



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 34, No. 3

Sept-Dec 2025

Prayer Intentions

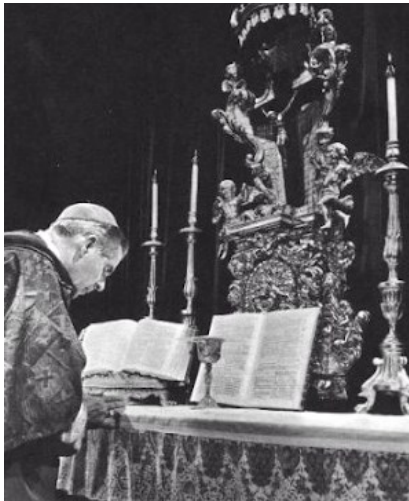
September	October	November	December
*Pray to God to grant Pope Leo wisdom and courage to be a true Shepherd of the Church. *Pray to the Sorrowful Mother.	*Pray to Our Lady of Fatima to guide and protect Pope Leo XIV. *Pray the Rosary for peace.	*Pray that Pope Leo may confirm us in the Catholic faith. *Pray for the forgotten souls in Purgatory.	*Pray to place Pope Leo in the mantle of the Blessed Mother. *Pray for all OLOF members to have a holy advent.

The Holy Mass

Bishop Fulton Sheen stated: “It is fitting that there be a memorial for the supreme sacrifice of Christ Who died to give us freedom from the tyranny of sin. Our Lord came to die, it was the goal of His life, it was the goal He was seeking. For no other purpose He came into the world than to redeem sinful humanity.

Unlike the men who could not make their own memorial, He instituted the precise way in which His death was to be recalled. Since He came to die, this death was the chief thing He wished us to remember. He did not say that men should write a history of it, He gave them the exact manner in which He wished this sacrifice to be commemorated. The memorial He gave us is called the Mass.

It was instituted the night before He died at what has since then been called the Last Supper. The Mass is the application and the projection through space and time of the redemptive love of Christ on the Cross. The Redemption of Our Lord on the Cross was offered once for all. Calvary took only a moment of time, but being the sacrifice of the eternal God made man, it was capable of



Bishop Sheen saying Mass

illuminating the whole of the time in all periods of history. The Mass is the projection in time of the eternal values of Calvary. The Mass plants the cross in a town, in a village, in a mission, in a great cathedral; it draws back the curtains on time and space and makes what happened on Calvary happen there.

The very fact that all sacrifices practically cease after the sacrifice on Calvary meant that Calvary was the perfection and the fulfillment of all

sacrifices. Even the Jews no longer sacrifice paschal lambs in their synagogues, for the True Paschal Lamb has already been sacrificed. The sacrifice of the Cross, therefore, is not something that happened years ago, it is something that is still happening. The Mass is not a *new sacrifice* but another *enactment* of the one supreme sacrifice of Calvary. In the Mass, we see [the sacrifice] performed without bloodshed and, therefore, it is not a substitute for the Cross, but the merit we gain at the Mass is the same as the merit we would have gained if we had assisted at Calvary.

The reason there is only one sacrifice, is that the Priest and the Victim both on the Cross and in the Mass, are one and the same Person. When Our Lord came, He became at the same time *Priest* and *Victim*, He became both the Offered and the One Who was offered. No longer were the priests and victims *separate* as they had been before. On the Cross, therefore, He was upright as a Priest; He was prostrate as a Victim because He was offering Himself.” (*This is the Mass*, pp. 9-13).

