

# St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
44 Leonard St., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6C8 Phone: 519-743-4525  
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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17, 2021

## St. Teresa of Avila

“To have courage for whatever comes in life - everything lies in that.”



## Parish Staff & Organizations

**Pastor:** Fr. Marian Gil, OMI  
**Parish Secretary:** Mary Steffler  
**Business Administrator:** David Agnew  
**Facilities Manager:** Jack Pigeau

**Volunteer Gardeners:**  
**Baptism Preparation Team:**  
**CWL President:** Mary Alice Zister  
**Lector Co-ordinator:** Mary Alice Zister  
**Eucharistic Minister Co-ordinator:**

Kim Voelzing

### Prayer Group:

Mila Navaleza - 519-579-8276

### Finance Council Chair:

Don Pickett, Jr.

### Pastoral Council Chair:

Barbara Daly

### St. Vincent de Paul:

Bernie & Rosemary Pickett  
519-749-1501

### Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday – Office Closed**

### Saturday Liturgy:

9:00 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

### Weekday Schedule

Please check inside for weekly schedule

### Sunday Liturgy:

10:00 a.m.

**Confession:** 30 min. before Mass; Sat., 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

### St. Teresa School

Principal: Mr. Brian Goodyear  
Secretary: Mary Lavigne  
519-743-2131

**Healing Mass:** First Friday of each month – 7:00 p.m.

**Prayer Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday – 7:00 p.m.

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel (John 1:35-42) recounts the call of the first disciples of Jesus. The first words ascribed to Jesus are a question: **'What do you want?'** In the prologue John has already told us of the divine origin of Jesus. Now He introduces Jesus on the stage of life. He asks us what do we want? How will we answer Him? **What do we want for others, for the parish, for the country and for the Church?** Many of us have no problem in asking on behalf of others but are slow to ask anything for ourselves. What is striking in the manner in which John recounts the call of the first disciples is the way they come to Jesus. Some like Philip are called directly by Jesus but then there are others who are brought to Jesus by their relatives and friends who have met Jesus. **Jesus had touched their hearts so much, that they had to tell their friends about Him and insist that they too go and meet Him.**

People go in search of Jesus when their hearts are dissatisfied with the life they are leading, and they want to find a different answer to their problems and to their yearning for happiness. Many begin to seek Christ when idols such as money, sex, and power have disappointed them. Let us ask ourselves: **what was I looking for when I became a Christian? What attracted me to Christ?**

The second sentence that Jesus speaks in today's Gospel is His invitation, "Come and see."

**Do you know what you want in life?** Do you have clear targets? Do you know where your life is going? Who sets your values? Whose voice leads you? The Lord invites us to come to Him. Come to where He lives. Come to sit at His feet pondering His word.

If God had not called us, we would not exist, we would not be members of a community of faith, and we would not have any purpose to our lives. And it's not just to the big things that God calls us. Every little intervention of God in our lives, every blessing that we receive, every danger, great or small that God averts from us is part of God's calling.

### Family Connection

In today's Gospel we learn about one of at least two family-relations that appear among Jesus' first disciples. Andrew is the brother of Simon, whom Jesus renames Peter. In next week's Gospel, we will learn about the brothers James and John, the sons of Zebedee. We know from the letters of Paul and other witnesses to the early Church that it was a common occurrence for an entire household to be baptized together. From the very beginning of the Church, families helped one another to know and follow Jesus. We hope and pray that this continues to be true in our family life. **Pray that your family will continue to help one another grow in our faith in Jesus.**

Diocese of Hamilton  
Prayer Calendar 2021

January 18 – Rev. Zygmunt Baranowski  
January 19 – Rev. Sam Restivo, C.R.  
January 20 – Youth Ministers  
January 21 – Rev. David Perrin  
January 22 – Rev. Robert Bulbrook  
January 23 – Rev. Timothy Higgins  
January 24 – **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### Vocations

#### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 17, 2021

A good vocation prayer to say every day from the time we are young until we are in our golden years is found in today's first Scripture reading: "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening". Just try it with sincerity, starting today and, if you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Most Reverend Wayne Lobsinger, VG, EV, Auxiliary Bishop & Vocations Director, Diocese of Hamilton at (905) 528-7988 x2222

[vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)  
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

#### *Prayer for Vocations*

God, the source of creation and love, You invite each of us to serve You through the life which is Your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.

