



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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October-December 2019

October	November	December
The Holy Rosary	Holy Souls in Purgatory	The Immaculate Conception
-Pray for Pope Francis’ intention for a missionary “spring” in the church. -Pray the Holy Rosary daily.	-Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for religious communities. -Pray for souls in purgatory, especially deceased Rosary Calendar members.	-Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for very young people. -Pray for us to understand the real reason for Christmas—Jesus’ birth.

Remembering the Message of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun

The multitude of crises today such as scandals in the church, illegal immigration, conflicts throughout the world, immorality, and decline in church attendance reminds us of Our Lady of Fatima’s messages in 1917. She urged us to pray or we would see a war even greater than World War I and we did, as she predicted, have World War II.

Our world is in dire need to be reminded of the events of the Miracle of the Sun on October 13, 1917. At noon, Our Lady appeared to the children, and after repeating her requests for the daily rosary, she said that the Lord our God is so much offended. Then the miracle of the sun occurred. It whirled wildly around itself and seemed to “loosen itself from the firmament”. Further proof that suggests that the miracle was genuine is that the

people at the Cova felt the increased heat of the sun as it approached them. Their clothes and the ground – which had been



soaked by the torrential rain – were dry at the end of the miracle.

This event was witnessed by Lucia, Jacinta, Francisco and at least 70,000 people. What happened was so incredible that even non-believers couldn’t deny it. This event was reported in the

secular Lisbon paper *O Dia* and also published in the anti-religious newspaper *O Suculo*.

So we can also see the Miracle of the Sun as a foreshadowing of what will actually happen at the end of the world, and also as an indication that we are living in a time of crisis, of judgment, when we are called to stand up for the Church and for the truth.

Pope Paul VI said that the Miracle of the Sun was like an “annunciation of a scene at the end of time for all humanity”.

Besides the Miracle of the Sun, there was also the vision of St. Joseph and the Infant Jesus blessing the world, with Mary by the side of the sun. Within the Church today, we need to take the great Miracle of the sun and message of Fatima very seriously.

Pray the Rosary Daily!

Do Not Fear Death

All Souls day (November 2) is a reminder to live in the state of grace and be prepared for death. St. John Vianney (the Cure of Ars), patron saint of parish priests, wrote some 150 years ago: “Death fills the good man, who has lived in the light of the Gospel, and who has walked in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and has satisfied divine justice by true repentance, with joy and consolation...They consider it as the beginning of their salvation.” St. Augustine said: “Oh, how consoling it is to die with your conscience at rest.” According to St. Vianney, the Holy Spirit said: “The righteous one does not fear death, because by it he is reunited to his Master and put in possession of innumerable delights.”

Let us not forget to pray for those souls awaiting this blessed reunion with God. Pray that we live a virtuous life. These moral virtues are acquired by human effort. They are the fruit and seed of morally good acts; they dispose all the powers of the human being for communion with Divine Love (*Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1804*).



Life is a Harvest



Life is a harvest and we reap what we sow: “if we sow in sin, we reap corruption; but if we sow in the spirit, we reap life everlasting” (Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen). We have a choice to make as we live our lives. We know that life is brief. Bishop Sheen stated, “It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgement, for the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then will He render to every man according to his works.” We can merit much by meditating on this statement. The day of accountability with God will come. The venerable bishop has a great analogy, “For life is like a cash

register, in that every account, every thought, every deed, like every sale, is registered and recorded.” Upon our death, God pulls out the record and uses it for judgement. We will either be in the state of grace or the state of sin. There are three possible outcomes of this judgement: heaven, purgatory, or hell. Bishop Sheen presents these options in very clear terms, “Heaven is love without pain, purgatory is pain with love, and hell is pain without love.”

Unfortunately, many people no longer believe in purgatory. However, no one can enter heaven unless they are pure because of the absolute purity of God. Venerable Sheen points out that purgatory is necessary to purify those souls that should not be condemned to eternal damnation. He also stresses that purgatory is where the love of God tempers the justice of God, for there God pardons because He has time to retouch these souls with His Cross, to recut them with the chisel of suffering, that they might fit into the great spiritual edifice of the heavenly Jerusalem, to plunge them into that purifying place where they might wash their stained baptismal robes to be fit to enter into the spotless purity of heaven.

