



## ARCHDIOCESAN OBSERVANCE OF THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021

### Marking the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

Every parish, institution, school, religious education program and religious community is asked to plan to observe in their own way the *Year of Saint Joseph*. The following guidance is provided to assist in the development of local observances. Please check the archdiocesan website for the *Year of Saint Joseph* for additional information, <http://archphila.org/joseph/>.

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, for the Year of Saint Joseph, highlights the unique role of Saint Joseph in the life of the Church:

*The Son of the Almighty came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary's motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church. In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect the child and his mother, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love the child and his mother (Patris Corde, n. 5).*

Above all, the *Year of Saint Joseph*, invites all the members of the Church to recognize the unique role of Saint Joseph as the Patron and Protector of the Universal Church. The Holy Father's Apostolic Letter further invites the members of the Church "to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal (cf. *Patris Corde*)

## THREE PILLARS TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

### *“To increase our love for this great saint”*

- Priests and deacons are encouraged to preach on Saint Joseph when fitting.
- Reflection and study groups on Saint Joseph are encouraged in parishes and other settings.
- The Consecration to Saint Joseph is especially encouraged during the *Year of Saint Joseph*.

Please see the website, <http://archphila.org/joseph/>, for materials to assist with this pillar.

### *“To encourage us to implore his intercession”*

- Promote the traditional prayers to Saint Joseph, including the Litany of Saint Joseph, to be prayed in common and in the family.
- A Prayer to Saint Joseph may follow the Prayer to Saint Michael outside of the celebration of Mass.
- Promote the celebrations of the liturgical feasts and devotions to Saint Joseph:
  - The Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19), and the Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker (May 1).
  - Arrange for devotions to follow or precede Mass on the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month and Wednesdays of each week (the day of Saint Joseph).
  - Make use of the Votive Mass of Saint Joseph in the *Roman Missal* when permissible, especially on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month and on Wednesdays.

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### *“To imitate his virtues and his zeal”*

- Study and promote the practice of the virtues of Saint Joseph, especially prudence, obedience, justice, patience, fidelity, courage and chastity.
- Promote the Corporal Works of Mercy in honor of Saint Joseph.
- Promote the Consecration of daily work in honor of Saint Joseph.
- Promote the formation of boys, young men and adult men according to the pattern of masculinity and fatherhood found in St. Joseph.

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## ARCHDIOCESAN OBSERVANCES

- Solemn Celebration of Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul at 12:05 PM on Friday, March 19, 2021.
  - *Additional details to follow.*
- Archdiocesan Novena beginning on March 19<sup>th</sup> and on the 19<sup>th</sup> of each subsequent month until November 19<sup>th</sup> to Saint Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church.
  - *This Novena is to be observed in parishes, institutions and schools all throughout the Archdiocese.*
  - *Additional details to follow.*

## GIFT OF SPECIAL INDULGENCES FOR THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

The Holy See has announced numerous possibilities for obtaining the Gift of Special Indulgences for the *Year of Saint Joseph*. These possibilities and the manner of obtaining the Indulgences can be found on the website, <http://archphila.org/joseph/>.

## OTHER INFORMATION

*Altars and Shrines of Saint Joseph should be decorated throughout the Year of Saint Joseph with flowers and candles, especially on the feasts of Saint Joseph. A statue or picture of Saint Joseph should have a place of honor in family homes and classrooms during this Year of Saint Joseph.*

*Churches and Chapels throughout the Archdiocese are encouraged to have special days of devotion and, if possible, pilgrimages, in honor of Saint Joseph. For assistance with these opportunities, please contact the Office for Divine Worship.*