



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 30, No. 1

Jan-Mar 2021

January	February	March
Holy Name of Jesus	The Holy Family	St. Joseph
*Pray for Pope Francis’ intention: to pray for each other. *Pray that whoever calls upon the name of Jesus will be saved.	*Pray for Pope Francis. *Pray that the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph will be the model of virtue of all Christian households.	*Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions: for deeper renewal through confession. *Pray to St. Joseph to help us see the workings of God’s grace.

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

A person's name is the greatest connection to their own identity and individuality. It is a way of recognizing that person. The Most Holy Name of Jesus, a memorial celebrated in the Catholic Church on January 3, is clearly the most powerful name in the Universe.

The infant born of the Blessed Mother on Christmas day was named Jesus, the name chosen by God. The Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus” (Luke 1:31). The Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream saying “she (Mary) will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). The Gospel of Luke further relates that “And after eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb” (Luke 2:21).

Jesus was named eight days after Christmas, January 3. The New Testament is filled with incidents where the name of Jesus is invoked to drive out devils, cure illnesses, and perform miracles. The Holy Name is placed at the highest level by Saint Paul: “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in



heaven and on earth, and under the earth...” (Philippians 2:10). In St. John’s Gospel where he discusses Jesus turning sorrow into joy, he states, “Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father, He will give it to you in my name” (John 16:23).

The name of the God of the Old Testament was holy and was not allowed to be taken causally. The second commandment clearly states: “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain.” We frequently hear the name of Jesus used to damn someone or simply to curse. This usage is sinful.

Saint Bernardine of Siena spread devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He used “IHS” derived from Greek letters forming the name “Jesus”. The Jesuits made “IHS” the emblem of their Society in the sixteenth century. The mother church of all Jesuit churches, in Rome, is officially named in honor of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

“Jesus” is a name of the one who taught, suffered, died, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. “Jesus” is the God-man! The Holy Name of Jesus should be said with total love and reverence. Let us invoke the name of Jesus reverently and respectfully every day.

In His name, we have hope. We all face moments of darkness and anxiety when things become difficult. During the current challenging times, hope resides in the Holy Name of Jesus. Hope is having complete trust and assurance that the promises of God will be fulfilled. This trust is based on what He has done for us in His Son Jesus, through His Death and Resurrection. Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1817*).

Let us ask Jesus to strengthen our hope in times of darkness and to help us to be a source of hope for others. Hope is a Person, it is Jesus Himself (St. Paul).

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jesus is the reason for the season

The Holy Family, Model for Living



We have witnessed a major breakdown of the family in the past century. Can this tragic event be corrected? What do we have to do to build the family so that it is again central in society? It will take time, but we have hope if we use the Holy Family as our model.

During a Mass in Nazareth on May 14, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged families to recognize their “irreplaceable mission” within society. He explained: The love of a married man and woman “is raised by grace to become a sharing in, and an expression of, the love of Christ and the Church.”

The family, grounded in the love of a marriage, “is called to be

a ‘domestic church,’ a place of faith, of prayer and of loving concern for the true and enduring good of each of its members.”

A family’s essential role is to be a “building-block of a well-ordered and welcoming society”. Pope Benedict said it is in the family that people first learn to practice “those virtues which make for authentic happiness and lasting fulfillment.”

We can look at the Holy Family to see how each one fulfills the role of virtue and societal order. The Blessed Mother illustrates the dignity and vocation of women in the home, the church and society. Women have an indispensable role in teaching children “to love and to cherish others, to be honest and respectful to all, to practice the virtues of mercy and forgiveness”. (Pope Benedict XVI). We need

what the late Pope St. John Paul II called the “prophetic charism” of women as bearers of love, teachers of mercy and artisans of peace, bringing warmth and humanity to a world that all too often judges the value of a person by the cold criteria of usefulness and profit.

The pope continued his homily by addressing St. Joseph, saying that from his “strong and fatherly example Jesus learned the virtues of a manly piety, fidelity to one’s word, integrity and hard work.” The world today greatly needs the example, guidance and quiet strength of men like St. Joseph.

Vatican Council II taught that children play a special role in their parents’ growth toward holiness. Jesus taught Mary and Joseph the greatness of the love of God as the ultimate source of all love.

St. Joseph, Model of Fathers

Saint Joseph, “the Silent Saint”, husband of the Blessed Mother and foster-father of Jesus shows us the necessity of fathers in the home. In our contemporary society, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s website, National Kids Count, as many as 25% of children in the U.S. live in households with only a mother. That is over 18 million children who do not live with a father figure in the USA alone.

