



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 32, No. 2

May-Aug 2023

Prayer Intentions

May	June	July	August
*Pray for the Pope and for the end of abortion in the world. *Our Lady of Fatima’s message: pray the Rosary daily.	*Pray for the Pope and to love God as He loves us. *Pray that we intensify our devotion to the Sacred Heart.	*Pray for the Pope and the Holy Catholic Church. *Pray that we fervent the sacraments as often as possible.	*Pray for the Pope and to receive the Holy Spirit’s grace. *Pray for the Church to be the light of the Gospel.

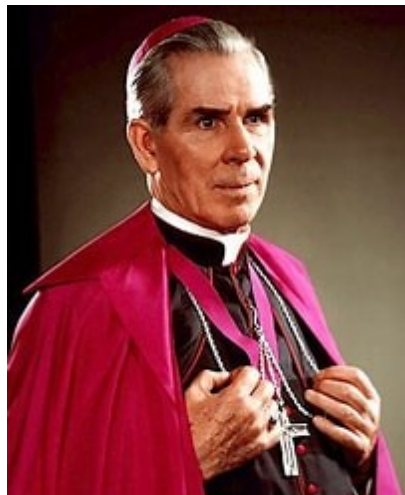
The Making of An American Saint-Fulton J. Sheen

Fulton J. Sheen, a Roman Catholic priest, was known around the world for his eloquent presentations on radio, television, in personal appearances and also for the many books that he wrote and published. The Faithful are especially familiar with his television series “Life is Worth Living”.

Born Peter John Sheen on May 8, 1895 in El Paso, IL, he was known as Fulton, his mother’s maiden name. Ordained in 1919 for the Diocese of Peoria, IL, Sheen would excel in academics receiving various degrees from prestigious universities. He was ordained a Bishop for the Archdiocese of New York in 1951 and died December 9, 1979.

The Archbishop Fulton John Sheen Foundation in Peoria, Illinois has documented his holiness and his life as a priest; the impact of his evangelization of the Gospel; and his extensive work in support of Catholic missions throughout the world.

On July 28, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recognized Archbishop Sheen’s life as one of heroic virtue and proclaimed him Venerable Servant of God Fulton J. Sheen.



A board of medical experts who advise the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints unanimously approved the miracle attributed to the Bishop’s intercession, the resumption of life of a newly still

born baby. Bonnie Engstrom, Washington, IL, gave birth on September 16, 2010 to a boy who did not have a pulse and was not breathing upon delivery. As Bonnie observed the medical staff attempting to revive her son, whom she named James Fulton Engstrom, she prayed to Bishop Sheen, whom she had prayed to during her pregnancy, for his intercession. After 61 minutes, just as emergency room personnel were about to pronounce him dead, James began to breathe and his heart rate assumed a normal level for a newborn.

On July 6, 2019, Pope Francis formally approved this miracle attributed to the intercession of Bishop Sheen and his beatification, which has been postponed

His body was moved from New York to St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria, IL on June 27, 2019.

Let us support his beatification and canonization with our prayers.

Growing in Faith

It is important to recognize the central core of our Catholic faith. It is the Creed! In fact, Pope St. John Paul II wanted the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to be based on the Creed. The reason was to preserve the central core of the truths of our faith. Furthermore, the moral life of Christians is based on the Creed.

Pope Benedict XVI stated that “Faith affirms that there is no true humanity except in the places, actions, times and forms in which the human being is motivated by the love that comes from God...Faith means taking this transforming message to heart in our life, receiving the revelation of God Who makes us know that He exists, how He acts and what His plans for us are.”

The wonder of faith is: God in His love for us created conditions for us to recognize His Word.

Frequent Confession

Frequent Confession is very important in the development of a spiritual life even if one does not have a mortal sin. The practice of frequent Confession in the absence of mortal sin is a relatively recent development in the Catholic Church. It has been encouraged by the Popes during the past hundred years.

The emphasis of going often to confession was well articulated by Pope Pius XII, "It is true that venial sins may be expiated in many ways that are to be highly commended, but to ensure more rapid progress day by day in the practice of virtue we want the pious practice of frequent Confession which was introduced into the Church by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to be earnestly advocated. By it, genuine self-knowledge is increased, Christian humility grows, bad habits are corrected, spiritual neglect and tepidity are resisted, the conscience is purified, the will strengthened, a salutary self-



control is attained, and grace is increased in virtue of the sacrament itself."

