

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

*Reflections, Prayers,
Devotions, and Consecration
to St. Joseph*



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church



THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis proclaimed a special “Year of Saint Joseph,” extending to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 2021.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris Corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of Saint Joseph as a Patron of the Universal Church, describing him as a model father and a support and guide for troubled times.

“Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.”

Read the entire Apostolic letter from Pope Francis at http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

As a parish community, we hope to celebrate this special time by honoring St. Joseph throughout the upcoming year. There will be a parish-wide book study, opportunity for personal consecration, and occasions for special prayer and spiritual enrichment.

Why Turn to St. Joseph?

In these challenging times, we can turn to St. Joseph with great hope:

- We can turn to him as protector from harm, even as he protected Mary and the child Jesus from Herod’s wrath;
- St. Joseph was the worker and provider for the Holy Family, so to him we can entrust ourselves and our nation in the face of unprecedented unemployment and economic distress;

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH (v.2)

O dearest St. Joseph,
I consecrate myself to your honor and give myself to you,
that you may always be my father,
my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation.

Obtain for me a great purity of heart
and a fervent love of the interior life.

After your example,
may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God,
in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

And do you, O Blessed St. Joseph,
pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy
of your holy death Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

(Composed by Pope Francis for the Year of St. Joseph)

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 CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

(v.1)

O Glorious Patriarch and Patron of the Church!
O Virgin Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God!
O Guardian and Virginal Father of the Word Incarnate!

In the presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose you this day
to be my father, my guardian, and my protector.

O great St. Joseph, whom God has made the Head of the Holy
Family, accept me, I beseech you, though utterly unworthy,
to be a member of your "Holy House."

Present me to your Immaculate Spouse;
ask her also to adopt me as her child.

With her, pray that I may constantly think of Jesus,
and serve him faithfully to the end of my life.

O Terror of Demons, increase in me virtue,
protect me from the evil one,
and help me not to offend God in any way.

O my Spiritual Father, I hereby consecrate myself to you.
In faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary,
I place myself and all my concerns under your care
and protection.

To you, after Jesus and Mary, I consecrate my body and soul, with
all their faculties, my spiritual growth, my home,
and all my affairs and undertakings.

Forsake me not, but adopt me as a servant and child
of the Holy Family.

Watch over me at all times, but especially at the hour of my death.

Console and strengthen me with the presence of Jesus and Mary so
that, with you, I may praise and adore the Holy Trinity for all eter-
nity. Amen.

- As model husband and father, we turn to St. Joseph at a time when good examples of both are so desperately needed. We can ask him to help strengthen our families – as well as the bonds of our “parish family” – at a time when these can be fragile.
- As patron of the dying, we can invoke the intercession of St. Joseph on all who are in their last moments of life, including the elderly and others with terminal disease.

A recent book, *“Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father”*, by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, is a highly popular resource for learning about, and making a consecration to, St. Joseph.

You can visit his website, www.consecrationtostjoseph.org, for a wealth of information and to obtain the book.

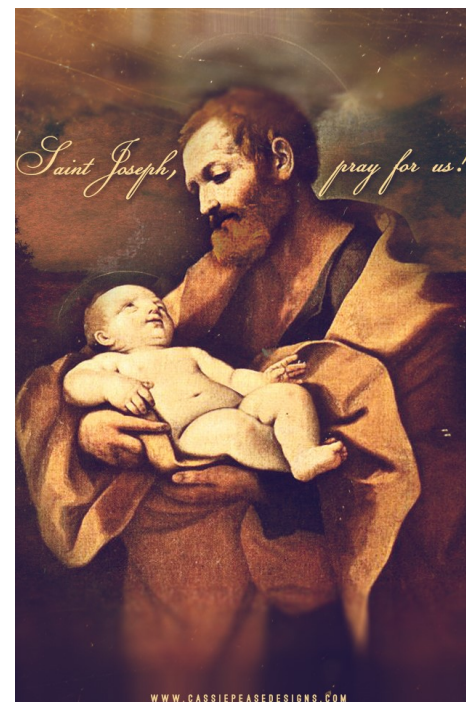


Photo Credit: Cassie Pease Designs

APOSTOLIC LETTER

PATRIS CORDE ~ With A Father's Heart

Of the Holy Father, Francis

On the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St. Joseph

As the Patron of the Universal Church

(Introduction Only)

WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph".

Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence.

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27). He was a "just man" (Mt 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. Lk 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13.19.22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them" elsewhere (cf. Lk 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. Lk 2:8-20) and the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

Joseph had the courage to become the legal father of Jesus, to whom he gave the name revealed by the angel: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21). As we know, for ancient peoples, to give a name to a person or to a thing, as Adam did in the account in the Book of Genesis (cf. 2:19-20), was to establish a relationship.

In the Temple, forty days after Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary offered their child to the Lord and listened with amazement to Simeon's prophecy concerning Jesus and his Mother (cf. Lk 2:22-35). To protect Jesus from Herod, Joseph dwelt as a foreigner in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-18). After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee, far from Bethlehem, his ancestral town, and from Jerusalem and the Temple.

