



Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

Vol. 35, No. 1

January-April 2026

Prayer Intentions

January	February	March	April
*Pray for Pope Leo XIV. *Pray for the grace of God to enable us to grow in our Catholic Faith.	*Pray for Pope Leo XIV. *Pray for the virtue of the Holy Family to strengthen family bonds.	*Pray for Pope Leo XIV. *Pray to St. Joseph (feast day March 19) for the sanctity of fathers.	*Pray for Pope Leo XIV. *Pray for a deepening of our devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

The Liturgical Season-Christmas to Epiphany

The 12 days of Christmas start with Christmas Day and ends on the Feast of the Epiphany, traditionally January 6. The Council of Tours in 567 AD set Christmas day on December 25, Epiphany on January 6 and the 12 days between as the “Christmas Season”. Several major feasts are celebrated during this time period: December 26 - St. Stephen, first Martyr of the Church, December 27 - St. John, the beloved apostle, December 28 - the Holy Innocents, January 1 - the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “revelation from above”. This feast has been celebrated in the Western Latin Rite and the Eastern Rites differently. Historically, in the Latin Rite, Epiphany celebrated the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God focusing primarily on this revelation of the Three Wise Men (the Magi) but it also focuses on His baptism in the Jordan River and the wedding at Cana. However, over time, the Church in the West separated these three events into distinct feasts.

In the Eastern Rites, Epiphany is called the “Theophany,” meaning “revelation from God”. The



Theophany was celebrated on January 6 as the advent of Christ by commemorating all together the Nativity, the Visitation of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the Wedding of Cana all in one feast of the Epiphany. Today, the Eastern Churches celebrate Christ’s baptism and is one of the holiest feast days in their liturgical calendar as the Epiphany/Theophany.

Historically Epiphany water was blessed on this feast in commemoration of the Baptism of Jesus in memory of Jesus sanctifying the waters of Baptism. The blessing of the Epiphany water in the Roman Rite was used to cast out Satan and all his demonic angels.

A beautiful tradition that has developed within the Church on the feast of the Epiphany is the blessing

of white chalk by a priest at Mass. The blest chalk is used to inscribe, by the head of the household, on the top of every door frame in the home, 20 C+M+B 26. The 20 represents the current century, the letters “C+M+B” stand for the names traditionally given to the Wise Men, Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar. It could also refer to the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* (“Christ, bless this house”). The number 26 refers to the current year. This practice is particularly popular in Poland and Slavic countries, but is becoming increasingly common in the United States and other parts of the world as families seek ways to bring faith into the home.

During Epiphany, it is also important to remember the meaning of the gifts brought to the baby Jesus of frankincense, myrrh, and gold which point to Christ’s divinity, crucifixion, death and burial.

At the beginning of this new year, let us follow the Magi’s example and live a life adoring Jesus especially in the Eucharist.

(Primary source of information: Catholic News Agency).

Pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory during Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18 this year (2026). The Lenten season prepares us for Good Friday when Jesus suffered and died for us. The days of Lent are to be a period of fasting and prayer which precedes the joyous celebration of His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Bishop Fulton Sheen said, “Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday.”

This Lenten period, we can offer up our sufferings, good works, fasting, etc. for the Holy Souls in purgatory. Since they are unable to merit graces, their pain “can be mitigated only by the suffrages that are paid by people on earth, who apply the merits of Jesus Christ to the souls in Purgatory. In so doing, they make atonement by their prayers and sacrifices, taking away from the souls in Purgatory either partially or completely the responsibilities that weigh them down” states Fr. Dolindo Rutoloto (Excerpts form *The Afterlife: Purgatory and Heaven*). Thus by performing these works of charity, the souls in purgatory can reach heaven sooner.

Saving Souls for Heaven

A new year usually starts with making well intentioned temporal resolutions. But as Catholics, our “resolutions” should focus on our eternal salvation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that our purpose in life is “to know, love, and serve God in this world and be with Him in the next”. Thus the question arises, how will we arrive at this happiness?

Father Wade Menezes of the Fathers of Mercy in his book, *The Four Last Things. A Catechetical Guide to Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell*, states, “Heaven is our goal, plain and simple. This is the culmination of our Faith: God created us to share eternal communion with Him living a perfect life with the Holy Trinity, with the Holy Mother Mary and all the blessed. He desires our salvation. But in order to go to Heaven, man must be in the state of grace at the moment of his death”.