Significance of the Priest’s Vestments



“As the Mass represents the Passion of Christ, and the Priest officiates in His person, so the vestments in which he officiates represent those in which Christ was clothed at the time of His passion. The Amice, the short, white, oblong vestment worn beneath the Alb

covering the priest’s shoulders, represents the cloth with which the Jews muffled Jesus’ face when at every blow they bade Him prophesy who it was that struck Him. The Alb, the white full length vestment under the Chasuble, represents the white garment with which He was vested by Herod. The Stole, a strip of material, several inches wide, worn

around the neck, represents the cords and bands with which He was bound in the different states of His Passion. The Chasuble, or outward Vestment, represents the purple garment with which He was clothed as a mock King; upon this is embroidered a Cross, to represent that which Christ bore upon His sacred shoulders.” (*Manual of Prayers*)

Servant of God Gwen Coniker: Co-Founder of Apostolate for Family Consecration



Gwen Coniker was born in Chicago in 1939. She met her future husband Jerry when she was 15. They were married in 1959. At the end of the

wedding Mass, they consecrated their marriage to Jesus through Mary at Our Lady's side altar. In December of that same year, both Gwen and Jerry became deeply involved in the right-to-life and "family values" movement.

In 1971 the direction of their lives was drastically changed when they made their consecration to Jesus through Mary according to the formula of St. Louis de Montfort. On May 13, 1971, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the Conikers sold their home and business and moved their family to Fatima, Portugal, which turned into a two-year retreat and

preparation time for their work in the Church.

In 1973, the Conikers returned to the United States and Jerry became the executive director of a Franciscan ministry, the Militia Immaculata, in Wisconsin. Two years later, they officially started the Apostolate for Family Consecration, a family values oriented movement, in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In October 1990, they established the present 950-acre Catholic Familyland in Bloomingdale, Ohio, at the former Steubenville diocesan seminary. Each year 'Holy Family Fest' vacations are conducted for families, Totus Tuus weekend conferences and Marriage Get Away Weekends.

On April 29, 1999, Pope John Paul II appointed Jerry and Gwen Coniker to be one of 20 couples worldwide to be members of his Pontifical Council for the Family, advising him on family matters in the world.

In 2001, Jerry and Gwen as a couple received the Pro Ecclesia et

Pontifice Award from the Holy Father. This papal award was instituted by Pope Leo XIII on July 7, 1888 and is bestowed upon persons who have given outstanding service to the Church. Two months later, on December 15, 2001, Gwen was made Lady Guenevere of the Pontifical Order of St. Michael of the Wing of Portugal. This is one of the oldest knight orders of the Church that has pontifical status and its main purpose is to protect the Church.

Gwen Coniker died of cancer in 2002, and in June 2007 the Bishop of Steubenville let the cause for her canonization proceed. The initial investigation, into whether she showed "heroic virtue," began that September. Part of the evidence presented was her refusing to abort her eleventh child, Theresa, when her doctor said the pregnancy would burst her uterus and kill her. The baby was delivered safely, and she had two more children." (*Blog from Mother Hildegard, Island-Life in a Monastery*)

Who are the Saints in the Roman Canon? St. John the Evangelist

St. John, known as the Beloved Disciple of Jesus, was the brother of St. James the Greater and a fisherman from Galilee. He was a disciple of John the Baptist and the youngest of all the apostles, probably about twenty-five years of age, when he was called by Christ. He was also present with St. Peter and St. James at the Transfiguration of Jesus and a witness to Jesus's Agony in the Garden. St. Chrysostom states that "when our Lord was apprehended and the other apostles fled, St. John never forsook him; and it is believed that he was the disciple who knew the high priest and got Peter admitted into the court of Caiphaz." It was the virginal St. John to whom Jesus entrusted His Mother at the foot of the cross.

After Pentecost, tradition holds that St. John evangelized mainly in Jerusalem and Parthia. Inhabitants of Bassora, a city located at the mouth of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, on the Persian gulf, affirm that St. John planted the Christian faith in



their country. After the [dormition] of the Blessed Virgin, he visited Asia Minor, and established his residency at Ephesus. He founded and governed the churches of Asia.

During the second persecution, in 95 AD, St. John was apprehended by the proconsul of Asia and sent to Rome, where he was miraculously preserved from death when thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil and was then banished to the isle of Patmos by the tyrant Domitian. It was here where he received heavenly visions

which were recorded in the book of Apocalypse. Upon the death of Domitian in 96 AD, St. John was freed and returned to Ephesus.

At the age of 92, after his return to Ephesus, St. John wrote his Gospel in 98 AD. Being pressed by the brethren to write his gospel, he agreed he would if they would pray and fast. Once this period had concluded, he received a clear revelation coming from heaven and immediately wrote: "In the beginning was the Word."

