



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 29, No. 4

Oct-Dec 2020

October	November	December
The Holy Rosary	Soul in Purgatory	Immaculate Conception
*Pray for Pope Francis’ intention for the laity’s mission in the Church. *Pray that seeds we planted will yield an eternal harvest of heaven.	*Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions. *Pray for hope on our pilgrimage to heaven.	*Pray for Pope Francis’ intentions that we be nourished by the Word of God. *Pray to meditate on the virtue of purity.

Know the Truth—Know Jesus

Reason, used properly, helps us discover the truth of things including moral issues. Truth is really straight forward: it is Jesus. He said, “I am the way and the truth”. This important aspect of truth inspired St. Pope John Paul II to write, in 1993, an encyclical on the “*Splendor of the Truth*” (*Veritatis Splendor*). Servant of God Fr. Walter J. Ciszek, S. J., who spent 23 years in Soviet prisons, wrote, “Divine truth is its simplicity”. Saint Paul, the apostle recorded “it is the simple things of this world that God has chosen to confound the wise.” The truth about faith is that “man was created to praise, reverence, and serve God in this world and to be happy with Him forever in the next” (Walter J. Ciszek).

Paragraph 2464 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “The eighth commandment forbids misrepresenting the truth in our relations with others. This moral prescription flows from the vocation of holy people to bear witness to their God who is the truth and wills the truth. Offenses against the truth expressed by word or deed is a refusal to commit oneself to moral uprightness.”

In his encyclical, St. John Paul II wrote, “Today, however, it seems *necessary to reflect on the whole of the Church’s moral*



Jesus, The Way, The Truth, The Life
(John 14:6)

teaching, with the precise goal of recalling certain fundamental truths of Catholic doctrine which, in the present circumstances, risk being distorted or denied.” He was referring, in detail, to errors among Christians concerning the “spread of numerous doubts and objections of a human, social, cultural, religious and even properly theological nature, with regard to the Church’s moral teachings”. He addressed dissent and the questioning of traditional moral doctrine which leads to detaching human freedom from its essential relationship to truth. The statements by the Pope in 1993 clearly applies to the cultural and moral situation in 2020.

So what is the truth? In *Veritatis Splendor*, John Paul II wrote: “Certainly, in order to have a “good conscience” (1 Timothy 1:5), man must seek the truth and

must make judgments in accordance with that same truth. As the Apostle Paul said, “my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit” (*Romans 9:1*); “We have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God” (2 *Corinthians 4:2*). The Apostle Paul warned Christians: “Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (*Romans 12:2*). “The conscience compromises its dignity when it shows little concern for seeking what is true and good, and the conscience gradually becomes almost blind from being accustomed to sin” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 16).

The Catholic Church, by the will of Christ, is the teacher of truth. Her charge is to announce and teach authentically that truth which is Christ, not being influenced by human deceit (refer to *Ephesians 4:14*). The lesson herein is that the way is truth, truth is life, and true life is found only in Jesus.

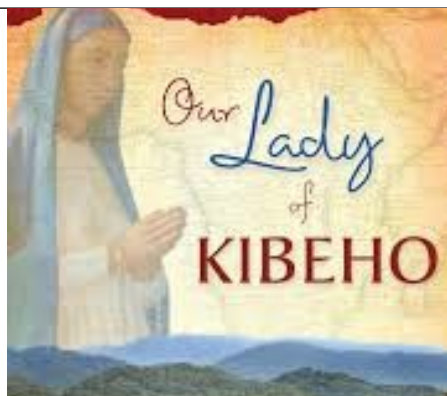
Blessed Mothers 12th of 12 Approved Public Apparitions

Mary appears at an all-girls Catholic High School in Kibeho, Rwanda

The Blessed Mother's apparitions from November 28, 1981 through 1983 in Kibeho, Rwanda are considered to be credible. She appeared first to Alphonsine Mumureke, a young student of the Kibeho High School followed by appearances to other students in which Our Lady asked for "conversion, to keep faith and to pray without hypocrisy".

There was skepticism about these apparitions which resulted in calls for signs of credibility. Consequently, Alphonsine asked the Virgin to appear to others. Mary then appeared to Nathalie Mukamazimpaka on January 12, 1982 and to Marie Claire Mukangango on March 2, 1982.

The primary message related to Nathalie is one of redemptive suffering and unceasing prayer for a world that is "very bad and at



risk of falling into an abyss". Marie Claire Mukangango was a fierce opponent to the apparitions claimed by Alphonsine until the Blessed Mother appeared to her. The message given to Marie emphasized the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary as an urgent call to repentance.

