

- Also, 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. On May 1, 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker “with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties.”
- The Plenary Indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the *Akathistos* to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine 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; because, as the Decree notes, “the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment.”
- In addition to these options, the Apostolic Penitentiary also 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 **December 27** (the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph), **March 19** (the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary), on **May 1** (the Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker), on **St. Joseph’s Sunday** (according to the Byzantine tradition), on the **19th of each month during the Year**, and on **every Wednesday during the Year**, which is a day traditionally dedicated to the memory of St. Joseph in the Latin Church.

The Vatican Decree also recalls the universality of St. Joseph’s Patronage of the Church, noting that St. Teresa of Ávila recognized him as “a protector for all the circumstances of life.” Pope St. John Paul II also said that St. Joseph has “a renewed relevance for the Church of our time, in relation to the new Christian millennium.”

- 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.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also encourages priests during the “Year of St. Joseph” 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.

*Adapted from the Vatican News article, *Church Grants Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph*, Vatican City, December 8, 2020.