



# Devotional to St. Joseph

FEBRUARY 2021

## THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH: WHAT THIS MEANS, INDULGENCES, AND WHY NOW?

### Prayer to Saint Joseph (from 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.*

### **I. What does a Year to Saint Joseph mean?**

- Joseph in the Old Testament (Genesis 37-41)
- Blessed Pope Pius IX declares Saint Joseph the “Patron of the Universal Church” in 1870
- Pope Benedict XV inserts Saint Joseph into the Divine Praises in 1921
- Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker established by Venerable Pop Pius XII in 1955
- Saint Pope John XXIII inserts Saint Joseph’s name into the Canon of the Mass in 1962
- Pope Francis inserts Saint Joseph’s name into all Eucharistic Prayers in 2013
- Pope Francis declares a “Year of Saint Joseph” for the Universal Church in 2020

Patris Corde: Three aims – (1) to increase our love for this great saint, (2) to encourage us to implore his intercession, and (3) to imitate his virtues and his zeal.

Latria (adoration) -----> Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Hyperdulia (highest veneration) --> Blessed Virgin Mary  
Protodulia (first veneration) -----> Saint Joseph  
Dulia (veneration) -----> Saints

## **II. Special indulgences available**

*An indulgence is 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. The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead. (CCC 1471)*

### General Conditions

1. Confession (several days before or after)
2. Communion
3. Prayer for intention of Holy Father (example: an Our Father and Hail Mary)
4. Particular work

### Year of Saint Joseph Indulgences

1. Participate in a spiritual retreat for at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.
2. Pray for St. Joseph's intercession for the unemployed that they might find dignifying work.
3. Recite the Litany of St. Joseph for persecuted Christians.
4. Entrust one's daily work and activity to the protection of St. Joseph the Worker.
5. Follow St. Joseph's example in performing a corporal work of mercy.
6. Perform one of the spiritual works 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 for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer
10. Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph on March 19 with an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph
11. Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on the 19th of any month
12. Honor Joseph with an act of piety or approved prayer on a Wednesday, the day traditionally dedicated to St. Joseph
13. Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1 with an act of piety or prayer
14. The elderly, the sick, and the dying who are unable to leave their homes due to the coronavirus pandemic have special permission to receive an indulgence by "offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts" of their lives with a prayer to St. Joseph
15. Pray an approved prayer to St. Joseph on St. Joseph Sunday (the Sunday after Christmas in the Byzantine Catholic tradition)
16. Pray to St. Joseph on the Feast of the Holy Family on December 27

## **III. Why now?**

- State of the world
- In light of the pandemic

## **Litany of Saint Joseph**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, hear us.  
God the Father in heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

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

Holy Mary,  
Saint Joseph,  
Noble Offspring of David,  
Light of Patriarchs,  
Spouse of the Mother of God,  
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin,  
Foster-Father of the Son of God,  
Zealous Defender of Christ,  
Head of the Holy Family,

*pray for us.  
pray for us.*

Joseph Most Just,  
Joseph Most Chaste,  
Joseph Most Prudent,  
Joseph Most Courageous,  
Joseph Most Obedient,  
Joseph Most Faithful,

*pray for us.  
pray for us.*

Mirror of Patience,  
Lover of Poverty,  
Model of Workmen,  
Glory of Domestic Life,  
Guardian of Virgins,  
Pillar of Families,  
Comfort of the Afflicted,  
Hope of the Sick,  
Patron of the Dying,  
Terror of Demons,  
Protector of the Holy Church,

*pray for us.  
pray for us.*

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

*Spare us, O Lord  
Graciously hear us, O Lord  
Have mercy on us.*

He has made him lord of his household

*And prince over all his possessions*

Let us pray.

*O God, who, in your loving providence, chose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most Holy Mother, grant us the favor of having him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector. You, who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.*