

# Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph

## Archdiocese of Louisville

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021.

There are many connections between St. Joseph and the Archdiocese of Louisville, which is dedicated to his patronage. Several entities have borne his name, including the Basilica Proto-Cathedral, St. Joseph parish in Butchertown, St. Joseph’s Home, an infirmary, an orphanage, and several schools and cemeteries. St. Joseph is also the namesake of our current Archbishop Joseph Kurtz.

The Archdiocese will mark the Year of St. Joseph with a special Day of Prayer Honoring the Year of St. Joseph, celebrated at the Cathedral of the Assumption on Friday, March 19, 2021:

12:00 noon: Mass and Blessing of newly-restored statue of St. Joseph

1pm-7pm: Cathedral church open for guided prayer and veneration of the statue

7:00pm: Solemn Vespers

The Archdiocese also invites all parishes to participate in the Year of St. Joseph in some way. This packet provides some ideas in various areas of ministry. Pastors and parish leaders are invited to choose those which suit the needs and resources in their communities.

The materials in this packet and other are compiled online at [www.archlou.org/stjoseph](http://www.archlou.org/stjoseph), where they may be shared, downloaded, or reproduced. Some are available in Spanish as well.

### **At home:**

- Bless family meals using the St. Joseph table blessing (enclosed – p.3)
- Recipes: prepare one of several traditional St. Joseph’s Day recipes, such as Cuccidati (Italian cookies), lentil soup, or “St. Joseph’s Day spaghetti” (links on website)
- Create a St. Joseph altar in your home (instructions on website)
- Make a pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral (Bardstown), St. Joseph (Louisville) or to the Cathedral of the Assumption to honor St. Joseph and to learn more about the history of his patronage at these places.

- Pray the Novena to St. Joseph “for all who travel upon the path of adoption” (available in English and Spanish on website)
- Pray the St. Joseph Chaplet of Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys (enclosed – p.4-7)
- Observe Father’s Day with a special prayer of blessing (enclosed – p.8)

#### **At school or work:**

- Several resources for schools are available on the website:
  - instructional videos about St. Joseph for various ages
  - crafts, games, and activities
  - coloring pages
- Begin each workday with a prayer to St. Joseph for help in our work (enclosed, p. 9) – this could be printed on a card for distribution to the faithful
- Take a virtual history tour to learn more about the connections between the Archdiocese of Louisville and St. Joseph (forthcoming, available on the website Mar. 19).
- Do a Corporal Work of Mercy. Some local opportunities are included on the website.

#### **At the parish:**

- When the liturgical day allows, celebrate the Votive Mass of Saint Joseph (*Roman Missal* Votive Mass #13) or the Mass for Various Needs #12 “For the Family.” This may be especially appropriate on the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month or on Wednesdays, which the apostolic letter indicates is the day of the week traditionally devoted to St. Joseph.
- Pray the official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph “To You, O Blessed Joseph” (enclosed p. 10-11), especially on Wednesdays or the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month. (*n.b.* This prayer should not be inserted into Mass but could be prayed after Mass, for example.)
- Make available to the faithful the instructions for receiving the Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph, which has been granted by the Holy See through December 8, 2021 (enclosed – p. 12).
- Offer opportunities to participate in a 33-day consecration to St. Joseph, perhaps as a parish staff or in other small study groups. Two resources to guide this process are below; purchasing information can be found on the website.
  - *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* (Donald Calloway, MIC)
  - *Consecration to Jesus Through Saint Joseph: An Integrated Look at the Holy Family* (Dr. Gregory Bottaro & Jennifer Settle)
- Promote fatherhood, marriage, and family life through preaching and parish programs.

## ***Blessing of St. Joseph's Table***

*This blessing is adapted from the Book of Blessings (#1679-1700) and may be prayed before a meal, especially on the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19). It may be led by a lay person.*

*A song may be sung or a candle lit. All make the sign of the cross.*

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: **who made heaven and earth.**

Leader: We honor the memory of St. Joseph, husband of the Virgin Mary and patron of the universal Church. We rejoice at this table, which is a sign of God's generous blessings and of our call to serve the poor and hungry. We pray that through the intercession of St. Joseph we too might join the saints at the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom.