Alphonsine Mumureke had a "mystical journey" on March 20, 1982. Her description in symbolic

language seem to refer to realities such as Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. On October 30, 1982, Nathalie Mukamazimpaka had a similar experience.

The definitive pronouncement of approval of these apparitions took place on June 29, 2001, the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, during a solemn Mass concelebrated in the Cathedral of Gikongoro. Bishop Augustin Misago made the declaration.

The three testimonies considered authentic are those in which the Virgin appeared with the name "Nyina wa Jambo" (Mother of the Word), which is synonymous to "Umubyeyi W'iamna" (Mother of God). However, the name given to the Marian sanctuary at Kibeho is "Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows".

Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is December 8, nine months before the feast of the Nativity of Mary celebrated on September 8. The Immaculate Conception refers to the most pure and sinless conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary without Original Sin. Scripture tells us that Mary is the new Eve, the only other woman to be created in a sinless state. Thus, we believe that Mary is the new Eve.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains (490-491): to become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel, at the moment of the annunciation, salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more



aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the

Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854 when he infallibly defined, *ex cathedra*: "The Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the foreseen merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin." Four years later, in 1858, when the Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, France, she confirmed Pius IX's proclamation by stating, "I am the **Immaculate Conception**".

There are references to the

Blessed Mothers Immaculate Conception starting in the late 2nd century. St. Augustine, in the early 5th century stated explicitly that Mary was free of original sin and his profession was restated in the 11th century by St. Anselm of Normandy. The Eastern Church celebrated a Feast of the Conception of Mary in the 8th to the 9th century and the practice was picked up by the Western Church in the 12th century. In the 14th century, Franciscan theologians stated that Christ, the most perfect mediator, preserved Mary from original sin. Since the 15th Century, the Feast was universally celebrated.

In reflection, the Blessed Mother received all the special divine help necessary for her task. She is the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. She is indeed full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. The incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

Marian Thoughts for Christmas

Pray to our Blessed Mother to fill our lives with joy and peace this Christmas. The message of Fatima helps us discover this joy and peace. It is a message of love, healing, and a path to incredible happiness. Every time Mary appeared to the children, she asked them to pray the Rosary. Why? The Rosary is incredibly powerful. It has the power to bring peace, the power to heal, and the power to make a difference in our life, the lives of our loved ones, and in the world—in essence, the Christmas message.

In some Marian thoughts lies the secret of an authentic Christmas. “To transform the world, God chose a humble young girl from a village in Galilee, Mary of Nazareth, and challenged her with this greeting: ‘Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you’” (Pope Benedict XVI). God repeats this greeting to the Church and to each one of us: Rejoice, the Lord is close!



“With Mary’s help, let us offer ourselves with humility and courage so that the world may accept Christ, Who is the source of true joy” (Pope Benedict XVI).

The world needs God Who is the source of goodness. Pope emeritus Benedict XVI clearly addresses what we need to do to achieve peace in the world in his December 24, 2005 homily. “Who are those whom God loves, and why does He love them?” The Gospel answers the question in which He points out “He loves everyone, because everyone is His creature. But some people have closed their hearts; there is no door in which His love can enter. They think that they do not need God, nor do they want Him.” The Pope pointed out that

other persons are waiting for God. They realize that they need His goodness through which their heart can enter into God’s light, and with it, His peace. Let us pray to be active heralds of His peace today. In his *Angelus* on August 7, 2005, The Pope emeritus stated, “Who can accompany us better on this demanding journey of holiness than Mary? Who can teach us to adore Christ better than she? May she help especially the new generations to recognize the true face of God in Christ and to worship, love and serve Him with total dedication.”

Christmas reminds us of the Birth of Jesus. We need to think deeply about the Blessed Mother giving herself to God and to us. Her openness to God then leads to the fulfillment of God’s plan for His Son, Jesus. As our spiritual mother, she leads us to the God-man Jesus.

BLESSED MOTHER, GRANT PEACE TO THE WORLD.

Quanta Cura (Syllabus of Errors)

Pope Pius IX wrote an encyclical in 1864 condemning errors of his time. This encyclical fittingly addresses today’s errors. This 156-year-old encyclical lets us clearly see the sins against purity and truth.

The Pope listed many errors in his *Quanta Cura*. Only a few will be used to illustrate their relevance for us. Rationalism, a major issue discussed in his encyclical, is still a problem today in which “human reason, without any reference whatsoever to God, is the sole arbiter of truth and falsehood, and of good and evil. Pope Benedict XVI addressed this issue many times.

