



**Solemnity of St. Joseph - Friday, March 19, 2021**

Fridays in Lent normally are a day of abstinence from meat for most Catholics. However, canon law provides an exception for solemnities that fall on a Friday, as the Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19) does this year. Therefore, Catholics are not obligated to maintain the usual Lenten abstinence this Friday, March 19.

In addition, in honor of this Year of St. Joseph declared by Pope Francis, I, the undersigned Archbishop of Milwaukee, encourage the faithful of the Archdiocese to celebrate and honor this great, but often forgotten, saint in special ways including this exemption from abstinence from meat. I would also encourage an outward gesture of honor by considering donating to a local food pantry so others also may eat.

Please join in praying the prayer issued by Pope Francis for the Year of St. Joseph:

*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.*

Given in Milwaukee this 16th day of March, 2021.

*+ Jerome E. Listecki*

Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki  
Archbishop of Milwaukee