Of Nazareth it was said, "No prophet is to rise" (cf. Jn 7:52) and indeed, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (cf. Jn 1:46). When, during a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary lost track of the twelve-year-old Jesus, they anxiously sought him out and they found him in the Temple, in discussion with the doctors of the Law (cf. Lk 2:41-50).

Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of workers,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched, Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,

*pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us*

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,

*Graciously hear us,
O Lord.*

Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of His house:

R. And ruler of all His substance.

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.

V. Saint Joseph,

R. Pray for us.

THE LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

The litany of St. Joseph, one of only six approved by the Church for public as well as private use, sums up qualities that made him such an important part of the Holy Family. Although he does not appear much in scripture, this “just man” (Mt.1:19), a humble carpenter, served our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary faithfully as His “foster-father” and her “chaste guardian,” as he is called below. When this litany is prayed in public, the congregation responds to a leader with the words in italics.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.*

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven,
God the Son,
Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

*have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary,
Saint Joseph,
Renowned offspring of David,
Light of Patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Diligent protector of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,

*pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us*

Joseph most just,
Joseph most chaste,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most strong,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,

*pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us
pray for us*

After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him “Patron of the Catholic Church”, Venerable Pius XII proposed him as “Patron of Workers”[3] and Saint John Paul II as “Guardian of the Redeemer”. Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the “patron of a happy death”.

Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as Patron of the Catholic Church by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Mt 12:34).

My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how “our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone...

How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all”.

Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

For the full text go to www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

THE VIRTUES OF ST. JOSEPH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

VIRTUE OF FORTITUDE

Joseph, Most Valiant Protector of Church

St. Joseph had the entire Church under his protection since the Holy Family was the Church. Our Lady is the Mother and Image of the Church, the Holy Spirit the soul of the Church and Christ the Church's head. To Joseph this treasure was entrusted and by his wit, his obedience and his sacrifice he valiantly defended them.

VIRTUE OF CHASTITY

Joseph, Most Chaste

Chaste love requires that one wills the good to another without taking the other to oneself as one's own. To Joseph was entrusted the Divine Child and His fairest Mother. Chaste in body but also in heart, Joseph loved freely which created the interior tranquility of order in the Holy Family.

VIRTUE OF JUSTICE

Joseph, Most Just

Joseph was first and foremost just unto God, rendering to Him what was His due. Since all things are due to God, Joseph was perfectly religious in prayer, in labor, and in love giving to God, even as an infant, the energy of his whole life.

VIRTUE OF POVERTY

Lover of Poverty

Joseph could count on nothing in this world to be his stay. Neither his trade nor property were employed in his first years as father of the Divine child. He had to abandon all that was his and provide for them in whatever way was possible as they were on pilgrimage to Bethlehem, to Egypt, and finally to Nazareth.

Step 3. If you miss a day, just make it up and continue your preparation.

Step 4. On the day of your consecration, feel free to use whichever act of consecration you like best; you can also make up your own, if you like.

Group Program

A group can meet weekly for prayer and reflection to prepare for the consecration to St. Joseph. Parish staff can provide resources to determine how to proceed.

Choose a common consecration date and a schedule for meetings. Again, the book, "*Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*", by Fr. Donald Calloway, can provide everything you need for the weekly group meetings, including discussion questions. When doing the preparation and consecration as a group, recite the same consecration prayer together.

How to make your consecration as an individual

Step 1. Choose a consecration date. You might select one of the following:

<u>Start of the 33 Days</u>	<u>Feast Day</u>	<u>Consecration Day</u>
Dec. 22	Feast of the Holy Spouses	Jan. 23
Jan.1	Presentation of the Lord	Feb. 2
Feb. 15*	Solemnity of St. Joseph	Mar. 19
Mar. 30	St. Joseph the Worker	May 1
Apr. 11	Our Lady of Fatima	May 13
Jul. 20	Our Lady of Knock	Aug. 21
Sep. 30	All Saints Day	Nov. 1
Nov. 8	Our Lady of Loreto	Dec. 10
Nov. **	Holy Family	Dec.

* *During a leap year, when February has 29 days, the starting date is February 16.*

***The Solemnity of the Holy Family generally falls on the first Sun day after Christmas. If Christmas itself is on a Sunday, be sure to check what day the bishops designate as the Solemnity of the Holy Family and begin your consecration 32 days before the consecration date (Day 33).*

It's recommended to choose a day that coincides with a liturgical feast of St. Joseph. Your consecration date is day 33 of the program.

Step 2. Each day you should spend some time in prayer reflecting on some aspect of the life and person of St. Joseph. You may want to use the book, "*Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father*", by Fr. Donald Calloway.

If you do not have the book, you can offer a daily prayer to St. Joseph and conclude with the recitation of the powerful "Litany of St. Joseph".