The doctrine concerning death, judgement, heaven and hell is not meant to frighten us but to lead us to live more faithful, committed Christian lives here on earth. Father writes, “we know that one day each person will die, be judged, and our eternity will be either one of salvation in heaven with Christ and the saints, or will be one of punishment in Hell with the devils and the damned. The choice is ours to make by how we live”.

It is important for us to have a realistic view of death. We know or need to know that upon death our soul will leave the body and be



judged in the Particular Judgement, receiving reward or punishment in accordance with that person’s faith and works. The General Judgement, on the other hand, refers to the end of time, at Christ’s second coming, when all will be revealed and our Particular Judgement will be known to all. Prior to General Judgement, all bodies that have died will rise from the dead and reunite with their souls.

Fr. Menezes points out, “at the moment of death, we want our judgement to be one of salvation, not of reprobation. If a soul is in the state of grace, one can enter Heaven either immediately at death, or following a period of purification of temporal punishment in Purgatory. Purgatory is only about one thing: the need for temporal punishment for already confessed mortal sins or unconfessed venial sin which need to be atoned at the time of death. If we have already atoned for this temporal punishment

on Earth, then there is no need to go to Purgatory.”

On the topic of hell, Father states: “if one dies in mortal sin without repenting and accepting God’s merciful love, one remains separated from Him forever by our own free choice. This state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed or eternal punishment is called ‘hell’. God sends no one to Hell, rather, we exclude ourselves from His presence by intentionally failing to repent of mortal sin.”

Generally speaking, human nature is weak and easily falls into sin. As suggested by Fr. Menezes, “when we do fall – when we sin or forget the importance of prayer or a spiritual life—we need to get right back up. We can build a strong spiritual life with monthly confessions, weekly Eucharist; morning offerings, daily rosary, daily Divine Mercy chaplet, fasting and twice daily examination of conscience. So let us work out our salvation by being faithful to the task at hand, all the while letting God work in us and through us as His ever-faithful sons and daughters.”

Keeping this message in mind, let us greet this New Year with a resolution to live our earthly life focused on spending eternity adoring and worshiping the Triune God. This path will require obedience to God’s will and like Job of the Old Testament, who accepted everything, the good and the bad, as coming from the hand of God so that we can “*enter through the narrow gate.*”(MT 7:13)

Wisdom about Eternity



*St. John Vianney stated: “The fire of Purgatory is the same as the fire of Hell; the difference between them is that the fire of Purgatory is not everlasting.”

*St. Anselm shared: “Nothing is more certain than death; nothing more uncertain than its hour.”

*St. Michael the Archangel is the

patron of the dying and the angel that leads the soul to the judgement seat of God.

*A person’s Guardian angel is the one who will lead the soul into Heaven.

*St. Robert Bellarmine explains the art of dying well: “He who lives well will die well since death is nothing more than the end of life, it is certain that all who live well to the end, die well; On the other hand, he who has

never led a good life cannot die a good death.”

*Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR, pointed out that, “What Our Lady of Fatima spoke to the three little children was a message that emphasizes that heaven is real. It also makes clear that our supreme responsibility is to live in such a way that we may be found worthy to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Servant of God Julia Greeley (Part of series of articles about people who could be saints)



“Julia Greeley, Denver’s Angel of Charity, was born into slavery, near Hannibal, MO, sometime between 1833 and 1848. While

she was still a young child, a cruel slave master, in the course of beating her mother, caught Julia’s right eye with his whip and destroyed it.

Freed by Missouri’s Emancipation Act in 1865, Julia subsequently earned her keep by serving white families in Missouri, Wyoming, New Mexico and Colorado.

Whatever she did not need for herself, Julia spent assisting poor families in her neighborhood. When her own resources were inadequate

[for her charitable work], she begged for food, fuel and clothing. One writer later called her a “one-person St. Vincent de Paul Society.” To avoid embarrassing the people she helped, Julia did most of her charitable work under cover of night through dark alleys.

Julia entered the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880 and was an outstanding supporter of all that the parish had to offer. The Jesuits who ran the parish considered her the most enthusiastic promoter of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus they had ever seen. Every month she visited, on foot, every fire station in Denver and delivered literature of the Sacred

Heart League to the firemen, Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

A daily communicant, Julia had a rich devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin and continued her prayers while working and moving about. She joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901 and was active in it until her death in 1918”.

