



*8 December 2020*

# YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

*8 December 2021*

On 8 December 2020, Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* declared a *Year of St. Joseph* that will run from 8 December 2020-8 December 2021.

The Apostolic Penitentiary has proclaimed special plenary indulgences for the year.

In order to obtain a plenary indulgence, the usual conditions are required: performance of said work (of the several listed below), sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. The soul should be detached of any sin. It is best to receive Communion and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father the day the indulgenced work is done, however, according to the most recent Church guidelines “it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act.” The Apostolic Penitentiary has also taken into account the worldwide situation regarding the health crisis. The office stated the “gift of the plenary indulgence is particularly extended to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, who with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or where the impediment holds them, they will recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, trust in God the pains and discomforts of their life.”

Indulgenced Works for the Year of St. Joseph include:

- At least 30 minutes of meditation on the Our Father, or, participation in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph
- Performing a spiritual or corporal work of mercy
- Praying the Holy Rosary with your family. A couple preparing for Holy Matrimony may also gain this indulgence by praying the Rosary together.
- Praying daily to entrust all activities and request protection to St. Joseph:
- Pray the Litany of St. Joseph for the Persecuted Church (both from within and without) and for all persecuted Christians
- Recitation of any approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph for example the “To you, O Blessed Joseph” prayer especially on his feast days of 19 March and 1 May and also on the Feast of the Holy Family, the 19th of each month and Wednesdays – traditionally dedication to St. Joseph

## MEDITATION TO SAINT JOSEPH



Saint Joseph is venerated as the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the legal father of Jesus, and the head of the Holy Family. He was Mary's support and protector, a witness to her virginity, a consoler in her difficult vocation.

God comforted Joseph in a prophetic dream. He revealed to him in some measure the mystery of the Incarnation, the adorable Name of Jesus and His mission on earth. He removed every doubt from Joseph's mind and encouraged him to take to himself Mary for his wife. He freed him from worry and rewarded him with honors.

Joseph's sanctity was great to render him worthy of such a vocation. His holiness is measured by his close relation to Mary, his spotless Virgin-Spouse and to Jesus, his Divine Foster-Child.

His union with Mary is the closest that can exist, a union of heart with heart, a union of purest and holiest love. To what heights of sanctity must he have risen during this holy union on earth!

As the foster-father of Jesus, Joseph stands in close relation to the Son of God, the Fountain of all holiness. He surely has a greater share in his infinite sanctity than any other Saint, excepting Mary. Numberless are the graces and privileges connected with his exalted office.

We should love and honor him whom Jesus and His Mother love so tenderly. Through his intercession we can obtain the grace to love Jesus and Mary with some of that tenderness and devotedness with which he loves them.

Joseph served the Divine Child with a singular love. God gave him a heart filled with heavenly, supernatural love—a love far deeper and more powerful than any natural father's love could be.

Joseph served Jesus with great unselfishness, without any regard to self-interest, but not without sacrifices. He did not toil for himself, but he seemed to be an instrument intended for the benefit of others, to be put aside as soon as it had done its work, for he disappeared from the scene once the childhood of Jesus had passed.

Joseph's is a very special rank among the Saints of the Kingdom of God, because he was so much a part of the very life of the Word of God made Man. In his house at Nazareth and under his care, the redemption of mankind was prepared. What he accomplished, he did also for those for whom Jesus was to give His life. He is not only a powerful and great Saint in the Kingdom of God but a benefactor of the whole of Christendom and mankind. His rank in the Kingdom of God, surpassing far in dignity and honor all the Angels and Saints, deserves our very special veneration, love, and gratitude.

## SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS

“Joseph, [Mary’s] husband...was a just man.”

-Mt 1:19

“He holds victory in store for the upright, He is the shield of those who walk blamelessly, for He guards the paths of the just, and protects the way of those faithful to Him.”

-Prov 2:7-8

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to receive Mary into your home as your wife...She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus for He will save His people from their sins’...When Joseph awoke he did as the Angel of the Lord had commanded him.”

-Mt 1:20-21,24

“[Jesus] went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He was obedient to [Mary and Joseph].”

-Lk 2:51

## CONSECRATION OF THE FAMILY

Jesus, our most loving Redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with Your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth. In this way You sanctified that Family which was to be an example for all Christian families.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph! Graciously accept our family which we dedicate and consecrate to You. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in sincere faith, in peace, and in the harmony of Christian charity. By conforming ourselves to the Divine model of Your Family, may we all attain to eternal happiness.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, by your merciful intercession make this our humble offering acceptable to Jesus, and obtain for us graces and blessings.

Saint Joseph, Most holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, help us by your prayers in all our spiritual and temporal needs so that we may praise Jesus, our Divine Savior, together with Mary and you for all eternity.

Amen.

## **Novena Prayer to St. Joseph**

Saint Joseph, you are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. I have special confidence in you. You are powerful with God and will never abandon your faithful servants.

I humbly invoke you and commend myself, with all who are dear to me, to your intercession. By the love you have for Jesus and Mary, do not abandon me during life, and assist me at the hour of my death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the immaculate Virgin, Foster-father of Jesus Christ, obtain for me a pure, humble, and charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the Divine Will. Be my guide, my father, and my model through life that I may merit to die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, I raise my heart to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace I now implore: (*Mention your request*)

Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I am confident that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. Amen.

## **Memorare to St. Joseph**

Remember, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my great protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection, or implored your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding therefore in your goodness, I come before you. Do not turn down my petitions, foster father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

## **Prayer to St. Joseph for the Church**

Glorious Saint Joseph, powerful protector of the Holy Church, I implore your heavenly aid for the whole Church on earth, especially for the Holy Father and all bishops, priests, and religious.

Comfort the afflicted, console the dying, and convert sinners and heretics. Have pity on the poor souls in purgatory, especially on my own family, relatives, and friends. Obtain for them the speedy remission of their punishment, that with you and all the Saints and Angels they may praise and glorify the Blessed Trinity forever. Amen.

## Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God our Father in heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary,

Saint Joseph,

Noble son of the House of David,

Light of patriarchs,

Husband of the Mother of God,

Guardian of the Virgin,

Foster father of the Son of God,

Faithful guardian of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph, chaste and just,

Joseph, prudent and brave,

Joseph, obedient and loyal,

Pattern of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Model of workers,

Example to parents,

Guardian of virgins,

Pillar of family life,

Comfort of the troubled,

Hope of the sick,

Patron of the dying,

Terror of evil spirits,

Protector of the Church,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

God made him master of his household, And put him in charge of all that he owned.

*Let us pray.*

O God, in Your ineffable providence You were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Your most holy Mother. Grant, we beg You, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You Who live and reign forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.

pray for us.

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