

POPE FRANCIS DECLARES A YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

On December 8, 2020, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being named patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed that the Church will celebrate a Year of St. Joseph starting on December 8, 2020 and ending Dec. 8, 2021.

In an apostolic letter titled [*Patris Corde*](#) (“With a father’s heart”), Pope Francis shared some personal reflections on the spouse of Mary, writing, “Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.” He added that his desire to honor St. Joseph “increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

The Apostolic Penitentiary announced it will offer a plenary indulgence to the faithful who recite any approved prayer or act of piety to honor St. Joseph, as well as through acts of justice, charity and piety dedicated to the foster father of Jesus. According to Catholic News Service, “Among the conditions for receiving an indulgence are a spirit detached from sin, receiving sacramental confession as soon as possible, receiving Communion as soon as possible and praying for the Holy Father’s intentions.”

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the plenary indulgence is being extended to the elderly, the sick, the dying and “all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes,” according to Vatican News, which lists all the many ways to obtain the indulgence.

GOOD ST. JOSEPH, PRAY FOR US!