This year Pope Francis declared Dec. 8, 2020 to Dec. 8, 2021, the Year of St. Joseph – beloved father, guardian of the holy family, and obedient and humble servant of God – in his letter Patris corde, “With a Father’s Heart.”

The Holy Father made the announcement on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, urging all the faithful to concentrate on asking St. Joseph to interceded for us as a loving father, as we commit to welcoming the will of God in our lives as Joseph did in his. Pope Francis encourages us to be courageous and share our values, dignity and love of God. Like Joseph we need to be present, compassionate, and "ever ready to carry out God’s will."

For a full text if the letter, please visit http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-letteraap_20201208_patris-corde.html
Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

Blandina, the servant of God, protector of children, especially immigrant children, caring for their health and education; I come to seek your intercession in my present need:
(State your intention.)
I admire your spirit of sacrifice, recognizing the need and ready to serve. Your healing hand and educating voice moving hearts to forgive, now brings me joy to know your love for Jesus. Teach my heart to trust God as you did and ready my lips to say “Gesu” (Jesus) as to welcome God’s spirit into my heart.

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart and a fervent love of the interior life. After thine example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death Amen.
Prayer of Saint Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.
Holy Father, you revealed to St. Joseph your eternal plan of salvation in Christ, deepen our understanding of your Son, true God and true man. God of all righteousness, you want us all to be like you, may St. Joseph inspire us all to walk always in your way of holiness. Look kindly on the dying and dead, and grant them your mercy, through the intercession of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. For religious communities who carry the name of Joseph: for those who follow the spirit of his paternal service to their families; and for St. Joseph’s intercession for our country. For fathers, husbands and guardians; for all who carry out a humble and charitable service to the needy; and for all communities that work for unity. For peace in the hearts of all people at this critical period of our history; for the Spirit’s guidance in the decision-making process of all government and church leaders; and for those beset by the lack of food, hope or medical supplies. For the safety of all health care workers; for the speedy development of a vaccine and the end of this virus; and for the sick and recovering. St. Joseph, just one, you are a model of caring, presence, courage and integrity; St. Joseph inspire and guide us. St. Joseph, you were honest and a man of integrity; St. Joseph inspire and guide us. St. Joseph, you were faithful to the mystery of your dreams and followed God’s call; St. Joseph inspire and guide us. St. Joseph, you respected the common good, empower us to be bearers of gentleness to all persons; St. Joseph inspire and guide us. St. Joseph, you trusted in God’s will and word for your life, help us to be faithful promise keepers of unity and reconciliation; St. Joseph inspire and guide us. You chose Joseph the righteous to care for your Son in childhood and youth, - teach us to care for Christ’s body by caring for our brother and sisters. St. Joseph inspire and guide us. God of all righteousness, you want us all to be like you, - May St. Joseph inspire us all to walk always in your way of holiness. St. Joseph inspire and guide us.
Resources to Celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph

PRAYERS

- O God, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and his obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

- O God, who called your servant Joseph to be the faithful guardian of your incarnate Son, and the spouse of his virgin mother: Give us grace to follow his example in constant worship of you and obedience to your commands, that our homes may be sanctified by your presence, and our children nurtured in your fear and love, through the same your son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

- Father, you entrusted our Savior to the care of Saint Joseph. By the help of his prayers may your Church continue to serve its Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

- Almighty God, whose only Son entrusted himself to the care and protection of St. Joseph, hear our prayers, and grant that, we too may experience his guiding hand and affirming love in our time of uncertainty. Bring an end to this pandemic, restore the sick to health and guide the endeavors of researchers and health care workers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Suggestions and Considerations to Celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph

LENT
February 17 - April 1, 2021
† Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy: plenary indulgence attached to performing a spiritual or corporal work of mercy following example of St Joseph.
  - USCCB already has excellent materials on Spiritual & Corporal Works of Mercy that might be adapted to focus on following example of St Joseph

March 2021 · Customary Month for Commemorating St Joseph
March 19, 2021 (Friday) · Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

† Coverage of Masses and content from Homilies
† Encourage 33-day Consecration to St Joseph that ends on this day
  (begin work of consecration on Feb 16)

EASTER TIME
May 1, 2021 (Saturday) · Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker

† Coverage of Masses and content from Homilies
† Pray for those who need help finding more sustaining work and invoke the intercession of St Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work]
† Encourage 33-day Consecration to St Joseph that ends on this day (begin work of consecration on Mar 30)

ORDINARY TIME (II)
June 20, 2021 (Sunday) · Father’s Day

† Coverage of Masses and content from Homilies
† In podcasts and/or articles, highlight fathers who have a special devotion to St Joseph / have consecrated themselves to St Joseph
† Encourage 33-day Consecration to St Joseph that ends on this day (begin work of consecration on May 19)

August 21, 2021 (Saturday) · Commemoration of Our Lady of Knock
† Encourage 33-day Consecration to St Joseph that ends on this day
  (begin work of consecration on Jul 20)

November 1, 2021 (Monday) · Solemnity of All Saints
† Encourage 33-day Consecration to St Joseph that ends on this day
  (begin work of consecration on Sep 30)
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
for use/promotion at any time during the year of Saint Joseph

