



Year of
St. Joseph
Patron of the
Universal
Church

08 December 2020

08 December 2021

St. Joseph Co-Cathedral Thibodaux, Louisiana

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis issued his apostolic letter “*Patris corde*” (With a Father’s Loving Heart), declaring a year-long observance and celebration of St. Joseph (December 2020 to December 2021), on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Click here for the Apostolic Letter: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/pa-pa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

In his Apostolic Letter, Pope Francis identified the admirable qualities of St. Joseph as husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus. Pope Francis invites all to learn and use these qualities as ways to grow in the faith and to witness to the gospel.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

Unfortunately, the restrictions imposed by the Pandemic prohibits many of us to gather together and celebrate this special year of St. Joseph. Nevertheless, there are some opportunities that you can do on your own and/or with your families and friends that will honor St. Joseph.

What can you do to observe and celebrate the Special Year of St. Joseph? Here are 15 ways:

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/fifteen-ways-to-gain-an-indulgence-in-the-year-of-st-joseph-81304>

A plenary indulgence (removal of all the temporal punishment) has been granted during the Year of St. Joseph provided the following conditions are met: (1) sacramental confession, (2) participation at the Celebration of the Eucharist and reception of Holy Communion, and (3) praying for the Pope’s intentions.

In addition to the 15 Ways, here are some other ideas to observe the Year of St. Joseph.

- a. Create your own little Altar of St. Joseph with his statue or picture and decorate around it. Add pictures of your grandfather, father, brother, husband, son/s, and other men in your life and pray for them that through the intercessions of St. Joseph they will receive God’s blessings now and hereafter.
- b. Use the Litany of St. Joseph below and meditate on the Litany as a means to focus your mind and heart in prayer. <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/litany-of-st-joseph-247>

- c. Using Fr. Donald Calloway's "*Consecration to St. Joseph: the Wonders of our Spiritual Father*" as a guide, make a personal or family consecration to St. Joseph. See below:
<https://www.ncregister.com/features/it-takes-a-father-new-book-highlights-consecration-to-st-joseph> This book and related materials are available at God's Precious Word Books and Gifts located at St. Mary's Street in Thibodaux.
- d. Visit churches named after St. Joseph. In addition to our Co-Cathedral, we have 2 other churches in our diocese that honors St. Joseph as their patron, viz. **St. Joseph Church in Galliano** and **St. Joseph Church in Chauvin**. You can check their activities and schedule by going to our diocesan website at www.htdiocese.org, choose "Churches," and then "Church Parishes Search" and click on these churches.
- e. Using the special prayer below that Pope Francis composed for the Year of St. Joseph, pray every Wednesday morning for all the families and place them under the protection and patronage of 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.*

- f. Finally, here's a link for all resources available on observing the Year of St. Joseph. <https://catholic-link.org/the-resources-you-need-for-the-year-of-st-joseph/>