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 13:54-55, 57*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and in his own house."

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

Leader: All-provident God,  
the good things that grace this table  
remind us of your many good gifts.  
Bless this food,  
and may the prayers of St. Joseph,  
who provided bread for your Son and food for the poor,  
sustain us and all our brothers and sisters  
on our journey towards your heavenly kingdom.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer of Blessing reprinted with permission of the International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) from *Book of Blessings* © 1987.

## ST. JOSEPH CHAPLET OF SEVEN SORROWS AND SEVEN JOYS

### JOSEPH'S SEVEN SORROWS

1. The doubt of St. Joseph  
(Matt. 1:19)
2. The poverty of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:7)
3. The Circumcision  
(Luke 2:21)
4. The prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34)
5. The flight into Egypt  
(Matt. 2:14)
6. The return from Egypt  
(Matt. 2:22)
7. The loss of the Child Jesus (Luke 2:45)

### JOSEPH'S SEVEN JOYS

1. The message of the Angel (Matt. 1:20)
2. The birth of the Savior (Luke 2:10-11)
3. The Holy Name of Jesus (Matt. 1:25)
4. The effects of the Redemption (Luke 2:38)
5. The overthrow of the idols of Egypt (Is. 19:1)
6. Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth (Luke 2:39)
7. The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple  
(Luke 2:46)

### PRAYERS IN HONOR OF THE SEVEN SORROWS AND JOYS OF ST. JOSEPH

Composed by Ven. Januarius Sarnelli, C.S.S.R. (d. 1744)

❖ **First Sorrow:** The doubt of St. Joseph. (Matt. 1:19)

*But Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wishing to expose her to reproach, was minded to put her away privately.*

❖ **First Joy:** The message of the Angel. (Matt. 1:20)

*But while he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit."*

O chaste Spouse of Mary most holy, glorious St. Joseph, great was the trouble and anguish of your heart when you wert minded to put away privately your inviolate Spouse, yet your joy was unspeakable when the surpassing mystery of the Incarnation was made known to you by the Angel!

By this sorrow and this joy, we beseech you to comfort our souls, both now and in the sorrows of our final hour, with the joy of a good life and a holy death after the pattern of your own, in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

*Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

❖ **Second Sorrow:** The poverty of Jesus' birth. (Luke 2:7)

*And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

❖ **Second Joy:** The birth of the Savior. (Luke 2:10-11)

*And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people; for today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you, who is Christ the Lord."*

O most blessed Patriarch, glorious St. Joseph, who was chosen to be the foster father of the Word made flesh, your sorrow at seeing the Child Jesus born in such poverty was suddenly changed into heavenly exultation when you did hear the angelic hymn and beheld the glories of that resplendent night.

By this sorrow and this joy, we implore you to obtain for us the grace to pass over from life's pathway to hear the angelic songs of praise, and to rejoice in the shining splendor of celestial glory.

*Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be . . .*

❖ **Third Sorrow:** The Circumcision. (Luke 2:21)

*And when eight days were fulfilled for his circumcision, his name was called Jesus, the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

❖ **Third Joy:** The Holy Name of Jesus. (Matt. 1:25)

*And he did not know her until she brought forth her first born son. And he called his name Jesus.*

O glorious St. Joseph you faithfully obeyed the law of God, and your heart was pierced at the sight of the Precious Blood that was shed by the Infant Savior during His Circumcision, but the Name of Jesus gave you new life and filled you with quiet joy.

By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us the grace to be freed from all sin during life, and to die rejoicing, with the holy Name of Jesus in our hearts and on our lips.

*Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be . . .*

❖ **Fourth Sorrow:** The prophecy of Simeon. (Luke 2:34)

*And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother, "Behold this child is destined for the fall and the rise of many in Israel, and for a sign that shall be contradicted. And your own soul a sword shall pierce."*

❖ **Fourth Joy:** The effects of the Redemption. (Luke 2:38)

*And coming up at that very hour, she began to give praise to the Lord, and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.*

O most faithful Saint who shared the mysteries of our Redemption, glorious St. Joseph, the prophecy of Simeon regarding the sufferings of Jesus and Mary caused you to shudder with mortal dread, but at the same time filled you with a blessed joy for the salvation and glorious resurrection which, he foretold, would be attained by countless souls.

By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us that we may be among the number of those who, through the merits of Jesus and the intercession of Mary the Virgin Mother, are predestined to a glorious resurrection.

*Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be . . .*

❖ **Fifth Sorrow:** The flight into Egypt. (Matt. 2:14)

*So he arose, and took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt.*

❖ **Fifth Joy:** The overthrow of the idols of Egypt. (Is. 19:1)

*The burden of Egypt. Behold the Lord will ascend upon a swift cloud and will enter into Egypt, and the idols of Egypt will be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst thereof.*

O most watchful Guardian of the Incarnate Son of God, glorious St. Joseph, what toil was your in supporting and waiting upon the Son of the most high God, especially in the flight into Egypt! Yet at the same time, how you did rejoice to have always near you God Himself, and to see the idols of the Egyptians fall prostrate to the ground before Him.

By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us the grace of keeping ourselves in safety from the infernal tyrant, especially by flight from dangerous occasions; may every idol of earthly affection fall from our hearts; may we be wholly employed in serving Jesus and Mary, and for them alone may we live and happily die.

*Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be . . .*

❖ **Sixth Sorrow:** The return from Egypt. (Matt. 2:22)

*But hearing that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there; and being warned in a dream, he withdrew into the region of Galilee.*

❖ **Sixth Joy:** Life with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth. (Luke 2:39)

*And when they had fulfilled all things prescribed in the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, into their own town of Nazareth.*

O glorious St. Joseph, an angel on earth, you did marvel to see the King of Heaven obedient to your commands, but your consolation in bringing Jesus out of the land of Egypt was troubled by your fear of Archelaus; nevertheless, being assured by the Angel, you dwelt in gladness at Nazareth with Jesus and Mary.

By this sorrow and this joy, obtain for us that our hearts may be delivered from harmful fears, so that we may rejoice in peace of conscience and may live in safety with Jesus and Mary and may, like you, die in their company.

*Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory be . . .*

❖ **Seventh Sorrow:** The loss of the Child Jesus. (Luke 2:45)

*And not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of him*

❖ **Seventh Joy:** The finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple. (Luke 2:46)

*And it came to pass after three days, that they found him in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.*

O glorious St. Joseph, pattern of all holiness, when you did lose, through no fault of your own, the Child Jesus, you sought Him sorrowing for the space of three days, until with great joy you did find Him again in the Temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors.

By this sorrow and this joy, we supplicate you, with our hearts upon our lips, to keep us from ever having the misfortune to lose Jesus through mortal sin; but if this supreme misfortune should befall us, grant that we may seek Him with unceasing sorrow until we find Him again, ready to show us His great mercy, especially at the hour of death; so that we may pass over to enjoy His presence in Heaven; and there, in company with you, may we sing the praises of his Divine Mercy forever.

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...*

**Antiphon:**

And Jesus Himself was beginning about the age of thirty years,  
being (as it was supposed) the Son of Joseph.

**V.** Pray for us, O holy Joseph.

**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, who in your ineffable providence  
chose Blessed Joseph  
to be the spouse of your most holy Mother,  
grant, we beseech you,  
that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth  
may be our intercessor in heaven.  
You who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

*This devotion is seen as an effective means of obtaining special graces through the intercession of St. Joseph. Often, people honor his seven sorrows and seven joys by practicing this Seven Sundays devotion. The Seven Sundays in honor of St. Joseph are observed by receiving Holy Communion in his honor on seven consecutive Sundays, and on each Sunday the prayers in honor of the Seven Sorrows and the Seven Joys of St. Joseph are recited.*

*This devotion may be practiced at any time of the year, but especially on the seven Sundays preceding the solemnity on March 19th.*

Source: Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions

## **Prayer for Fathers**

God, you are the giver of all life,  
human and divine.

