

The Celebration of the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the Year of Saint Joseph

Introduction

The Year of Saint Joseph

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis announced that the Church would celebrate a special year dedicated to St. Joseph beginning on December 8, 2020 and continuing through December 8, 2021. (See Resource 1 for the link to the Holy Father's Apostolic Letter)

This document and the linked contents can be accessed by clicking on this www.catholicyc.ca/stjoseph

Information on other initiatives in the Year of Saint Joseph and "Amoris Laetitia Family" will be forthcoming.

In Celebration of the Solemnity

- Parishes, families, and the faithful are encouraged to pray the *Novena to Saint Joseph* which begins on Thursday March 11, 2021. (See Resource 2 for the *Novena to Saint Joseph*)
- Parishes are invited to simultaneously celebrate the Mass for the Solemnity with the Bishop in their own churches on the

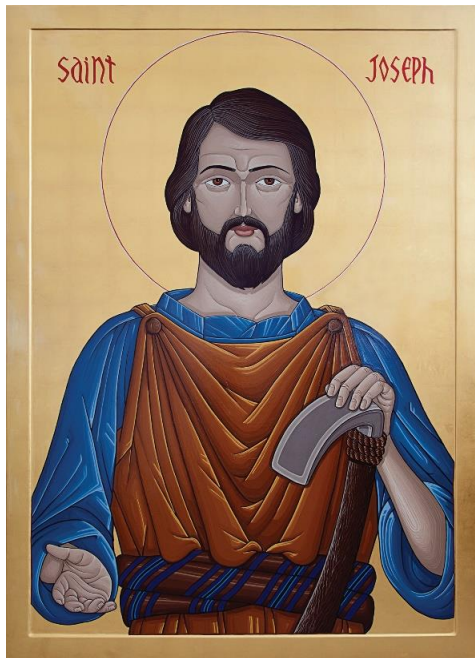
Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday, March 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Bishop McGrattan will be celebrating the 5:00 pm Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral. This Mass will be livestreamed.

After the Mass, the celebrant kneels before an image or statue of Saint Joseph in the sanctuary. He invites all to kneel and leads the people in the prayer. There is no need to provide handouts to the congregation as the celebrant leads the prayer in its entirety. (See Appendix I)

Note: Parishes can decide to keep the regular Mass schedule on March 19 and provide an additional 5 pm Mass that day or move the regular Mass that day to 5 pm in virtue of this diocesan initiative for the celebration of the Solemnity.

- March 19 also marks the beginning of the “Amoris Laetitia Family”, which marks five years since the publication of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on the beauty and joy of love in the family. The Year will conclude on June 26, 2022 on the occasion of the 10th World Meeting of Family to be held in Rome.



Prayer to Saint 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.

- Pope Francis, *Patris Corde*, 2020.

Download prayer card at www.catholicyc.ca/stjoseph

The Icon of St. Joseph the Worker, 2013

Iconographer Andre Prevost
Archdiocese of Edmonton

“Saint Joseph is portrayed in his middle years wearing a pale blue tunic with rolled up sleeves and a leather earth-toned shop apron, which is buttoned at the shoulder. He is presented in “working” clothes and not wearing the traditional himation, which would not be worn while working. The tradition of using blue (or purple) for the inner garment represents the spiritual, and the outer garment is in warm brown colours for the earth. The blue in the detailing on his waist sash represents that St. Joseph was from the lineage of the House of David. His left hand rests on a wood-chipping tool and reaches out with his right, inviting people to himself.” – Andre J. Prevost

(See Resource 3 to download the digital file of the icon)

Appendix I

After Mass on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, the celebrant kneels before an image or statue of Saint Joseph in the sanctuary. There is no need to provide handouts to the congregation as the celebrant leads the prayer in its entirety. He invites all to kneel and leads the people in the following prayer:

Act of Consecration to Saint Joseph

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, we, the clergy, religious, and lay faithful of the Diocese of Calgary, choose you this day to be our father, guardian, and protector.

O great Saint Joseph, whom God has made the Head of the Holy Family, accept us, we beseech you, though utterly unworthy, to be members of your “Holy House.” Present us to your Immaculate Spouse; ask her also to adopt us as her children. With her, pray that we may constantly think of Jesus, and serve him faithfully to the end of our lives.

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

O Spiritual Father, we hereby consecrate the Diocese of Calgary to you. In faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary, we place all our concerns under your care and protection. To you, after Jesus and Mary, we consecrate our bodies and souls, with all their faculties, our spiritual growth, our homes, and all our affairs and undertakings.

