

## **The Year of St. Joseph** **December 8, 2020 - December 8, 2021**



Pope Francis has declared a Year of St. Joseph, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on December 8, 1870. The Year began December 8, 2020 and will conclude December 8, 2021.

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

"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," the pope wrote.

He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, "Our world today needs fathers."

The Apostolic Penitentiary (a tribunal of mercy, responsible for issues relating to the forgiveness of sins in the Catholic Church) also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and "to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus."

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves "with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today."

*The St. Joseph image is a picture of our St. Joseph statue in the right front corner of the Sanctuary.*