### Parish Office

Due to the Province-wide lockdown which came into effect on December 26, 2020, the Parish Office at 44 Leonard St. will be closed until February 11, 2021.

Mary will be working from home and therefore, you can continue to reach our Parish Office at [st.teresa@stteresakit.ca](mailto:st.teresa@stteresakit.ca) or telephone 519-743-4525.

**Mass Intentions for 2021** – In order to provide an equal opportunity to all members of our parish, who would like to request Mass intentions in 2021, I would propose the following: Each family may reserve 1 Saturday Mass and 1 weekday Mass. This is based on the number of registered families. Please make your requests over the next several weeks. After January 22, 2021, we will accommodate any available request, for as many Mass intentions as you wish. In 2020, I introduced a Mass with Multiple Intentions, in order to respond to the needs of our parishioners. These will continue on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Thank you.

**2020/2021 Sunday Missals** – The Sunday Missal is still available. The missal is \$5 and can be purchased by calling the Parish Office.

**2021 Offertory Envelopes** – The 2021 Offertory Envelopes are now ready for pick up. At this time, we would ask that you please call the Parish Office and arrangements will be made for you to obtain your envelopes. For those who have signed up for Pre-Authorized Giving, please ensure that you also pick up your box of envelopes for 2021.



**Reminder to our CWL members** – Membership dues of \$25.00 for 2021 are due. We have received dues from more than 1/2 of our members but hope that we can receive the remainder soon. LUCKY DRAW will take place on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. If your dues are paid by then, you may win and be reimbursed for your fee. You can drop off your dues at the Rectory, using the mail slot in the wooden door OR call Mary Helen to make other arrangements. If you have questions, please call Mary Helen (Membership Convenor) at 519-570-4375.

### Mass Intentions

**Mass will be celebrated privately for the following intentions:**

**January 18, 2021 – January 24, 2021**

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

**For healing for Father Jerzy Moranski** – *Elizabeth Heydel-Quintanilla*

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

**+Adrian Van Den Berg** – *The Zister Family*

Thursday, January 21, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

**Memorial of Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr**  
**+Mac Pitman** – *Sylvia Ingoldsby & Family*

Friday, January 22, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

**+Irene Detzler** – *Sue Weber Bell*

Saturday, January 23, 2021

**9:00 a.m.** – **Special Intentions of Mary Lynne Clark** –  
*Marion Jagelewski*

**7:00 p.m.** – **+Rose Gerger** – *Marie Miller*

Sunday, January 24, 2021 – **10:00 a.m.** – **Third Sunday in Ordinary Time** – Year B – **Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

### Live-streaming on Zoom

The **Masses** will be **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 9:00 a.m., Saturday Vigil in anticipation of Sunday at 7 p.m., and on Sunday at 10:00 a.m., on Zoom. Join Father by clicking on the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/5887658626>  
**The Password is: 274733** The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** will also be **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 3 p.m.



**Up-date**  
Our new total is:  
**\$185,274**

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** is traditionally celebrated January 18<sup>th</sup>–25<sup>th</sup>, which, this year, is in the middle of a pandemic lockdown. The Biblical Text for 2021 is John 15:1-17. The theme, taken from that passage is: *Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)*. The Monastic Community of Grandchamp prepared the texts. Each day focuses on a specific theme taken from the Biblical Text. See