At the end of his life, when St. John was no longer able to preach, he was carried to the assembly of the faithful by his disciples, saying only "My dear children, love one another." St. John died in peace at Ephesus around 100 AD at the age of 94 and was buried on a mountain outside the town. A church stood formerly over this tomb, which is at present a Turkish mosque. His feast day is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church on December 27 and in the Greek Orthodox Church on September 26. (www.ewtn.com)

Our Lady: Our Help at Mass



St. Louis De Monfort states: "It is said that when our Divine Savior had been laid in the sepulcher, Mary blessed the stone

which covered the entrance, saying: 'I bless thee, O stone, chosen by God to hide my Son from the eyes of men; mayest thou guard Him'. This heavenly Mother speaks likewise even now,

when she sees her Eucharist Son descend into our hearts in Holy Communion. She blesses our hearts as the tomb of her Son; she remains there to adore Him and does not lose sight of Him."

Pope Benedict XVI's Faith Series: *How to Speak About God*, Part 8 continued

"In our time too, the family, the first school for communicating the faith to the new generations, is a privileged place in which to talk about God. The Second Vatican Council speaks of parents as the first messengers of God. Parents are called to rediscover their mission, assuming responsibility in educating, in opening the consciences of their little ones to love God as a fundamental service to their life and in being the first catechists and teachers of the faith for their children. And in this task watchfulness is of the utmost importance. It means being able to take favorable opportunities to introduce the topic of faith in the family and to develop a critical reflection with regard to the many forms of conditioning to which children are subjected.

The parents' attention includes their sensitivity in perceiving the possible religious questions latent in their children's minds, at times obvious but at other times hidden. Then, joy: the communication of faith must always have joyful tones. It is the Easter joy that does not stay silent or



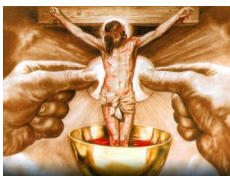
conceal the realities of pain, of suffering, of effort, of difficulty, of incomprehension and of death itself, but that can offer criteria for interpreting all things in the perspective of Christian hope. The good life of the Gospel is precisely this new perception, this capacity to see God with one's own eyes in every situation. It is important to help all the members of the family understand that faith is not a burden but a source of profound joy, that it is perceiving God's action, recognizing the presence of goodness that does not make a sound; and it offers precious guidance for living life well. Lastly, the capacity for listening and for dialogue: the family must be a milieu in which we learn to be together, to

settle disagreements in conversation with each other, which consists in listening and speaking, in mutual understanding and love, so as to be a sign for each other of God's merciful love.

So it is that talking about God means making people realize through our speech and example, that God is no rival

in our existence but rather is its true guarantor, who guarantees the greatness of the human person. Thus we return to the beginning: speaking of God is communicating what is essential, forcefully and simply, through our words and through our life: the God of Jesus Christ, that God who showed us a love so great that He took flesh, died and rose again for us: that God who asks us to follow Him and to let ourselves be transformed by His immense love in order to renew our life and our relationships; that God who has given us the Church, so that we may walk together and, through the word and the sacraments, renew the entire city of men and women, so that it may become a City of God."

Do you Know? Facts about the Mass



- The entire Mass is based on Scripture.
- St. Bonaventure states: "The 'Mass' is related to the word 'mission' (or sending forth). For God sends His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to the altar. And the Church, in turn offers this same Christ back to the almighty Father, as She intercedes on behalf of sinners for the salvation of the world."

- If there is no Altar, there is no Sacrifice for the sacrifice takes place on the Altar. If there is no Sacrifice, there is no Eucharist. Without a Priest, there is no Eucharist.
- At the time the Roman Canon was written (circa 400's) only martyrs had feast days. They were mentioned because they were witnesses through their own holy death to the passion of Christ which is represented in the sacrifice of the Mass.
- In every altar there is an altar stone

containing the relics of two canonized martyrs. The host and chalice during the sacrifice of the Mass are placed on it.

