St. Joseph the Worker

Feast of St. Joseph

Joseph paused a moment to gaze at Jesus working beside him and was filled with great love and wonder. Jesus was Joseph's foster son—for Jesus's true father was God the Father in heaven—and Joseph loved Him with all his heart.
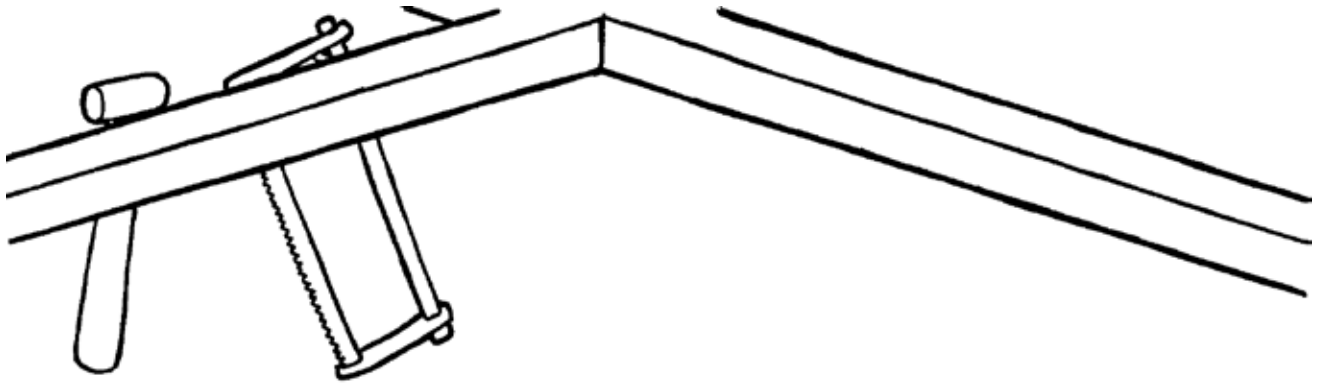
Joseph was a carpenter. He spent his days working hard to take care of Jesus and Mary. He would rise early in the morning before the sun and work hard the long day. Mary would draw water from the well in Nazareth and make bread for their meals. Together they worked hard as a family.

When Jesus was old enough, Joseph taught Him how to be a carpenter. At first, Jesus's little hands were clumsy with the tools. Joseph was patient and showed Jesus how to hold a chisel and carve the wood. As Jesus grew older, He grew stronger, and Joseph and Jesus worked together side by side. Joseph's work felt lighter because Jesus was with him. Those precious hours working beside Jesus were treasured moments in his heart.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph would rest from their work on the Sabbath Day. God had worked to create the world in six days, and on the seventh day, the Sabbath, He rested. This day of rest was a day of blessing on all of creation. The Sabbath was dedicated to God, so the Holy Family would go to the synagogue on that day to pray. In his heart, Joseph would thank God the Father for giving him Mary and Jesus to watch over. He would pray to God for the strength to take care of them.

As the years passed, Joseph watched Jesus become a strong young man. But as time went on, Joseph also grew older and weaker. Now Jesus was the one watching over him. Soon Joseph was so weak that he knew that he was dying. He lay in bed, and Jesus and Mary sat beside him, each holding his hand. Love shone from their eyes and Joseph's heart was filled with peace. Joseph died in Jesus's and Mary's loving embrace.

St. Joseph, help me to work hard on the tasks God gives me!

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