

St. Joseph's Flowering Staff

Some images and statues of St. Joseph show him with a staff which is topped with lilies. This symbol is a reminder of a historic story which told of how Mary's spouse was chosen:

Walking sticks of widowers in Israel were collected and one was to be chosen from among them. The owner of the chosen staff was to marry the young Virgin Mary. Joseph's staff burst into blossom, thus identifying him as divinely chosen.

Supplies:

- 5 or more green pipe cleaners
- 5 yellow pipe cleaners
- 5 sheets of white paper
- 1 sheet of green paper
- walking stick or staff
(A wooden dowel from a craft store will also work, but you may want to paint/stain it brown.)
- pencil
- scissors
- tape and/or glue (hot glue, if possible)



Instructions:

The yellow pipe cleaner will be the center of the lily flower. Cut the yellow pipe cleaner in half. Crisscross and twist the two halves together at the center. Curl the ends down just a little to make a small ball on each of the 4 ends.

The green pipe cleaner will be the stem. Take the green pipe cleaner and twist one end around the yellow pipe cleaners at the center.

Trace two hand prints side-by-side on a sheet of white paper and cut them out. (If possible, stacked the 5 white sheets together and cut them out at the same time.) The fingers are the flower's peddles.

Wrap one hand cut-out around the yellow pipe cleaner with the green coming out the bottom. Tape it together. Then wrap the other hand cut-out around, but on the opposite side.

Use a pencil to carefully curl down some of the peddles of the lily

Repeat the above steps to make more lilies. Make about 5 lilies total.

Wrap/twist the green pipe cleaner stems of your lilies around the top portion of the walking stick. You may need to hot glue them to the stick or use an extra green pipe cleaner to help secure the lilies to the staff. If you have any extra pipe cleaner ends hanging out, it looks best if you curl the ends using your finger or a pencil.

Cut out and hot glue or tape some long narrow leaves to the green pipe cleaner stems.

Now you have St. Joseph's staff blooming with lilies!!

Makes a great prop to go with a St. Joseph costume for All Saints Day, too!

