



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 32, No. 3

Sept-Dec 2023

Prayer Intentions

September	October	November	December
*Pray for the Pope and for the dignity of work. *Pray to Sts Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels .	*Pray for the Pope and for the Holy Spirits guidance. *Month of the Holy Rosary- Pray for Our Lady’s help.	*Pray for the Pope to fulfill the mission entrusted to him. *Pray in thanksgiving for our many blessings.	*Pray for the Pope to do the Holy will of God. *Let us prepare our hearts for the Birth of Jesus.

Hail Full of Grace: History of the Hail Mary

“There has been, over the centuries, and into our own time, a remarkable development of Marian doctrine from apostolic times to the present. Our Lady was honored by those who believe in her Son [and] was honored from the very beginning. She is featured in numerous frescos on the walls of the catacombs demonstrating that the first Christians had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Tradition tells us that Our Lady was on earth for some fifteen years after her Son’s Ascension. We may be sure she told the Apostles a great deal; after all she lived with Him over thirty years, and they for less than three years. After all, she was His Mother. So devotion to the Blessed Virgin began with the dawn of Christianity. Then, as time went on and the faithful people had no doubt that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was the Mother of God.

For fifteen hundred years, the faithful had been reciting ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and, blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Amen.’ Then in the 16th century, the Catholic Church added: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

This addition to the Hail Mary gave us six prerogatives of Our Lady which contains six doctrines that we say 53 times in every Rosary that we recite.



First: We say **Holy Mary** which emphasizes that Mary is the holiest of human persons. She is precisely the holiest of people because she operated with divine grace. We need to know what we are praying when we say, Holy Mary.

Second Marian Mystery: **Mother of God** follows the Holy Mary. Mary is Mother of God. When we invoke Mary as Mother of God, we mean that the Child she gave birth to on Christmas morning was a Divine Person.

Third Marian Mystery: This is a prayer of intercession of Mary with her Son, ‘**Pray for us**’. To emphasize, when Mary prays, it is intercession and she is the most powerful intercessor.

Fourth Mystery: “Pray for us **sinners**” We sinners are invoking the sinless Mother to obtain from God what a person needs for forgiveness and mercy.

Fifth Mystery: We are asking Our Lady to pray for us ‘**now**’. We constantly need the intercession of His Mother.

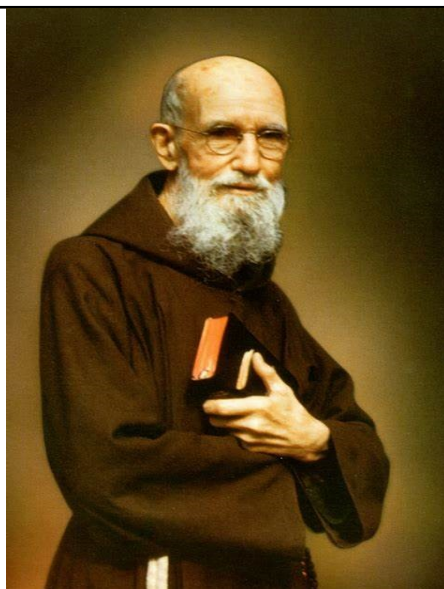
Finally and crucially: [**and at the hour of our death.**] We need to remind ourselves many times a day of the end of our physical life and our entrance into eternity. At that point, we need the greatest gift God can give us so that when we die, we do so filled with grace from God. We must pray for that grace and for that, our most powerful intercessor is Our Lady.

Pope St. John Paul II singled out advocating the Holy Rosary. Why? Because through the Rosary, says the Pope, we can expect from God what we most need in today’s world: we need light for a world that is blinded to the truth because it is intoxicated with itself; and we need strength, in a world that is paralyzed with fear. The Pope told us that we can truly get what we need from the all-powerful God, indeed, but through His loving Mother Mary.”
-Excerpt from *Servant of God Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.’s Marian Retreat on the Holy Rosary*

Blessed Solanus Casey, Saint for Our Times

Blessed Solanus Casey was born Bernard Francis Casey on November 25, 1870 on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin. He was the sixth child of 16 born to pious Irish immigrant parents. Known as 'Barney', he grew up in a family where his father called his children to prayers and his mother shared her love for the Rosary with them. As a young child, he vowed to pray the rosary daily, a practice he maintained his entire life. He also grew up working on his family farm and later as a logger, hospital orderly, streetcar operator, and prison guard.