Forsake us not, but adopt us as servants and children of the Holy Family. Watch over us at all times, but especially at the hour of our deaths. Console and strengthen us with the presence of Jesus and Mary so that, with you, we may praise and adore the Holy Trinity for all eternity. Amen.

Litany to Saint 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 Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Saint Joseph, *pray for us.*

Noble offspring 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 courageous, *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.*

Example to parents, *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 the 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.

He made him lord over his house,
and the ruler of all his possessions.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
by your ineffable providence
you chose Saint Joseph
to be the spouse of your most holy Mother:
grant, we beseech you,
that we may have him for an intercessor in heaven,
as we venerate him as our protector on earth.
You who live and reign forever and ever.

R: Amen.

At the conclusion of the Litany, the celebrant may light candles or place a bouquet of white lilies in front of an image or statue of Saint Joseph.

Celebrant: Let us now conclude the consecration with
the prayer that Pope Francis has
promulgated for the Year of Saint 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.

R: Amen.

APPENDIX II

Special Indulgences for the Year of Saint Joseph

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis announced that the Church would celebrate a special year dedicated to St. Joseph beginning on December 8, 2020 and continuing through December 8, 2021. At the Holy Father's request, the Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree that gives all the faithful the privilege of obtaining the gift of special plenary indulgences during the year of St. Joseph "to perpetuate the dedication of the entire Church to the powerful patronage of St. Joseph, the Custodian of Jesus." The "Decree on the Year of St. Joseph Indulgences" provides that all Baptized Catholics in the state of grace (free from mortal or grave sin) can obtain a plenary indulgence (remission before God of temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven) for themselves or for the faithful departed once per day under the usual conditions, in various ways. The usual conditions prescribed by law to obtain a plenary indulgence are:

- You must have an interior disposition of complete detachment from and rejection of sin, including venial or less grave sins;
- You must go to Confession and also receive the Holy Eucharist; and,
- You must pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.
- These conditions should be completed within a short time (about 20 days) before or after the indulgenced act.

The Decree lists the following means and occasions when a special plenary indulgence can be granted during the Year of St. Joseph:

- Since St. Joseph invites you to rediscover your filial relationship with the Father and renew your fidelity to prayer, a plenary indulgence is granted to those who 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;
- As St. Joseph prompts you to be loyal in the fulfillment of your duties and to practice God's law of mercy, those who follow the example of St. Joseph and perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy will be able to receive the gift of a plenary indulgence;
- To encourage Catholic families to recreate the atmosphere of intimate communion, love, and prayer found in the Holy Family, a plenary indulgence is granted to families and to spouses who pray the Holy Rosary together;
- As St. Joseph, the "Worker of Nazareth", helps you recognize the dignity of work, a plenary indulgence is granted to all who entrust their daily work to St. Joseph, and to all believers who, through their prayers, invoke the intercession of St. Joseph the Worker;

- Since the Flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows you that God is where people suffer, flee, and experience rejection and abandonment, a plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who pray the Litany of St. Joseph or some other prayer to St. Joseph for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all persecuted Christians;
- To reaffirm to universality of the patronage of the Church by St. Joseph, a plenary indulgence is granted to all the faithful who pray an approved prayer or perform an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph especially on the
 - Feast of the Holy Family (Sunday after Christmas),
 - March 19 (Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary),
 - May 1st (Optional Memorial, St. Joseph the Worker),
 - and the 19th of every month and every Wednesday, days the Church traditionally dedicates to the memory of St. Joseph;
- In the context of the current health emergency (Covid-19 pandemic), the gift of a plenary indulgence is extended particularly to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes. The indulgence is obtained by those who, in a spirit of detachment from all sin and with the intention to fulfill the conditions prescribed by law as soon as possible, pray an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, consolation of the sick and Patron of a Happy Death, offering to God the pains and tribulations of your life.

(See Resource 4 for the Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special indulgences on the occasion of the Year of Saint Joseph)

Resources

1. Apostolic Letter, Patris Corde, of the Holy Father, Francis, on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208-patris-corde.html
2. The Novena to Saint Joseph
www.catholicyc.ca/stjoseph
3. The Icon of Saint Joseph
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I5YHHafWFCfUnw8v_F5u_XHjPlyAvx1/view
4. Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special indulgences on the occasion of the Year of Saint Joseph
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_trib_appen_pro_20201208-decreto-indulgenze-sangiuseppe_en.html
5. Online Spiritual Resources for the Year of Saint Joseph
 - <https://www.catholicyc.ca/stjoseph.html>
 - <https://catholic-link.org/the-resources-you-need-for-the-year-of-st-joseph/>
 - <https://www.catholicyc.ca/blog/st-joseph-our-guide-in-times-of-trouble>