



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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Apr-Jun 2017

April	May	June
Holy Father’s Intentions		
That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.	That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.	That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.
Starting in 2017, the Pope will present only one prepared prayer intention per month, rather than the two presented before this year. He plans, however, to add a second prayer intention each month related to current events or urgent needs. The Apostleship of Prayer (www.apostleshipofprayer.org/reflectionsmonthly/) will publish these urgent prayer intentions on their website as soon as they receive them from the Vatican.		



Pope Francis will visit Fatima May 12-13, 2017 on the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions. He will be the fourth pontiff to visit the Fatima Marian shrine. The three other popes who paid homage, also on May 13, were Blessed Paul VI (1967), Saint John Paul II (1982, 1991, 2000) and Pope Benedict XVI (2010).

The Importance of the Message of Fatima

It is crucial to reflect on the importance of Our Lady’s message given at Fatima 100 years ago. Sister Lucia (the oldest of the three seers) disclosed the urgent call to pray and do penance. In a world plagued by uncertainty and chaos, the call to pray the Rosary daily to achieve peace for the world is as relevant today as it was a 100 years ago.

Sister Lucia wrote in, *Pathways under the Gaze of Mary*, that the call to prayer and penance was for “the whole world, to all souls, to all humanity, believers & unbelievers”.

Through the intercession of Our Lady, many signs and miracles were given to help strengthen the faith of unbelievers. To those who believed, Our Blessed Mother implored them to help the souls being lost by doing more acts of



reparation and expiation, sacrifice, penance and prayers because those poor souls had no one to pray for them.

She said, “Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners: for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them”.

At each of the apparitions, Our Lady repeated the message to “*Pray the Rosary every day!*” There are many opportunities to pray the Rosary daily, if we just embrace them. When we drive, we could say the Rosary instead of listening to the radio. Many hours a day are spent texting, tweeting and so on—why not dedicate some of that time to praying the Rosary?

We often become concerned over political and Church issues. Most of these situations are out of our immediate control but we can make a difference by being more active in prayer. Let us heed the call of Our Blessed Mother to pray: “*O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*”

Two Shepherd Children of Fatima Cleared for Canonization

On March 23, 2017, Pope Francis approved the second and final miracle needed to canonize Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the three shepherd children who witnessed the Fatima Marian apparitions. It is likely Pope Francis will preside over their canonization himself while in Fatima May 12-13 for the centenary of the apparitions. *Source: Vatican City, Mar 23, 2017 / 07:45 am (EWTN News).*

The third Fatima seer who spoke with Our Blessed Mother was Lucia. The first major step in her canonization cause was completed



Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta

on February 13, 2017. *Source: National Catholic Register; Feb 14, 2017.*

This is their reward for answering the call by the Blessed Mother: “*Are you willing to offer yourself to God to bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and supplication for the conversion of sinners?*” They answered resolutely: “*Yes, we are willing.*”

Let us emulate these children and practice enduring sufferings with courage and daring. By bearing suffering, we can combat the culture of death which afflicts our world today.

100th Anniversary of Fatima Apparitions

On May 13, 1917, the Blessed Mother made the first of her six appearances to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal: Lucia Santos and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto. This was the same year that the Communist Revolution resulted in the complete overthrow of the temporal and spiritual order in Russia.

As we listen to conversations, there is frequent reference to problems in the world and within the church. It may seem as though we have lost hope. However, there is always hope! As Fr. Andrew Apostoli, so eloquently addressed in book *“Fatima for Today: The Urgent Marian Message of Hope”* (Ignatius Press, 2010), this source of hope is through devotion to Our Lady.

The Blessed Mother outlined a very simple and direct means of devotion during the apparitions in



“Say the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.” ~Our Lady of Fatima~

Fatima. In October 1917, she announced that she was the Lady of

the Rosary and asked to have a chapel built in Fatima in her honor. Every time she appeared to the children in Fatima in 1917, she continuously repeated the request to pray the Holy Rosary daily.

Our Lady also requested the First Saturday devotions. This consist of: 1) Going to Mass and receiving Holy Communion on five consecutive firsts Saturdays, 2) Going to confession within eight days of the first Saturday, 3) Reciting five decades of the Rosary, and 4) meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes.

