

# Year of St Joseph Indulgences

*Granted by the Holy See from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021*

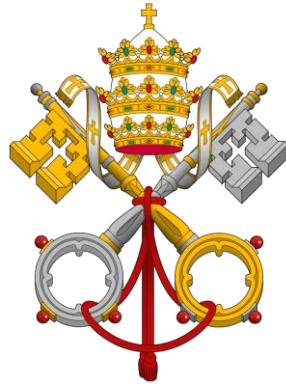
*Below is a summary of how you can receive the special indulgences granted by the Holy See for the Year of St. Joseph. Find the prayers mentioned below.*

The plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father) to the faithful who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of Saint Joseph on the occasions and in the manner indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary:

- Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Our Father
- Participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph
- Perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy
- Recite the Holy Rosary in families and between the husband and wife
- Entrust their work daily to the protection of Saint Joseph and to all believers who invoke with their prayers the intercession of the worker of Nazareth
- Pray the litany of Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the **Akathistos to Saint Joseph**, in its entirety or at least part of it (for the Byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to Saint Joseph, typical of the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all persecuted Christians
- Pray any lawfully approved prayer or act of piety in honour of Saint Joseph, for example “To you oh blessed Joseph,” especially on:
  - March 19th (Solemnity of St. Joseph)
  - May 1st (Feast of St. Joseph the Worker)
  - December 26th (Feast of the Holy Family)
  - The Sunday of Saint Joseph (according to the Byzantine tradition)
  - The 19th day of every month

- Every Wednesday (a day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition)
- The gift of plenary indulgence extends particularly to –
  - The elderly
  - The sick
  - The dying
  - All those who for legitimate reasons cannot leave their home

– who, with the spirit detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in your own home or wherever the impediment holds you, pray an act of piety in honour of Saint Joseph, consolation of the sick and patron of good death, confidently offering God the pains and difficulties of his life.



## Decree on Year of St. Joseph Indulgences

*The gift of special indulgences is granted on the occasion of the Year of Saint Joseph, summoned by Pope Francis to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the universal Church*

The gift of special indulgences is granted on the occasion of the Year of Saint Joseph, summoned by Pope Francis to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the universal Church.

Today marks the 150th anniversary of the Decree *Quemadmodum Deus*, by which Blessed Pius IX, moved by the grave and mournful circumstances in which a Church was harassed by the hostility of men, declared Saint Joseph the Patron of the Catholic Church .

To perpetuate the dedication of the entire Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus, Pope Francis has established that, from today, the anniversary of the proclamation decree as well as the day consecrated to the Immaculate Virgin and wife of the chaste Joseph, until the 8 December 2021, a special Year of Saint Joseph is celebrated, in which each faithful, following his example, can daily strengthen his life of faith in the full fulfillment of God's will.

All the faithful will thus have the opportunity to commit themselves, with prayers and good works, to obtain, with the help of Saint Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, consolation and relief from

the serious human and social tribulations that afflict the contemporary world.

The devotion to the Custodian of the Redeemer has developed widely throughout the history of the Church, which not only attributes to him one of the highest cult after that of the Mother of God his wife, but has also granted him many patronages.

The Magisterium of the Church continues to discover old and new greatness in this treasure that is Saint Joseph, like the father of the Gospel of Matthew “who extracts new and old things from his treasure” (Mt 13:52).

Of great benefit for the perfect achievement of the end pursued will be the gift of Indulgences that the Apostolic Penitentiary, through this decree issued in accordance with the will of Pope Francis, graciously grants during the Year of Saint Joseph.

**The plenary indulgence is granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father) to the faithful who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of Saint Joseph on the occasions and in the manner indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary.**

A. Saint Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew our fidelity to prayer, to listen and respond with profound discernment to the will of God. **The plenary Indulgence is granted to those who meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or who participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph;**

B. The Gospel attributes to Saint Joseph the title of “just man” (cf. Mt 1,19): he, guardian of the “intimate secret that is found in the depths of the heart and soul,” depository of the mystery of God and, therefore, the ideal patron of the inner forum, he prompts us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in the fulfillment of our

duties. The virtue of justice practiced in an exemplary way by Joseph is full adherence to divine law, which is the law of mercy, “because it is precisely the mercy of God that brings true justice to fruition.” **Therefore, those who, following the example of Saint Joseph, perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, will also be able to achieve the gift of plenary Indulgence;**

C. The main aspect of Joseph’s vocation was to be custodian of the Holy Family of Nazareth, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and legal father of Jesus. So that all Christian families are encouraged to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was lived in the Holy Family, **the Plenary Indulgence is granted for the recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and between the bride and groom.**

D. On May 1, 1955, the Servant of God Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the worker, “with the intention *that everyone recognize the dignity of work and that it inspire social life and the laws founded on the equitable distribution of rights. and duties.*” **Therefore, all those who entrust their work daily to the protection of Saint Joseph and to all believers who invoke with their prayers the intercession of the worker of Nazareth, so that they may obtain plenary indulgence. who are looking for work find it and everyone’s work is more dignified.**

E. The flight of the Holy Family to Egypt “shows us God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he flees, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.” **Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who pray the litany of Saint Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to Saint Joseph, in its entirety or at least part of it (for the Byzantine tradition), or some other prayer to Saint Joseph, typical of the other liturgical traditions, in favor of the Church persecuted ad intra and ad extra and for the relief of all Christians who suffer all forms of persecution.**

Saint Teresa of Avila recognized in Saint Joseph the protector of all the circumstances of life: “It seems to others the Lord gave them grace to help in a need; to this glorious Saint I have experience who helps in

all.” More recently, Saint John Paul II reiterated that the figure of Saint Joseph acquires “a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium.”

In order to reaffirm the universality of the patronage of the Church by Saint Joseph, in addition to the aforementioned occasions, the **Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who pray any lawfully approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example “To you”, oh blessed Joseph “, especially on March 19 and May 1, feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the Sunday of Saint Joseph (according to the Byzantine tradition), the 19 of every month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition.**

**In the current context of health emergency, the gift of plenary indulgence extends particularly to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons cannot leave their home, who, with the spirit detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in your own home or wherever the impediment holds you, pray an act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, consolation of the sick and patron of good death, confidently offering God the pains and difficulties of his life.**

In order for the achievement of divine grace through the power of the Keys to be facilitated pastorally, this Penitentiary earnestly requests that all priests with the appropriate faculties offer themselves with a willing and generous spirit to the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and administer to Holy Communion to the sick often.

This decree is valid for the Year of Saint Joseph, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary.

*Given in Rome, by the See of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on December 8, 2020.*

## Plenary Indulgences Explained

1. This is how an indulgence is defined in the *Code of Canon Law* (can. 992) and in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n. 1471):

“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.”

2. In general, the gaining of indulgences requires certain prescribed *conditions* (below, nn. 3, 4), and the performance of certain prescribed *works*.

3. To gain indulgences, whether plenary or partial, it is necessary that the faithful be in the *state of grace* at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed.

4. A *plenary indulgence* can be gained only *once a day*. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

- have the interior disposition of *complete detachment from sin, even venial sin*;
- *have sacramentally confessed* their sins;
- *receive the Holy Eucharist* (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required);
- *pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff*.

5. It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act.

Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.

6. For the sake of those legitimately impeded, *confessors* can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin).

7. Indulgences *can* always be *applied* either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

Source: Apostolic Penitentiary, *The Gift of the Indulgence*