



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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Prayer Intentions

May	June	July	August
*Pray for the soul of Pope Francis. *Prayer: Holy Spirit, guide the election of a new pope.	*Pray for true devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. *Pray for the good of the Church.	*Pray for the new Pontiff. *Pray to St. Anthony of Padua to help us follow the Gospel.	*Pray in hope this Jubilee Year, especially asking for wisdom. *Blessed Mother said: Pray, pray very much for sinners.

Meaning of Our Lady’s Message at Fatima

Servant of God Fr. John Hardon, SJ wrote: “On May 13, 1982, Pope John Paul II offered the Sacrifice of the Mass in Fatima during his pilgrimage of gratitude to Portugal. The Pope preached a lengthy homily on ‘Mary’s Maternal Love.’ This homily I consider the most authoritative explanation of the meaning of Fatima that we have received from now seven Roman Pontiffs since the first revelations made at Fatima in 1917.

The Pope stated ‘The message of Fatima is, in its basic nucleus, a call to conversion and repentance, as in the Gospel.’ This call was uttered at the beginning of the twentieth century, and it was thus addressed particularly to this present century [20th century]. The Lady of the message should be read with special insight ‘the signs of the times,’ the signs our of own time.

What is the pope telling us? He is saying that the heart of the Fatima message is a call to repentance from sin, and conversion to God. The core of the message of Fatima is the imperative of the verb “Repent!” or as a noun, “repentance.”

The Pope further declared that this call to repentance was made by Christ, through Our Lady at the beginning of the twentieth century. What does all of this imply? It implies that if there is one thing that God foresaw in the twentieth century that was desperately needed, it was to repent. The sins of the twentieth century which need repentance are the sins of ignoring the existence of God, denying that sin is an offense against God, and indulging in the pleasures of the world contrary to the will of God.

Ignoring the Existence of God

God has been excluded from human life especially in the public sphere. Take the practical impossibility of teaching any semblance of religion in public schools. Take the thunderous silence about God, religion and divine worship in the media in secularized countries. Secularism, or ‘practical



atheism’ is widespread in one nation after another.

If ignoring God’s existence, then, is the first capital sin of the twentieth century, how do we repent? We repent by paying attention to God in prayer. Prayer is the repentance we believers must make for the sins of prayerlessness that are so prevalent in our day. Prayer is the expiation we must make, by praying more than we normally would, because so many millions are ignoring God and failing to pray as they should. Prayer is the single most important way that unbelievers can be brought back to

God. We must pray for them and persuade them to pray themselves.

Denying That Sin is an Offense

It is only logical that where the existence of God is ignored, the fact of sin as a offense against God is denied. No other explanation is possible for the massive denial of rights of God in commanding His creatures to do His will. We see an increase of abortion, the denial of the rights of the Creator to create human souls and keep them united with the body until He calls a person into eternity; adultery, the denial of the rights of God who wants marriage to be the human reflection of His own infinite loving community in the Holy Trinity; contraception, the denial of the rights of God who wants to create human souls, provided married people provide the human bodies into which the souls, created by God, can be infused; and homosexuality, the denial of the rights of God who made two sexes, so that they might, in marriage, enjoy the loving intimacy of each other and by cooperating with the Creator bring other human beings through this world into heaven.

Not only is sin denied as an offense against God, but in our century sin has become legalized, organized and institutionalized. Repentance for the sin of denying sin is obedience to the will of God. Whenever we sin, we indulge our own will in opposition to the divine will. To repent, we must bend our wills to God’s will. And this is the hardest task we have to do on earth. *(Continued on page 4)*

Future American Saints: Venerable Mother Mary Alphonsa, OP



Mother Mary Alphonsa was born Rose Hawthorne on May 20, 1851 to Sophia Peabody and famed American Author, Nathaniel Hawthorne in Lenox, Massachusetts. As the youngest of three children, she was raised in a Puritan family who attended the Unitarian Church.

Upon the death of her father in 1864, her mother moved the family from Concord, Massachusetts to Dresden, Germany to increase the value of her American holdings. It

was here that Rose met her future husband George Parson Lathrop, an American studying at a German preparatory school. She married George Parson Lathrop and in 1891, they converted to the Catholic Faith. They devoted themselves to working for the Church and started the Catholic Summer School Movement in New London, Connecticut and Plattsburg, New York.

Due to her husband's alcoholism, Rose separated from him and began to live her life for Christ and working in charitable causes within the Church. At the age of 45, she began her nurse's training at the New York Cancer Hospital. While helping cancer patients, she stated "a fire was then lighted in my heart, where it still burns...I set my whole being to endeavor to bring consolation to the cancerous poor." Renting some rooms, she began to take care of cancer patients in the Lower Eastside of New York.

In 1898, George died and Fr. Clement Thuente, OP encouraged Rose and her assistant Alice Huber to become Dominican Tertiaries. In 1900, Archbishop Corrigan approved

the founding of a new order of Dominican Sisters: The Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, Congregation of Saint Rose of Lima with Mother Mary Alphonsa as foundress and intercessor who would care for poor cancer patients.