Communion of Saints

References to the communion of saints in Catholic faith can be found as far back as the fourth century. The term appears in the Apostles’ Creed, thought to have been written in the fifth century. In Eastern churches, it meant primarily a communion of “holy things”—our sharing in one baptism and especially in the Eucharist, which both represents and brings about our unity as one body of Christ.

In the West, the communion of saints more commonly refers to a communion of “holy ones,” both the living and the dead. “Saints” in the New Testament does not mean canonized saints (a much later development), but rather all the people of God. St. Paul began one of his letters, “To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi” (Phil. 1:1).

The communion of saints encompasses not only all believers



in Christ, but, according to many scholars, all those of truth and love, in whom the Spirit is at work. This includes those on earth, those still journeying to God in the purification process Catholics call purgatory, and those who now abide in God. The old terminology for these three states was, “the church militant” on earth, “the church suffering” in purgatory, and “the church triumphant” in heaven. Together we all make up the church, the body of Christ.

The communion of saints connects us all—because we are

one body. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we pray with all those who have gone before us. We can pray for the dead (the souls in purgatory) who need prayers on their journey to God. Those in heaven, that is the angels and purified souls, pray for the rest of us, inspire us by their example, and remain present to us in ways of which we do not know.

Thus, in summary (From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (960-962), the Church is a “communion of saints”: the “holy things” (*sancta*), above all the Eucharist. “Communion of saints” refers also to communion of “holy persons” (*sancti*) in Christ who “died for all” thus bearing fruit for all. Also, “We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church.

Joy to the World—A Meaningful Christmas



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI presents us with seven lights for a “meaningful Christmas” which are summarized below.

- **Life has meaning:** The eternal meaning of the world has come to us in so real a manner that we can touch Him and see Him (1 John 1:1). For what John calls “the Word” also means in Greek “the meaning”. Accordingly, we could perfectly well translate: “The meaning became flesh”.
- **God wants our love:** He wants to free us from our pride, thus, to make us truly free. Let us then allow the joy of seeing the Christ Child in the Crib. We should desire to be like Christ, small and full of love.
- **A time of joy that no suffering can drive away:** Christmas is the time when we imitate God Who has given His Own Self as a gift to us. That is why we give gifts so that we are reminded of God’s special gift to us—the love that cannot be driven away by suffering or death.
- **A new beginning through Mary’s fiat:** This true beginning determines everything that takes place through faith—through Mary’s fiat where we touch the Incarnation of the Lord. The Nativity marks a new beginning for us.
- **The fruit from the tree of life:** In the child Jesus, we must recognize and receive the fruit of life. This is what Christmas is meant to bring about in us—Jesus, who himself is the fruit of the tree of life.
- **Do we really recognize Jesus?:** Herod and the learned masters who were experts in the Bible did not recognize Jesus. Those who did recognize Him were the “ox and the ass”, the shepherds, the Magi, Mary and Joseph. And what about us? When we place the familiar figures in the crib scene, we ought to ask God to give our hearts the simplicity that discovers the Lord in the Child. For then, we too, might experience what the shepherds did on the first night when “each went home full of joy”.
- **Silence—the sphere where Christ was born:** Silence is the sphere where God is born. Christmas invites us into this silence of God. Mere external silence on its own does not suffice; becoming silent means discovering a new order of things. It means that I do not limit my interest to those things that men consider important and valuable. Silence means developing the inner senses, the sense of the conscience, the sensitivity to the eternal in us, the ability to listen to God.

Birth of Christ is a Fact, not Fiction

Many people in the world have difficulty accepting the birth of Jesus as a fact (Pope Benedict XVI). The Pope emeritus stated, “Faith brings us to recognize in that little child born of the Virgin Mary, the true Son of God who, out of love, chose to become man. This ‘Divine Child’... demonstrates the faithfulness and tenderness of the boundless love with which God surrounds each of us. For this reason, we rejoice at Christmas, reliving the same experience as the shepherds at Bethlehem.”

The social media is filled with information that leads to the conclusion that many people in today’s society are living as if Jesus did not exist or, worse still, as if He is an obstacle to achieve self-fulfillment. The Pope emeritus also pointed out that even believers are attracted by misleading presentations that propose shortcuts to happiness and ‘low cost’ salvation. The fact is that Jesus is our only true Redeemer. Our Christian obligation, according to Benedict, is to bear testimony with our lives to “propagate the truth of Christmas, which Christ brings to all men and women of good will. Born into poverty in the manger, Jesus came to offer everyone the joy and peace which alone can satisfy the needs of the human soul.”