VIRTUE OF BENEFICENCE

Joseph, Model of Workers

We must not simply intend love, we must labor to fulfill love's demands. Beneficence, laboring for the good of another, in Joseph's case was direct labor for God. Working in Adam's curse by the sweat of his brow was replete with purpose as it was all done to feed, to clothe, to shelter God Himself.

VIRTUES OF OBEDIENCE & AUTHORITY

Joseph Most Obedient and Head of Holy Family

All authority is borrowed except for the Author himself. One can only be a just head of a family, be it natural or religious, if one is first obedient to the Word himself. Joseph's perfect obedience rendered him the perfect Head of the Holy Family.

VIRTUE OF FIDELITY

Joseph, Most Faithful

Fidelity connotes steadfastness. In the vicissitudes of life, one needs steadfast love, that is, fidelity, when encountering confusion, suffering, and failure. The image of Joseph finding a place in which the Child could be born was his movement in all of life. Failure simply meant one went on in fidelity and found by failure what God had intended for the fruitfulness of His will.

VIRTUE OF PATIENCE

Joseph, Mirror of Patience

Patience is willingness to suffer. A patient is one who suffers a malady not by choice whereas a patient man is one who suffers volitionally rather than relinquish the vocation given him. Joseph was patient because of his love. He was willing to suffer anything, even the loss of Our Lady and the Divine Child by being the first to die.

VIRTUE OF PRUDENCE

Joseph, Most Prudent

Prudence is the mother of virtues which depends upon the practical wisdom gained by experience matched with an agile mind to make decisions in the here and now. Each time Joseph knew the will of God he acted decisively, swiftly, and accurately. He acted neither rashly nor timidly, but prudently.

VIRTUE OF HUMILITY

Joseph, Terror of Demons

Demons hate humility, suckled as they are on the vice of pride. Joseph's humility is what terrifies the demons. He is entrusted with power and authority not simply because of his internal strength but because of his complete reliance upon and fidelity to God.

VIRTUES OF COMPASSION & SOLACE

Joseph, Patron of Dying and Solace of the Afflicted

What a blessed death to see God before you die and for God Himself to tell you to go. This was Joseph's gift from his Son, who would hand his father over to His Father. Thus has Christ entrusted Joseph to have particular intercessory power for all those on the moment of death.

VIRTUES OF PURITY & INTEGRITY

Joseph, Chaste Guardian of Virgins and Pillar of Families

Due to his chastity and vocation, Joseph has further been entrusted to continue his mission of guarding the pure ones of God and of the integrity of the family. This power flows through him now as a reward of his perfect fidelity. All religious and families should have recourse to this most powerful intercessor.

Program Overview

Consecration to St. Joseph emulates the tried-and-true preparation method employed by St. Louis de Montfort in his Marian consecration, highlighting many of St. Joseph's titles, privileges, and heroic virtues.

The program of preparation and consecration takes 33 days. It can be undertaken on your own or in a group.



Credit: Christy Peletz—St. Francis Youth Ministry

CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

Welcome to Consecration to St. Joseph! You are about to begin a journey that will change your life.

What does it mean to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph?

Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy.

Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of filial entrustment to your spiritual father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness. Saint Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance.

If you have already consecrated yourself to the Virgin Mary, can you be consecrated to St. Joseph, as well?

The answer is a resounding “Yes!” God desires that all children be committed to the care of a mother and a father. You are not a member of a single-parent spiritual family. Mary is your spiritual mother, and St. Joseph is your spiritual father.

The spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph is extremely important for your spiritual growth. Total consecration to Mary is not diminished by total consecration to St. Joseph. Mary wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Jesus wants you to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph! Everything you have given to Jesus and Mary can also be given to St. Joseph. The hearts of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph are one.

PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH

VENERATION OF ST. JOSEPH

O glorious St. Joseph, I sincerely venerate you as the chaste spouse of the Mother of God, as the head of the Holy Family, as the Foster Father of Jesus Christ, as the faithful preserver of the treasures of the Blessed Trinity.

In you I venerate the choice of God the Father, who desired to share with you his power over his eternal only begotten Son.

In you I venerate the choice of God the Son, who wished to be dependent on you and to owe his subsistence to the labor of your hands.

In you I venerate the choice of God the Holy Spirit, who wished to entrust to you his faithful spouse, and to give you to her as her guardian and companion through life.

In you I venerate the choice of the Vicar of Christ, who declared you as Patron, Protector, and Defender of the Church, founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O glorious Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you we raise our hearts and hands, to implore your powerful intercession, to obtain from the gentle heart of Jesus all the help and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death.

O guardian of the word incarnate we feel animated with confidence that your prayers on our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

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.

A MORNING OFFERING THROUGH ST. JOSEPH

Receive me, dear and chosen Father,
and the offering of every movement of my body and soul,
which I desire to present through thee to my blessed Lord.

Purify all! Make all a perfect holocaust!
May every pulsation of my heart be a Spiritual Communion,
every look and thought an act of love,
every action a sweet sacrifice,
every word an arrow of Divine love,
every step an advance toward Jesus,
every visit to Our Lord as pleasing to God
as the errands of Angels,
every thought of thee, dear Saint,
an act to remind thee that I am thy child.