He felt the calling to the priesthood at his First Communion. This call continued resulted in his entrance into the de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee, WI when he was 21-years-old. In 1896, while discerning which order to enter, he distinctly heard the Blessed Mother telling him: "Go to Detroit" where on January



14, 1897, he was clothed in the brown habit and white cord of the Capuchins. He was given the name Friar Francis Solanus after his patron St. Francis Solano but became known as "Solanus". Blessed Solanus was ordained on July 24, 1904 as a "simplex priest" meaning that he could say Mass, but not hear confessions nor

give homilies. As a priest, he served as sacristan, director of the altar servers, and porter or "doorkeeper" in New York, Wisconsin and Michigan. Blessed Solanus would answer the door and help the poor by offering food from the monastery kitchen. "I have two loves," he said, "the sick and the poor."

Blessed Solanus also enrolled individuals into the Seraphic Mass Association to help support the Capuchin foreign missionaries. It was not long before the community noticed that, when he enrolled a person, amazing results and even complete cures began to happen regularly.

He died on July 31, 1957 in St. John's Hospital in Detroit, MI. His body was discovered to be incorrupt during the period of his beautification cause. He was beautified on November 18, 2017 by Pope Francis.

Blessed Solanus Casey, Pray for us.

St. Alphonsus Maria de'Liguori

9th in the series of 10 articles on "Saints who had a Marian Devotion"

St. Alphonsus Liguori was born in Marianella, Naples, Italy on September 27, 1696. He was ordained a priest in 1726 and made a bishop of Sant' Agata del Got near Naples, Italy in 1762. He founded the Redemptorists in 1732, a congregation dedicated primarily to parish and foreign missions.

St. Alphonsus did extensive works in three areas of theology: moral theology, best represented by *Theologia Moralis* published in 1748; ascetical and devotional writings, including *The Glories of Mary*; and dogmatic writings on such subjects as papal infallibility and the power of prayer. Several thousand editions of his works have been published



in over 60 languages.

His book *The Glories of Mary*, a defense of Marian devotion, published in 1750, became one of the most widely used manuals of devotion to the Virgin Mary. It included Marian prayers, meditations and practices. St. Alphonsus explains how God gave Mary to mankind

as the "Gate of Heaven". Quoting St. Bonaventure: "No one can enter Heaven unless by Mary, as though through a door".

The book also presents information on Marian feasts, the Seven Sorrows of Mary, and a discussion on the virtues of the Blessed Mother. It concludes with the defense of the role of the Mother of God as the mediatrix of all graces.

St. Liguori died August 1, 1787 and was canonized in 1839. Considered to be one of the chief 18th century theologians, he was named a Doctor of the Church in 1871 by Pope Pius IX and named patron saint of moralists and confessors in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

Celebrating the Feasts of Our Blessed Mother

The Roman Catholic Church celebrates many Marian feast days during the liturgical year. The most prominent during the last four months of the year are:

•**September 8:** *Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.* Celebrated 9 months after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lord reserved for her the highest mission ever entrusted to any creature in salvation history.

•**September 12:** *Memorial of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary.* The name of Mary was chosen by God and revealed to Anne and Joachim by the angel Gabriel.

•**September 15:** *Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows.* An appreciation of Our Lady's unique role in the Passion of her Son led Pope Pius VII to extend this traditional devotion to the whole Church in 1814. It commemorates the profound union of hearts existing



between the Mother of the Redeemer and the Savior, through which she experienced many interior sorrows as a consequence

of His Mission, but particularly during His Passion and Death.

•**October 7:** *Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.* Originally called "Our Lady of Victory" in honor of a 16th century naval victory against the Turkish invasion at Lepanto which Pope St. Pius V attributed to the intercession of the Our Lady.

•**November 21:** *Memorial of The Presentation of Mary.* This Feast commemorates the presentation of the Blessed Virgin by her parents Joachim and Anne in the Temple in Jerusalem, revealing Mary's total dedication

to the will of God.

•**December 8:** *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.* Pope Pius IX solemnly proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854, in which he declared that Mary was preserved free from all stain of original sin.

•**December 10:** *Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto.* The Holy House of Loreto is the house where Mary was born and where the angel Gabriel appeared to her at the Annunciation. It was transported some 2000 miles to Loreto, Italy where it has remained since 1294.

•**December 12:** *Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe.* Encountering the Virgin Mary on Tepeyac Hill, Mexico in 1531, Juan Diego was instructed by Our Lady to build a church. Through the miracle of roses falling from his tilma leaving the imprint of an exquisite image of Our Lady, eight million Mexicans were converted to the Catholic Faith in 10 years.

