



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 29, No. 3

July-September 2020

July	August	September
The Precious Blood of Jesus	The Immaculate Heart	Seven Sorrows of Mary
*Pray for Pope Francis’ intention for families. *Pray that the Precious Blood of Jesus washes and beautifies our soul.	*Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for those who earn their living from the sea. *Pray to amend offenses committed against her Immaculate Heart.	*Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions for respect of natural resources. *Pray in reparation for the profanations of the Blessed Mothers images.

Rosary Garden

The Rosary is one of the more familiar devotionals associated with the Catholic faith. It sets forth the entire life of Christ and the unwavering devotion of His holy mother Mary.

The word *Rosary* comes from the Latin word *rosarium*, meaning “rose garden.” In the mid-1500s, *rosaire* came to mean “a garden of prayers” from the medieval concept of compiling a collection of items, which could include flowers, into bouquets. This apparently originated in the late 1400’s with the printing of a prayer book, *Hortulus Animae*, that literally meant “little garden of the soul.” Creating a bouquet of prayers eventually led to a string of knots to track one’s praying.

A Rosary garden is a way to express our love of this form of prayer. It is also a place where we can contemplate God’s graces. There are many options for creating a Rosary garden. Regardless of the creation, the Blessed Mother should be prominent and represented either by a statue, image, or symbol. A cross should be also be included in the design. Space will determine how the Rosary is represented but with the mysteries being obvious. Flowers can be added for color.



Each mystery of the Rosary has a mediation and a fruit:

Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation of Our Lord—The fruit is humility.
2. The Visitation—The fruit is charity.
3. The Nativity of Jesus—The fruit is love of God.
4. The Presentation in the Temple—The fruit is the spirit of sacrifice.
5. The Finding in the Temple—The fruit is witnessing.

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden—The fruit is repentance.
2. The Scourging at the Pillar—The fruit is mortification.
3. The Crowning with Thorns—The fruit is moral courage.
4. The Carrying of the Cross—The

fruit is patience.

5. The Crucifixion and Death—The fruit is final perseverance.

Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection of Our Lord—The fruit is faith.
2. The Ascension into Heaven—The fruit is hope.
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit—The fruit is zeal.
4. The Assumption of Mary—The fruit is a happy death.
5. The Coronation of Mary—The fruit is love of Mary.

Luminous Mysteries

1. Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan—The fruit is gratitude for faith.
2. The Wedding at Cana—The fruit is fidelity.
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God—The fruit is desire for holiness.
4. The Transfiguration—The fruit is spiritual courage.
5. The Institution of the Holy Eucharist—The fruit is love of Eucharistic Jesus.

May the lessons of faith and virtue that the Holy Spirit brings to you in your garden be a source of inspiration and contemplation of God’s graces .

Be Not Afraid During This Pandemic

Today in what seems to be an unfamiliar world, many people are struggling with anxiety and doubts. This struggle can lead to despair. **Do not fear; be not afraid** are cited many times in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. St. John Paul II also said many times: **Be**

not afraid. Welcome Christ and accept his power. Do not be afraid to open wide the doors for Christ and to His saving power. God knows what is in man and He alone knows it.

These words can be applied to the COVID-19 pandemic. We

should not be afraid of the virus or the terrors of an ungodly world. There is no power great than God...**Be not afraid** . We should place our emphasis and trust in God.

Jesus, I Trust in You

Blessed Mothers 11th of 12 Approved Public Apparitions

Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa of Akita, Japan received three messages 1973. The apparitions began on June 12th with brilliant rays emanating from the tabernacle. A little over two weeks later, June 28, a cross-shaped wound appeared on the left hand of Sr. Agnes which bled profusely and caused her much pain.

On July 6, Sr. Agnes heard a voice (first message) coming from the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the chapel where she was praying. On the same day, a few of the sisters noticed drops of blood flowing from the statue's right hand that was repeated on four occasions. The wound in the statue's hand remained until September 29., but then the statue began to "sweat". A second message was received on August 3 and the third and final message on October 13.

Two years later on January 4,



Our Lady of Akita

1975, the statue of the Blessed Virgin began to weep. It continued to weep at intervals for the next 6 years and eight months. It wept on 101 occasions.

The essence of the message on July 6, 1973 was, "Pray in reparation for the sins of men" and "Pray very much for the Pope, Bishops, and Priests." On August 3, 1973, Sister Agnes was

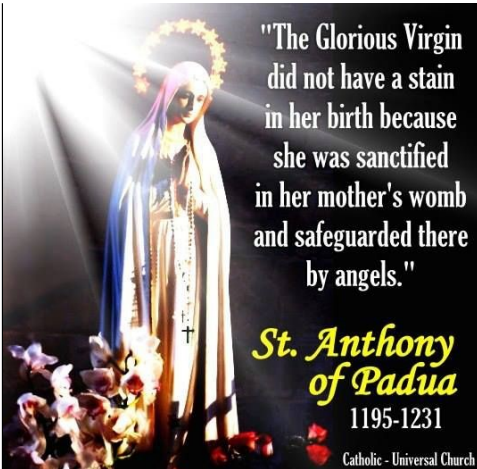
encouraged, along with her community, to pray, do penance and make courageous sacrifices. In addition, Sr. Agnes was told by Our Lady that she "must be fastened to the Cross with three nails. These three nails are poverty, chastity and obedience."

