

Year of Saint Joseph Indulgences

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis announced a special year dedicated to Saint Joseph. The Year culminating on December 8, 2021 coincides with the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's proclamation of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting a plenary indulgence to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intention) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of Saint Joseph on the occasions and in the manner indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

1. Participate in a spiritual retreat for at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph.
2. Pray for Saint Joseph's intercession for the unemployed that they might find dignifying work.
3. Recite the Litany of Saint Joseph for persecuted Christians.
4. Entrust one's daily work and activity to the protection of Saint Joseph the Worker.
5. Follow Saint Joseph's example in performing a corporal work of mercy.
6. Follow Saint Joseph's example in performing a spiritual work of mercy.
7. Pray the rosary together with one's family.
8. Engaged couples can also receive an indulgence from praying the rosary together.
9. Meditate at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer.
10. Celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph on March 19 with an act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph.
11. Pray an approved prayer to Saint Joseph on the 19th of any month.
12. Honor Saint Joseph with an act of piety or approved prayer on any Wednesday, the day traditionally dedicated to Saint Joseph.
13. Celebrate the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker on May 1 with an act of piety or approved prayer.

The Apostolic Penitentiary permits any prayer to Saint Joseph approved by the Church. However, the Penitentiary mentions, in particular, the prayer composed by Pope Leo XIII:

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 your 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 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.