



# Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 27, No. 1

Jan-Mar 2018

## Holy Father’s Intentions

| January                                                                                                                               | February                                                                                      | March                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Month of the Holy Name of Jesus                                                                                                       | Month of the Holy Family                                                                      | Month of Saint Joseph                                                                                                            |
| That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.              | That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption. | That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels. |
| God Bless you in this New Year and may it bring you peace.<br>Peace is a messianic gift given by God by living according to His will. |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                  |

## Begin the New Year Celebrating The Mother of God

January 1 is an important day in the Church's liturgy. It is the octave day of the Nativity of the Lord, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and also the commemoration of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

The reason for this celebration of Mary's motherhood on January 1 is beautifully explained by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: “the Virgin's great privilege is precisely to be Mother of the Son who is God. The most logical and proper place for this Marian feast is therefore eight days after Christmas”. The Pope emeritus further declares: “Mary, in fact, is the true Mother of God precisely by virtue of her total relationship to Christ. Therefore, in



glorifying the Son one honors the Mother and in honoring the Mother one glorifies the Son”. “Let us not imagine that we obscure the glory of the Son by the great praise we lavish on the Mother; for the more she is honored, the greater is the glory of her Son. There can be no doubt that whatever we say in praise of the Mother gives equal praise to the

Son” (St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Father and Doctor of the Church).

The title of “Mother of God” stresses the unique mission of the Blessed Virgin in the history of salvation: a mission that is at the root of the worship and devotion which the Christian people reserve for her. Mary has been called “*Theotokos*”, or “God-Bearer” (Mother of God) since the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. This title reaffirms the central truth of what occurred in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

**Celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of God and our mother makes for a perfect New Year's Day!**

## Power of the Holy Rosary

The Blessed Mother called for the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary at each of Her apparitions at Fatima in 1917. Sister Lucia, the oldest of the three seers at the apparitions, stated "There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls."

Many historical events validate Sr. Lucia’s Rosary proclamation. For example, in the battle of Lepanto, October 7th, 1571, a greatly outnumbered force of Christian defenders held off a Turkish invasion. This miraculous victory was brought about through St. Pius V’s Crusade to unite all of Europe in praying the Rosary. Another miracle occurred on May 13, 1955 (38th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions). The Soviets mysteriously left Austria after

700,000 people agreed to pray the Rosary in that country.

Another powerful example involving Russia occurred in 1960. The Soviet Premier at that time



was Nikita Khrushchev. In his October 1960 visit to the United Nations, he stated that Russia would “annihilate us!”. In response, Pope John XXIII authorized the Bishop of Leiria (Fatima) to write to all the bishops of the world to invite them to join

with the pilgrims of Fatima on the night of October 12, 1960 in prayer and penance for Russia's conversion and consequent world peace. That night, about a million pilgrims spent the night outdoors in the Cova da Iria at Fatima in prayer and penance before the Blessed Sacrament. At the same time at least 300 dioceses throughout the world joined with them. Simultaneously, in Russia, a missile test was being conducted. The missile failed to launch and a few seconds later, it exploded. This set back Russia's nuclear program for 20 years, preventing an all-out atomic warfare.

These are just a few examples of the power of the Rosary. St. Louis de Montfort states in his classic book, *The Secret of the Rosary*: “If you say the Rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins, you shall receive a never fading crown of glory”.

“An Extraordinary Missionary Month” will be October 2019 celebrating the centenary of the Apostolic Letter ‘Maximum Illud’

MARCH FOR LIFE



Friday January 19, 2018

The 45th anniversary of the March for Life will take place at Washington, D.C. on January 19, 2018. The theme is: **Love Saves Lives!** A March for Life Conference will be held the morning of January 18. The goal of the conference is to provide information and training tools for marchers so they can go home to educate those who could not attend the rally.

There will be numerous local rallies throughout the US and a few other countries. For those who can not attend a march, we encourage you to join the marchers with spiritual prayer.

Lent: The Importance of Fasting

Ash Wednesday 2018 is on February 14. This allows time for us to determine some priorities to help our spiritual growth. The Christian and biblical tradition calls for prayer, almsgiving and fasting in order to help us prepare for Easter and to better experience God’s power.

For this lent, consider reflecting on the value and meaning of fasting. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert.

Moses fasted before receiving the 10 commandments, and Elijah fasted before meeting the Lord on Mount Horeb. The Sacred Scriptures and the entire Christian tradition teach that fasting is a great help to avoid sin and all that leads to it. For this reason, the history of salvation is replete with occasions that invite fasting. Since all of us are weighed down by sin and its consequences,

fasting is proposed to us as an instrument to restore friendship with God.

The faithful practice of fasting contributes to avoiding sin and growing in intimacy with the Lord. Through fasting and praying, we allow Him to come and satisfy the deepest hunger that we experience in the depths of our being: the hunger and thirst for God.

The Need for Exterior and Interior Silence

We live in a world full of noise. All modes of transportation generate sounds. Most stores are playing music, our machines for lawn care are loud, our homes have TV, CD players, radios, etc. How can we hear God in the midst of all this noise? We can not! And maybe many of us do not want to hear Him. C. S. Lewis, a renowned British author, stated that “noise is the music of hell”. God operates in the practice of silence.

There is an exterior dimension of silence which involved the noises of everyday living. We can retreat from these noises, but then we still have the interior noise that we generate within ourselves.

“God drapes Himself in silence and reveals Himself in the interior silence of our heart.” (Cardinal R. Sarah). Silence is one of the chief means that enables us to enter into the spirit of prayer. “Silence fosters prayer because it awakens good thoughts in our heart” (Cardinal R. Sarah).

St. Teresa of Calcutta declared that “we need to find God, and He cannot be found in noises and restlessness. God is the friend of silence...Jesus is always waiting for us in silence. In this silence He listens to us and speaks to our souls.”

St. Dorotheus warns us to “beware of gossip because it causes pious thoughts and meditation on God to

flee.” “When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent” (Proverbs 10:19). Proverbs 13:3 continues: “He who guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.”

Cardinal Sarah recommends that we revolt against the dictatorship of noise. This is especially important in churches that are meant for worship and prayer. The Cardinal addresses the dangers that are manifested in a noisy church.

If we preserve in silent listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Churches, our effort will be rewarded by unheard of jewels and riches. (Cardinal Sarah).

MEMBERS CORNER

- ◆ The website for *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar* is **OLOFRC.org**. Visit this site for the Fatima story, Fatima prayers, information about the Rosary Calendar and the Newsletter, as well as back issues of the OLOFRC Newsletter.
- ◆ **Mission news: We thank St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church of Omaha, NE, through the leadership of Kathleen Strelko, for providing 300 Rosaries which we sent to a mission in Uganda.**
- ◆ Pray for members whose death notices that we received since the last issue of this newsletter: Agnes Murphy (MD) and Patrick Vasquez (HI).
- ◆ Many Rosary Calendar members are suffering with cancer; please pray for them, especially for Fr. Greg Tigga (India).
- ◆ Welcome new members: Mary Garner (MO), Brenda Gladbach (MO), Mary Barnett (MO), and Kristin Allen (MO).

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

OLOFRC’s Mission

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

Contact Information

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