<http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en.html>

**A Walk Through Fratelli Tutti** - We are created to be relational, to be in communion with God and one another. Pope Francis's new Encyclical *Fratelli tutti* expresses the Pope's deep concern that humanity is becoming more and more isolated from each other. He states, "If we take each other seriously, then we should be brothers and sisters and friends, and not just anonymous beings." Join us on Zoom for a free webinar on **Wednesday, January 27th at 7 p.m.** for a 90-minute look at this beautifully written document. Registration is required, since the zoom or phone link for joining the session will need to be e-mailed or provided to you by phone. You can register by clicking on the following link [Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton Workshops \(hamiltondiocese.com\)](https://www.hamiltondiocese.com)



QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

## **Online Pre-registration for Kindergarten is Open: It's Time to Sign Up for School!!**

It's time to sign up for the 2021-22 school year – and registering to attend one of Waterloo Region's 43 **Catholic elementary schools** has never been easier.

- Children born in 2017 are eligible for Year 1 Kindergarten (JK).
- Children born in 2016 are eligible for Year 2 Kindergarten (SK).

Parents can access the Online Pre-Registration form by clicking on the **Register for School** link on the **WCDSB Homepage** and then choosing **Kindergarten Registration**.

To finalize your child's registration, please contact your local Catholic school directly, for individual registration dates and times.

### **QUICKFacts**

~~ When registering your child to attend a Catholic elementary school you must be prepared to provide proof of the child's date of birth and either the child's Catholic baptismal certificate or the Catholic baptismal certificate of at least one parent or guardian.

~~ **If you are non-Catholic, but wish to explore a Catholic education for your child(ren), please review the WCDSB Admissions to Catholic Elementary Schools policy. Our secondary schools are open to students of all faiths.**

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 48 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 185-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: @WCDSBNewswire – #WCDSBAwesome.

Further questions can be directed to Mary Lavigne, Administrative Assistant, St. Teresa School, 519-743-2131.

## Pre-Authorized Giving We're ACTIVE

For those of you who have signed up for the Pre-Authorized Giving option for Stewardship here at St. Teresa Parish, we are please to tell you that we are now ACTIVE. The first withdrawal will be for January 2021 and the deductions will continue to be processed on the 28th day of each month.

We thank you for your patience, in getting this started. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office.

We are very grateful for your contributions and would encourage those who have not signed up for this option to prayerfully consider Pre-Authorized Giving, particularly in these times of uncertainty.

**Thank you!**

**Pre-Authorized Giving** is now available for our parishioners. A digital copy of the form may be found on our website under Bulletins for 2020 (August). Simply print the form and complete it. For those unable to print the digital copy, please contact the Parish Office. This brochure will hopefully answer any questions you may have about this exciting new option for Stewardship, here at St. Teresa Parish. Completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office via the slot in the Parish Office door or can be mailed to: St Teresa of Avila Parish, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener, ON N2H 6C8

### Stewardship Report – January 12, 2021

Envelopes .....	\$ 1400.00
Mary, Mother of God .....	\$ 160.00
Initial Offering .....	\$ 60.00
Building Fund .....	\$ 75.00
Diocese Online Giving .....	\$ 38.40
(Oct. 1 – Dec. 20, 2020)	

## Stewardship Report

Once again, we are not able to gather to worship as a Parish Community, in the church. We would ask you to continue to keep our parish in your prayers and prayerfully consider continuing your donations. Thank you to those who continue to remember the parish through financial donations - We appreciate your continued support!

To support our parish via **credit card**, please visit the special **Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19** page at the Diocese of Hamilton:

[COVID-19 Parish Fund - Diocese of Hamilton](#)

Once you are on the Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19 page, there are 4 sections on the form to complete. They are as follows:

- DONATION DETAILS
- DONOR & TAX RECEIPT INFORMATION
- PAYMENT INFORMATION
- IF YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR PARISH, PLEASE SHARE IT HERE:

To ensure the funds get directed to our parish, it is imperative that you select **St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener** in the drop box in the **FUND** box of the Donation Details section.

Once you have completed the form, click on **COMPLETE DONATION NOW**. This method of giving will provide you with an **electronic tax receipt** immediately upon making your gift.

