



MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff; All Clergy; All Parishes; All Schools
From: Father Timothy A. Christy, VG
Date: December 9, 2020
RE: YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

You may be aware that yesterday, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis promulgated a **Year of Saint Joseph** to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Pope Pius IX's placing the Universal Church under the patronage of Saint Joseph. In his apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis identifies the many reasons why it is of great value for the Church now to reflect on the life of St. Joseph – especially during the coming year.

You may read the Holy Father's apostolic letter at:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

The Pope's letter concludes with a *Prayer to Saint Joseph* – one of many that may be used privately and collectively.

The Office of Evangelization along with Secretariat for Family and Pastoral Life will follow-up throughout the coming year with a variety of ways to commemorate this special year. Below are listed some possible dates for you to discern planning in your own calendars:

Wednesdays – traditionally dedicated to Saint Joseph

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Joseph's role as a result of the Annunciation

Christmas – announcing Year of Saint Joseph; using special prayer?

Holy Family Sunday – blessing of Fathers; homily on fatherhood and Saint Joseph?

World Day of the Sick – Jesus and Mary likely tended to Joseph

March – month dedicated to Saint Joseph; Novena to Saint Joseph prior to 3/19

March 19 – Solemnity of Saint Joseph (Friday in Lent this year)

May 1 – Optional Memorial of Saint Joseph the Worker – highlight the dignity of workers

May 23 – Pentecost; Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

June 20 – Father's Day

September 4/5/6 – Labor Day Weekend – highlight Saint Joseph as Patron of Workers

November – Saint Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death

December 8 – Closing of the Year of Saint Joseph