

# ADVENT CANDLES

## SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

If Isaias was called "The Messianic Prophet" because he makes many prophecies BEFORE the coming of the Messiah into the world, then we could call St. Joseph "The Messianic Foster-Father" for he would have to provide for, care, nurture and raise the Messiah, AFTER He had come into the world.

Just as Isaias had much to suffer for God's sake, so too did St. Joseph suffer much for God. Betrothed to Mary, he could not understand how she had become pregnant and his anxiety and turmoil of soul were a terrible suffering.

He suffered rejection, door to door, in Bethlehem, unable to provide a lodging for his wife, Mary and the soon-to-be-born Jesus.

After Jesus' birth, He was forced to leave his native country and flee from the murderous motives of King Herod, who wanted Jesus killed.

**St. Joseph is represented by the second candle because he was born after Isaias, but before Our Lady and St. John the Baptist.**



He had to live in exile for many years in a strange country, Egypt, whose language he did not speak.

God had entrusted the child Jesus to his care and he lost Him for a period of three days. What terrible anguish and suffering Joseph must have suffered during that time!

This shows us that following Jesus means that we will find plenty of suffering on our plate: *"When thou comest to the service of God, stand in justice and in fear, and prepare thy soul for temptation"* (Ecclesiasticus 2:1).

Joseph endured all these tests and temptations calmly, humbly and with a great supernatural spirit; seeing all his trials as coming from the hand of God Himself.

Whereas we learn a lot from the words of Isaias, Joseph speaks to us, through his silence, by his great actions.

**Apart from Our Lady, nobody would have known Jesus as well as Joseph must have known Him. Like Our Lady, there is very little written of Joseph in the New Testament. This does not mean that he is of little importance.**

# Saint Joseph