

PLENARY INDULGENCES

SIN IS A REALITY IN OUR LIVES. WHEN WE APPROACH THE MERCY OF JESUS IN THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION, HE FORGIVES OUR SINS. HOWEVER, EVERY SIN WE COMMIT HAS CONSEQUENCES. FOR EXAMPLE - IF I STOLE MONEY FROM MY FRIEND AND THEY FORGAVE ME, I WOULD STILL HAVE TO REPAY THE MONEY OWED AND EXPERIENCE THE CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTION. THE SPIRITUAL CONSEQUENCES OF OUR SINS MUST BE PURIFIED EITHER BEFORE DEATH OR AFTER DEATH. IF THE SPIRITUAL CONSEQUENCES ARE NOT DEALT WITH BEFORE DEATH, THEN OUR SOULS WILL BE IN PURGATORY EXPERIENCING PURIFICATION. HOWEVER, THERE IS A WAY TO EXPERIENCE THIS PURIFICATION OF OUR SOULS HERE AND NOW. THROUGH AN INDULGENCE GOD WIPES AWAY THE SPIRITUAL CONSEQUENCES OF SIN. INDULGENCES ARE NOT MAGIC, NOR ARE THEY SUPERSTITIOUS ACTS, BUT ACTS OF TRUE FAITH AND SURRENDER TO THE MERCY OF GOD. THE FAITHFUL CAN PARTICIPATE IN A PLENARY OR PARTIAL INDULGENCE. A PLENARY INDULGENCE FREES THE PERSON OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF ALL SIN COMMITTED, AND A PARTIAL INDULGENCE WIPES AWAY PART OF THE PUNISHMENT OF SIN. BOTH THE PLENARY AND PARTIAL INDULGENCES CAN BE OFFERED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED WHO MAY BE IN PURGATORY.

POPE FRANCIS HAS DECLARED THIS YEAR (FROM DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021) THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH, HONORING HIM AS THE PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH. WITH THIS SPECIAL YEAR HONORING ST. JOSEPH, POPE FRANCIS IS ALLOWING THE FAITHFUL TO GAIN AN INDULGENCE WHILE GROWING IN DEVOTION TO THE GREAT SAINT.

WAYS TO GAIN THE INDULGENCE:

- **MEDITATE FOR AT LEAST 30 MINUTES ON THE OUR FATHER, OR TAKE PART IN A “SPIRITUAL RETREAT OF AT LEAST ONE DAY THAT INCLUDES A MEDITATION ON ST. JOSEPH.”**
- **PERFORM A SPIRITUAL OR CORPORAL ACT OF MERCY FOLLOWING ST. JOSEPH’S EXAMPLE.**
- **FOR FAMILIES OR ENGAGED COUPLES WHO RECITE THE HOLY ROSARY TOGETHER.**
- **ENTRUST YOUR DAILY WORK TO ST. JOSEPH OR ASK ST. JOSEPH’S INTERCESSION FOR THE UNEMPLOYED TO FIND DIGNIFYING WORK.**
- **RECITE THE LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH OR ANY OTHER PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH AND RELIEF OF ALL CHRISTIANS SUFFERING FROM PERSECUTION.**
- **PRAY ANY LAWFULLY APPROVED PRAYER OR ACT OF PIETY IN HONOR OF SAINT JOSEPH, FOR EXAMPLE “TO YOU O BLESSED JOSEPH,” ESPECIALLY ON:**
 - **MARCH 19TH (SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH)**
 - **MAY 1ST (FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER)**
 - **DECEMBER 26TH (FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY)**
 - **THE SUNDAY OF SAINT JOSEPH (ACCORDING TO THE BYZANTINE TRADITION)**
 - **THE 19TH DAY OF EVERY MONTH**
 - **EVERY WEDNESDAY (A DAY DEDICATED TO THE SAINT ACCORDING TO THE LATIN TRADITION)**
- **TO THE ELDERLY, SICK, DYING AND THOSE LEGITIMATELY UNABLE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE, WHO RECITE AN ACT OF PIETY TO ST. JOSEPH UNDER HIS TITLE OF COMFORT OF THE SICK AND PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH, PROVIDED THEY OFFER THEIR DISCOMFORT AND PAINS TO GOD WITH TRUST AND FULFILL THE CONDITIONS FOR THE INDULGENCE “AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.”**

TO GAIN A PLENARY INDULGENCE, THREE CONDITIONS MUST BE MET - SACRAMENTAL CONFESSION EITHER 20 DAYS BEFORE OR 20 DAYS AFTER THE INDULGENCE IS SOUGHT, THE RECEPTION OF EUCHARISTIC COMMUNION AND PRAYER FOR THE POPE’S INTENTIONS ON THE DAY THE INDULGENCE IS SOUGHT. THE SOUL MUST ALSO BE WILLFULLY DETACHED FROM ANY SIN, MORTAL AND VENIAL.