To help us better understand the birth of Christ, Pope Benedict wrote an excellent tome entitled, “Jesus of Nazareth: The infancy narratives”. “Jesus’ miraculous birth is a fact.” This statement is based on the Pope’s understanding of historical texts which are well articulated in the infancy narratives.

Pope John Paul II proclaimed: The birth of Jesus at Bethlehem is not an event which can be consigned to the past. The whole of human history in fact stands in reference to Him: our own time and the future of the world are illumined by His presence. He is “the Living One” (Rev 1:18), “Who is, who was and who is to come” (Rev 1:4). Before Him every knee must bend, in the heavens, on earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim that He is Lord (Phil 2:10-11). In the encounter with Christ, every man discovers the mystery of his own life.



Blessed Mothers 5th of 12 Approved Public Apparitions Our Lady of Lourdes

The central theme of several of the Blessed Mother's apparitions is praying the Holy Rosary. She often asks the seers to say the Rosary and these were her first words to Bernadette in 1858 during her first apparition at Lourdes. On this cold February day, 13 year-old Bernadette was on her way to collect wood when she saw a golden light in a large rock projection. Lifting up her eyes, she saw a lady of great beauty, dressed in a pure white robe with a blue sash, a veil over her head, a Rosary clasped in her hands and yellow roses at her feet. The beautiful lady smiled at Bernadette and asked her to say her Rosary. Bernadette said her prayers and when she was finished, the lady had vanished.

Bernadette felt drawn to the grotto and returned there on the next Sunday when she again saw the beautiful lady. On her third visit to the grotto, the beautiful lady asked Bernadette to come here every day for fifteen days. The Blessed Mother asked Bernadette to tell the priests to build a chapel at the apparition site. She told Bernadette to drink water from the stream and to pray for the conversion of sinners. Bernadette followed the requests.

On March 25, the Lady finally informed Bernadette that she was the



St. Bernadette



Immaculate Conception. Our Lady said that her purpose in appearing was to have Bernadette pray and make sacrifices for sinners.

Bernadette visited the grotto daily and ultimately there were 18 apparitions. Bernadette would scrape away soil beside the grotto until a spring of water started to trickle out.

This spring provides 27,000 gallons of water everyday. This is the sacred Lourdes water which is known for its miraculous healing.

Although the priests and people in general doubted Bernadette's claim, they eventually came to believe her; henceforth, the grotto at Lourdes became a place of worship.

The shrine holds a spring of water which is said to have miraculous healing properties. There have been more than 7,000 miraculous recoveries attributed to the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes at this French shrine. Only 70 cases have been officially recognized by the Catholic Church. The last official miracle attributed to the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes was declared in 2013.

At the age of 22, Bernadette joined the order of the Sisters of Charity. Though sickly throughout her life, she devoted herself to Mary, to praying for the conversion of sinners and to the service of God. Bernadette died on April 16, 1879. She was buried on the convent grounds in Nevers, France. Her body was exhumed 40-years later and found to be incorrupt. It was then placed in a coffin of gold and glass where it can be viewed to this very day in the Chapel of Saint Bernadette at the motherhouse in Nevers.

MEMBERS CORNER

New Members: Sue Ann Gordon (MO), Susie Weberg (NE), Phil and Lins Olesky (TX).

Deceased Member: Bridget "Breda" Wiggs (NC). She was a charter member of the Rosary Calendar.

Rosary requests from Priests in Africa and India: Our Lady of Fatima Family Rosary Calendar member priests in India and Africa have requested Rosaries. Rosaries can be sent to Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar, 14844 Highway 5, Marceline, MO 64658. We will package them and mail them to the priests. For members who have helped our mission cause, we thank you and pray for God's blessing on you.

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 Priests who provided Spiritual Guidance

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)
Fr. Greg Tigga (India)
Fr. J. Pooppillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)

*Founder of the Rosary Calendar

Contact Information

Our Lady of Fatima "Family" Rosary Calendar, 14844 Highway 5, Marceline, MO 64658

E-mail: OLOF@cvalley.net Website: OLOFRC.org