



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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July-Sept 2019

July	August	September
The Precious Blood	The Immaculate Heart of Mary	Our Lady of Sorrows
-Pray for Pope Francis and his concerns for justice. -Pray to be holy because Jesus is holy.	-Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for families to have a life of prayer and love. -Pray for the act of consecration to Jesus through Mary.	-Pray for Pope Francis and priests to console Our Lady of Sorrows. -Pray in reparation for offenses committed against Our Lady.

St. John Paul II Homily on the Assumption

“The Church expresses her joy and praises God because the Mother of the Lord enters triumphantly into heavenly glory. The definitive fulfilment of the meaning of the words that Mary spoke in response to her cousin Elizabeth’s greeting: ‘He Who is mighty has done great things for me’ (*Luke 1:49*), appears in the mystery of her Assumption.” *15 August 1999.*

The Assumption of Mary

August 15 is the Assumption of the Blessed Mother. This special feast day celebrates the assumption, body and soul, of the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, after she completed the course of her earthly life, into heavenly glory [Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus* 44]. This teaching was infallibly defined by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950. Pius XII explained: this is “a divinely revealed dogma”. Because it is infallibly defined, “the People of God are obliged to believe” (St. John Paul II, July 2, 1997).

The first trace of belief in the Virgin’s Assumption can be found in *Transitus Mariae*. The origin of this belief dates to the second and third centuries. Over time, the faithful’s belief in the glorious raising of the Mother of Jesus, body and soul, increased.

Pius XII prepared for the definition of the Assumption in May 1946 with the Encyclical *Deiparae Virginis Mariae*. He consulted 1,181 Bishops; 99.5% were extremely positive about the revealed character of this truth.

St. John Paul II noted: Scripture offers a basis for Mary’s Assumption into Heaven “because it strongly



emphasized the Blessed Virgin’s perfect union with Jesus’ destiny. This union, which is manifested, from the time of the Savior’s miraculous conception, in the Mother’s participation in her Son’s mission and especially in her association with His redemptive sacrifice, cannot fail to require a continuation after death. Perfectly united with the life and saving work of Jesus, Mary shares His heavenly destiny in body and soul.

There are some Old Testament passages that provide an indication of the Assumption. For example, Psalm 44: 10-14 describes Mary as the Queen entering triumphantly into the royal halls of heaven and sitting at the right hand of the Divine Redeemer. Moreover, scholastic Doctors of the church have

recognized the Assumption of the Virgin Mother of God in various figures of the Old Testament.

Special attention has been given to the New Testament phrase: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women” (*Luke 1:28*). In the mystery of the Assumption, the fulfillment of perfect grace was granted to the Blessed Virgin and she was given a special blessing that countered the curse of Eve [*Munificentissimus Deus* 27].

We can use the teaching of the Assumption to reflect upon our eternal destiny. Pope Benedict XVI (August 16, 2006) stated: “By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either, and that if we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods we will one day share in this same glory and the earth will become more beautiful...We may be sure of it: from on high, Mary follows our footsteps with gentle concern, dispels the gloom in moments of darkness and distress, reassures us with her motherly hand...Let us forge ahead in our lives under Mary’s guidance”.

Blessed Mother's 4th of 12 Approved Public Apparitions The Miraculous Medal

In 1830, Catherine Labouré was blessed with the apparitions of Mary Immaculate to which we owe the Miraculous Medal. The first apparition came on July 19. That night, the Virgin Mary said: *"God wishes to charge you with a mission. You will be contradicted, but do not fear; you will have the grace. Tell your spiritual director all that passes within you. Times are evil in France and in the world."*

Four months passed and on November 27, 1830, Our Lady returned to Rue du Bac. Catherine described the apparition. The essence of Catherine's statement was the feet of the Blessed Virgin were rested on half of a globe and her hands held a figure of the world. An oval frame formed around the Blessed Mother on which were written in letters of gold these words: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee." Then Catherine stated that a voice said: *"Have a medal struck*



upon this model. All those who wear it, when it is blessed, will receive great graces especially if they wear it round the neck. Those who repeat this prayer with devotion will be in a special manner under the protection of the Mother of God. Graces will be abundantly bestowed upon those who have confidence."

Catherine then stated: "At the same instant, the oval frame seemed to turn around. Then I saw on the back of it the letter 'M', surmounted

by a cross, with a crossbar beneath it, and under the monogram of the name of Mary, the Holy Hearts of Jesus and of His Mother; the first surrounded by a crown of thorns and the second transpierced by a sword..."

This sacramental from Heaven was at first called the *Medal of the Immaculate Conception*, but began to be known as the *Miraculous Medal* due to the unprecedented number of miracles, conversions, cures, and acts of protection attributed to Our Lady's intercession for those who wore it.

When Catherine's body was exhumed for beatification 57 years after her death in 1933, it was found as fresh as the day it was buried. Her incorrupt body can still be seen today at the Mother House of the Daughters of Charity in The Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 140 Rue du Bac in Paris.

Our Lady of Sorrows



Our Lady of Sorrows feast day is September 15. At her last apparition on October 13, 1917 (the Miracle of the Sun) at Fatima, the Blessed Mother appeared as Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Our Lady of Sorrows.

Her feast of Our Lady of Sorrows links to the Feast of the Exaltation of

the Holy Cross celebrated the day before, on September 14.

The Church has celebrated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross since 326, when on September 14, St. Helen discovered Christ's True Cross on Calvary. The feast became prominent in the west in the 7th century after Heraclius rescued the True Cross from pagans who took it from Jerusalem in 627.

In the 4th century, Ephrem the Syrian and St. Ambrose celebrated and venerated Mary's sorrows and compassion. Centuries later, in 1814, the Holy See placed the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows on the Roman calendar.

The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother are:

1. The prophecy of Simeon
2. The Flight into Egypt
3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days in the Temple
4. Meeting Jesus on his way to Calvary
5. Jesus' Crucifixion and Death of Jesus
6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross
7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb

We need to pray to Our Lady's sorrow. Praying for her sorrows also means putting into practice what she said in each apparition in Fatima in 1917: ***I want you to continue saying the Rosary every day.***

MEMBERS CORNER

New Members: Butchie Correa (HI), Linda Ewigman (MO).

Deceased members: Sister Juliana (MO), Luvi Lewis (HI), Fr. Joseph Poppillil (India).

***Rosaries are needed for missionary priests.**

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