

The Year of St. Joseph

Special Indulgences



When Pope Francis declared a Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021, 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.

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will 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.

The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy.

The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences.

Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence.

The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution.

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary grants a plenary indulgence to the faithful who will recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, for example, "To you, O blessed Joseph" especially on "March 19, on May 1, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday.