow Anna by the HOLY SPIRIT that GOD'S SON and His Mother are travelling with Joseph in great poverty and need.

They asked the ruler of the Temple to go out to meet these pilgrims at the gate of Bethlehem and to welcome them into his house with love and kindness. The ruler did so and thus became the happy host of the Holy Family.

Joseph bought turtledoves, which he and Mary wanted to offer up publicly with the Child the following day. In the morning, Mary prepared her Child, the turtle-

doves and two candles, and went with Joseph to the temple to the place where the other mothers were. They bowed and knelt down. Simeon and Anna discovered Mary with the Child in her arms. In holy joy, they approached her. Simeon took the Child in his arms, praised GOD with that wonderful song of praise that the Evangelist Luke handed down to us. Mary and Joseph were filled with wonder at what was being said about the Child. Because of such holy events, St Joseph was always particularly filled with comfort and joy.

Joy and sorrow were always together with them. Simeon's words to Mary, "A sword will pierce your soul," were very painful – and the Resurrection of JESUS was a great comfort at the same time. Thus, St Joseph was filled with both. Joseph did not see everything fulfilled during his lifetime, but he did see it gloriously fulfilled in eternity.

On the return journey, the Holy Family had much to suffer. Joseph and Mary strengthened themselves, as they did so often, with bread and water. Joseph's only consolation was the divine Child and Mary, whose Protector he was allowed to be. Tired from the hardships of the journey, the Holy Family arrived back in Bethlehem.

Our Month's Heartfelt Matters

„Saint Joseph, strengthen us all in our faith, in true love for our fellow human beings. Help to reunite broken families.

Stand by suffering people, that they may not despair in their misery, that they may not blame GOD in their extremely difficult situation or even take their anger out on Him.

Father Joseph, come to our aid, I beg You and thank You most heartily!“

With the blessing of Saint Joseph, I say goodbye again. From the bottom of my heart, I wish you a GOD-blessed new year and His protection,

Sister Paula