

Pope Francis Proclaims Year of St. Joseph

December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021

It has been 150 years since Blessed Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph as Patron of the Catholic Church so that all could better appreciate this humble carpenter and his central role in the history of salvation.

Now, Pope Francis is asking all of us to observe this important anniversary with the Year of St. Joseph. He invites all Catholics to imitate the example of St. Joseph, an ordinary man who fulfilled his purpose through obedience, love and trust in God.

To launch the Year of St. Joseph, Pope Francis has written an apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, (With A Father's Heart) to highlight the virtues of St. Joseph that we are called to emulate. You can find it at **www.dosp.org/joseph**.

In this 14-page document, Pope Francis lists seven qualities of St. Joseph that distinguish his fatherhood. The pages of the letter reference Scripture and Vatican documents and present a more complete picture of our Church's understanding of St. Joseph in the life of Jesus and his role today in the life of the Church and in our lives.



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.

Written by Pope Francis for Year of St. Joseph

We can all benefit from the prayers of St. Joseph, who can obtain for us miracles and graces as he intercedes for us before God. May this revered saint be a support and guide for our lives as we seek to unite and protect our families and our Church.

Find resources for the Year of St. Joseph at www.dosp.org/joseph