



No.

DECREE

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GROUARD-McLENNAN

Whereas Saint Joseph is the Principal Patron of Canada, and Patron of the Universal Church, and

Whereas Pope Francis has declared a Year of St. Joseph for the universal Church, beginning on 8 December 2020 and ending on 8 December 2021, in preparation for which he published an apostolic letter, *Patris Corde* (“with the heart of a father”), and

Whereas contemporary society is in need of a renewal and strengthening of family life, and

Whereas the custom and habit of family prayer has been recognized to sustain family cohesion in times of great suffering, and

Whereas the role and place of the father in the home has been put into question in recent decades,


Therefore I decree that a Year of St. Joseph will be celebrated in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan, to begin on 19 March 2021 and conclude on 19 March 2022.

The following proposed exercises make up the Year of St. Joseph in the Archdiocese:

1. **Family Prayer Movement:** as developed in the Archdiocese. The prayer booklet, *Prayer in Our Home* and *La Prière en Famille* is available free of charge from any parish, or from the Chancery Office in Grande Prairie. Families are encouraged to use these prayers as a family in the home. Families may also choose to pray the rosary at least once a week.
2. **Pilgrimage:** There are three churches dedicated to St. Joseph in the Archdiocese: St. Joseph Church in Spirit River, St. Joseph Church in Grande Prairie, and St. Joseph Church in John D'Or Prairie. Families and individuals are encouraged to visit each of these churches, and in each church to pray the Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph by Ven Januarius Sarnelli, C.Ss.R, as found in the Pilgrim's Passport. Each individual/family will get their Pilgrim's Passport stamped in each church. If all three churches are visited and stamped, bring this to the Chancery Office to receive a crucifix from the Holy Land for their home.
3. **Consecration to Jesus Through Saint Joseph:** *An Integrated Look at the Holy Family*, by Dr. Gregory Bottaro and Jennifer Settle (available for purchase at the Chancery Office). Follow this 44-day prayer journey during the Year of St. Joseph. Copies of this book are available for purchase at the Chancery Office.
4. **The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life** has assembled several activities and reflections to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. These resources are available for parishes and groups of families to use, from the Holy See at www.amoristaetitia.va.
5. **The apostolic letter** of Pope Francis, entitled *Patris Corde*, is worthy of reading and reflection. It is available on the Holy See website in English at http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/pa-pa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html, and in French at http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/fr/apost_letters/documents/pap-a-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html
6. **Prayer Card.** A prayer card for the Archdiocese is available in our Catholic communities. The image of St. Joseph has been offered by the Archdiocese of Edmonton. This card has the prayer to St. Joseph, in English and French, as found in the Holy Father's apostolic letter *Patris Corde*. Parishes are invited to make use of this prayer in their Masses and other liturgies during the Year.

7. **Intercessions** for the Prayers of the Faithful at Sunday Masses are available to be used throughout the year.
8. **Indulgence:** The Holy Father has offered a plenary indulgence for prayers and acts of charity offered during the universal Year of St. Joseph.

Signed in Grande Prairie on the 19th day of March in the year 2021.


Most Rev. Gerard Peltipas, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan



Msgr. Charles Lavoie, P.H.
Chancellor