Julia was buried at Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Her remains were exhumed in 2017 as part of her cause for sainthood. They are now interred in a marble sarcophagus at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Denver. (Source: juliagreeley.org)

Saints in the Roman Canon—St. Philip (A series on the saints mentioned in Eucharistic Prayer I)

St. Philip was a native of Bethsaida and was a disciple of St. John the Baptist. On the day after Peter was called by Jesus, He met Philip and called him by saying, “follow me”. Philip obeyed the call.

Upon the death of Jesus, according to tradition, Philip and St. Bartholomew were sent to preach in Greece, Phrygia, Syria, Asia Minor, Lydia and Emessa. He preached, performed many miracles, including bringing a child back to life, and baptized many converts. While preaching in the city of Hierapolis, St. Philip converted the wife of the proconsul of the city. This enraged the proconsul, and he had Philip and Bartholomew tortured. They were sentenced to death and crucified



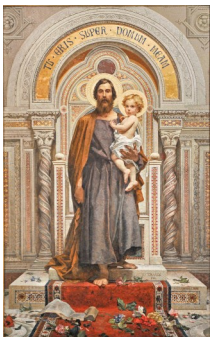
upside down. While on the cross, an earthquake hit unexpectedly, knocking all those present at the place of judgment to the ground. The Apostle Philip, hanging on the cross, prayed that God preserve those who had crucified him from the earthquake’s fury. As a

consequence, the crowds began to believe in Christ and requested that the apostles’ crosses be removed. Seeing the earthquake abate, the people demanded that Philip and Bartholomew be released. Bartholomew survived, but Philip died on the cross.

Philip’s remains were buried in Hierapolis, then ceremoniously moved to Constantinople and later moved to the Basilica of the Twelve Apostles in Rome.

St. Philip is the patron of hatters, pastry chefs, the nations of Luxembourg and Uruguay, and many churches, schools and hospitals throughout the world. His feast day is May 3. (Primary source of information: www.catholic.org)

Honoring St. Joseph



St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the foster-father of Jesus, was the man chosen by God to protect the Holy Family and share in the divine plan of salvation.

Did you know, St Joseph has titles bestowed on him such as:

- *Guardian of virgins
- *Hope of the sick
- *Patron of dying
- *Terror of demons
- *Protector of the Holy Church
- *Pillar of families
- *Watchful defender of Jesus
- *Model of workers

- *Lover of poverty
- *Most just
- *Most chaste
- *Most valiant

He is also honored on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary, on May 1, Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, and every Wednesday.
St. Joseph, Pray for us.

Members Corner

WE PRAY DAILY FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS BOTH LIVING AND DEAD WHO HAVE JOINED US SINCE 1980 UNDER FATHER JAMES KEENAN'S GUIDANCE

MISSION NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Fr. Andrew Gowa (Tanzania) has recovered from a long term illness and has returned to his priestly duties. A box of rosaries and a variety of religious articles were sent to him.

NEW MEMBERS

Justin and Noelle Walters (MO), Mary R. Brown (NE)

APPRECIATION

Thank you to:

- Jean Fink for her generous donation in honor of her mother Marie Groejes to help with our mission work.
- The "Rosary Makers of Hawaii" for supplying rosaries that are sent to the foreign missions.
- The Altar Society of St. Columban Catholic Church in Chillicothe, MO for supplying religious articles to be sent to the foreign missions.
- Maureen Ervie for the religious articles and especially for the Miraculous Metals.

OUR DECEASED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Let us pray for the souls of our departed members of the OLOF Rosary Calendar:

Geraldean Burris (MO), Linda Ewigman (MO). Gordon Mattos (HI), and Marie Groejes (NE)

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

SPECIAL DATES

January

- 1—Mary, Mother of God
- 4—Epiphany
- 11—Baptism of the Lord

February

- 2—Presentation of the Lord
- 11—Our Lady of Lourdes
- 18—Ash Wednesday
- 22—Chair of St. Peter

March

- 19—St. Joseph
- 25—Annunciation

April

- 5—Easter Sunday
- 12—Divine Mercy Sunday

Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar Families

Families that pray together, stay together.
-Venerable Fr. Patrick Peyton



Moylan Family from Hawaii



Garcia Family from Hawaii

Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors



Spiritual Directors: (NC/VA)
Fr. Pat Labassano (HI)
Fr. Boniface Kasita (MO)

Deceased advisors and directors:
Fr. James Keenan (NC) Founder, First Spiritual 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)

The Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary, Fatima, Portugal Pray in Union with the OLOF Family 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