



December 8, 2020 – December 2021

The Year of St. Joseph

Tuesday 8 December 2020 was the Solemnity of Assumption and the 150th anniversary of the Decree by Blessed Pius IX, which declared St. Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church. In order to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of Jesus, Pope Francis established that, from last Tuesday up to December 8, 2021, a special Year of Saint Joseph is to be celebrated universally by the Church. In this year of St. Joseph, every faithful following his example can daily strengthen their life of faith in the full fulfilment of God's will.

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 soul detached from any sin, will participate in the Year of St. Joseph on occasions and with the modalities indicated by this Apostolic Penitentiary.

Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example "To you, o Blessed Joseph ", especially on the recurrences of March 19 and May 1, on the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph's Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition), on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition.

In the current context of health emergency, the gift of the plenary indulgence is particularly extended to the elderly, the sick, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave the house, who with a soul detached from any sin and with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions, in their own home or where the impediment holds them, they will recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, comfort of the sick and Patron of a happy death, offering with trust in God the pains and discomforts of your life.

In order that the attainment of divine grace through the power of the Keys may be pastorally facilitated, this Penitentiary earnestly prays that all priests endowed with the appropriate faculties, offer themselves with an available and generous spirit to the celebration of the sacrament of Penance and often administer Holy Communion to the sick.

This Decree is valid for the Year of St. Joseph, despite any contrary provision.

Given in Rome, from the headquarters of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 8 December 2020.