

Year of St Joseph

until 8 December 2021

Pope Francis has called for a year dedicated to Saint Joseph with his Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” [“with a father’s heart”] of 8 December 2020. on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church

Prayer from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Prayer of Pope Leo XIII

*To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.
O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.
As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.*

In 2021 we celebrate:

March 19 – Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.

It is the 8th anniversary of Pope Francis’ installation as bishop of Rome and the first anniversary of the ordination of Bishop David as our bishop.

May 1 – St Joseph the Worker

June 29 – Father’s Day

Every Wednesday is a day dedicated to St Joseph in the liturgical tradition.

Themes for our prayer

- respecting the value of fatherhood
 - belonging to the universal Church
 - the dignity of human labour
 - concern for refugees, asylum seekers, the oppressed
 - adoption and fostering
 - the grace of a happy death
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PRAYERS

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

St. Joseph, *pray for us.*

Illustrious son of David, *pray for us.*

Light of patriarchs, *pray for us.*

Spouse of the Mother of God, *pray for us.*

Chaste guardian of the Virgin, *pray for us.*

Foster father of the Son of God, *pray for us.*

Watchful defender of Christ, *pray for us.*

Head of the Holy Family, *pray for us.*

Joseph most just, *pray for us.*

Joseph most chaste, *pray for us.*

Joseph most prudent, *pray for us.*

Joseph most valiant, *pray for us.*

Joseph most obedient, *pray for us.*

Joseph most faithful, *pray for us.*

Mirror of patience, *pray for us.*

Lover of poverty, *pray for us.*

Model of workmen, *pray for us.*

Glory of home life, *pray for us.*

Guardian of virgins, *pray for us.*

Pillar of families, *pray for us.*

Solace of the afflicted, *pray for us.*

Hope of the sick, *pray for us.*

Patron of the dying, *pray for us.*

Terror of demons, *pray for us.*

Protector of Holy Church, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord!

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us!

V. He made him the lord of His household,

R. *And prince over all His possessions.*

Let Us Pray

O God, in your infinite wisdom, you chose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of Mary, the most holy Mother of your Son, As we venerate him as our protector on earth may he pray for us in Heaven. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

PLENARY INDULGENCES FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus. St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will. The flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment. St. Joseph encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties.” We should commit ourselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.”

Devotion to St. Joseph has grown extensively throughout the history of the Church, “which not only attributes to him high reverence after that of the Mother of God his spouse but has also given him multiple patronages.” St. Teresa of Ávila recognized him as “a protector for all the circumstances of life”. Pope St. John Paul II also said that St. Joseph has “a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium.”

At the same time, the Magisterium of the Church continues to discover “old and new greatness in this treasure which is St. Joseph, like the master in the Gospel of Matthew who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”

Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope’s intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- by meditating for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.
- following St. Joseph’s example by performing a spiritual or corporal work of mercy.
- by the recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- by entrusting their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph and invoking the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence.
- by reciting the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution.
- by reciting any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, for example, “To you, O blessed Joseph” especially on “19 March, on 1 May, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph’s Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition.”

For the sick

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes. They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

The role of priests

The Apostolic Penitentiary encourages priests to pastorally facilitate the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the administration of Holy Communion to the sick with a willing and generous spirit.