The reverent recourse to frequent confession is the constant effort to bring to perfection the graces we received in Baptism. The goal herein is to become more deeply conformed to Christ by restoring more grace into our soul. There is no doubt that God loves repentant sinners.

Confession brings great peace. It does require that the penitent takes a serious review and examination of the truths about themselves. This self-evaluation should be followed by a commitment to turn away from those sins that weaken our relationship with God.

We may feel intimidated by the

fact that there is a human being to which we are confessing our sins. However, we must realize that we are actually talking to Jesus. Our willingness to spend the time to confess our faults to God in this great Sacrament enables us to realize the greatness of His Mercy.

It is important to emphasize that Confession deepens our faith. Energy and commitment are necessary to be faithful to go to Confession on a regular basis. This practice helps us to avoid drifting into worldly and sensual ways and is an aid in building a strong life of faith.

The saints remind us of the value of receiving this sacrament often. It is through Confession that we learn from Christ that repentance deepens our faith. Through the special gift offered in the Sacrament of Penance, we become more firm in our faith and find the happiness of a strong Catholic life. (*Source of information: Several publications by Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.*)

Venerable Father Augustus Tolton

Augustus Tolton, the first Catholic priest of African descent to serve anywhere in the United States, was born on April 1, 1857 in Missouri, a few years before the start of the American Civil War. Religiously inclined, he was found often praying in Church and taught religion classes to black children in Quincy, IL as a teenager. Because he was refused seminary training in the USA, sympathetic priests and nuns helped him to receive a proper education and eventually seminary formation in Rome, Italy. He was ordained a priest on April 24, 1886 at St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome.

"It was said that I would be the only priest of my race in America and would not likely succeed," Tolton once wrote. But Cardinal Giovanni Simeoni in Rome said, "America has been called the most



enlightened nation; we'll see if it deserves that honor. If America has never seen a black priest it has to see one now!" In 1887, he was assigned as Pastor to St. Joseph Parish in Quincy, Illinois.

In 1889 he was transferred to the Diocese of Chicago where he ministered until his death in 1897. He was 43 years of age.

Venerable Tolton's life is a witness that one can find true happiness in everything, even in what is most painful. His life as a black Catholic priest was one of

suffering service through which he found the love of God, enabling him to endure serious prejudice without harboring any resentment. Through his trials, he could envisage the Lord's suffering for the redemption of humanity. Father Tolton was joyful in his many trials and encouraged others in dealing with their hardships. He was a model of how to witness to the Gospel in his ministry to blacks and whites in a time of tremendous racial tension.

This dedicated Priest's life can be summed up in the passage from Hebrews 10:32-33: "Remember the days past when after you had been enlightened, you endured a great contest of suffering. At times you were publicly exposed to abuse and affliction; at other times you associated yourself with those so treated." Venerable Tolton, Pray for us!

St. John Vianney

8th in the series of 10 articles on “Saints who had a Marian Devotion”

Saint Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney (St. John Vianney), also called **Curé d’Ars (Cure of Ars)**, was born May 8, 1786 in Dardilly, France. He died August 4, 1859 and was canonized May 31, 1925. His feast day is August 4. He was a French priest renowned as a confessor and for supernatural powers. He is the patron saint of parish priests.

Because of the strong anti-Christian sentiment during the French Revolution, many priests and nuns risked their lives for their faith. Consequently, St. Vianney had to secretly make his first confession and Holy Communion.

His preparation for the priesthood was met with challenges. First, he received little education during his youth. He struggled with Latin and needed private tutoring. His studies in preparation for the priesthood were interrupted when he was drafted into Napoleon’s armies in 1809. Somehow he was separated from



his draft group and ended up in a rural village with a number of army deserters, where he was forced to hide until the decree of amnesty for all deserters was given in 1810.