I recommend to thee the occasions in which I usually fail,
particularly . . . [*Mention these*]. Accept each little devotion
of the day, though replete with imperfection, and offer it
to Jesus, Whose mercy will overlook all, since He regards
not so much the gift as the love of the giver. Amen.

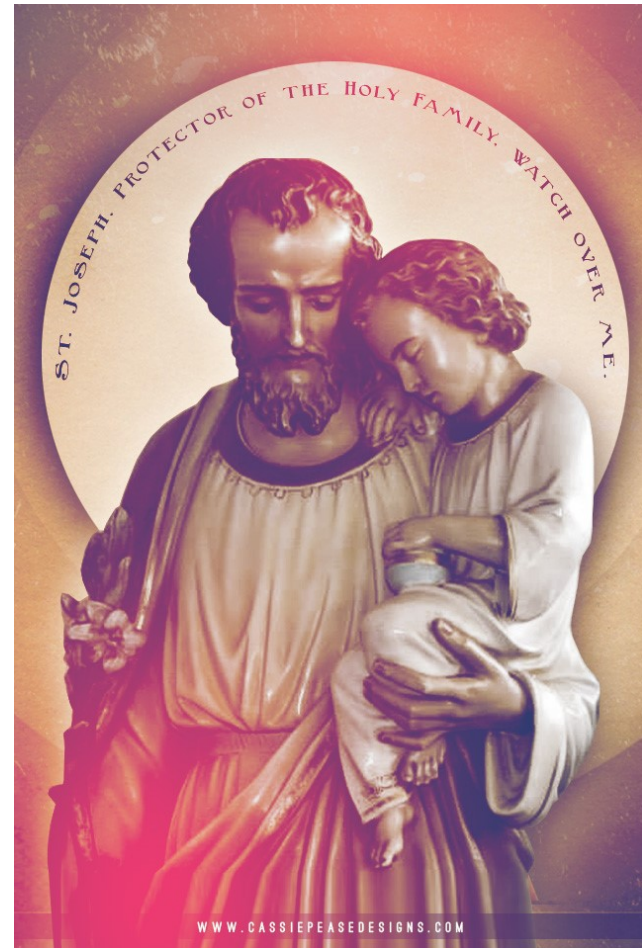
DAILY NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

O Saint Joseph,
whose protection is so great, so strong,
so prompt before the throne of God,
I place in you all my interests and desires.

O Saint Joseph,
do assist me by your powerful intercession
and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord,
so that having experienced here below your heavenly power,
I may offer my thanksgiving and homage
to the most loving of fathers.

O Saint Joseph,
I never weary of contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms. I
dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Hold Him close
in my name and kiss His fine head from me, and ask Him to return
the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing
souls, pray for me. Amen.

4. A plenary indulgence is granted to everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and the faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work;
5. The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph, or some other prayer to St. Joseph, proper to other liturgical traditions, in favor of the Church persecuted *ad intra* (from within) and *ad extra* (from without) and for the relief of all Christians who suffer every form of persecution.



Credit: Cassie Pease Designs

PLENARY INDULGENCES DURING THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Throughout the entire Year of St. Joseph (Dec. 8, 2020—Dec. 8, 2021) Pope Francis has bestowed the gift of a plenary indulgence for those who seek them ~ for themselves or for the souls in purgatory.

“An indulgence is “the remission before God of the temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven as far as their guilt is concerned, which the follower of Christ with the proper dispositions and under certain determined conditions acquires through the intervention of the Church which, as minister of the Redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the satisfaction won by Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due sin”

Plenary indulgences are granted under the usual conditions of :

- Sacramental Confession,
- Eucharistic Communion, and
- Prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father,

to the faithful who, with a soul detached from any sin, will participate in the Year of St. Joseph in any of the following ways:

1. A plenary Indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes the prayer of the Our Father, or they will take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph;
2. A plenary indulgence is granted to those who, following the example of St. Joseph, will carry out a corporal or spiritual work of mercy;
3. A plenary indulgence is granted for the recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and between engaged couples.

ANGELUS OF ST. JOSEPH

V. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

R. "Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary, your wife, into your home."

V. "For that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."

R. "And she shall bring forth a son."

V. "And you shall call his name Jesus."

R. "Because He is the one who is to save his people from their sins."

V. Pray for us, O virgin father of Jesus.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

V. Let us pray.

All. Pour forth we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by his passion and cross be brought to the glory of his resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR A NEWBORN CHILD

O Saint Joseph, you witnessed the miracle of birth, seeing the infant Jesus born of your most holy spouse, the Virgin Mary. With wonder and awe, you took into your arms the Savior. With gratitude that only a parent can know, you glorified God for the birth of his Son, entrusted to your fatherly care.

Like you, St. Joseph, I too give praise and glory to God for the birth of my child. This child's life is such a miraculous testimony of God's loving presence. My heart is filled with grateful joy. Join me dear St. Joseph, in offering thanks to God for the gift of my child.