Our Lady warned on October 13, 1973 (3rd message), that the devil "will infiltrate even into the Church" such that it "will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord". We have certainly witnessed the fulfillment of this predicted event.

The Blessed Mother concluded her apparitions with "Pray very much the prayers of the Rosary. I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach."

Blessed Mother, Pray for us

The Grace of Mary's "Yes"



The Blessed Mother is the greatest among the saints. At the Annunciation, Mary said "yes" to God and became the Mother of Jesus, the eternal Son of God incarnate. We believe in Mary's Immaculate Conception (that she was without sin from the moment of her conception and she remained "full of grace" by the saving work of the Son she was to bear) and that, because of her sinless state, she was assumed bodily into

heaven. The Church also teaches that She is ever-virgin – before and after the birth of Jesus.

Mary embraced her vocation of being God's partner in the work of redemption. Mary, mother of Jesus was sinless from her first moment of existence in St. Anne's womb because of the singular role she was to play in our salvation. No other human person offers as vital and direct a link in the coming of Christ.

St. Anthony of Padua had a deep devotion to the Holy Name of Mary. The Marian doctrine and devotion of this great saint, like two wings, lifted him up from this world and carried him into the sublime heights of holiness. May his profound wisdom and love for the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God inspire many to entrust themselves entirely to Her without reserve and with full confidence so that She may illumine souls with the brilliance of Her grace. His great love for our Blessed Mother

led him to write: "Our Mediatrix, the most holy Virgin Mary, has brought about peace between God and the sinners. As the rainbow in the clouds after the Flood was the sign of the covenant between God and the earth, so Mary is truly the sign of the covenant and peace between God and the sinner...."

A thing of wonder, says the wise man, is the sun, the work of the Most High (Sir 43:2). The Virgin Mary is an even greater work of wonder, for she was the bridal chamber wherein the Son of God took flesh, the sanctuary of the Spirit, the dwelling of the most Blessed Trinity, for He who created me rested in my tent (Sir 24:8). O work indeed of wonder, for the Son of God made her more beautiful than all other creatures and holier than all the saints, and then in her took on human form and became one of us."

Saint Anthony of Padua (died in 1123)

Celebrating Mass in Isolation

The current pandemic has led to empty churches with the faithful needing to watch the mass from home and making a spiritual communion. The Mass is the participation in Christ's perfect sacrificial offering of Himself and all of creation to the Father which then culminates in the reception of Holy Communion.

Even though we have not been able to obtain the liturgical fullness during the lockdown, every Mass involves every member of the Mystical Body by which Christ offers Himself continuously to the Father (*Adoremus Bulletin*, May 2020, Pp.1, 4, 9).

Sacramental reception of the Eucharist is the supreme communion with Christ's Real Presence. Denis McNamara (Associate Professor, Benedictine College) in discussing "*Why celebrate the mass with empty pews?*" states that in times of social isolation, it is worth remembering that the Eucharist is more than a "spiritual vitamin pill" but an



Celebrating Mass in an empty church

action of Christ which calls for the surrender of self to God's transforming love by joining the mind, heart, and will to those of Christ. This divine self-offering is real whether it happens in a pew or happens in a living room. A faithful Catholic can hope in God's Fatherly love and therefore trust that He will share His presence even in a prayer of spiritual communion.

Several sources on this topic of celebrating the Eucharist in isolation point to a kind of involuntary "fasting" from sacramental reception of the eucharist. This spiritual fasting is

like all fasting that it should increase our desire to be able to return to church and be able, with deep faith and hope, look forward to full communion with our Lord. Fortunately, many churches have opened, although many with restrictions, so we are now able to receive the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ.

In reflection, this fasting from the Holy Eucharist provided the "opportunity to understand the Eucharist more fully as an act of self-offering joined to the perfect offering of Christ, the Immaculate Victim (*McNamara, Adoremus Bulletin*, May 2020).

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on earth. Each moment that you spend with Jesus will deepen your union with Him and make your soul everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven, and will help bring about everlasting peace on earth." (*St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*)

Who Needs Mental Prayer?