Mother Alphonsa spent 30 years of her life dedicated to the Sacred Heart serving the poor. She placed herself "at the foot of the cross alongside the Blessed Mother" and thus became a servant of those afflicted with incurable cancer. She died on July 9, 1926 at Rosary Hill Home, Hawthorne, New York and was proclaimed Venerable on March 14, 2024.

Seven nursing facilities in six states have been founded, owned and operated by the community. Through Mother Alphonsa's carefully outlined directives, the community to this day is wonderfully sustained financially through the providence of God. Thousands of poor with cancer have been cared for free of charge and without government subsidies. (<https://hawthorne-dominicans.org/rose-hawthorne>)

Who are the Saints in the Roman Canon? James the Greater

St. James the Greater, a fisherman from Galilee, was the brother of St. John the Apostle and was one of the first four disciples to be called by Jesus. The title "the Greater" was added to St. James' name to distinguish him from the Apostle James "the Less," who is believed to have been shorter than James "the Greater." James was one of only three apostles to be a witness to Jesus' Transfiguration and His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

After the Ascension of Jesus, James spread the Gospel across Israel and the Roman kingdom including Spain. One day, as he prayed, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him and asked him to build her a church, which he did.

When he returned to Jerusalem, due his zealous spreading of the Faith and his leading role in the Jewish Christian communities, he was



sentenced to death by King Herod Agrippa I in 44AD. According to tradition, the accuser who led the Apostle to judgment, moved by his confession, became himself a Christian, and they were beheaded together. Saint James thus became the first apostle to be martyred.

Since he was not allowed to be buried following his martyrdom, it is believed that his body was taken by boat to Galicia, a region in northwestern Spain, where his followers buried him.

In the early 9th century his tomb was discovered in what is now Santiago de Compostela. A church was built on the site of his tomb. In the Middle Ages, his relics attracted Christian pilgrims from all over Europe and became the most famous pilgrimage sight in the world. The Church was declared a shrine by Pope Leo XIII. Today, St. James the Greater remains can still be found in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

In the 21st century, the tradition of making a pilgrimage to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela by walking the El Camino de Santiago or the Way of St. James (500 miles) has continued to grow. Moreover, the shrine of St. James has attracted thousands of pilgrims annually from all over the world. St. James feast day is celebrated on July 25. St. James the Apostle, pray for us.

Seven Powerful Messages of Our Lady of Fatima



Our Lady of Fatima is a powerful intercessor and model, especially in a time where sins of the flesh and sins against humanity dominate the culture. Throughout her apparitions to the three children, Lucia, Jacinta and Fransico, she stressed prayer, fasting, and sacrifice to obtain peace for the world and the conversion of sinners. She particularly encouraged daily devotion to the rosary.

In the first apparition (May 13, 1917), Our Lady asked the three children (seers): “Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the sins by which He is offended, and of supplication for the conversion of sinners?” Lucia responded, “Yes, we are willing.”

At the end of this apparition, Our

Lady said, “Pray the rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war [First World War].”

At the third message given at the second apparition (June 13, 1917), Our Lady said, “[Jesus] wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. I promise salvation to those who embrace it, and those souls will be loved by God like flowers placed by me to adorn His throne.”

In the fourth message (July 13, 1917), the Blessed Mother again stressed: “Pray the rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war”. She continued, “Sacrifice yourselves for sinners... ‘O Jesus, it is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’”

The fifth message was given at the fourth apparition (August 19, 1917).

Our Lady, appearing very sad said: “Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and to pray for them.”

The sixth message was a reemphasis to continue praying the rosary in order to obtain the end of the war. She then told the children that Our Lady of Dolours, Our Lady of Carmel, and St. Joseph with the child Jesus will appear on October 13.

The final apparition (October 13, 1917) was the occasion when Our Lady appealed, “Do not offend the Lord our God any more, because

He is already so much offended.” A miracle occurred where the sun ‘danced’. Our Lady said, “I want a chapel built in this site in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the rosary every day.”

Source: Lucia Speaks, The Message of Fatima.

Pope Benedict XVI’s Faith Series: *How to Speak About God. Part 8*

“How can we talk about God in our time, communicate the Gospel so as to open roads to His saving truth in our contemporaries’ hearts—that are all too often closed—and minds—that are at times distracted by the many dazzling lights of society? The first condition for speaking of God is listening to all that God Himself has said. God takes an interest in us, He loves us, He has entered personally into the reality of our history, He has communicated Himself, even to the point of taking flesh. In Jesus of Nazareth we encounter the face of God, who came down from His heaven to immerse Himself in the human world, in our world, to teach ‘the art of living’, the road to happiness; to set us free from sin and make us children of God.

Jesus Christ is an answer to the fundamental question of the meaning of life and of how we should live. We should have a strong passion for His plan of salvation without succumbing to the temptation of success.

