

# SPECIAL INDULGENCES RELATED TO COVID-19

Available at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-crisis.cfm>

**“The Church, following the example of her Divine Master,  
has always had the care of the sick at heart.”**

Therefore, trusting in the Divine Physician, and for the care of souls, the Holy See has granted:

***“The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”***

(Apostolic Penitentiary, March 20, 2020).

- A plenary Indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due to sins and may be applied to oneself or to the souls of the deceased [*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1471].
- There are four separate special Indulgences addressing four different groups:
  - For those who are ill with COVID-19
  - For Health Care Workers and family members who are caring for those who are ill with COVID-19
  - For those who offer special prayers for the end of the pandemic
  - For those who may be at the point of death and are unable to receive the Anointing of the Sick or Viaticum (Communion)

Below are the requirements for each group:

## **PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL WITH COVID-19**

The plenary indulgence “is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes.”

This indulgence can be gained by the sick who “offer this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters,” and meet these requirements:

1. Performance of the work specified in the Indulgence with the intention of gaining an indulgence:
  - Unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion
  - *or* at least recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
2. Meeting these three conditions, or having the sincere intention to fulfill them as soon as possible:
  - a) Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
  - b) Reception of Holy Communion
  - c) Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.
3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

## **PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS AND FOR FAMILY MEMBERS CARING FOR THOSE ILL WITH COVID-19**

This indulgence is available to “health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan,” meet these requirements:

1. Performance of the work specified in the Indulgence with the intention of gaining an indulgence:
  - caring for the sick who are infected with the Coronavirus in the spirit that follows Christ's words: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends” (Jn 15:13).
2. Meeting these three conditions, or having the sincere intention to fulfill them as soon as possible:
  - a) Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
  - b) Reception of Holy Communion
  - c) Praying for the Holy Father's intentions.
3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

## **PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THOSE WHO OFFER CERTAIN PRAYERS FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC**

This indulgence is available for as long as the pandemic lasts to any member of the faithful who meet these requirements:

- 1) Performance of the work specified in the Indulgence with the intention of gaining an indulgence:
  - Offer one of the following “to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself”:
    - A visit to the Blessed Sacrament or Eucharistic adoration
    - Reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour
    - Recitation of the Holy Rosary
    - Pious exercise of the Way of the Cross
    - Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
2. Meeting these three conditions, or having the sincere intention to fulfill them as soon as possible:
  - a) Being truly repentant and receiving absolution in the Sacrament of Penance
  - b) Reception of Holy Communion
  - c) Praying for the Holy Father’s intentions.
3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

## **PLENARY INDULGENCE FOR THOSE AT THE POINT OF DEATH AND UNABLE TO RECEIVE ANOINTING OF THE SICK OR VIATICUM**

“The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and of the *Viaticum*, entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints and granting the faithful a *Plenary Indulgence* on the point of death:

1. provided that they are duly disposed
2. have recited a few prayers during their lifetime
  - for the attainment of this indulgence, it is recommended that a crucifix or cross be provided to the dying person.
3. For this indulgence, the Church makes up for the three usual conditions of Confession, Communion, and prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions – so they are not required.
3. Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.