Saint Joseph is a model for fathers everywhere when it comes to typifying the crucial role that fathers play in children’s lives. Saint Joseph’s presence within the Gospels is one of protection, honor, duty, care, and ultimately, of deep love for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. He accomplishes this without drawing attention to himself. He placed his full trust in the Lord.

The indispensable role of fathers in their children’s lives has



been elucidated by many popes. For example, in 1981, Pope St. John Paul II wrote in his apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio: On the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World* that “Love for his wife as mother of their children and love for the children themselves are for the man the natural way of understanding and fulfilling his own fatherhood... Efforts must be made to restore socially the conviction that the place and task of the father in and for the family is of unique and irreplaceable

importance”.

In 1989, Pope St. John Paul II wrote an apostolic exhortation on Saint Joseph, titled *Redemptoris Custos: On the Person and Mission of Saint Joseph in the Life of Christ and of the Church*, reminding us that “This bond of charity was the core of the Holy Family’s life, first in the poverty of Bethlehem, then in their exile in Egypt, and later in the house of Nazareth. The Church deeply venerates this Family, and proposes it as the model of all families...His fatherhood is one that fully shares in authentic human fatherhood and the mission of a father in the family”

It is a blessed privilege for fathers to share in the role that God afforded them as parents. St. Joseph is a great model for fathers to emulate. We must sound a call for fathers to take their familial responsibilities seriously. (Source: *National Catholic Register*)

St. Joseph’s Feast Day—March 19

The Power of the Rosary

President Abraham Lincoln said, "I have no fear that America will be destroyed from without, but I fear that it may be destroyed from within." We are witnessing this destruction now. Look at some of the symptoms: breakup of the family, divorce, abortion, euthanasia, immorality, general dishonesty, and defection of religious. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, in 1974, proclaimed that the enemy would be "conforming to the world".

What can we do to combat this worldliness? Turn to our Blessed Mother for her intercession by praying the Rosary. St. Louis de Montfort said, "When the Holy Rosary is said well, it gives Jesus and Mary more glory and is more meritorious than any other prayer". Some examples of the power of the Rosary are:

- ♦ Saint Dominic and his Dominicans stopped the spread of the Albigensian heresy throughout Europe in the thirteenth century.



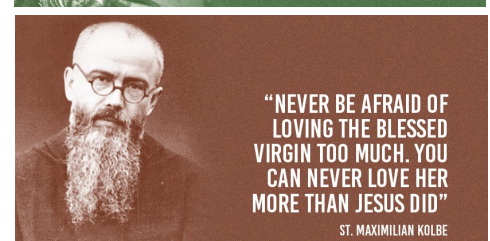
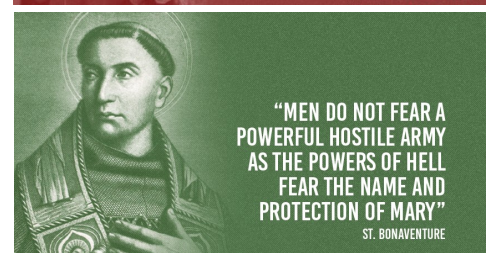
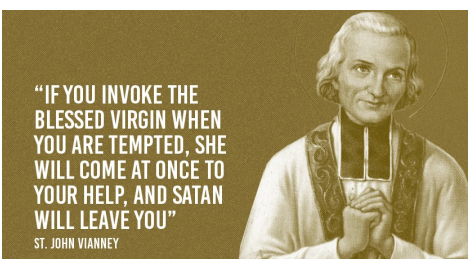
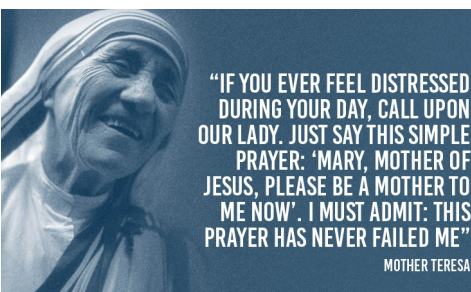
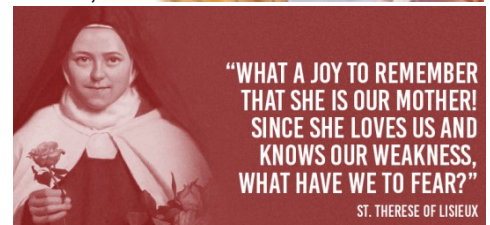
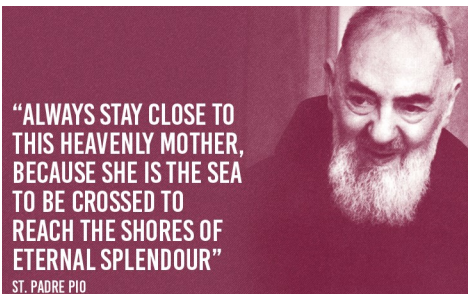
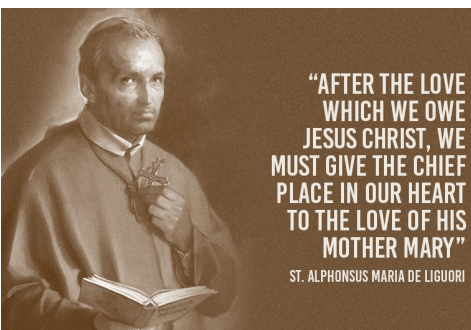
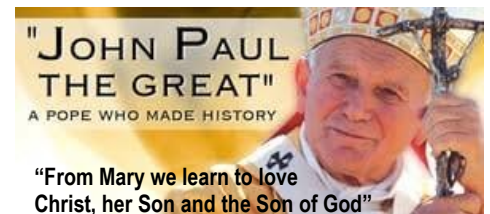
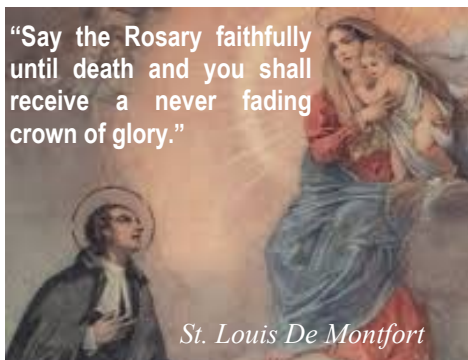
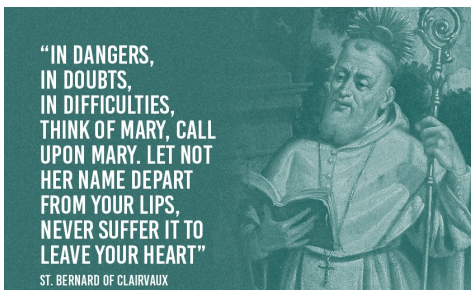
- ♦ The Spaniards and Italians defeated Turkish invaders in the Battle of Lepanto (October 7, 1571) resulting in Pope Gregory XIII instituting the annual feast of Our Lady of Victory.
- ♦ On September 12, 1683, Europe was spared from being overrun by Turkish invaders at siege of Vienna; this reprieve was attributed to the praying of the Rosary by those in the city.

