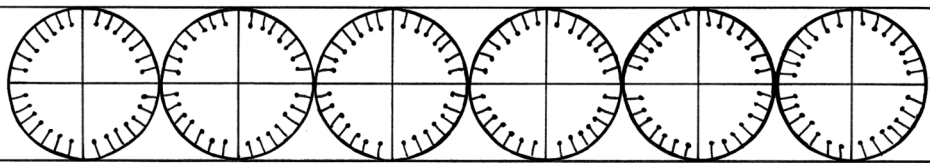
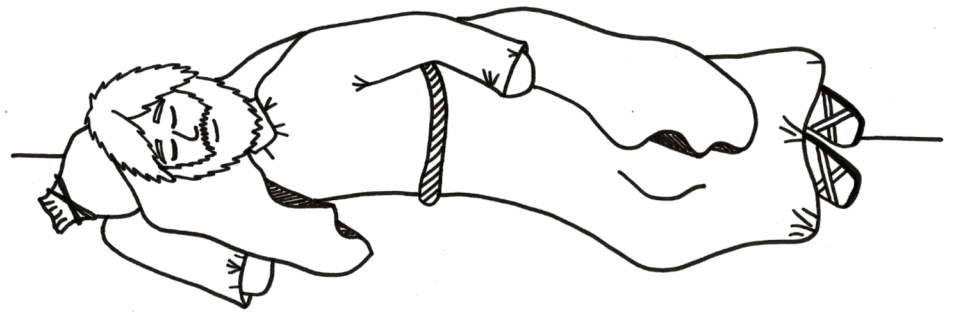


ON MY TABLE
I have an image of
ST. JOSEPH SLEEPING.
even when
HE IS ASLEEP
he is taking care of
THE CHURCH.

~ Pope Francis



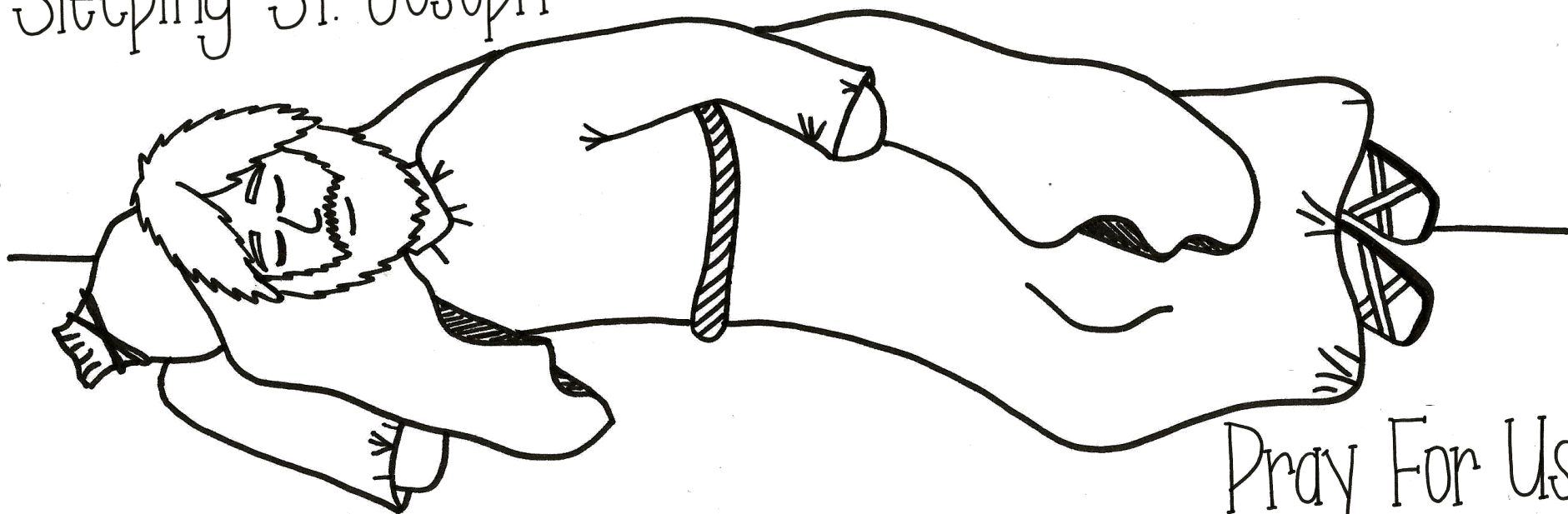
The
Sleeping
St. Joseph
Devotion



“So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!”

