



# Our Lady of Fatima “Family” Rosary Calendar Newsletter

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July	August	September
<b>Precious Blood of Jesus</b>	<b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b>	<b>Our Lady of Sorrows</b>
*Pray for Pope Francis. *Pray to heighten our connection to the blood of the Lamb of God and for a deeper devotion to Jesus and Mary.	*Pray for Pope Francis. *Pray for increased veneration to the heart of our Blessed Mother who radiates her Sons love.	*Pray for Pope Francis. *Pray for hope to reap the eternal harvest of heaven and also the hope of a glorious resurrection.

## The Assumption of the Blessed Mother into Heaven

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII, exercising papal infallibility, declared in the Apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* the dogma "that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory."

Catholics believe that the Blessed Mother was taken, body and soul, into heaven. Whether she died and was taken to heaven or that she simply "completed the course of her earthly life," and then was assumed into heaven before dying is debated. Pope Pius XII, in the text explaining his definition of the dogma of the Assumption, refers repeatedly to the Blessed



Virgin's death before her Assumption. Also, the tradition in both the East and the West holds that Mary did die before she was assumed into Heaven.

Furthermore, since there is not a single relic of Mary's body, it is logical to reason that she was assumed body and soul into heaven.

Manuscripts dating back to the third century written in nine different languages have been found. They all agree on Mary's Assumption and suggest that the stories of her Assumption were already widely known. In fact, tradition holds that the belief in Mary's bodily assumption goes back to apostolic times.

As a dogma, the Assumption is a required belief for all Catholics. Anyone who publicly dissents from the dogma, Pope Pius XII declared, "has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith."

## Our Lady of Sorrows



September is the month within the liturgical year dedicated to the seven sorrows of our Blessed Mother. They are:

1. The Prophecy of Simeon, 2. The Flight Into Egypt, 3. The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple, 4. Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary, 5. Jesus Dies on the Cross, 6. Taking down Jesus' body from the cross, and 7. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb.

This devotion affords us the opportunity to focus our

contemplation on Mary sharing her Son's compassion for sinners. As Saint Bernard declares, the Mother of Christ entered into the Passion of her Son through her compassion. At the foot of the Cross, the prophecy of Simeon is fulfilled: thine own soul a sword shall pierce (Luke 2:35). Just as Jesus wept (John 11:35) over the death of Lazarus, so too Mary certainly cried over the tortured body of her Son.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that today, Mary dwells in the joy and the glory of the Resurrection. The tears shed at the foot of the Cross have been transformed into a

smile which nothing can wipe away. The intervention of the Virgin Mary in offering assistance and support in times of hardship and distress throughout history testifies to this, and does not cease to call forth, in the people of God, an unshakable confidence in her. The *Memorare* prayer expresses this sentiment very well. Mary loves each of her children, giving particular attention to those who, like her Son at the hour of His Passion, are prey to suffering; she loves them quite simply because they are her children, according to the will of Christ on the Cross.

## Indulgences Associated with the Holy Rosary

Pope St. John Paul II wrote: "The Rosary, precisely because it starts with Mary's own experience, is an exquisitely contemplative prayer. Without this contemplative dimension, it would lose its meaning." Pope St. Paul VI clearly pointed out: Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas".

Many Popes throughout the second millennium have encouraged the faithful to pray the Rosary as a means of Marian devotion. Since Pope Leo XIII, the "Pope of the Rosary", all Popes have recommended this prayer and enriched it by attaching indulgences to its recitation. An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of

redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints (*Code of Canon Law-992*), *Catechism of the Catholic Church-1471*).



A plenary indulgence can be granted for reciting the Rosary if the Rosary is recited in a church, a public oratory, a family group, a religious Community, or pious Association; a partial indulgence is granted in other circumstances.

To receive the plenary indulgence attached to the Rosary, the following norms must be

observed:

- A. The recitation of five decades of the Rosary suffices; but the five decades must be recited continuously;
- B. The vocal recitation must be accompanied by pious meditation on the mysteries; and
- C. In public recitation, the mysteries must be announced in the manner customary in the place; for private recitation, however, it suffices if the vocal recitation is accompanied by meditation on the mysteries.