In spite of these obstacles, he persisted in following his vocation and was ordained in 1815. Three years later, he was assigned to a parish in the small village of Ars. He had a strong devotion to the Virgin Mary and to St. Philomena. He developed this parish into a model parish from which reports of his holiness and his supernatural powers soon

spread.

He was very dedicated to the sacrament of reconciliation and attracted many people to Ars to make their confession. He spent endless hours (12-15 hours per day) in an unventilated confessional. God alone knows the miracles of grace wrought within that rough confessional. In dealing with souls he was infinitely kind. His exhortations were brief and to the point.

This extraordinary effort went on for forty years in which thousands of people flocked to Ars just to get a glimpse of him, to hear him, to exchange a few words with him, above all, to go to confession to him.

Ever since Jesus ascended into heaven, His work for the Holy Catholic Church has been carried out by many Saints who continued to be a light for us. We thank God for the heroic toil and self-sacrifice of St. John Vianney.

Martyrs of La Florida, the Unknown USA Martyrs

The apostles were witnesses of the teaching of Jesus. They were called upon to deny those teaching under the threat of death (martyrdom). Since the time of the apostles, all who died a martyr’s death believed in the truths of Christ’s teaching, and would not deny Jesus.

In the United States, from the 16th through the 18th centuries in the territory known at that time as Spanish La Florida, many priest, religious and Indigenous laity including infants and children died for the Faith. After a rigorous examination of archives in Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Louisiana, Cuba, Mexico, Spain, and Rome, 57 individuals that were killed in this area of La Florida have been determined by



credible evidence to have been martyred for the faith. Some were beaten to death, crucified, or killed in brutal ways.

For example, Don Patricio de Hinachuba, a well-educated native of Ivitachuco, a town in Apalachee Province, was known as the “penpal” of the King due to his

correspondence seeking justice for the Apalachee people. He was killed in the spring of 1706 by a band of Creek warriors seeking to destroy the remaining Apalachee Christians.

The cause for sainthood of these martyrs was formally opened on October 12, 2015 by Bishop Gregory L. Parkes in Tallahassee, Florida. On February 14, 2022, Bishop William A. Wack of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee submitted the list of those individuals for whom credible evidence of martyrdom exist to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. There is a rich history of martyrdom in this southeastern area of North American, the details which can be found by searching “Martyrs of La Florida”.

Gaining a Plenary Indulgence

If you have been blessed with attending a parish mission or a retreat, or listened closely to your Pastor's homily on Sunday, a phrase you might be frequently hearing is "you can gain a Plenary Indulgence if..."

Canon Law 911 explains Indulgences as "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin even after its guilt has been forgiven, which ecclesiastical authority grants from the treasury of the Church on behalf of the living after the manner of an absolution, and on

behalf of the dead after the manner of an intercession."

Indulgences can be gained through the exercise of a good work, devotion, or prayer that has a canonically approved indulgence attached to it. For example, by reciting the *Prayer to Jesus Christ Crucified* after Mass, one can gain a Plenary Indulgence on Fridays in Lent and a Partial Indulgence every other day of the year. Only one Plenary Indulgence can be gained per day unless one is on his or her death bed while many Partial Indulgences can be

obtained daily.

The enclosed card *How to Gain a Plenary Indulgence* (page 5 for e-mail recipients) explains Partial Indulgences (partial remittance of temporal punishment) and Plenary Indulgences (remittance of ALL temporal punishment). The four ways to gain a Plenary Indulgence and the requirements for gaining that Indulgence are also presented.

The reason for performing any indulgence devotion or reciting any privileged prayer is the glorification of God and the sanctification of our soul.

Marian Shrine in Wisconsin USA Changes Its Name

Our Lady appeared three times in Champion, Wisconsin USA to Adele Brise in 1859. The apparition was formally approved on December 8, 2010, by Bishop David L. Ricken, the first Marian apparition to be approved by the Catholic Church in the United States. Some of the best known Marian apparitions are: Our Lady of

Fatima, Portugal; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico; and Our Lady of Lourdes, France.

The Marian shrine in Champion, known originally as the *National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help* was renamed the *National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion* on April 20, 2023. A Mass with the liturgical rank of solemnity will be celebrated every

October 9. This date is the anniversary of the Blessed Mother's second and third appearances to Adele Brise in 1859. The Vatican Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments approved the October 9 solemnity on December 15, 2022.

