



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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January-March 2020

January	February	March
Holy Name of Jesus	Holy Family	Saint Joseph
*Pray for Pope Francis’ intention to promote peace and justice in the world. *Pray that we recognize the power of Christ’s Name and pray in His Name.	*Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for the victimized migrants. *Pray that the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is our family’s model.	*Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for the Church in China. *Pray to Saint Joseph, patron saint of workers and a happy death.

Mary, the Mother of God

January 1st, which is within the Octave of Christmas, is the liturgical feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although honoring Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431, it was not until the 7th century that January 1st was observed as a celebration of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast day honoring our Blessed Mother was replaced in the 13th century with the Feast of the Circumcision of Christ. It was removed from the liturgical calendar in 1974 by Pope Paul VI. He replaced it with the feast of the “Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God”, bringing Mary’s feast day back to the first day of the year.

The feast is a celebration of Mary’s motherhood of Jesus. The title “Mother of God” is a western derivation from the Greek



Theotokos, which means “God-bearer”.

On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Through the Holy Spirit, God the Father prepared Mary to be the dwelling place where His Son and His Spirit could dwell among men. Christ’s birth was made possible by Mary’s fiat with

her words, “Be it done to me according to thy word”.

Calling Mary “Mother of God” is the highest honor we can give to her. Just as Christmas honors Jesus as the “Prince of Peace”, the “Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God” honors Mary as the “Queen of Peace”. New Year’s Day is also designated as the “World Day of Peace”, further acknowledging the role of Mary in our hearts and in our world.

As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. We trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her.

O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

March for Life-January 24

As of August 13, 2019, there have been nearly 61 million abortions in the United States since the passage of Roe vs. Wade in 1973 (*Guttmacher*). Guttmacher believes that this figure should be at least 5% higher.

The 5th commandment of God clearly states “You shall not kill.” *Human life is sacred* because, from its beginning, it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can, under any circumstance, claim for himself or herself the right to destroy an innocent human being. (*From the Catechism of the Catholic Church*).

Life begins at conception: the entire being is present at that very moment. From the word of the Lord to Jeremiah (1:5) “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you”. ***Pray always for a culture of life!***



Pro-Life is Pro-Woman

Blessed Mothers 8th of 12 Approved Public Apparitions Tuy, Spain—1929

The apparitions and miracles at Fatima have been presented periodically in the *Our Lady of Fatima "Family" Rosary Calendar Newsletter*. However, it is in Tuy, Spain that we have the most significant and mystical vision of all the Marian apparitions when she appeared to Sister Lucia on June 13, 1929. Our Lady began with **"The moment has come in which God asks the Holy Father to make, in union with all the bishops of the world, the consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart, promising to save it [Russia] by this means. So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me, that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray."**

While in Spain (where Lucia pronounced her vows), Lucia had important visits from Jesus and Mary. It was in Tuy that Our Lady's promise, contained in the Secret of July 13, 1917, was fulfilled: "I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia...."

Sister Lucia describes the communication with the Blessed Mother while she was lying prostrate with the only light being the



sanctuary lamp: "...Suddenly, the whole chapel lit up with a supernatural light and on the altar appeared a cross of light which reached the ceiling. In a clearer light, on the upper part of the cross, could be seen the face of a man with His body to the waist, on His chest a dove, equally luminous; and nailed to the cross, the body of another man. A little below the waist [of Christ on the cross], suspended in the air, could be seen a Chalice and a large Host,

onto which some drops of Blood were falling, which flowed from the face of the Crucified One and from the wound in His breast. Running down over the Host, these drops fell into the Chalice.

Under the right arm of the cross was Our Lady with her Immaculate Heart in her hand ... (She appeared as Our Lady of Fatima, with her Immaculate Heart in her left hand, without sword or roses, but with a crown of thorns and flames); under the left arm [of the cross], in large letters, like crystalline water which flowed over the altar, forming these words: 'Grace and Mercy'. I understood that the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity was shown to me, and I received lights about this mystery which I am not permitted to reveal."