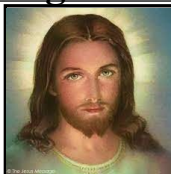
**Important:** Every new Rosary must be blessed by a Catholic priest in order for it to be a SACRAMENTAL, which means that it carries the blessing of the "prayer of the Church".

The Rosary is a school of silent contemplation and has an intimate connection to the Word of God (Pope Benedict XVI). When we pray it, Mary offers us her heart and her gaze in order to contemplate the life of her Son, Jesus Christ.

## Keeping Our Catholic Faith Strong

What do we have to do to keep our Church aligned with revelation, tradition, the Magisterium of the Church and the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ in this time when many people, including theologians are disputing God's design?

The *Baltimore Catechism* provides the answer: "God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven". Our challenge today is great in achieving heaven. Robert Cardinal Sarah states: "There is great turmoil at this time in the world and in the Church, and what is in dispute is the faith." He is concerned about Catholicism being dominated by non-Catholic thought but stresses that it can never represent the mind of the Church. Cardinal Sarah concludes, "**A tiny little flock has to continue in existence, however small it may**



**ARE YOU  
FOLLOWING  
GOD'S DESIGN?**

be." This statement was also restated by Pope Benedict XVI. We must follow God even if we are just a few.

Another important aspect in following God is noted by Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. She says that we need "to have a good spiritual director and that mankind will only have peace if they turn to the Fount of God's Mercy".

Concerning the selection of a spiritual director, St. Faustina relates that "The soul should have prayed ardently and at great length for a director and should have asked the Lord Himself to choose a spiritual director for it". She then continues to stress the necessity to pray fervently for the confessor

that he might have the divine light to know [God's will] well."

We must pray with profound gratitude that God loves us with His entire infinite Being, thus granting us His Divine Mercy. In her diary, St. Faustina wrote that she heard these words: "My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy, I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open...On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened....My mercy is so great that no mind, be it man or angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity...It is My desire that it [the Feast of My Mercy] be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy."

## “Say the Rosary Faithfully”—St. Louis Marie de Montfort

St. Louis de Montfort is one of the many great saints that we can pray to for spiritual help. He had a strong Marian devotion and commitment to the Rosary. He said “Say the Rosary faithfully until death and you shall receive a never fading crown of glory.” He taught that the surest and easiest way to sainthood is through Mary.

St. Louis Marie de Montfort, born January 31, 1673, was devoted to the Blessed Mother from childhood. He was ordained a priest in 1700. He prayed constantly for crosses and his prayers were answered with an abundance of crosses. Throughout his life, he was ostracized because of his miracles, conversions, fervent devotions, and care of the sick whom were denied the last rites by other priests.

He wrote five significant compositions, all of which are still in wide circulation today. They are *Love of the Eternal Wisdom*, *Friends of the Cross*, *True Devotion to the Blessed*



*Virgin, The Secret of Mary, and The Secret of the Rosary.*

His efforts were so successful that Rosary devotions became a way of life for many who were taught by him. In 1706, Pope Clement XI recognized St. Louis' piety and thus appointed him as Apostolic Missioner in France. St. de Montfort founded the Daughters of Wisdom and the Company of Mary. Through his untiring efforts, he left a legacy of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This incredible priest worked hard to gain souls for his “good Mother” and her Divine Son right up to the

moment of his death. For several days he lay dying with a statue of the Blessed Virgin in one arm and the indulgenced crucifix given to him by Pope Clement XI in the other. In his last will and testament, he asked that his heart be buried “under the steps of the altar of the Blessed Virgin.”

St. Louis de Montfort stressed that the surest, the easiest, the happiest, the most perfect way to Jesus Christ is through Mary. His genius in explaining Our Lady's role in redemption is his treatise on *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. He wrote, “It is through the most holy Virgin Mary that Jesus came into the world, and it is also through her that He has to reign in the world...It was through Mary that the salvation of the world was begun, and it is through Mary that it must be consummated...Devotion to Our Blessed Lady is necessary for salvation... **He who has not Mary for his Mother has not God for his Father**”.

