

Year of Saint Joseph

(the following is taken from the Vatican News website)

“With the Apostolic Letter “*Patris corde*” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

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.”

“Therefore, the gift of indulgences granted through a decree of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”

Conditions for the plenary indulgence

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, in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- 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 (for the Latin tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church *ad intra* and *ad extra*, 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 "19 March, on 1 May, 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, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition."

- the gift of the plenary indulgence is also extended to the sick, the elderly, the dying and all those who for legitimate reasons are unable to leave their homes.

They too can obtain the plenary indulgences if they are detached from any sin and have the intention of fulfilling, as soon as possible, the three usual conditions and recite an act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, offering to God the pains and hardships of their lives.

The Apostolic Penitentiary encourages priests to pastorally facilitate the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the administration of Holy Communion to the sick with a willing and generous spirit." 08/12/2020.

At St. Stephen's, we will have prayers, liturgies and activities to celebrate this Holy Year. Here is a prayer that we will pray at the end of each Mass:

Great St. Joseph, the Creator of the universe entrusted His Only-Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and the Virgin Mary, the Mother of His Son, to you loving care and watchful protection. Your humble labour in the workshop of Nazareth, reflected the creative work of God the Father and His provident guidance of all things.

Intercede now for God's Church, the Body of Christ, and in particular for the parish of St. Stephen's and connecting mission parishes and the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

May we hear the word of God in faith, respond with hopeful hearts to God's plan for us, and work and pray in loving communion.

Help us to make our homes into a new Nazareth, the Church into a Holy Family, and the world into a workshop of justice and peace for the glory of God, the Father almighty, and His only Son our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen *(taken from "United in Prayer", Archdiocese of Edmonton)*