

St. Joseph of Cupertino

Feast Day, September 18

The Patron Saint of Students, Exam-takers, Aviators, and Astronauts

St. Joseph of Cupertino (1603–1663) was an Italian Conventual Franciscan friar known for his deep humility, simple faith, and extraordinary spiritual experiences. Born in the small town of Cupertino in the Kingdom of Naples, Joseph grew up in poverty and faced constant ridicule due to his absentmindedness and learning difficulties. Yet, his heart was firmly set on God. Through perseverance and divine providence, he eventually joined the Franciscan order, where he lived a life of service, prayer, and obedience.

Despite his struggles, Joseph possessed an intense love for God and the Blessed Virgin Mary. His profound devotion often lifted him into ecstasy during prayer or while celebrating the Holy Mass. Witnesses testified that he would rise into the air, completely absorbed in divine contemplation; miraculous events that led many to call him "The Flying Saint." Though these occurrences drew great attention, Joseph never sought fame or honor. His only desire was to love and serve God faithfully.

Throughout his life, Joseph endured many trials, including suspicion and isolation. The Church carefully examined his mystical experiences and found in him a soul of great purity and simplicity. Even amid misunderstanding and hardship, he remained joyful and patient, offering everything to God as an act of love.

St. Joseph's life is a testament to the transforming power of humility and trust in divine grace. He teaches that holiness is not achieved through intellect or worldly success, but through surrender to God's will. His story continues to inspire countless faithful to rise above their limitations and seek unity with God through prayer, simplicity, and unwavering faith.



THE HUMBLE MYSTIC OF THE SKIES

Relics

- Osimo, Italy at Basilica of St. Joseph of Cupertino
- Cupertino, Italy at Sanctuary of Saint Joseph of Cupertino