

THEME, SCRIPTURE, REFLECTION, PRAYER, CHALLENGE

DAY 29 PATRON OF TRAVELERS

One of St. Joseph's titles is the Patron of Travelers and for obvious reasons—he did a lot of traveling! Mary and Joseph traveled about 150 kilometers from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus Christ. The family moved to Egypt after Joseph was told in a dream to flee to the now North African country to escape the command of Herod the Great to slaughter children in and around Bethlehem. They reached Egypt after a 65 kilometers journey where they lived for three years until after the death of Herod. When Joseph had a dream that it is safe to return to Israel, the family traveled to Nazareth which took them a journey of at least 170 kilometers. Once settled in Nazareth, the Holy Family would travel 146 kilometers to Jerusalem three times each year for the required feasts.

The Holy Family most likely traveled by foot or by donkey. Walkers had to wear heavy shoes or sandals, and to carry tents, bedding and provisions. Walking speed depended on the climate, season, and terrain, but one could generally walk about 20 miles in a day. Travel in the winter was more difficult as snow often blocked high passes, and rains in October and May flooded the rivers, making them difficult to cross. People travelling by foot would try to travel in groups for protection against the numerous robbers and wild animals.

Today, we can entrust our travels to the intercession of St. Joseph. He who protected the life of our Savior can protect your life and the lives of our loved ones in the journeys in life.

St. Joseph, Patron of Travelers, protect my family in all of our travels near and far. Pray the [Litany of St. Joseph](#).

Daily Challenge: Recall a time when you were aware of God's protection during a trip or outing. Share this testimony with those close to you in order to increase their faith.