At Fatima on May 13, 1967, Pope Paul stated: “The world is in danger.” Pope St. John Paul II said that this danger is due to sin. Therefore, we must pray as Our Lady requested.

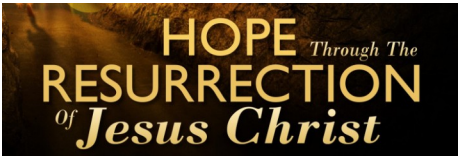
Source: The Fathers of Mercy newsletter

For His Love Endures Forever

As Lent progresses toward Easter (April 16), it is a good time to reflect on Psalm 136 with its antiphonal refrain: *“for His steadfast love endures forever”*.

There are references in this psalm to the Lord’s saving power. The essence of the messages is the people “learned to live in faith, obedience, and docility to God’s law” (Pope Benedict XVI).

We must recall all of the great



things God has done for us in our lives. *“His mercy endures forever”*.

We often have problems that cause us to be depressed or even to despair. However, God finds a way to liberate us from these dark hours or days: *“for His mercy is eternal”*.

Pope Benedict reminds us “Let us celebrate with grateful joy the Creator, Savior...who so loved the world that He gave His only Son...and gave Himself as bread in the Eucharistic mystery to enable us to enter His covenant which makes us His children.”

Being called His children proves how much God loves us.

“For His love endures forever”!

MEMBERS CORNER

- ◆ View our website **OLOFRC.org** for the Fatima story, Fatima prayers, information about the Rosary Calendar and the Newsletter, and for viewing back issues of the Newsletter.
- ◆ We thank Marge Ellen Albouze for her generous contribution to the Rosary Calendar.
- ◆ New Members: Cindy Walsh (MO), John & Pam Gladbach (MO), Barbara Garvey (MO), Norma Clark (MO), Adriana & Naomi Juarez (TX).
- ◆ Please pray for Mildred Gardner (TN) who is ill. She joined the Rosary Calendar in the early 1980’s.
- ◆ Please pray for the soul of Joan Toney (TN) who died recently.

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)
Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
Fr. Javan Saxon (NC)
Fr. Pat Labassano
(Philippines)

Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. Andrew Ing (CA)
Msgr. John Williams(NC/VA)
Fr. A. M. Benzinger (India)

**The Dominican Nuns of the
Perpetual Rosary, Fatima,
Portugal**

Deceased Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. James Keenan (NC)*
Rt. Rev. George Lynch (NY)
Fr. John Cain (TN)
Fr. John DeMarchi (Fatima)
Fr. Gerard Leicht (HI)
Fr. Joseph Robeck (HI)
Msgr. Benedict Vierra (HI)

Msgr. Roy Peters (HI)
Fr. Lawrence Speichinger (MO)
Fr. George Svoboda (Canada)
Fr. Edwin Duffy (HI)
Fr. Charles Schmidt (NY)

**Founder of the Rosary Calendar*

Our Purpose

To spread Our Lady of Fatima’s message by praying: the Rosary daily, for our Holy Father, for the end of abortion, for Our Holy Church, and for family members. You are encouraged to: *on 1st Saturday’s for five consecutive months, to go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary, and meditate for 15 minutes with Our Lady on the mysteries of the Rosary.*

Contact Information

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*Prayer to the Guardian Angel
of the United States*

Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States

O glorious Guardian Angel of the United States, to whom God has entrusted the care of our beloved country, we honor you and thank you for the care and protection you have given to this great nation from the first moment of its inception.

O powerful Angel Guardian, whose watchful glance encompasses this vast land from shore to shore, we know that our sins have grieved our Lord and God and marred the beauty of our heritage. Lead us to a deep conversion, so that we may return to the embrace of His merciful love!

O Holy Angel, obtain for us through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven before the throne of God the graces we need to overcome the forces of evil so rampant in our beloved land.

Help us, our God-given protector and friend, to respond wholeheartedly to the urgent pleas of the Mother of God at Fatima. Assist us to offer the prayers and sacrifices necessary to bring peace and goodness to our nation.

We want to make you known and loved throughout our land, so that docile to your inspirations we may know, love and serve our Lord more faithfully and so become once more "one Nation under God"! Amen.

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Bishop of Steubenville, OH, November 1, 2016

Picture: Guardian Angel of the US at National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington. Used with permission.