- ♦ Jesuit priests, saying the Rosary at the epicenter of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945, survived.
- ♦ After 70,000 people agreed to pray the Rosary in Austria, the Soviets mysteriously departed the country on the anniversary date of the Fatima apparition, May 13, 1955.
- ♦ On October 13, 1960, an accidental explosion of a new Soviet missile set back the Soviet nuclear arms program by at least 20 years after a million pilgrims in Fatima held an all-night prayer vigil before the Blessed Sacrament.
- ♦ A bill legalizing abortion in Portugal was defeated in 1998 following a Rosary campaign.

Sr. Lucia, one of the children Mary appeared to at Fatima, stated in a 1957 interview that **any problem can be solved by praying the Rosary.**

Marian Saints

There are many saints who had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. We have selected ten saints which we will feature in greater detail over the next ten issues of this newsletter.



Sisters of Mary Morning Star



The Rosary Calendar is happy to welcome its new member, Sr. Mary Alix of the Sisters of Mary Morning Star. The sisters are a religious contemplative community answering the call for a new Evangelization, by sharing with the world what is essential in their charism: love for prayer and the Word of God, the search for truth, an understanding of the importance of work, all lived in a climate of joy and fraternal charity. There are now more than 300 members in the Community living in 27 priories spread out over 6 continents. The sisters are currently working on establishing a permanent novitiate in the Philippines so the formation of young sisters can be accomplished in an area of Asia that is not suppressed by communist governments. To accomplish their goal, the sisters have a project to purchase the Comboni convent in the Philippines at a cost of \$1.1 million US dollars. They ask for our prayers and any financial support that we can offer. Donations may be sent to Sr. Mary Alix, Sisters of Mary Morning Star, 4905 Schofield St., Monona, WI USA, 53716.

Pope Francis proclaims this year as the “Year of St. Joseph”

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

Dates to Remember

Solemnity of Mary (Jan.1), Epiphany (Jan.3), Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17), Annunciation (Mar. 25), Palm Sunday (Mar. 28)

MEMBERS CORNER

New Members: Sr. Mary Alix of the Sisters of Mary Morning Star (WI).

We thank: Anne Ryan for her generous donation (10/3/2020)

Mission news: Rosaries were sent to Tanzania. Thank you to all who donated.

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

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 Viera (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)
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)
*Founder of the Rosary Calendar

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