

*Looking for a parish service idea? A special outreach project?*

*A new tradition for your family?*

*Here's an idea!*

# St. Joseph's Table



A St. Joseph's "Table" or "Altar" is a makeshift shrine/dinner festival that can be held in one's home, or in a church hall or club hall to celebrate St. Joseph's Day, March 19th. The host family or parish group creates what amounts to a living work of art.



A parish St. Joseph's Table is typically a three-tiered display covered with white linen tablecloths. The three tiers represent the Holy Trinity, and the ascent from earth to heaven. A statue of St. Joseph is placed on the top tier. The other tiers might hold flowers (especially lilies), candles, statues and holy cards. Then an array of symbolic breads and pastries are displayed. There may also be wine, symbolizing the wedding feast at Cana; pineapple symbolizing hospitality; lemons and limes and other fruit. There is typically a basket in which the faithful place prayer petitions. An at-home version of this can be simpler, but should follow the same themes, and is often the setting for a gathering of several families to celebrate together.



The heart of this tradition can be found in these three aspects:  
**Veneration**—special recognition of St. Joseph during Mass and at the "table."  
**The Table**—both a kind of "altar of reverence", and a communal celebration.  
**The Poor**—The intention of all the gifts is to help those in need.

## *Renewing Faith, Hope and Love*

With pandemic challenges and many people in need, the St. Joseph's Table can be a focus for serving the community with drop-offs for food banks or to package up "to go" boxes. Include a St. Joseph prayer card, This is a great way to include the entire parish to serve others in need this Lent, with the intercessions of St. Joseph.

For more information visit: [yearofstjoseph.org](http://yearofstjoseph.org)

Also: [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) - *Celebrating an Italian Tradition: St. Joseph's Table*



*St. Joseph, pray for us!*

