



St. Joseph the Worker Icon

By: Transcendentia Designs

St. Joseph the Worker is a title given to the earthly father of Jesus, emphasizing his role as a laborer, provider, and humble carpenter. The feast of St. Joseph the Worker is May 1. He is the patron saint of workers, fathers, families, the Universal Church, and those seeking employment. While he has no words in the Bible, his story is one of action, strength, and sacrifice, especially for Jesus, so He could fulfill His earthly mission.

We depicted him wearing a simple head covering common for Jewish workers at that time, wearing a green shirt, which is a symbol of peace and life, and a burgundy apron, which represents blood, sacrifice, passion, and valor.

Archaeological evidence and biblical accounts suggest that Jewish carpenters during Jesus' time primarily used metal nails, specifically forged from iron or bronze. These nails were hand-made and are represented in Joseph's apron. There are three nails to represent the Trinity, and those used during Christ's crucifixion, driven into the hands and feet of Jesus on the cross at Calvary.

Metal or stone hammers were used in carpentry during that period. The hammer he holds represents his strength, his work, and is symbolic of the hammer used to drive the nails into the hands and feet of Jesus on the cross. We are responsible for our actions, and all hold that hammer in our hands and drive the nails with our sins. But we can be strong like St. Joseph and not give in to the devil.

The square (triangle) he is holding is a multi-purpose tool carpenters used (combines the functions of a try, combination, and framing square in one). We chose this three-sided instrument for authenticity, to signify the Trinity, and the wood of the cross as our instrument of salvation.