



St. Joseph of Cupertino
September 18



September 18

St. Joseph of Cupertino

1603–1663 • Italy

No one wanted Joseph in the village of Cupertino. His mother thought he was good for nothing. The boys at school made fun of him. Even though he worked for a shoemaker, Joseph never learned how to make a single shoe. When he went to join the Capuchin friars, they sent him back home after a little while because he never finished anything he started. Poor Joseph felt he could never get anything right.

But what no one understood was that Joseph was so clumsy because God spoke to his soul in a special way. Joseph would be doing his everyday work, when a sudden thought of God would so fill his heart that he could not think of anything else. If he thought about God while washing dishes, the plates would drop and shatter at his feet. Sometimes, people would walk by as Joseph stared straight into nothing, thinking only about God. They would poke him and pinch him, and Joseph would never notice. So full was his heart with love for God that nothing else could disturb him.

Joseph knew that he was meant to serve God. He went to the Franciscan friars near Cupertino and asked to be their stable boy. He was always cheerful, and soon, the Franciscans noticed the stable boy whose eyes shone with love for God. Even though Joseph could not read or write, he had more spiritual knowledge than many great thinkers and philosophers, so in touch was his soul with the things of heaven. And so Joseph became a friar and then a priest.

Joseph grew closer and closer to God. When he received Holy Communion, his love of God raised his soul so high that it even lifted his feet off the ground! The other priests and monks watched amazed as Joseph miraculously floated in the air. Sometimes, the sound of church bells would make his spirits soar, and up Joseph would go, floating into the sky!

But some were embarrassed by Joseph's floating. Even worse, others accused Joseph of practicing witchcraft. They called on the Church to investigate him, but the Church leaders found that Joseph was completely innocent and his soul full of the love and joy of God. But now the other friars would not let Joseph sing in the choir or go out in public, for fear that he would disturb others with his floating. Joseph took his banishment with all humility. For ten years, he dedicated himself to God in prayer until he died a holy death.

St. Joseph of Cupertino, let nothing disturb my love for God!