Pope Benedict XVI's Faith Series: Faith of the Church. Part 3

"Does faith have to be solely personal? Does it concern only myself? Do I live my faith alone? The act of faith is an eminently personal act; it happens in the deepest part of us and signals a change in direction through personal conversion. It is my life that changes, that is given a new direction. In the Rite of Baptism, at the moment of the promises, the celebrant asks for a profession of the Catholic faith and formulates three questions: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty? Do you believe in Jesus Christ His only Son? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? The answer... 'I do'. But this faith of mine is not the product of my thought, it is the fruit of a relationship, a dialogue, in which there is a listener, a receiver and a respondent; it is communication with Jesus that draws me out of the 'I' enclosed in myself to open me to the love of God, the Father. It is like



and are walking on the same path; and this new birth, that begins with Baptism, continues for the rest of my life. I cannot build my personal faith in a private dialogue with Jesus, because faith is given to me by God through a community of believers that is the Church and projects me into the multitude of believers, into a kind of communion that is not only sociological but rooted in the eternal love of God who is in Himself the communion of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, it is Trinitarian Love. Our faith is truly personal, only if it is also communal: it can be my faith only if it dwells in and moves with the "we" of the

a rebirth in which I am united not only to Jesus, but also to all those who have walked

Church, only if it is our faith, the common faith of the one Church.

On Sunday, in the Holy Mass, reciting the 'Creed', we speak in the first person, but we confess as one the one faith of the Church. That 'I believe' said individually joins a vast chorus across time and space, in which each person contributes to the harmonious [multitude of voices] in faith. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* sums this up in a clear way: 'believing' is an act of the Church. The Church's faith precedes, engenders, supports and nourishes our faith. The Church is the Mother of all believers. 'No one can have God as his Father, who does not have the Church as his Mother' (St Cyprian). Therefore, the faith is born in the Church, leads to Her and lives in Her. This is important to remember."

Excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's General Audience, St. Peter's Square, October 31, 2012.

2023 Rosary Coast to Coast

The 2023 Rosary Coast to Coast rally will occur on Saturday, October 7 at 3:00 PM CST. This is the first Saturday of the month and the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Praying together on this feast day will be our opportunity to fulfill Our Lady of Fatima's request to offer our prayers in reparation on First Saturdays through devotion to the



Immaculate Heart to help save the poor souls from going to hell.

The National Rosary Rally will be held at the US capitol in

Washington DC. However, you can participate in union with the Rosary Coast to Coast rally with rallies held simultaneously in your Church, family or Grotto.

For information on how you can participate and for Resources to help spread information about this event, Please go to rosarycoasttocoast.com

Holy Water Puts the Devil to Flight



The use of holy water should be a reminder of our baptismal promise to renounce Satan. St. Teresa of Avila states: "From long experience I have learned that there is nothing like holy water to put devils to flight and prevent them from coming back again. They also flee from the Cross, but return; so holy water must have great virtue. For my own part, whenever I take it, my soul feels a particular and most notable consolation".

Holy Water Is Powerful! It is a sacramental which receives its power through the prayer and authority of the Church. The rite of blessing that a priest says to make it holy contains prayers of exorcism. It can banish demons, heal the sick, and send graces upon us. We should use it daily.

How can we use holy water?

***Bless yourself.** Put a Holy Water Font in your home. Bless yourself daily.

***Bless your house.** Sprinkle Holy Water around and in your home.

***Bless your family.** Make the Sign

on the Cross on your spouse and children before they go to sleep.

***Bless your work space.** Sprinkle your office for spiritual protection.

***Bless your Car.** Have a priest bless your car.

***Bless Your garden** to show our reliance on God's grace.

***Bless the sick.** This is a corporeal and spiritual work of mercy and a comfort to those in nursing homes.

***Bless Your Pets/Farm Animals.** All Animals are God's creation.

Holy water is one of those beautiful gifts and weapons from God to keep us sanctified and holy.

Members Corner

Special Thanks to Ann Ryan, Ralph and Kathleen Juergens, Mimi Gromek and Sister Rose Annette for their generous support of the *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar* and *Newsletter*. All donations are used for printing and mailing of Our Lady of Fatima newsletters and mailing of rosaries to our missions in Tanzania. We also express our profound appreciation to Wilfred Soong (HI) for making thousands of rosaries for us which we send to priests in India and Tanzania. A box of rosaries were sent in September 2023 to Tanzania to be distributed to prisoners. Please pray for Our Lady of Fatima newsletter editors and their family.

First Saturday Devotion in Hawaii: Wilfred Soong will lead an Our Lady of Fatima prayer group every 1st Saturday at noon at Sacred Heart Church, 1701 Wilder Avenue, Honolulu starting this October.

Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors



Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
Fr. Pat Labassano (Philippines)
Fr. Boniface Kasita (MO)

Spiritual Advisors:

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Msgr. John Williams (NC/VA)
Fr. A. M. Benzinger (India)
Founder, first Spiritual Director:
Fr. James Keenan (NC)
Deceased advisors and directors:
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Fr. John DeMarchi (Fatima)
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Fr. J. Pooppillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)
Fr. Javan Saxon (NC)
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)

Also Praying in Union with the OLOF Family Rosary Calendar: The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, Fatima, Portugal

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