If you choose the above option, it would be greatly appreciated if you could email the parish office at [st.teresa@stteresakit.ca](mailto:st.teresa@stteresakit.ca) to advise us of your donation.

You may also **send a gift directly** to our parish through the mail: **St. Teresa of Avila Parish, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener, ON N2H 6C8** or you may drop off **cash or cheque**, securely, at the Parish Office, through the mail slot in the wooden door, behind the white storm door. Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number or use your donation envelope.

Continuing support of our parish is an act of generosity and faith. We are very grateful for any contributions you may be able to make at this time.

## Pope Francis proclaims “Year of St Joseph”

With the Apostolic Letter “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th Anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

By Vatican News



In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th Anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

### **A beloved, tender, obedient father**

Saint Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people” (PC, 1). In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized. “Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” – because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us” (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation” (3).

### **Welcoming the will of God**

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that explains, but accepts” — which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with the “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak” (4).

### **A creatively courageous father, example of love**

Patris corde highlights “the creative courage” of St. Joseph, which “emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.” “The carpenter of Nazareth,” explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.” He had to deal with “the concrete problems” his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is “the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.” As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot “be other than the guardian of the Church,” of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. “Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is ‘the child’ whom Joseph continues to protect.” From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, “we must learn... to love the Church and the poor” (5).

### A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work

“A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,” St Joseph also teaches us “the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour.” This aspect of Joseph’s character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become “a burning social issue” even in countries with a certain level of well-being. “there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron,” the Pope writes.

Work, he says, “is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion.” Those who work, he explains, “are cooperating with God Himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.” Pope Francis encourages everyone “to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new ‘normal’ from which no one is excluded.” Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to “review our priorities” and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!” (6).



### A father “in the shadows,” centred on Mary and Jesus

Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* — a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński — Pope Francis describes Joseph’s fatherhood of Jesus as “the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father.”

“Fathers are not born, but made,” says Pope Francis. “A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.” Unfortunately, in today’s society, children “often seem orphans, lacking fathers” who are able to introduce them “to life and reality.” Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be “capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities.”

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a “most chaste” father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, “knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.”

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes Pope Francis. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”; a society that “rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.”

True fathers, instead, “refuse to live the lives of their children for them,” and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that “he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes ‘useless,’ when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied.” Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, “has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a ‘sign’ pointing to a greater fatherhood”: that of the “heavenly Father” (7).

### **A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge**

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*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.*

## Church grants plenary indulgence for year of St. Joseph

The Apostolic Penitentiary issues a Decree granting plenary indulgences for the year of St. Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis on Tuesday. The special year will last from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. By Vatican News staff writer.

Pope Francis on Tuesday announced a special year dedicated to St. Joseph starting from December 8, 2020 until December 8, 2021, on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, as well as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and “to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus.”

During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves “with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.”

### Devotion to St. Joseph

The decree signed by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, the Major Penitentiary of the Apostolic Penitentiary, and the Regent, Fr. Krzysztof Nykiel, notes that devotion to St. Joseph has grown extensively throughout the history of the Church, “which not only attributes to him high reverence after that of the Mother of God his spouse but has also given him multiple patronages.”

At the same time, the Magisterium of the Church continues to discover “old and new greatness in this treasure which is St. Joseph, like the master in the Gospel of Matthew who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

Therefore, the gift of indulgences granted through a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary by mandate of the Holy Father “will be of great benefit to the perfect attainment of the appointed purpose.”

### Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope’s intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord’s Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. “St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us”, the decree reads, “to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God’s will.”
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph’s example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph “encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties,” the decree notes.
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that “all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family.”
- 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 feast of St. Joseph “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, 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.”

### **A universal saint**

In addition to these, the Apostolic Penitentiary 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 “March 19th, on May 1st, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, on St. Joseph’s Sunday (according to the Byzantine tradition) on the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the memory of the saint according to the Latin tradition.”

The decree 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.”

### **For the sick**

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 role of priests**

The Apostolic Penitentiary encourages priests 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.