



2021

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church



Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

Pope Francis announced a special year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from 8 December 2020 until 8 December 2021, on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also 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.”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “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.”

Therefore, the gift of indulgences granted through a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary by mandate of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”

St. Joseph is a man of deep prayer. In addition to his liturgical and family prayer, Joseph is a model of personal prayer. His complete surrender to the will of God in silence can only be explained from a deep interior life. In this Year of St. Joseph, we go to Joseph to learn commitment to daily personal and family prayer.

St. Joseph is a “doer of the word” (cf. James 1:23). No words of Joseph are recorded in the Bible. We are simply told that Joseph heard, rose, and did what God asked. The way of Joseph is the way of listening in prayer and doing in action. During the Year of St. Joseph, let us go to Joseph and learn how to surrender ourselves to God’s loving plan for us. Let us, like him, listen attentively in prayer and then with God’s grace rise and become doers of the word.

St. Joseph is the provider for the Holy Family. The Son of God labored alongside St. Joseph with hammer and chisel. In such fashion work was redeemed and its dignity elevated. With confidence then we can go to Joseph for help in finding work to obtain an honest living. Like St. Joseph let us spend time with our young, teaching them how to work, and giving them an appreciation for its redemptive value. It is my fervent hope that during this Year of St. Joseph every Catholic may fervently and confidently “Go to Joseph” for his intercession, his protection, and his example.

What is an Indulgence?

The Church defines an indulgence as “a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”

Remission of temporal punishment due already forgiven sins?

The above definition distinguishes between two effects of sin – guilt and punishment. When we sin, we bring upon ourselves guilt, because we have knowingly and freely committed an act against God’s will, and punishment, because our sins offend God and destroy or weaken our relationship with him. In his death and resurrection Jesus Christ once and for all forgives our guilt and pays our punishment. While the punishment due our sins has been paid once and for all by Christ, he desires us to cooperate with him in paying that punishment. This cooperation can occur through indulgences. In God’s plan, we receive these once-and-for-all gifts of Christ through his Body, the Church. The Church does not act without Christ, and Christ has chosen not to act without the Church.

Are there different types of indulgences?

A partial indulgence remits a portion of the punishment due for sin and may be received more than once a day. A plenary indulgence remits all punishment due to sin and may be received only once a day.

Indulgences may be applied to oneself or to another deceased person, but not to another still alive.

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:**

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate 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**. "St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us", the decree reads, "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 indulgence can also be obtained by those who, **following St. Joseph's example**, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph "encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties," the decree notes.
- The recitation of the **Holy Rosary** in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, 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."
- Everyone who **entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph**, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph "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."
- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the **Litany to St. Joseph**, 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. Because, the decree notes, "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."

Conditions for the Plenary Indulgence

A Universal Saint

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite 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.”

Pilgrimage

There are 13 St. Joseph pilgrimages sites in the diocese of Lafayette that the faithful can visit with a plenary indulgence. For more information:

<https://diolaf.org/pilgrimage>)

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.

Litany of St. 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, Who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in Heaven. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers to St. Joseph

Prayer to St. Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, we turn in our affliction, and with hearts filled with confidence, we place ourselves under your protection. By that charity with which you were united to the Virgin Mary, and by that fatherly love with which you cherished the Child Jesus, we beseech you, and humbly pray that you would look graciously upon the Church, born from the wounds of Christ, and help us in our need. Defend, O watchful Guardian, these chosen brothers and sisters of Christ. Keep from us, O loving Father, all error and corruption. Help us, O brave man of justice, to resist the powers of darkness. And even as of old you rescued the Child Jesus from threats upon His life, so now defend His Holy Church from the snare of all our enemies and from the deadly power of sin. Shelter us in your care, that, following your example and strengthened by your help, we may live a holy life, enjoy a happy death, and attain at last the everlasting joy of Heaven. *Amen.*

Prayer to St. Joseph for the Family & the Home

Saint 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.*

Daily Novena Prayer 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.*

Prayer Before Work to St. Joseph the Worker

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.* (Composed by Pope St. Pius X)

Prayers to St. Joseph

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.