Saint Joseph Day Prayer Service

Prayers for the Year of Saint Joseph / Various Prayers from the Liturgy

† Consecration to St Joseph
- promoted through pastors
- explain what a consecration to St Joseph is/means
- Consecration is a 33-day work and could be recommended for the following (as noted in the liturgical year sections above):
  - Feb 16 – Mar 19, 2021 (ending on Solemnity of St Joseph)
  - Mar 30 – May 1, 2021 (ending on Memorial of St Joseph the Worker)
  - May 19 – Jun 20, 2021 (ending on Father’s Day)
  - Jul 20 – Aug 21, 2021 (ending on commemoration of Our Lady of Knock)
  - Sep 30 – Nov 1, 2021 (ending on Solemnity of All Saints)

Selected Spiritual Readings
† Matthew 1-2
† Luke 1-2
† St Bernardine of Siena · Sermo 2, de S. Joseph
  Hours, Office of Readings, Solemnity of Saint Joseph, vol. 2, pp. 1721-1723
† Leo XIII · Encyclical Letter Quamquam Pluries † Saint John Paul II · Apostolic Exhortation Redemptoris Custos
† Pope Francis · Homily for the Mass for the beginning of the Petrine Ministry, 19 Mar 2013
† Pope Francis · Apostolic Letter Patris Corde

Devotions

Music Suggestions for the Year of Saint Joseph
A plenary indulgence (the remission of temporal punishment due to sin) is granted to the faithful who, with a spirit detached from any sin, fulfill the usual conditions of sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope’s intentions and who, during the Year of Saint Joseph...

† 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.
† Following St. Joseph’s example, perform a spiritual work of mercy or corporal work of mercy.
† Recite the Holy Rosary as a family or as an engaged couple.
† Entrust your daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph and invoke the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work.
† Recite the Litany to St. Joseph for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution.
† Recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph on the Feast of the Holy Family, on March 19th, on May 1st, on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday.

For the Sick, Hospitalized, and Homebound

Amid the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, 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.
Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy R/. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy R/. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy R/. Lord, have mercy.
God our Father in heaven R/. Have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world
R/. Have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit R/. Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God R/. Have mercy on us.
Holy Mary R/. Pray for us.
Saint Joseph R/. Pray for us.
Noble son of the House of David R/. Pray for us.
Light of patriarchs R/. Pray for us.
Husband of the Mother of God R/. Pray for us.
Guardian of the Virgin R/. Pray for us.
Foster father of the Son of God R/. Pray for us.
Faithful guardian of Christ R/. Pray for us.
Head of the holy family R/. Pray for us.
Joseph, chaste and just R/. Pray for us.
Joseph, prudent and brave R/. Pray for us.
Joseph, obedient and loyal R/. Pray for us.
Pattern of patience R/. Pray for us.
Lover of poverty R/. Pray for us.
Model of workers R/. Pray for us.
Example to parents R/. Pray for us.
Guardian of virgins R/. Pray for us.
Pillar of family life R/. Pray for us.
Comfort of the troubled R/. Pray for us.
Hope of the sick R/. Pray for us.
Patron of the dying R/. Pray for us.
Terror of evil spirits R/. Pray for us.
Protector of the Church R/. Pray for us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
R/. Spare us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
R/. Hear us O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
R/. Have mercy on us.

Let us pray. God, in your infinite wisdom and
love you chose Joseph to be the husband of
Mary, the mother of your Son. May we have
the help of his prayers in heaven and enjoy
his protection on earth. We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.
The Holy Father's Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen
Mary, Mother of the Church, help the Church in these lands to follow your example of sublime love and profound humility. With you, may we be obedient to the commandment of love, and give our selves wholeheartedly to seeking the glory of Christ and serving the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of Mercy, Teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, grant peace, justice and prosperity to all people; for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are. Mother of the Church, help us grow in our faith, hope and love.

General Intercessions - Our Lady of Guadalupe

God sent us the Blessed Virgin Mary to console us in our sorrow and to lead us to himself. Let us confidently pray: Grant us her love, help, and protection.

- Mary, Mother of the Church, help the Church in these lands to follow your example of sublime love and profound humility. With you, may we be obedient to the commandment of love, and give our selves wholeheartedly to seeking the glory of Christ and serving the needs of our brothers and sisters.
- Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of Mercy, Teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, grant peace, justice and prosperity to all people; for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are. Mother of the Church, help us grow in our faith, hope and love.

Prayer

O God, Father of mercies, who placed your people under the singular protection of your Son’s most holy Mother, grant that all who invoke the Blessed Virgin of Guadalupe, may seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Sister Blandina Segale
1850-1941
January 23, 1850
Born in Cicagna, Italy
March 6, 1854
Immigrated with her family to the United States
September 13, 1866
Entered the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
January 1872-September 1892
Ministered in Colorado and New Mexico
December 8, 1897
Founded the Santa Maria Social Service Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio
February 23, 1941
Died in Cincinnati

Servant of God S. Blandina Segale, SC, pray for us.

General Intercessions

- Blandina, counselor of souls, prepare us for death. Remove all evil thoughts, remove resentment, and bring us to forgiveness. As you talked dying people into forgiveness of those who brought great harm, so when on our death bed whisper in our ear “Gesu” (Jesus) so we too may say the sacred name that will bless our lips so to be prepared to kiss our Lord. Take our intentions to the throne of God.
- Blandina, health care worker, bandage our wounded heart with love, removing all hate. Take our intentions to the throne of God.
- Blandina, seeker of justice and recognizer of human dignity even in the guilty, lead me to justice, be my defender in front of the Judge. Take my intention to the throne of God
- Blandina, hear our cry like an immigrant of this earth waiting to receive our true home of Heaven. Take our intention to the throne of God.