What great trust and confidence God placed in you, St. Joseph, by entrusting his only Son into your fatherly care. This inspires me to entrust the spiritual care and protection of my newborn child into your competent and loving hands. Teach, guide, and support me to fulfill well my awesome vocation to be a worthy parent to this child. Amen.

IOSEPH, MODEL OF LABORERS

Good Saint Joseph,
when God wanted a family for his Son,
He looked among the laborers,
and chose you along with Mary,
demonstrating His esteem for human work.

You put your heart into your work,
and share your workshop with Jesus.
Your work, like that of other humans,
found new meaning in the presence of God.

Sustain us in the hope of finding work
when we are confronted with the desolation
of unemployment.

Counsel business leaders to create an equitable division of labor
that is respectful of individuals,
and promotes our growth and happiness.

Help us to perform our work joyfully, conscientiously,
fairly and honestly.

Prepare our hearts to recognize your Son
in our colleagues at work. Amen.

FOR EMPLOYMENT

Dear Saint Joseph,
you were yourself once faced with the responsibility
of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary.

Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety
over my present inability to support my family.

Please help me to find gainful employment very soon,
so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from my heart
and that I am soon able to provide for those
whom God has entrusted to my care.

Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement,
so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched
and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

I ask it by your peaceful life in Nazareth where you met with so many
joys and sorrows.

I ask it by your great distress when the adorable Child was lost to
you and His Mother for three days.

I ask it by your joy at finding Him in the Temple, and by the comfort you
found at Nazareth, while living in the company of the Child
Jesus.

I ask it by the wonderful submission He showed in His obedience
to you.

I ask it by the perfect love and conformity you showed in accepting the
Divine order to depart from this life, and from the company of Jesus
and Mary.

I ask it by the joy which filled your soul, when the Redeemer of the
world, triumphant over death and hell, entered into the possession of
His kingdom and led you into it with special honors.

I ask it through Mary's glorious Assumption, and through that endless
happiness you have with her in the presence of God.

O good father! I beg you, by all your sufferings, sorrows, and joys,
to hear me and obtain for me what I ask.

(Make Your Request)

Obtain for all those who have asked my prayers everything that is use-
ful to them in the plan of God.

Finally, my dear patron and father, be with me and all who are dear to
me in our last moments, that we may eternally sing the praises of Je-
sus, Mary and Joseph. Amen.

(Source: EWTN)

30-DAY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR A SPECIAL INTENTION

Pray this prayer every day for thirty days for a special intention

Ever blessed and glorious Joseph, kind and loving father,
and helpful friend of all in sorrow! You are the good father and
protector of orphans, the defender of the defenseless,
the patron of those in need and sorrow. Look kindly on my request.

My sins have drawn down on me the just displeasure of my God,
and so I am surrounded with unhappiness. To you, loving guardian of
the Family of Nazareth, do I go for help and protection.

Listen, then, I beg you, with fatherly concern,
to my earnest prayers, and obtain for me the favors I ask.

I ask it by the infinite mercy of the eternal Son of God, which moved Him
to take our nature and to be born into this world of sorrow.

I ask it by the weariness and suffering you endured when you found
no shelter at the inn of Bethlehem for the holy Virgin,
nor a house where the Son of God could be born.

Then, being everywhere refused, you had to allow the Queen
of Heaven to give birth to the world's Redeemer in a cave.

I ask it by the loveliness and power of that sacred Name, Jesus, which
you conferred on the adorable infant.

I ask it by that painful torture you felt at the prophecy of holy Simeon,
which declared the Child Jesus and His holy Mother future victims of
our sins and of their great love for us.

I ask it through your sorrow and pain of soul when the angel declared to
you that the life of the Child Jesus was sought by His enemies. From
their evil plan you had to flee with Him and His Blessed
Mother to Egypt.

I ask it by all the suffering, weariness, and labors
of that long and dangerous journey.

I ask it by all your care to protect the Sacred Child
and His Immaculate Mother during your second journey,
when you were ordered to return to your own country.

PRAYER BEFORE WORK TO ST. JOSEPH

(Composed by Pope St. Pius X)

O Glorious Saint Joseph,
model of all those who are devoted to labor,
obtain for me the grace

to work in a spirit of penance
for the expiation of my many sins;

to work conscientiously,
putting the call of duty above my natural inclinations;

to work with thankfulness and joy,
considering it an honor to employ and develop,
by means of labor, the gifts received from God;

to work with order, peace, moderation, and patience,
never shrinking from weariness and trials;

to work above all with purity of intention
and detachment from self,
keeping unceasingly before my eyes death
and the account that I must give of time lost,
talents unused, good omitted,
and vain complacency in success,
so fatal to the work of God.

All for Jesus, all through Mary,
all after thy example, O Patriarch, Saint Joseph.

Such shall be my watch-word in life and in death.

Amen.

TO KNOW ONE'S VOCATION

O Great St. Joseph,
so docile to the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
obtain for me the grace to know
what state of life Divine Providence destines for me.

Do not allow me to be deceived
with regard to so important a choice,
upon which depends my happiness in this world,
and even my eternal salvation.

Obtain for me that, being enlightened to know the Divine Will
and being faithful in accomplishing it,
I may embrace the state of life
which God has destined for me
and which will lead me to a happy eternity. Amen.

PROTECTOR OF HOMES

St. Joseph, protect our home.

Pour forth from heaven blessings on our family.
Remain in our midst. Help us to live in love and harmony,
in peace and joy.

May the wholesome fear of God strengthen us
that virtue may adorn what we do
and our way may lead to heaven.

To you this day I give the key to our dwelling place.
Lock out all things that could do us harm. Lock my home
and my loved ones with me in the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

This I beg of you, that our days may be like your days
in the holy home at Nazareth. Amen.

3-DAY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH BY ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

1st Day: He was the true and worthy Spouse of Mary, supplying in a visible manner the place of Mary's Invisible Spouse, the Holy Spirit. He was a virgin, and his virginity was the faithful mirror of the virginity of Mary. He was the Cherub, placed to guard the new terrestrial Paradise from the intrusion of every foe.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.
R. Henceforth and forever. Amen.

Let us pray.

God, who in Your ineffable Providence did vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the husband of Your most holy Mother, grant, we beseech You, that we may be made worthy to receive him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy Protector: who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

2nd Day: He had the title of father of the Son of God, because he was the Spouse of Mary, ever Virgin. He was our Lord's father, because Jesus ever yielded to him the obedience of a son. He was our Lord's father, because to him were entrusted, and by him were faithfully fulfilled, the duties of a father, in protecting Him, giving Him a home, sustaining and rearing Him, and providing Him with a trade.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.
R. Henceforth and forever. Amen.

Let us pray. (prayer as on the First Day)

3rd Day: He is Holy Joseph, because according to the opinion of a great number of doctors, he, as well as St. John the Baptist, was sanctified even before he was born. He is Holy Joseph, because his office, of being spouse and protector of Mary, specially demanded sanctity. He is Holy Joseph, because no other Saint but he lived in such and so long intimacy and familiarity with the source of all holiness, Jesus, God incarnate, and Mary, the holiest of creatures.

V. Blessed be the name of Joseph.
R. Henceforth and forever. Amen.

Let us pray. (prayer as on the First Day)

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH AFTER THE ROSARY/LITANY

To you, O Blessed Joseph, we come in our trials,
and having asked the help of your most holy spouse,
we confidently ask your patronage also.

Through that sacred bond of charity
which united you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God
and through the fatherly love
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,
we humbly beg you
to look graciously upon the beloved inheritance
which Jesus Christ purchased by his blood,
and to aid us in our necessities
with your power and strength.

O most provident guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ.
Most beloved father, dispel the evil of falsehood and sin.

Our most mighty protector,
graciously assist us from heaven
in our struggle with the powers of darkness.

And just as you once saved the Child Jesus from mortal danger, so
now defend God's Holy Church
from the snares of her enemies and from all adversity.

Shield each one of us by your constant protection, so that,
supported by your example and your help,
we may be able to live a virtuous life, to die a holy death,
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

FOR THE GRACE OF PURITY

Saint Joseph, father and guardian of virgins,
to whose faithful keeping Christ Jesus, innocence itself,
and Mary, the virgin of virgins was entrusted,

I pray and beseech you
by that twofold and most precious charge,
to save me from all uncleanness,
to keep my mind untainted,
my heart and body pure in my vocation;
and to help me always to serve Jesus and Mary
in perfect purity. Amen.

FOR LIFE

St. Joseph, you are the chaste and loving spouse
of the Virgin Mary, the foster father of Jesus,
the protector and provider of the Holy Family and of all families.

We have complete confidence in your loving care for new life
and in your fidelity to the family.
We commend our efforts to your prayers and protection.

Help us always to defend the gift of human life
that it may grow to the abundance of eternal life promised
and bestowed on us by your son, our brother, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

ST. JOSEPH, PETITION PRAYER

O blessed St. Joseph,
tenderhearted father,
faithful guardian of Jesus,
chaste spouse of the Mother of God,
I pray and beseech you to offer to God the Father
my praise to Him through his divine Son,
who died on the cross
and rose again to give us sinners new life.

Through the holy name of Jesus, pray with us
that we may obtain from the eternal Father,
the favor we ask . . . (*Pause*) . . .

We have been unfaithful to the unfailing love
of God the Father;
beg of Jesus mercy for us.

Amid the splendors of God's loving presence,
do not forget the sorrows of those who suffer,
those who pray, those who weep.

By your prayers
and those of your most holy spouse, our Blessed Lady,
may the love of Jesus
answer our call of confident hope. Amen.

ST. JOSEPH, LITANY FOR LIFE

Good St. Joseph

R/. Pray for us.