- Bells are not rung at the Divine Services from the Gloria on Holy Thursday until the Gloria on Easter Vigil denoting the Church's sorrow at the Passion and Death of Christ.
- There is a Mass said every hour of everyday around the World.

Members Corner

WE PRAY DAILY FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS BOTH LIVING AND DEAD WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE BEING FOUNDED BY FATHER JAMES KEENAN IN THE 1980'S

MISSION NEWS

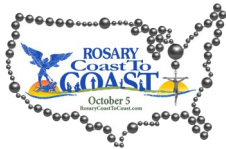


Fr. Damian from Tanzania thanks the OLOFRC Members for sending rosaries to the students at the secondary school of 80 students at St. Pio X Parish in Malinyi. The rosaries that they received are used for evangelizing the Parish!

Thank you to St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Marceline, MO as well as Wilford Song and the Rosary Makers of Hawaii for donating rosaries, religious articles and holy cards for the Missions in Papua New Guinea and Tanzania. Please pray especially for the Catholics in Papua New Guinea.

OLOFRC needs of scapulars, rosaries, Divine Mercy images and holy items for the African Missions. Please contact Mary Ann at OLOF@cvalley.net if you are able to donate items. God bless you for all your help in aiding our Mission Churches.

NEWS:



Join the annual *Rosary Coast to Coast* in praying the Rosary on Sunday October 5, 2025 organized by Fr. Heilman (Wisconsin). This year's intention is: "May our country enshrine the protection of life at conception." A Rosary rally and Eucharistic procession will take place at the Nations Capital on October 5, 2025 starting with an assemble at 1:30 pm EDT at St. Peter's on Capital Hill and conclude after the 4:45 pm singing of *God Bless America*. The event will be live streamed. You can join the Rosary at home or with a group by praying the Glorious Mysteries at 4:00 pm EDT (prayed simultaneously in all time zones). For complete information, visit: <https://rosarycoasttocoast.com/>.

NEW MEMBERS

James Pesop (Legion of Mary) (Papua New Guinea), Pat Collier (MO), Michael, Amy, Luke, Tommy Doorock (MO), David Fessler Family (MO), Jerome and Donna Kuenzel (MO), Lynette Seina (MO), and Cindy and Mario Garza (TX).

OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

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

- + Viola Snyder, Iowa
- + Mary Lou Neblock, Missouri
- + Lourdes Trinidad, Arizona
- + June Peters, California
- +Floencia Mendoza , North Carolina

Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors



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

Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Pat Labassano (HI)
Fr. Boniface Kasita (MO)

Spiritual Advisors:

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

Deceased advisors and directors:

Fr. James Keenan (NC)
Founder and first director

Rt. Rev. George Lynch (NY)

Fr. John Cain (TN)
Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)
Fr. John DeMarchi (Fatima)

Fr. Gerard Leicht (HI)
Fr. Joseph Robeck (HI)
Msgr. Benedict Vierra (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. Poopillil (India)
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)
Fr. Javan Saxon (NC)
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)

Contact Information

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Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

O Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Lord of Heaven and of Earth, Our Lady of Guadalupe, guide and protect the Roman Pontiff, Pope Leo XIV. Through your intercession, may he receive in abundance the grace of the Successor of Saint Peter: the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity of our Bishops and of all our brothers and sisters in the Mystical Body of your Divine Son. Unite Pope Leo's heart to your Immaculate Heart, leading him to rest his heart ever more securely in the glorious pierced Heart of Jesus, so that he may confirm us in the Catholic faith, in the worship of God in spirit and truth, and in a good and holy Christian life. In the tumult of the present time, keep Pope Leo securely within the hollow of your mantle, in the crossing of your arms, protecting him from Satan, the father of lies, and from every evil spirit. Implore Our Lord to grant him, in particular, the wisdom and courage to be a true Shepherd of the Church throughout the world. With you, I place all my trust in Christ, the Good Shepherd, Who alone is our help and salvation. Amen.

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mother, have mercy upon us!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Queen of the Apostles, pray for us!

Saints Peter and Paul, pray for us!

Pope Saint Leo the Great, pray for us!

Written By Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke