



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 31, No. 3

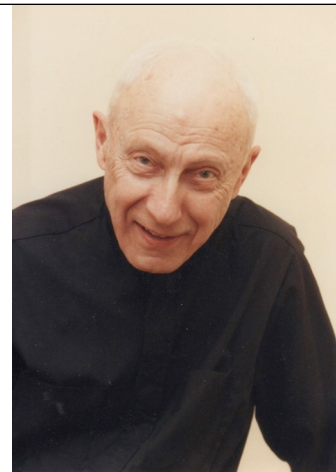
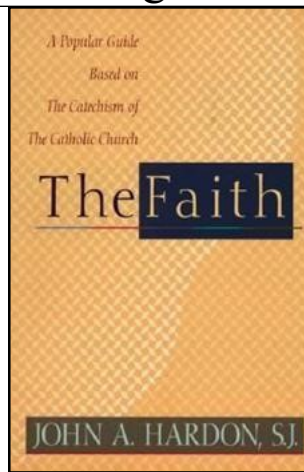
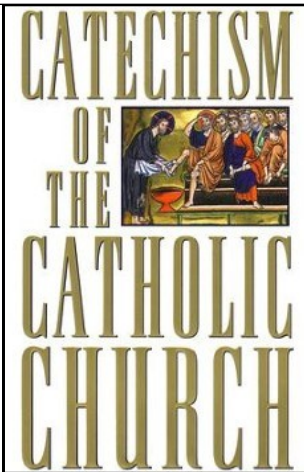
Sep-Dec 2022

Prayer Intentions

September	October	November	December
*Pray for Pope Francis and the end of abortion in the world. *Pray to Our Lady of Sorrows to guide us to heaven.	*Pray for Pope Francis and the restoration of the Church. *Month of the Holy Rosary.	*Pray that the Pope and bishops follow Jesus Christ. *Pray for the souls of deceased Rosary Calendar members.	*Pray for Pope Francis and the virtue of purity. *Pray for a Holy Advent as preparation of Jesus’ birth .

Understanding Our Catholic Faith

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus, teaching a large crowd in parables states: “Behold the sower went forth to sow. And where he sowed, some fell by the wayside... some fell upon



compendium, *The Faith: A Popular Guide Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1995), presents the faithful with a clear and concise resource in question-and-answer form that presents the principal points

stony ground...and others among thorns. And others fell upon good ground: and they brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold “(Matthew 13: 1-8). God plants the seed of truth in our hearts and we must nurture the truth and promote its growth as the seed planted on good soil.

Today, the Catholic Church with its rich deposit of faith has the great responsibility to bear much fruit by spreading the Gospels and the truth to a modern world. With many poorly catechized or without any formation, many are at the mercy of the pit falls of contemporary society. If, we as Baptized Catholics, are to fulfill the

obligations to this mission, we must know and understand our Faith. Through the grace of Almighty God and the promise of Jesus to be with us always (*Matthew 28:20*), the Church provides it’s members with a means to learn and better understand his and her faith with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. “This wonderful work is an authoritative, reliable and complete summary of what the Church teaches and believes,” stated James Cardinal Hickey (1920-2004), former Archbishop of Washington.

The Servant of God Fr. John Hardon S.J. also commented “the heart of getting to know the Catholic Church’s Faith lies in Jesus Christ, Who is our Way, our Truth and Our Life.” His

of doctrine, moral teachings and spirituality. St. Augustine of Hippo stated, “understanding is the reward of Faith. Therefore, seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.”

Armed with the graces provided from both the *Catechism* and Fr. Hardon’s compendium, it is of utmost importance today to know our Faith. With our hearts elevated towards eternal life, we have the tools to “Go therefore, teaching all the nations: baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (*Matthew 28: 19-20*).

“Do not give in to love of this age. It sets its traps; you must never trust it, you must hold onto Christ.” (St. Augustine of Hippo)

Door of Faith

PORTA FIDEI

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, in his October 2011 Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, states the “door of faith” (*Acts 14:27*) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into His Church. It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (*refer to Romans 6:4*), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life” (*refer to John 17:22*).

Due to a profound crisis of Faith, “the Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God,

towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance.”

Pope Benedict XVI expressed that, “the people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in Him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within Him” (*John 4:14*).

“Confessing with the lips indicates in turn that faith implies public testimony and commitment. A Christian should never think of belief as a private act. Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with Him. This ‘standing with Him’ points towards an understanding of the reasons for believing. Faith, precisely because it is a free act, also demands social responsibility for what one believes.

The Church on the day of Pentecost demonstrates with utter clarity this public dimension of believing and proclaiming one’s faith fearlessly to every person. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us fit for mission and strengthens our witness, making it frank and courageous.”

By faith, Mary accepted the Angel’s word and believed the message that she was to become the Mother of God (*Luke 1:38*). By faith, the Apostles left everything to follow their Master (*Mark 10:28*). By faith, the martyrs gave their lives, bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel. We also live by faith when we recognize Jesus in our lives and throughout history.

Let us entrust ourselves to the Mother of God, and proclaim “blessed is she who believed that there would be fulfilment of what was spoken to her” (*Luke 1:45*).

Being Faithful Witnesses

In her 2000 year history, the Catholic Church has never before passed through such a highly sophisticated, affluent, busy, secularized culture as ours. The consequences are great: Church attendance is low, many families are broken, vocations to the religious life are few, and there are many more effects. The question becomes: how do we revitalize the faith?

Perhaps we can answer that question by reading the book of 2 Maccabees which discusses a mother and her seven sons choosing martyrdom in the name of religious freedom. Cardinal Burke, in a August 1, 2022 homily eloquently illustrated the impact of a society that ignores God. The following is an excerpt from that homily:

“These brothers of the Maccabee and their mother understood the witness, which we give to the love of God in our hearts, which knows no compromises, it cannot know any compromise. It must be stronger than death itself. They accepted death rather than break the sacred



covenant.”

“They are a wonderful example and wonderful intercessors for us today in the church which also suffers from attacks by the godless secularism, which would violate the law of God even in its most fundamental tenants. But also, from an attack within from those who would compromise the sacred teaching of the faith, in order to be acceptable to a secular culture, in order to falsely accommodate our faith with a culture in so many respects, is so hostile to our faith.”

“We as Rosary Warriors – those who are praying so fervently for the church and the world, in these most

troubled times, we ask for the intercession of the Maccabee brothers and their mother, that we in our time, will give an unmistakable witness to the love of Christ that is in our hearts, an unmistakable witness to the law of God, which disposes our hearts to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and to cooperate most fully with that gift, even to the shedding of our blood if necessary, in order to be true to our Lord. Knowing that indeed, our Lord promises us in today’s Gospel, that if we remain faithful to Him, He will remain always faithful to us. And that although we seem to be defeated – and even annihilated in the eyes of the world, we will have eternal life. We will have the ultimate victory, the victory which our Lord Jesus Christ has already won for us. The victory which He desires to share with us in His Holy Church.”

Source: Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke, Homily, August 1, 2022 at Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

6th in the series of 10 articles on "Saints who had a Marian Devotion"

St. Bernard of Clairvaux, France (1090-1153), was canonized January 18, 1174. He was the founder and abbot of the abbey of Clairvaux and one of the most influential churchmen of his time.

St. Bernard, even though he struggled with poor health, led a small group of monks to establish a monastery at Clairvaux. Because of his poor health, he retired but then began writing. One of his major works was the development of a small but complete treatise on Mariology (study of doctrines and dogmas concerning the Virgin Mary), *Praises of the Virgin Mother*. Bernard became a champion of a cult of the Virgin. In this 185 page book, he presents logic on the motherhood of the Virgin Mary as the mother of God. He proved that Mary's divine motherhood is clearly and explicitly contained in Holy Scripture. Even

though the Bible does not employ the formal term "Mother of God," it does refer to the Blessed Mother's divine motherhood as "the mother of Jesus" or as "mother of the Lord." However, since Jesus Christ is true God, all texts that refer to



Mary as His mother are proofs of her divine maternity.

St. Bernard also presented that the motherhood of the Virgin had been foretold by Isaiah (7:14). His argument continued, using Isaiah as his source, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Immanuel [i. e., God with us]." He concludes that

"since Mary gave birth to the Son of God, she is really and truly the mother of God".

Besides his writings on Mariology, he wrote the *Memorare*, he produced an extensive number of sermons on the *Song of Solomon*. He was also outspoken about spiritual issues and stressed that possession of love is the first condition of the knowledge of God.

His greatest literary endeavor was *Sermons on the Canticle of Canticles*. This work revealed his teaching, often described as "sweet as honey." It was a supreme love song: "The Father is never fully known if He is not loved perfectly."

St. Bernard was declared a doctor of the church in 1830. On May 24, 1953, Pope Pius XII published an encyclical on St. Bernard of Clairvaux entitled *Doctor Mellifluus*.

Our Lady of Fatima Miracle of the Sun

The last Marian apparition of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal occurred on October 13, 1917. Some 70,000 people witnessed the miracle of the dancing sun during this final apparition to Jacinta Marto, Francisco Marto, and Lucia Dos Santos.

It was raining so much that day that the clothing of the crowd was drenched and the soil was muddy. At noon, the sun appeared in the sky and began to revolve in the sky like a spinning disc. Then, the sun began to move swiftly across the sky, zigging and zagging toward the earth. It approached three times and then receded. The event lasted 10 minutes and then the sun stopped moving and receded back toward its place in the heavens. At the end of the solar event, the soil and the peoples clothing were dry.

An example of the official reports of that day is taken from reporter Avelino de Almeida writing for the anti-clerical *O Seculo*, who was skeptical of the five earlier



apparitions. He witnessed the event firsthand and wrote: "Before the astonished eyes of the crowd, whose aspect was biblical as they stood bare-headed, eagerly searching the sky, the sun trembled, made sudden incredible movements outside all cosmic laws — the sun 'danced' according to the typical expression of the people."

Several other reports confirm this miracle of the sun. In Lucia's own words, she described the vision: "After Our Lady had disappeared into the immense distance of the firmament, we beheld St. Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle, beside the sun. St. Joseph and the Child Jesus

seemed to bless the world, for they traced the Sign of the Cross with their hands. When, a little later, this apparition disappeared, I saw Our Lord and Our Lady; it seemed to me that it was Our Lady of Sorrows. Our Lord appeared to bless the world in the same manner as St. Joseph had done. This apparition also vanished, and I saw Our Lady once more, this time resembling Our Lady of Carmel."

"Then came the miracle: the Sun 'danced' to eyewitnesses. Opening her hands, she made them reflect on the sun, and as she ascended, the reflection of her own light continued to be projected onto the sun itself."

After canonical inquiry, the bishop of Leiria-Fatima declared the visions worthy of belief in 1930. St. John Paul II, following the assassination attempt on May 13, 1981, felt that his life was saved by Our Lady of Fatima. He renewed the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary the following day.

God Bless Our Devoted Priests



Welcome New Spiritual Advisor-Fr. Boniface Kasita Nzabonimpa

The family of *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar* is blessed to announce our newest Spiritual Advisor, Father Boniface Kasita Nzabonimpa. With a profound faith in God and the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Faith, he was ordained to the priesthood in 2002 in the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda. Father Boniface is currently the pastor of 3 rural parishes in North Central Missouri.

Fr. Boniface shares, "God has continuously showered me with His blessings and profound love. I am a Church leader today because I wanted to share this good experience with other people as well. As Christ commanded: 'Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole Creation' (*Mark 16:15*)"

May Our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, continue to bless Father as he guides all the members of OLOF RC on our spiritual journey towards the Beatific Vision.

May God bless all Rosary Calendar Members during this Christmas Season.

New Members: Donna Hulette (MO), Charlotte Bigler (MO), Laura Lamb (HI).

Mission News:

Fr. Moses Juhudi from Tanzania, who is active in prison ministry, has asked the OLOF RC members to assist with providing rosaries and bar soap for those who are incarcerated. Monetary donations can be sent to him to purchase the soap. Contact OLOF RC for contact information.