Husband of the blessed Virgin Mary

Protector of the Mother of God

Faithful Spouse

Good worker

Good and gentle man

Man of faith and hope

Man of kindness and charity

Man of Love

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (*continued on next page*)

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph,
do we come in our tribulation,
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.

JOSEPH, PATRON SAINT OF THE DYING

Faithful Joseph,
with the fulfillment of the Lord's promise,
you peacefully leave this world in Jesus and Mary's hands.

Your faith transforms death into the sowing of life;
thus, God considers you to be a just man.
Your heart overflows in the presence of the Lord.

With your hands outstretched to God,
your night is filled with prayers.

Surrounded by the living, you embark upon the great march
to the promise Land.

Open our eyes that we may glimpse the road to Life
that lies beyond death.

May nothing, not denial, anger, nor depression,
separate us from the Love of God.

Strengthen our faith in God
who always finds ways of preserving us in his friendship.

Be beside us to hold our hands
when we take our first steps toward the Eternal Kingdom. Amen.

LIFT UP MY NEEDS IN PRAYER

Joseph, with Jesus and Mary,
you knew hunger, uncertainty, and illness.

You turned your heart to God to lift up your needs
and those of your family.

In faith you accepted the Father's response as events unfolded.
Be with me today as I offer my requests to the Father.

Joseph, let me recognize God's will as I open my hands
to accept what God bestows in loving kindness.

With tenderness, God fills creation with life and love.
Open my eyes to the wonders that God works without ceasing.

Let me learn the true intention behind my request
so that I may discover within myself the lowly one
that God commends. Amen.

Guardian of the Christ child
Teacher of virtue
Model of Patience
Model of kindness
Loving father
Kind father
Example of holiness

For all unmarried fathers
For all who are afraid
For all tempted to despair
For all tempted by evil
For refugees and orphans
For those condemned to die
For those mortally ill
For those at the hour of their death
For doctors and nurses
For those who wait for death
For the old and the alone
For truth and justice
For legislators and judges
For our President and Vice-President
For all who work for life

R/. Pray for them.

Good Saint Joseph, your faithful love protected and nourished the
Mother of God and Jesus Christ, her son. Your fatherly care led to ma-
turity he through whom all creation began.

Through your intercession, may God guide and protect all human life
from conception to natural death and lead this nation in the ways of
truth and love. Pray for us good Saint Joseph, that joined with Christ
Jesus, we might give praise to God forever. Amen.

FOR A HAPPY DEATH

O Glorious Saint Joseph,
I choose you today for my special patron in life
and at the hour of my death.

Preserve and increase in me the spirit of prayer and fervor
in the service of God.

Remove far from me every kind of sin;
obtain for me that my death may not come upon me unawares,
but that I may have time to confess my sins sacramentally
and to bewail them with a most perfect understanding
and a most sincere and perfect contrition,
in order that I may breathe forth my soul
into the hands of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

PRAYER OF SAINT JOSEPH MARELLO

O Glorious Saint Joseph, after the Blessed Virgin,
you were the first to hold in your arms the Redeemer.
Be our exemplar in our ministry, which like your own,
is a ministry of intimate relationship with the Divine Word.
May you teach us; may you assist us;
may you make us worthy members of the Holy Family. Amen.

A PARENT'S PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

O glorious St. Joseph, to you God committed the care
of His only begotten Son amid the many dangers of this world.

We come to you and ask you to take under your special protection the
children God has given us. Through holy baptism they became chil-
dren of God and members of His holy Church.

We consecrate them to you today, that through this consecration they
may become your foster children. Guard them, guide their steps in
life, form their hearts after the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

(continued on next page)

JOSEPH, OUR SOLACE IN SUFFERING

Compassionate Joseph,
one with us in our human condition,
together with Mary and Jesus you experienced exile,
hunger and violence.

Refusing vengeance, you choose mercy.
Your forgiveness breaks the circle of violence.

Through your goodness,
God's hope for our humanity is preserved.
Joy is yours, for the Kingdom of God is your inheritance.

Open our compassionate hands in times of war, famine and exile.

Keep us from developing a victim's mentality,
and make our pain a source of growth.

Sustain us in fulfilling our responsibility of cultivating inner peace, joy
and serenity.

In your wisdom, counsel us to close all doors to bitterness,
so that, watched over by God, we may dance for joy. Amen.

JOSEPH, MAINSTAY OF FAMILIES

Attentive Joseph, in Mary and you,
the Divine Word finds a favorable environment
in which to carry out the will of the Father;
thus, you become the family of the Child-God.

In your gentle life together, you experience Love daily.
The unity of your hearts transforms life's lessons
Into growing wisdom and grace.

Open our hearts to the Word that lives within us,
that our actions may bear witness to our connection
to the family of God.

Sustain us in our emotional commitments,
where giving and forgiveness shape our identities.

Grant us your tenderness in the things we do each day !

Amen.

JOSEPH, HOPE OF THE SICK

Benevolent Joseph, the Son of God placed
his life in your hands.

