



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN
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Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis declared a “Year of Saint Joseph”, so that we may reflect on the spiritual value of the Saint who is called “Patron of the Universal Church”.

Our first Maronite parish in the United States, established in New York in 1890, came under the name of Saint Joseph. We have parishes named after Saint Joseph in Olean, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; and Waterville, Maine. Some of our parishes also have Saint Joseph Societies. Saint Joseph always has a place in every Maronite heart.

Saint Joseph, the “foster father” of Jesus and the “chaste spouse” of the Virgin, also has two feasts to his honor in the Maronite Church: the Fifth Sunday of the Season of the Glorious Birth, just before Christmas, as well as March 19th. These feasts bring attention to different aspects of Joseph’s role as the “Virgin who cared for the Virgin”, and the Patron of the Universal Church.

What a grace for us to honor Saint Joseph. The Holy Father has granted plenary indulgences for those who honor the Saint. On the website of the Diocese of Charlotte a description of this, as well as the Holy Father’s Decree, can be found [here](#).

A visit to any one of our parishes named for Saint Joseph, as well as those parishes hosting a Saint Joseph Sodality, would be included in this indulgence.

There are so many treasures hidden in the person of Saint Joseph; we can only begin to explore. Who else could have loved and cared for the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child with such tender and masculine love, such obedience to the Heavenly Father, and such fidelity to his noble mission?

O Saint Joseph, foster father, faithful spouse, guide to the troubled, and true patron of believers, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory John Mansour