Bless our father.

May he be the best of teachers for his children,  
bearing witness to the faith  
by what he says and does,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

[Spanish translation forthcoming]

Source: *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers* © 1987. Reprinted with permission of the USCCB.

## **St. Joseph, Help Us in Our Work**

Sean Peters, CSJ

St. Joseph, our patron and our Guide,  
You worked as a carpenter which called for  
creativity, resourcefulness, steadfastness and strength.  
Our work demands these same virtues. So we ask for  
    the creativity to see beyond our present reality,  
    the resourcefulness to use the many gifts God provides,  
    the steadfastness to stay with the tasks before us  
    and the strength to meet the challenges that come along the way.  
And may we ask for one more gift that you experienced:  
to be delighted by the presence of Jesus in the midst of our busy days.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

[Spanish translation forthcoming]

## **POPE LEO XIII – *Quamauam Pluries* (1889)**

The official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph—To you, O blessed Joseph (Ad te, beate Ioseph)—was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, *Quamauam Pluries*. The Holy Father asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary especially during October, the month of the Holy Rosary. This prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence (Source: USCCB).

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions,  
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,  
we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God  
and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus,  
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance  
which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,  
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,  
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father,  
ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector,  
be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.  
As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,  
so now protect God's Holy Church  
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;  
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection,  
so that, supported by your example and your aid,  
we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness,  
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.



A ti, bienaventurado San José, acudimos en nuestra tribulación; y después de invocar el auxilio de tu Santísima Esposa solicitamos también confiados tu patrocinio. Por aquella caridad que con la Inmaculada Virgen María, Madre de Dios, te tuvo unido, y por el paterno amor con que abrazaste al Niño Jesús, humildemente te suplicamos vuelvas benigno los ojos a la herencia que con su Sangre adquirió Jesucristo, y con tu poder y auxilio socorras nuestras necesidades.

Protege, Providentísimo Custodio de la Sagrada Familia la escogida descendencia de Jesucristo; aparta de nosotros toda mancha de error y corrupción; asístenos propicio, desde el cielo, fortísimo libertador nuestro, en esta lucha con el poder de las tinieblas: y, como en otro tiempo librateis al Niño Jesús del inminente peligro de la vida, así ahora, defiende a la Iglesia Santa de Dios de las asechanzas de sus enemigos y de toda adversidad, ya cada uno de nosotros protégenos con el perpetuo patrocinio, para que, a tu ejemplo y sostenidos por tu auxilio, podamos santamente vivir y piadosamente morir y alcanzar en el cielo la eterna felicidad. Amén.

# Plenary Indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph

*Granted by the Holy See for the Year of St. Joseph (December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021)*

The plenary indulgence is granted under to the faithful who, with a spirit detached from any sin, satisfy the usual conditions:

1. Sacramental confession
2. Eucharistic Communion
3. Prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father, which may be fulfilled in any of the ways listed below:
  - Meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Our Father
  - 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
  - Recite the Holy Rosary in families and between the husband and wife
  - Entrust their work daily to the protection of Saint Joseph and to all believers who invoke with their prayers the intercession of the worker of Nazareth
  - Pray the litany of Saint Joseph, or some other prayer to Saint Joseph, for the persecuted Church and for the relief of all persecuted Christians
  - Pray any lawfully approved prayer or act of piety in honor of Saint Joseph, for example “To you oh 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 19th day of every month
    - Every Wednesday (a day dedicated to the memory of the Saint according to the Latin tradition)

The gift of plenary indulgence extends particularly to —

- The elderly
- The sick
- The dying
- All those who for legitimate reasons cannot leave their home