



# YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021

Pope Francis announced a “Year of St. Joseph” on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – in honor of the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius IX’s proclamation in 1870 of St. Joseph as “Patron of the Universal Church” (Quemadmodum Deus). The “Year of St. Joseph” began on December 8, 2020, and will conclude on December 8, 2021, according to the Decree authorized by the Pope. ( [Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph” - Vatican News](#) )

In addition to the Decree, Pope Francis also issued an Apostolic Letter on December 8, 2020 dedicated to the Foster Father of Jesus Christ. The Pope explained in the Letter, titled *Patris corde* (“With a father’s heart”) ([Apostolic Letter Patris Corde of the Holy Father Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church \(8 December 2020\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)), that he wanted to share some “personal reflections” on the holy and just Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Holy Father said, “My desire to do so increased during these months of (the) pandemic,” noting that many people had made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect others (just as St. Joseph did with the Holy Family). Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support, and a guide in times of trouble,” he wrote. “St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.” The Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, reflects on the fatherly qualities of St. Joseph, describing him as beloved, tender and loving, obedient, accepting, and “creatively courageous.” The Pope also underlined that St. Joseph was a “working father.” (*Adapted from Catholic News Agency*)

[The Year of St. Joseph: What Catholics need to know \(catholicnewsagency.com\)](#)