Sharing Our Faith:

Fr. Robert Altier, who serves in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, states: "Are we willing to follow where the Shepherd is going to lead us in order to get to heaven? Because there is only one Way. St. Peter tells us there is no other way other than Jesus. But it is also through the Cross. If we are going to follow our Shepherd, we are going to follow Him up Calvary to the Cross...That is what leads us to heaven." Father's homilies are available on YouTube.com.

Pope Saint Pius X believed, "If there were one million families praying the Rosary everyday, the entire world would be saved."

On the Meaning of Christmas

Hippolytus of Rome circa A.D. 204, was the first to clearly state that Jesus was born on December 25. St. Francis of Assisi (1181 or 1182-1226) imparted to the Christian celebration of Christmas the discovery that God reveals Himself as the infant Jesus highlighting the defenseless love of God in the crib, His humanity and His kindness. Thanks to St. Francis, the Christian people were able to perceive that at Christmas God truly became the "Immanuel", the God-with-us from whom no barrier nor any distance can separate us.

We must not forget that the most important title of Jesus Christ is "Son", the Son of God. He humbled Himself to be born in a stable and laid in a manger in Bethlehem. His divinity is uniquely that of the "Son". In Jesus' words: "Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (*Matthew 18:3*).

Let us pray to the Father to grant us that simplicity of heart which recognizes the Lord in the Child.

Merry Christmas!

Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
Fr. Pat Labassano
(Philippines)

Spiritual Advisors:

Fr. Andrew Ing (CA)
Msgr. John Williams (NC/VA)
Fr. A. M. Benzinger (India)
Fr. Boniface Kasita (MO)

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. Javan Saxon (NC)

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

Contact Information

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

Phone: (660)734-5494. E-mail: olof@cvalley.net. Website: OLOFRC.org

Prayers for the Holy Church in Situations of Need

FATHER in Heaven, just as Your SON, our LORD JESUS CHRIST, cried out to You in His most bitter hours on the Mount of Olives: "FATHER, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me – yet, not as I will but as You will", so we too cry out to You in our distress. Shorten the hours of distress of the Holy Church, do not permit the little Barque of Peter to be dismantled and demolished from within. Send us millions of Angels to come to our aid. A hundredfold, the traitor prowls about the Holy Church. Give the struggling people and its faithful pastors the Angels to be at their side as protectors and helpers, who may obtain for them clear-sightedness, the courage to confess the faith and the fidelity of faith. Let no one of those who are faithful to You become weak and make a pact with the false light and the world! Help, FATHER in Heaven, the legacy of Your SON is at stake! Your people, from whom You aroused so many saints, is at stake! Have mercy, FATHER, have mercy for the sake of CHRIST'S Blood and Wounds. Amen.

Lord JESUS CHRIST, back then, during the storm on Lake Gennesaret, You gave the impression that You were asleep to test the strength of Your disciples' faith and trust. Today too the Barque of Your Church is in such a violent storm as it has scarcely ever withstood. The

enemy has penetrated *into* the Church and wants to breach the Barque from within, so that it may sink. O LORD, do not sleep! Do not test our fidelity to the faith any longer and look upon our frightened hearts! Stretch out Your hand and command the enemy to leave the Barque, whose hull he tries to tear open! Accept our pleas and our expiatory commitment and give Your Angels the strength of decisive help. Amen.

O holy Apostles, you sacrificed your blood and life for the pure doctrine of CHRIST and thus plowed and cleansed the soil of the Holy Church. Through your intercession send us help from the throne of the Almighty GOD, so that what has been built up throughout the centuries and yielded a holy harvest may not be delivered up to devastation through the spiritual invasion of the adversary. Where the need is greatest, let GOD'S help be closest. Amen.

LORD GOD Almighty, You delight in conquering what is strong in the world by what is weak that bears Your name! Listen to the supplications of this Your little flock and save the Holy Father and the pure doctrine of Your Church. Station Your holy Angels around her and do not let the enemy, who wants to annihilate us, triumph. Amen.