-Pope Francis

Sleeping St. Joseph



Pray For Us

St. Joseph,

Pray

For Us



“Remember, Jesus
slept sweetly under
the protection of
St. Joseph.”

-Pope Francis

St. Joseph,

Pray

For Us



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“Remember, Jesus
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-Pope Francis

Prayer to Sleeping St. Joseph

O Saint Joseph, you are a man greatly favored by the Most High. The angel of the Lord appeared to you in dreams, while you slept, to warn you and guide you as you cared for the Holy Family. You were both silent and strong, a loyal and courageous protector. Dear Saint Joseph, as you rest in the Lord, confident of His absolute power and goodness, look upon me. Please take my need (mention your request) into your heart, dream of it, and present it to your Son. Help me then, good Saint Joseph, to hear the voice of God, to arise, and act with love. I praise and thank God with joy. Saint Joseph, I love you. Amen

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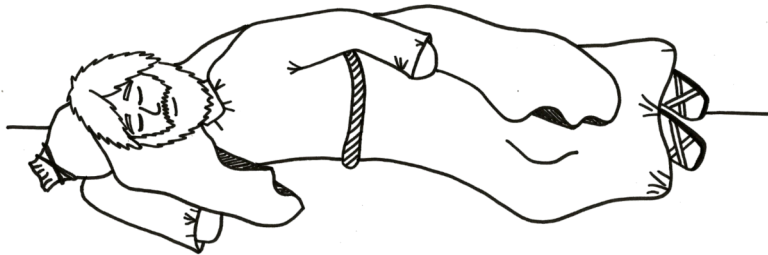
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The Sleeping St. Joseph Devotion

“So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!”

-Pope Francis



“But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’” -Matthew 1:20-21

On January 16, 2015, Pope Francis gave a speech in the Philippines about his love for St. Joseph. He described his special devotion to the sleeping St. Joseph. You can read about St. Joseph's dreams in Matthew 1:18-25 and 2:13-14. You can read the full text of Pope Francis' speech here: <https://goo.gl/ljidle>
Here are a few selected quotes:

- “I have a great love for St. Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of St. Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church!”
- “Joseph's rest revealed God's will to him. In this moment of rest in the Lord, as we pause from our many daily obligations and activities, God is also speaking to us.”
- “But like St. Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act.”

Here are some ideas for sharing the Sleeping St. Joseph Devotion with children, ranging from youngest to oldest:

- Color the Sleeping St. Joseph coloring page and share prayer requests for St. Joseph. Talk about how St. Joseph protected and provided for the Holy Family, and how he protects and provides for the Church.
- Color, fold, and tape the Sleeping St. Joseph statue to create a prayer pillow. Slide prayer requests inside the pillow. Another variation is to fold the statue like table tent so it stands up. Prayer requests can still be added inside.
- Read Matthew 1:18-25, discussing how St. Joseph rested in God, listened to Him, and then acted on His instructions.
- Color one of the Sleeping St. Joseph pages or Pope Francis quote pages. Discuss Pope Francis' wisdom about St. Joseph and his role for us and the Church.
- Use the Sleeping St. Joseph booklet to talk about Pope Francis' speech and devotion to St. Joseph with the selected quote and discussion questions. Write down prayer requests for St. Joseph.
- Read the stories of St. Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25 and 2:13-14) and Joseph, son of Jacob (Genesis 37, 40, and 41). Compare how God used dreams in their lives and how they responded.
- Read the full text of Pope Francis' speech and discuss his teaching on St. Joseph, prayer, and the family. Identify the virtues of St. Joseph and how we can emulate him.