With Mary, you cared for Him who is the force of life.
May your compassion enfold our fragility, bringing us
the comfort of the divine presence.

We join with you in prayer, saying:
“Lord Jesus, Son of Living God, say a word for our healing!”

Make us sensitive to the illnesses of those close to us.
Support our efforts and grant us courage in the fight
against all evil.

Help us to find meaning in God’s great project for humanity
beyond the sicknesses and sufferings that blind our sight.
The love of God be with us, as our hope lies with Him. Amen.

JOSEPH, PROTECTOR OF THE CHURCH

Brave Joseph,
collaborator in God’s project for humanity,
your tenderness enfolds the newborn Church.

Just as Mary and Jesus recognize in you,
the protection of the Father,
so too does the community of faith
place itself under your protection.

Strengthen us with the Spirit that filled the Nazarene home
and guide our footsteps on the road to the Kingdom.

Accompany us in carrying out our mission.

Help us to be lights in the world so that the family of God
may spring forth from humanity transfigured in Christ.

Grant us the strength to imitate God’s preference
for the poor and weak.

Guide us in our pastoral activities that our actions
may be modeled on the Good News. Amen.

St. Joseph, who felt the tribulation and worry of a parent when the
child Jesus was lost, protect our dear children for time and eternity.
May you be their father and counsellor. Let them, like Jesus, grow in
age as well as in wisdom and grace before God and men.
Preserve them from the corruption of his world, and give us the grace
one day to be united with them in Heaven forever. Amen.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR A NEWBORN CHILD

O Saint Joseph, you witnessed the miracle of birth,
seeing the infant Jesus born of your most holy spouse,
the Virgin Mary.

With wonder and awe, you took into your arms the Savior.
With gratitude that only a parent can know,
you glorified God for the birth of his Son,
entrusted to your fatherly care.

Like you, Saint Joseph,
I too give praise and glory to God for the birth of my child.

This child’s life is such a miraculous testimony
of God’s loving presence.

My heart is filled with grateful joy.

Join me dear Saint Joseph,
in offering thanks to God for the gift of my child.

What great trust and confidence God placed in you, Saint Joseph, by
entrusting his only Son into your fatherly care.

This inspires me to entrust the spiritual care and protection
of my newborn child into your competent and loving hands.

Teach, guide, and support me to fulfill well my awesome vocation
to be a worthy parent to this child. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH, TERROR OF DEMONS

This prayer is recommended for all kinds of diseases. But also to keep away the demon of impurity and of temptations against chastity.

We resort to you in our tribulation, O Blessed Joseph,
and after having implored the help of your Holy Bride,
we also solicit your patronage with confidence.

By the affection that has united you to the immaculate Virgin,
Mother of God, by the paternal love with which you have
surrounded the Infant Jesus, we beg you to look with kindness
at the inheritance that Jesus Christ has won at the price of his blood,
and to assist us in our needs.

Protect, O most wise guardian of the divine Family,
the chosen race of Jesus Christ.

Preserve us, O loving Father,
from all taint of error and corruption,
be favorable to us, O our very powerful liberator.

From heaven, protect us in the fight we deliver
to the power of darkness.

And just as you once snatched the Infant Jesus
from the peril of death,
today defend the holy Church of God
against pitfalls of the enemy and all adversity.

Cover each of us with your perpetual protection, so that,
by your example, and supported by your help,
we may live holy, godly die, and reach eternal bliss. So be it.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH, TERROR OF DEMONS

Saint Joseph, Terror of Demons,
cast your solemn gaze upon the devil and all his minions,
and protect us with your mighty staff.

You fled through the night to avoid the devil's wicked designs;
now with the power of God,
smite the demons as they flee from you!

Grant special protection, we pray, for children, fathers, families,
for priests and religious and the dying.

By God's grace, no demon dares approach while you are near,
so we beg of you, always be near to us! Amen

ST. JOSEPH, TERROR OF DEMONS

Courageous Joseph, advised by an angel,
you confront your fears of the unknown.

Your light shines brightly,
penetrating the dark corners of your being.

Your fears dispersed, you rediscover your true face,
and actively participate in the divine project
reuniting mother and Child, and the people with their God.

Together with Mary and Jesus, you dwell in the love of God.

Help us to rediscover the united core of our identities,
beyond all internal fears.

Counsel us so we may build a better world to welcome
the coming Kingdom.

Shed your light on our inner lives that,
freed from the grip of our fears,
our decisions may be founded in Love.

May the face of God shine on us ! Amen.

JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF THE PURE IN HEART

Gentle Joseph, God is captivated by the quality of your heart.

Your entire being is focused on doing his will.
With Mary and Jesus, you answer the Holy Spirit's call
to build a better world.

With one heart, we join you in saying:
"Here we are, Lord, your will be done!
Your kingdom come nearer to us! "

Keep the hope of a new world alive in our hearts.
Inspire us to speak words of tenderness
to awaken the love of hearts.

May we draw the energy for our actions
from the source of all Love
so our faces may shine with the freedom of the children of God.

Amen.