In reference to the church, the error addressed by Pius IX, the civil powers define the rights of the Church. He addressed a similar error with government control of schools. This theme is clearly evident today with civil authorities instructing the church how to



Pope Pius IX

minister during the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, the number of people who can attend mass is limited.

He stated that these vicious attacks against the Catholic Church must be “constantly resisted”. This effort is necessary because “the [evil] enterprises of wicked men, who, like raging waves of the sea foaming out their own confusion, and promising liberty whereas they are the slaves of corruption, have striven by their deceptive opinions and most pernicious writings to raze

the foundations of the Catholic religion and of civil society, to remove from among men all virtue and justice, to [make immoral] persons, and especially inexperienced youth, to lead [them] into the snares of error, and at length to tear [religion and truth] from the bosom of the Catholic Church”.

Pius IX urged the people of his century which directly applies to our current errors to confidently ask for grace and mercy. He wrote that we must “pray unceasingly and in the fullness of faith flee always to Our Lord Jesus Christ, who redeemed us to God in his blood.” Our prayers are “more pleasing to God if they reach Him from minds free from all stain, cleansed through the sacrament of Penance, from the defilement of their sins”. So then, let us confidently and earnestly pray to God in order to receive His mercy and grace.

Responsible and Moral Voting in National Elections

Leadership is changing in a number of countries with major presidential and congressional elections to take place in November in the USA. We have serious aspects to consider that involve moral issues. The culture of life is one of the major issues. The Catholic Church teaches that abortion is intrinsically evil. As St. Pope John Paul stated in his presentation in Columbia, SC in September, 1987, "We have the right to choose, but the obligation to choose correctly!"

Where do bishops stand on these moral issues? The following statement answers the question: "We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity meaningfully to participate in building the culture of life. . . . Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power. We must exercise that power in ways that defend human life, especially those of God's children who are



unborn, disabled or otherwise vulnerable. Public officials and their virtue, or lack thereof, is a judgment not only on them, but on us. Because of this we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest." (From *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics* 34, *National Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 1998*).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses Our Duty to Vote (*Refer to CCC 2239-2240*). In summary, we have the right and

the duty to vote. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to offer prayers and thanksgiving for kings and all who exercise authority, "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, Godly and respectful in every way" (*1 Timothy 2:2*).

Pope Benedict XVI on March 30, 2006 addressed the European parliamentarians in which he named issues that are not negotiable: (a) protection of life in all its stages; (b) recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage [and to avoid any alteration that will harm it and contribute to its destabilization, obscuring it, and replacing its social role]; (c) the protection of the right of parents to educate their children.

The positions of the candidates are available for study. It is critical to vote for what is morally good so that other issues can be properly and morally addressed.

PRAY, FAST, AND DO PENANCE FOR THIS ELECTION.

MEMBERS CORNER

New Members: Sr. Mary Rosaleen Driscoll (KS), Sr. Maureen Kehoe (KS), Therese Morrison (MO), Rosie Schmitz (KS), Dee Leuck (NE), Kathy Harlan (MO), and Lois Rodgers (MO).

We thank: Erlina A. Zaballero for her generous donation and Kathy Strelko for the donation of several hundred Rosaries, Bob Wiggs for donation of mission items.

Mission news: A box containing several hundred Rosaries were sent in mid-September to Fr. Moses in Tanzania. (An earlier mailing of Rosaries to Tanzania was returned because their Post Office was closed due to Covid-19).

May God grant you a very Holy and Blessed Christmas

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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Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Immaculate Heart of the most pure Virgin Mary, our Mother, I, poor sinner, place my weak heart, stained with sins, in you! Receive me forever. Hold me fast and never again release me from your loving power, so that I may be protected from myself and sheltered in your mercy.

I consecrate to you my whole life and death, all my thoughts, words and actions. I want to love as you love, I want to sacrifice as you sacrifice, I want to keep silence as you keep silence, I want to forgive as you forgive. And I want to be the way that you would have me, so that you can lead me to my Lord and God, to His loving Heart, which is the goal and beatitude of us all.

And you too, holy and great angels, I beg you to remember my consecration to Mary, to admonish, warn and guide me and never let me fall again. Holy, faithful Guardian Angel and all you heavenly helpers and brothers, receive me like a seed entrusted to your care and which, nurtured by you, is to bring forth fruit for eternity. Amen.

www.opusangelorum.org ~ (330) 969-9900

Printed with ecclesiastical approbation:

†Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop of Detroit
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