Hope is dependent upon prayer. Servant of God Fr. John Hardon (1914-2000), Founder of Institute on Religious Life, addresses the question: Who needs mental prayer? His message is that everybody needs it! They need it always—daily. Depending on their choice in life, they may need it often during the day. Fr. Hardon's focus on mental prayer: it is the indispensable means of reaching sanctity in all the major states of life to which God calls those whom He has sealed in Baptism and signed with the confession of the true faith. No two states of life are quite the same. He stated that "One of the pities of our age is that so many people are trying to live other people's lives. Call it role-playing or personality-substitution or dissatisfaction with one's state of life. Whatever the name, it is a phenomenon that should be given more attention

than it is getting with all sorts of shifting of life's goals until Western society is writhing with a massive confusion which this instability has created. It is almost as though there were no states of life. Everybody seems to want to be somebody else. So many women behaving as though they wanted to be men; men as though they were women; husbands as though they were not married; and wives as though they had no husbands or families; priests as though they were businessmen, politicians or social activists; and religious as though they were secular men and women in the world. Consequently, when we speak of everyone needing mental prayer, this means that everyone needs a certain amount of regular reflection in God's presence and in conversation with Him in order to be what God wants him or her to be."

In summary of his message, Fr. Hardon emphasizes that mental prayer is necessary even to recognize one's own vocation, to maintain one's commitment to a definite choice, to remain faithful in one's special calling from the Lord, to resist the temptation to discouragement.

There is no problem so grave in any state of life that cannot be resolved through humble mental prayer. But there is also no problem so small in every vocation that cannot become an impassable jungle in the absence of mental prayer.

"Holy Spirit," we need to pray, "teach me to pray in such a way that I shall find joy in my chosen way of life." This is the main purpose of mental prayer for everyone. It is also the surest means of achieving peace, when I know that I'm doing the will of God.

Doing the Will of God

St. Lawrence of Brindisi, martyred in the persecution of the Christians ordered by the Roman Emperor Valerian in 258, urged everyone to cultivate a life of prayer. It is through prayer that we speak to God and that God speaks to us. He exclaimed “God is truly present to us when we speak to Him in prayer; that He truly listens to our prayers.”

St. Lawrence was the author of a collection of sermons on Our Lady in which he highlighted the unique role of the Virgin Mary. He affirmed that she played a role in redemption brought about by Christ. Thus, she is also available to us to guide us to follow the will of Him who created us.

This martyred deacon also pointed out how the Holy Spirit illuminates and assists us with His gifts so we can live out the Gospel message. St. Lawrence wrote, “The Holy Spirit sweetens...the divine law and lightens its weight,



St. Lawrence of Brindisi

so that we may observe God’s commandments with the greatest of ease and even with pleasure.”

Through his great love for Sacred Scripture, he illustrated how the Word of God leads us to holiness. St. Lawrence said, “the Word of the Lord is a light for the mind and a fire for the will, so that man may know and love God.

[For those who] live through the living grace of God’s Spirit, it is bread and water, but bread sweeter than honey and water better than wine or milk...[The Word of God] is a sword against the flesh, the world and the devil, to destroy every sin.”

Pope Benedict XVI wrote that St. Lawrence teaches us: to love Sacred Scripture, to increase in familiarity with it, to cultivate daily relations of friendship with the Lord in prayer. This practice is so that our every action, our every activity, may have its beginning and its fulfillment in Him. Sacred Scripture is the source from which to draw so that our Christian witness may be a light to lead the people of our time to God.

The Feast day for St. Lawrence is August 10.

(Source: Pope Benedicts General Audience of March 23, 2011)

MEMBERS CORNER

New Members: Wally Cech (TX), Edythe Nannemann (MO), Fr. Moses Juhudi & Faithful (added Faithful) from Tanzania



Fr. Thomas Choo

Recent notifications of deceased members: Please pray for the soul of Fr. Thomas Choo who was a beautiful spiritual director for Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar. He was a humble, cheerful Sacred Heart priest of 51 years remembered for his pastoral ways. He was a lifelong Hawaii parish priest whose last priestly assignment was as a parochial vicar at St. Patrick Church in Honolulu, HI. He died June 18, 2020 at age 78. May God Bless his soul.

Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States: A prayer card is enclosed for you to use or to give to someone else. We urgently need to pray, do penance and make sacrifices for Our Country and Christians all over the world.

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 Our 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. Poopillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)

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*Prayer to the Guardian Angel
of the United States*

Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States

O glorious Guardian Angel of the United States, to whom God has entrusted the care of our beloved country, we honor you and thank you for the care and protection you have given to this great nation from the first moment of its inception.

O powerful Angel Guardian, whose watchful glance encompasses this vast land from shore to shore, we know that our sins have grieved our Lord and God and marred the beauty of our heritage. Lead us to a deep conversion, so that we may return to the embrace of His merciful love!

O Holy Angel, obtain for us through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven before the throne of God the graces we need to overcome the forces of evil so rampant in our beloved land.

Help us, our God-given protector and friend, to respond wholeheartedly to the urgent pleas of the Mother of God at Fatima. Assist us to offer the prayers and sacrifices necessary to bring peace and goodness to our nation.

We want to make you known and loved throughout our land, so that docile to your inspirations we may know, love and serve our Lord more faithfully and so become once more "one Nation under God"! Amen.

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Imprimatur: + Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Monforton
Bishop of Steubenville, OH, November 1, 2016

Picture: Guardian Angel of the US at National Blue Army Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Washington. Used with permission.