Prayer Before Adoration, Invoking St. Joseph

Dear Jesus, we believe that You are here, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament: that You see us, that You hear us. We adore You with profound reverence. We beg pardon for our sins and the grace to make this time of prayer fruitful. Our Immaculate Mother, St. Joseph our Patron, our guardian angels, our patron saints, intercede for us during this time of prayer and adoration. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Consecration to St. Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest 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 thine 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 thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death Amen.

7 Sorrows & Joys of St. Joseph

(Recite one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be after each Mediation)

1. The doubt of St. Joseph (Matt 1:19)
The message of the angel (Mt 1:20)
2. The poverty of Jesus' birth (Lk 2:7)
The birth of the Savior (Lk 2:7)
3. The Circumcision (Lk 2:21)
The Holy Name of Jesus (Mt 1:25)
4. The prophecy of Simeon (Lk 2:34)
The effects of the Redemption (Lk 2:34)
5. The flight into Egypt (Mt 2:14)
The overthrow of the idols of Egypt (Is 19:1)
6. The return from Egypt (Mt 2:22)
Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth (Lk 2:39)
7. The loss of the Child Jesus (Lk 2:45)
The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple (Lk 2:46)

St. Joseph Altar

(Short History of the St. Joseph's Altar)

St. Joseph is the patron saint of Sicily and his table is a tradition dating back to the Middle Ages when Sicily was under a severe drought. Unable to grow any crops, countless people died during the famine. The peasants prayed to St. Joseph to intercede with God on their behalf. They promised St. Joseph that if God caused it to rain, they would hold a special feast honoring him. Indeed, the rains came and the crops were planted. With the harvest, the people prepared the promised feast. Saint Joseph is also the patron saint of the poor, homeless, and unwed mothers. Thus, the St. Joseph's table by tradition should be open to everyone. The traditions, symbols, and menus are all very important to the feast, but may vary according to where in Sicily a family originated. The tradition was brought to the US in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by Sicilian immigrants who mostly settled in Louisiana, Texas, California, Colorado, New Jersey, and New York.

The custom of preparing an altar as a symbol of devotion to St. Joseph is rooted in the thanksgiving for his intercession years ago, but it also points to thanksgiving for a personal favor granted, for healing of the sick, or for success in business. Further, it's an opportunity for the prosperous to share with those who are less fortunate.



Join in celebrating our St. Joseph's Altar

March 19th

Oustalet Center, Lake Arthur

Dates & References:

Pope Francis Declares the Year of St. Joseph & Plenary Indulgence:

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-12/apostolic-penitentiary-plenary-indulgence-year-st-joseph.html>

January 31st – March 14th, 2021

Seven Sundays of Saint Joseph:

<https://stjosemaria.org/seven-sundays-devotion-st-joseph/>

February 15th, 2021

Consecration to St. Joseph:

(starts Feb 15 to end on Feast of St. Joseph March 19)

33 Days to Consecration to St. Joseph – Consecration information, Chart, & book that can be purchased

<https://www.consecrationtostjoseph.org/>

Printable Reflections for consecration to St. Joseph

<https://sspx.org/sites/sspx/files/dailydevotionsstjoseph-liguori.pdf>

33-Day Consecration to St. Joseph – sign up for an email with all 33 days' reflections & consecration, or texts received daily with links to each day's prayer.

<https://www.unleashthegospel.org/33-day-consecration-to-st-joseph/>

March 19th, 2021

Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Noon & 5:30PM Mass, Consecration Ceremony after 5:30pm Mass

St. Joseph's Altar at Oustalet Center

April 23rd – May 1st, 2021

Novena to & Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

October 13th, 2021

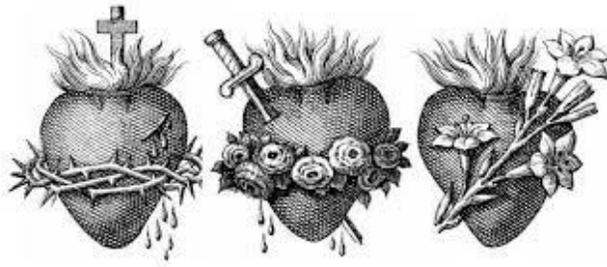
St. Joseph's Blessing during the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima

Pilgrimage to St. Joseph Churches (Lafayette Diocese)

<https://diolaf.org/pilgrimage>

Monthly Themes for the Year of Saint Joseph:

<https://yearofstjoseph.org/pilgrimage/>



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