June 8-The Feast of Corpus Christi also known as the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.**

Members Corner

Mission News: Tanzanian priests retreat-pilgrimage to the diocesan center called Lurde Bugene to our Mother Mary. Information provided by Fr. Moses Juhudi, member of the *Rosary Calendar*.

New Member: L. M. beaty (CO).

Deceased Members: If you are aware of any *Rosary Calendar* members who has died, please inform us (Contact information is at the bottom of this page).



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Spiritual Advisors:

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Fr. Gerard Leicht (HI)
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Fr. J. Poopillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)
Fr. Javan Saxon (NC)
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)

**The Dominican Nuns of
the Perpetual Rosary,
Fatima, Portugal**



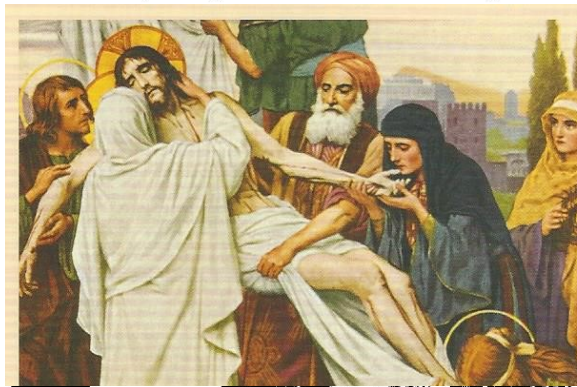
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HOW TO GAIN A PLENARY INDULGENCE

An Indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to be suffered for sins that have already been forgiven. In granting Indulgences, the Church, as minister of the Redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the satisfaction won by Christ and the Saints. The temporal punishment due for forgiven sins must be suffered either on earth or in Purgatory. A *Partial Indulgence* remits part of the temporal punishment due; a *Plenary Indulgence* remits all the temporal punishment due. Indulgences



can always be offered for the Poor Souls in Purgatory, rather than for ourselves. However, Indulgences offered for the Poor Souls are efficacious by way of *suffrage*, that is, depending on God's decision, since the Church on earth does not have jurisdiction over the souls in Purgatory.

Four Ways To Gain A Plenary Indulgence

A Catholic, being in the state of grace, can gain a *Plenary Indulgence* by many different prayers and works of piety, but these four are worthy of special mention:

1. **Making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament** to adore It for at least one half hour.
2. **Spending at least one half hour reading Sacred Scripture**, as spiritual reading, with the veneration due to the Word of God.
3. **Making the Way of the Cross.** This includes walking from Station to Station. (At publicly held Stations, if this cannot be done in an orderly way, at least the leader must move from Station to Station.) No specific prayers are required, but devout meditation on the Passion and Death of Our Lord is required (not necessarily on the individual Stations).

4. **Recitation of the Rosary** (of at least 5 decades), with devout meditation on the Mysteries, in addition to the vocal recitation. It must be said in a church, family group, religious community or pious association.

Additional Requirements

In addition to performing the specified work, these three conditions are required:

1. Confession;
2. Holy Communion;
3. Prayer for the Holy Father's intentions. (One Our Father and one Hail Mary suffice.)

The three conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after the performance of the prescribed work; it is fitting, however, that Communion be received and the prayer for the intention of the Holy Father be recited on the same day the work is performed.

In addition, to gain a Plenary Indulgence, a person's mind and heart must be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin.

If one tries to gain a Plenary Indulgence, but fails to fulfill all the requirements, the indulgence will be only partial.

Only one Plenary Indulgence may be gained per day, except that, at "the moment of death," a person may gain a second Plenary Indulgence for *that* day.

If we generously offer Indulgences for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, we may hope to obtain relief or release for many of them, in accord with God's holy will. In gratitude, they may well obtain for us many great favors.

The norms in this card are from the official *Enchiridion of Indulgences* (1968) and the Apostolic Constitution *The Doctrine of Indulgences* (1967).

Nihil Obstat:

Reverend Monsignor Charles W. McNamee, S.T.L., J.C.L.
Censor Librorum

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Bishop of Rockford
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