In talking about God, in the work of evangelization, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must recover



simplicity, we must return to the essence of the proclamation: the Good News of a God Who is real and effective, a God who is concerned about us, a God-Love who makes Himself close to us in Jesus Christ and Who in the Resurrection gives us hope and opens us to a life that has no end, eternal life, true life.

To speak of God, we must leave Him room, trusting that He will act in our weakness. We must make room for Him without fear, with simplicity and joy, in the deep conviction that the more we put Him at the center rather than ourselves, the more fruitful our communication will be.

We should ask ourselves: how did Jesus communicate? Jesus shows us that God is present in the daily events

of our life. From the Gospels we see that Jesus takes an interest in every human situation that He encounters, He immerses Himself in the reality of the men and women of His time, with complete trust in the Father’s help. And that in this history, although hidden, God is really present and if we are attentive we can encounter Him. Jesus acts and teaches, always starting from a close relationship with God the Father. This style becomes an essential indication for us as Christians: our way of living in faith and charity becomes a way of speaking of God today, because it shows, through a life lived in Christ, the credibility and realism of what we say with words, which are not solely words but reveals the reality, the true reality. And in this we must take care to perceive the signs of the times in our epoch, namely, to identify the potentials, aspirations and obstacles we encounter in today’s culture and in particular the wish for authenticity, the yearning for transcendence, and concern to safeguard Creation and to communicate fearlessly the response that faith in God offers.”

(Meaning of Fatima Continued from Page 1)

This kind of repentance by obedience must begin with ourselves. We who have the true faith must merit the graces that others need to be converted in obedience to the Divine Majesty. We must give the example to others of what it means to be humble by obeying the will of God in our lives, so that others may see our obedience and be converted from their evil ways. We must pay the heavy price of bending the knees of our self-will to the demanding will of God's Providence. Sin is not a figment of the imagination; that sin is the root of all the evils in the world: that wars and

suicides, drug addiction and broken families, broken hearts and broken minds — are really the consequences of sin. Our Lady of Fatima reminded us during the July 1917 apparition that hell exists and is where souls of the sinners will go if they do not repent.

Indulgence in Worldly Pleasures

The twentieth century is unique in the history of mankind in providing millions with such worldly satisfaction as our ancestors never dreamed.

Our Lady of Fatima preached repentance for the sinful indulgence of pleasure and telling us to love the Cross.

Two words should always be associated together. They are pleasure

and pain. If the world has become drunk with its lust for pleasure, we must make expiation by our love of Jesus crucified. We believe that, when God became man, He gave up the joy set before Him and instead He chose the Cross.

No one likes to suffer. But if we love someone very deeply, we are ready to suffer for the one we love. This is the crowning repentance proclaimed by the Mother of God at Fatima: the reparation of suffering pain in expiation for the world's indulgence of pleasure. We choose to endure like Our Savior Crucified, so that we might mysteriously cooperate with Him in redeeming a sinful world."

Members Corner

Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar members unit monthly by praying a rosary on their special assigned day for the Rosary Calendar intentions of the month

Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke launched a Novena for the Universal Church. It included intentions for the Conclave and incorporated praying for the late Holy Father's eternal rest as well as for the good of the Church. In addition, there are several novenas listed on the internet for Pope Francis and the Conclave. For more information, go to <https://guadalupe Shrine.org/journal/conclave-novena/>

MISSION NEWS

Rosaries were mailed to Fr. Moses Juhudi and to Fr. Damian Seusi in Tanzania. We thank Norma Gromek for her generous donation to help the mission of sending rosaries and for Wilfred Soong (HI) and the Rosary Makers of Hawaii for making the rosaries that we send to the missions.

NEW MEMBERS

Father Paschal Ihediohanna (MO), Rallen Barker (MO), Michele Behnem (MO), Cindy Sevena (MO), Catherine Webb (MO), George Bussman (MO), Lynette Seina (MO) and Kathy Baxter (MO).

OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Let us Pray for the Souls of our departed members of the OLOF Rosary Calendar:

*OLOF Rosary Calendar Spiritual director Fr. Matthew Kibuka (New York), Ann Bousgois (NC); Linda Quimac (NC), Rita Kussman (MO); Mrs. John Gallagher (TN); Ray Hyde (TN), Margaret Hyde (TN), Josephine Johnson (NC) and Casina Waterman (HI).

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and May preputial light shine upon them. May the Souls of the Faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors



Founder
First Director:
Fr. James Keenan (NC) Deceased
Spiritual Directors:
Fr. Pat Labasano (Philippines)
Fr. Boniface Kasita (MO)

Spiritual Advisors:
Fr. Andrew Ing (CA)
Msgr. John Williams (NC/VA)
Fr. A. M. Benzinger (India)
Deceased advisors and directors:
Rt. Rev. George Lynch (NY)
Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
Fr. John Cain (TN)
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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