Editors note: There is so much more that we need to understand about the message of this apparition. For now though, please turn to the Blessed Mother and pray her Rosary, ask her help to perform pleasing acts of penance and a thorough and complete consecration, both personal and of your family.

Twelve Articles of the Apostles Creed

Transubstantiation, the bread and wine used for Communion becoming the body and blood of Jesus Christ, is central to the Catholic faith. Indeed, the Catholic Church teaches that "the Eucharist is 'the source and summit of the Christian life.'" The article at the top of page 3 describes that lack of belief in the core of this Catholic teaching. However, this article addresses the Apostles Creed. It is a summary of the basic tenets of the Catholic Faith. It is composed of dogmas expressing Faith in the Blessed Trinity and the Catholic Church, the Sacraments by association, and the dogmas of the particular judgment, hell and purgatory.

Each Apostle is attributed to an article as listed below:

1. I believe in God, the Father

Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth," was given by Saint Peter;

2. "And in Jesus Christ His only Son, Our Lord," by Saint John;

3. "Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary," by Saint James the Greater;

4. "Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried," by Saint Andrew;

5. "He descended into hell and on the third day He arose again from the dead," by Saint Philip;

6. "He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty," by Saint Thomas;

7. "From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead," by Saint Bartholomew;

8. "I believe in the Holy Ghost," by Saint Matthew;

9. "The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints," by Saint James the Less;

10. "The Forgiveness of Sins," by Saint Simon;

11. "The Resurrection of the Body," by Saint Jude;

12. "And Life Everlasting," by Saint Matthias.

This synthesis of faith was gathered from all the Scriptures, to present the one teaching of the faith in its entirety. This summary of faith encompassed, in a few words, the whole knowledge of the true religion contained in the Old and the New Testaments (*From Catechism CC 186*).

St. Ambrose wrote: "This Creed is the spiritual seal, our heart's meditation and an ever-present guardian; it is, unquestionably, the treasure of our soul."

Seek Mercy and Faith This Lenten Season

Lent 2020 begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26 and ends on Easter Sunday, April 12. Lent is a time for us to prepare for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repenting for our sins, giving alms, and denying our ego.

Society and our Church are in a very difficult time. Unfortunately, there is a tendency to push God out of the Catholic Church (*Fr. L. M. Oppl, Rector, Opus Sanctorum Angelorum*). The solution must involve those acts of prayer, penance, mortification, and almsgiving. We can use this Lenten season to intensify our prayer life. We need to invoke, through prayer, the help of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, the saints, and the angels to put God at the center of the Church and our life style.

We should not be afraid to seek mercy (*St. Augustine*). St. Augustine instructs us not to worry about past sins because “in one moment of the sacrament (reconciliation) they will be forgiven”. The essential point is that what we have done can not be changed, but future deeds can be directed at



avoiding sin. St. Augustine continues the point by emphasizing that after we are forgiven, have faith and do good works. “Live like a child in the family of so great a Father...One over whom God’s name is invoked”.

Faith is so crucial to keeping God as the center of our Catholic Church and our personal lives. As reported by many Catholic media (TV, radio, internet, newspapers, etc.), faith and belief in God has been greatly undermined. For example, belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist is declining. The Pew Research Center released a study conducted in February 2019 showing that most Catholics (69%) in the United States believe the Eucharist is symbolic of Jesus’ body and blood,

rather than believing in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ under the forms of bread and wine. However, of those Catholics who attend Mass at least once a week, 63% believe that the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ, still a low percentage.

The teaching of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, according to the *Catechism*, is the “source and summit of the Christian life” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1324*).

Bishop Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles said this low number “should be a wake-up call for all of us in the Church”. Bishop Barron continues “This is a central teaching of Catholicism—that Jesus is really, truly, and substantially present under the forms of bread and wine. It’s a basic tenet of Catholicism”.

**Please pray for our Church!
Let us use this Lenten season to strengthen our belief and trust in God and that the Lenten observance will be followed with increased devotion throughout the year and in the future.**

Immaculate Conception and the Incarnation



This editor has recently heard comments about the Immaculate Conception being referred to as the birth of Jesus. It’s important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people think the term refers to Christ’s conception in Mary’s womb without the intervention of a human father; but that is the Virgin Birth (incarnation). The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the

normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain—that’s what “immaculate” means: without stain.

