

**SOSJ – Holy Fathers part 6: St. Joseph as Obedient and Protective Saturday,  
November 4, 2024, Matthew 2: 13-23**

When [the Magi] had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.” Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more.” When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth. . . .

1. What does St. Joseph teach all fathers from this passage about obeying God and protecting his family? Why is obedience to God directly connected to protecting yourself and your family?
2. Interestingly, the BVM has a much higher degree of grace than St. Joseph, and the baby Jesus is God Himself. Why is Joseph then the protector of the Holy Family and not Jesus or Mary? What is God telling all human fathers through this episode about obedience to and love of Him as optimizing fatherhood?
3. A moral attack is far worse than a physical attack; why is our society so complacent about moral attacks on the family? What are examples of family moral attacks and how do fathers best respond to moral attacks on their families?
4. How do you explain to other men that the best way to protect family is regular confessions and Sunday worship, along with family prayer? Why do men today fail to see this problem? What is it that keeps men back from giving their all for God who died for us all?