



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

Office of Worship

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Year of Saint Joseph

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in 2020, Pope Francis has released an apostolic letter about Saint Joseph and declared a “Year of St. Joseph” from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. The letter, *Patris Corde* (“a Father’s heart”) was released on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. It can be found here:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

The Diocese of Sacramento is observing this Year in many ways.

Journey with Joseph Pilgrimage

We will soon be announcing Saint Joseph pilgrimage sites across the Diocese.

Indulgence

The Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree on December 8, 2020, formally announcing the decision of Pope Francis to celebrate the Year of Saint Joseph through December 8, 2021. Special opportunities to receive a plenary indulgence were also included, subject to the usual conditions: sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope, and total detachment to all sin, including venial sin.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Holy See made provision in its decree that persons who are currently unable to go to Mass or confession because of public health restrictions may defer reception of those two sacraments until they are able to do so. Those who are sick, suffering, or homebound may also receive the plenary indulgence by fulfilling as much as they are able and by offering their sorrows and sufferings to God through Saint Joseph, consoler of the sick and patron saint for receiving a good death.

The following prayers and activities have been enriched with a plenary indulgence:

- meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer (“Our Father”) or participate in a spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on Saint Joseph;
- perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, inspired by the life and example of Saint Joseph;
- pray the Rosary together as a family or a couple, modeling the virtues of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph;
- dedicate with confidence their daily work to the protection of Saint Joseph the Worker, including the efforts of those who are unemployed, underemployed, or seeking more dignified work;
- devoutly recite the Litany of Saint Joseph (from the Latin Church; available at <https://USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/litanies/litany-of-saint-joseph>),

some or all of the *Akathistos* hymn to Saint Joseph (from the Byzantine Churches), or another suitable prayer in each liturgical tradition, especially for the intentions of persecuted Catholics in the Church and around the world, and for the relief of all Christians who suffer persecution; or

- devoutly recite another approved prayer to Saint Joseph, for example the “To you, O blessed Joseph” (available at <https://USCCB.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-to-st-joseph-after-rosary>), especially on various feasts of Saint Joseph: March 19 (his solemnity), May 1 (St. Joseph the Worker), the Sunday after Christmas (Holy Family), St. Joseph’s Sunday (Byzantine Catholics), or on the 19th day of each month, or each Wednesday, traditionally dedicated to honor his memory with pious devotions.

Holy Card

The Office of Family and Faith Formation is creating a holy card of Saint Joseph in honor of this Year.

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, March 19th

Novena

The USCCB has composed this novena to be prayed yearly on March 10-18, the nine days that precede the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on March 19. Each day of the novena will be accompanied by a reflection video from bishops across the United States.

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/novena-solemnity-saint-joseph>

St. Joseph’s Table

This devotion, already popular in some places, may be encouraged with a bulletin/social media announcement like this (feel free to shorten):

A special tribute to Saint Joseph, the father of the holy family, is for every household in the Diocese to purchase a copy of *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* for their home. It would enrich family prayer life during Lent—especially during the Year of Saint Joseph, since the book includes a special blessing called “St. Joseph’s Table” for use on March 19th, as well as a Litany of Saint Joseph for use throughout the year. A product of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the text may be purchased from local Catholic booksellers or the bishops’ website:

<https://store.usccb.org/catholic-household-blessings-prayers-p/7-657.htm>

The book makes it easy for parents to share short daily prayers and the ritual of morning and evening family prayer; to gather families for seasonal blessings that correspond to the Church’s liturgical calendar; and to offer prayers on the occasion of special life events such as graduations, birthdays, engagements, pregnancy and childbirth, as well as prayers for times of sickness and difficulty.

An image of the book is available at the above link. The St. Joseph’s Table blessing is also found in the *Book of Blessings*.

Seven Fridays with Saint Joseph

Everyone is invited to share in a special weekly devotion from the Solemnity of Saint Joseph on Friday, March 19th through the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker on Saturday May 1st (with a pause for Holy Week), with the final Friday being May 7th. The full text of the devotion, called “The Prayers in Honor of the Seven Joys and Sorrows of Saint Joseph”, is available here:

https://www.fdlc.org/sites/default/files/Year_of_Saint_Joseph_Devotions.pdf

A weekly video component with reflections will also be provided.

Saint Joseph the Worker, May 1st

Pastors and parochial administrators are encouraged to observe this optional memorial, and to make use of the Blessing of Tools or Other Equipment for Work (BB 919-941, HB 325-326), as suggested in the *Ordo*.

Father's Day, June 20

On Father's Day the Office of Family and Faith Formation will launch the promotion of a fathers retreat to be held later in the year.

Summer

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is planning a Saint Joseph-themed River Cats outing for fathers and their families this summer. The date will be announced later.

Labor Day, September 6

Priests may consider offering the Mass of St. Joseph the Worker (May 1) as a votive Mass on Labor Day. See the note at the end of the Votive Mass of Saint Joseph in the *Roman Missal*.

Ministry Days

The Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry, the Office of Family & Faith Formation, and the Catholic Schools Department will host their annual Ministry Days with the theme "Journey with Joseph" which will take place September 24 and 25.

October

Please encourage the faithful to conclude the rosary this month with Pope Leo XIII's Prayer to Saint Joseph (<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/prayer-to-st-joseph-after-rosary>). Watch also for a connection between Saint Joseph and Respect Life Month.

December 7, 2021

We plan to close the Year of Saint Joseph with a special Mass.

Selected Prayers in Honor of Saint Joseph

From the conclusion of the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*

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.

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession
your Church may constantly watch over
the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation,
whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Votive Mass of Saint Joseph

O God, who in your inexpressible providence
were pleased to choose Saint Joseph
as spouse of the most holy Mother of your Son,
grant, we pray,
that we, who revere him as our protector on earth,
may be worthy of his heavenly intercession.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Joseph the Worker

O God, Creator of all things,
who laid down for the human race the law of work,
graciously grant
that by the example of Saint Joseph and under his patronage
we may complete the works you set us to do
and attain the rewards you promise.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Various Needs: For the Family

O God, in whose eternal design
family life has its firm foundation,
look with compassion on the prayers of your servants
and grant that, following the example
of the Holy Family of your Only Begotten Son
in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
we may, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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