Mary was preserved from these defects by God’s grace; from the first instant of her existence, she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature of original sin.

An implicit reference may be found in the angel’s greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you” (Luke 1:28). The phrase “full of grace” is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

**What is the Incarnation?
“and the word became flesh and dwelt among us” (*John 1:14*)**

The incarnation, that is, God becoming man, has been discussed throughout many centuries. It is a

mystery that is difficult to grasp but yet central to our faith. He did take on flesh (The latin *incarnatio* means flesh) from the Blessed Mother to become human while still being God. It is defined in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed (A.D. 325, 381): “And we believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born from the Father before all the ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things were made. For us men, and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, He took on flesh from the Virgin Mary, and became man.”

Again we turn back to the importance of faith as reflected by St. Augustine: “In order that man might journey more trustfully toward the truth, the Truth itself, the Son of God, having assumed human nature, established and founded faith.”

Our Church and Pastors Need Our Prayers

“Nothing makes the Church, the Body of Christ, suffer more than the sins of her pastors” (*Pope Benedict XVI*). We must pray for holy priests and also pray priests into holiness (*Terry Peloquin, Marian Helper, Winter 2019-20*). The clergy needs our prayers and we should pray that the Holy Spirit guides them to do the will of God.

Just because the Church is having difficulty with some of its pastors, we have to support the Church because it is the Church of Jesus Christ. Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz stated at his installation as Bishop on December 8, 1918: “What can I expect of you? If from now on we are to be a large family, then we must work together. I shall pray for you, and you must pray for me. This I ask you most

fervently.”

The Bishop recognized that the laity must help the clergy in spreading the true meaning of Catholicism. The goal of *Marian Helpers* is to help souls reach heaven. As lay people, that should also be our goal. The devil is very clever and knows how to trick us as he tricked Adam and Eve. What better trick than to get the clergy to help him to keep us from going to heaven.

Terry Pelequin in his *Marian Helper* article (*Winter 2019-20*) discussed “prescribed prayer”. First of all, we are to pray for the Pope because he is the main target of the evil one. Prayers are also needed for our local bishops, priests and religious.

The Catechism of the Catholic

Church (1552) states: “The ministerial priesthood has the task not only of representing Christ – Head of the Church – before the assembly of the faithful, but also of acting in the name of the whole Church when presenting to God the prayers of the Church, and above all when offering the Eucharistic sacrifice”.

Our Church needs our prayers to assure that it ordains holy priests that will be strong and vocal in preaching the truth. We cannot sit back and be spectators and look for an easy way to salvation. There is not an easy way! “...in the name of Jesus Christ and out of love for His Holy Roman Catholic Church, let’s get to work” (*Terry Pelequin*) with prayer as done by St. Faustina as recorded in her diary (1052).

For meditation—*Our Lady’s words to St. Juan Diego at Guadalupe*: “Listen and let it penetrate your heart...do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?”

MEMBERS CORNER

New Member: Judy Calia from Kansas.

Thank you for the overwhelming response to Our Request for Rosaries. Through your generosity, we were able to send hundreds of rosaries and holy items to Fr. Andrew Gowa and Fr. Moses Juhudi, both in Tanzania. You are a Great family in Christ. It is with deep gratitude that we thank the following for helping meet the needs of these

two priests: Edna Cruz (Guam), Betty Hino (HI), Wilford Soong (HI), Carol Adarna (HI), Jean Finke (FL), Nina McElwee (NC), Cecilia Schmitt (WI) and Anne from Institute on Religious Life (IL). The outreach provided by Esther Gefroh to announce this need for religious articles, especially rosaries, to numerous people in Hawaii is greatly appreciated.

God Bless You All,
Mary Ann

Contributed Rosary Distribution



Fr. Moses Juhudi distributing donated rosaries to his parishioners in Karagwe, Tanzania.

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)
Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
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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)
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Fr. Greg Tigga (India)
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