## Contemplate the Divine

Contemplation allows us to experience the reality of our participation in God's nature for ourselves. Many very devote religious have written spiritual statements that are great for contemplation. Three such testimonials are presented below:

1. Pope Benedict XVI (*Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, p. 33) explains the Blessed Mother's role in the Church: “[Mary] stands before us as a woman of great interiority, who holds heart and mind in harmony and seeks to understand the context, the overall significance of God's message. In this way, she becomes an image of the Church as she considers the word of God, tries to understand it in its entirety and guards in her memory the things that have been given to her.”

2. St. Mother Teresa's *Varanasi Letter* is filled with powerful words about who God is and who we are. She said, “I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus—one to one—you and Jesus alone. We may



but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for His grace; He is longing to give it. Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear Him saying 'I Thirst' in the hearts of the poor. Never give up this daily intimate contact with Jesus as the real living person—not just the idea.”

3. Pope St. Paul VI wrote an encyclical entitled *Mysterium Fidei* on the Holy Eucharist that explains the effectiveness of the Holy Eucharist in holiness. Paragraph 67 throws light on the dignity bestowed by the Eucharist: “No one can fail to understand that the Divine Eucharist

spend time in the chapel—but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus—

bestows upon the Christian people an incomparable dignity. Not only while the Sacrifice is offered and the Sacrament is received, but as long as the Eucharist is kept in our churches and oratories, Christ is truly Emmanuel, that is, 'God with us'. Day and night He is in our midst, He dwells with us, full of grace and truth. He restores morality, nourishes virtues, consoles the afflicted, strengthens the weak. He proposes His own example to those who come to Him that all may learn to be, like Himself, meek and humble of heart and to seek not their own interests but those of God. Anyone who approaches this august Sacrament with special devotion and endeavors to return generous love for Christ's own infinite love will experience and fully understand...how precious is the life hidden with Christ in God and how great is the value of converse with Christ, for there is nothing more consoling on earth, nothing more efficacious for advancing along the road of holiness.”

# St. Joseph-Model and Intercessor for Fathers

Fatherhood is a special gift from God. St. Thomas Aquinas writing on *Faith and Reason* shows how essential fatherhood is to the family and for a healthy society. A good father requires him to make sacrifices and to be self-giving. He must be a leader in faith and morality. The father must serve the family, but in cooperation with the mother of the family.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 2207 clearly articulates the importance of the whole family: “The family is the original cell of social life. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn



moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society”.

The soundness of society is dependent on the family, which requires a strong father figure, following the model of St. Joseph. The father’s most important role is to lead his children to God. He then can carry out his responsibility to teach them to be protectors of the family, good citizens, and inspiring his children to grow in faith and morality. God entrusted St. Joseph with the responsibility to protect and defend the Holy Family. St. Joseph

listened to the Lord and devoted his life to the service and sacrifice to Jesus and Mary. He was obedient to God without asking questions. When God spoke to him in dreams, he followed God and took action.

In *Redemptoris Custos (Guardian of the Redeemer)*, Pope St. John Paul II depicts St. Joseph as an icon of faith, that is, one whose life exemplifies what it means to listen to God’s words and, in an unwavering way, act courageously upon them. In an outstanding way, the Pope highlights St. Joseph as loving father, faithful spouse, laborer, and patron of the universal Church. It is most fitting that the Pope proposes the following prayer: “May St. Joseph obtain for the Church and for the world, as well as for each of us, the blessing of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

## Dates to Remember

July 16—Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 26—Sts. Joachim and Anne, August 6—Transfiguration, August 15—Assumption, September 8—Nativity of the Blessed Mother, September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows, September 21—St. Matthew, September 29—Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels.

## MEMBERS CORNER

**New Members:** Rick Hoskins (MO), Ed and Peggy Ackfeld (MO), Gary & Marita Kaminsky (MN), Sr. Rose Annette (HI), Fr. Leonard Makiibi (MO), Fr. Joseph Luzindana (Uganda).

**Recently Deceased Members:** Sr. Helen Agnes (HI).

**Sincere thank you:** Judy Calia (KS) for her generous donations which helps with our worldwide mailing of the *Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Calendar*, Newsletter and Rosaries.

**Mission news:** Boxes of Rosaries were sent to Tanzania: Fr. Moses Juhudi, Fr. Andrew Gowa, and Fr. James Jungulu.

## Our Rosary Calendar Spiritual Directors and Advisors

### Spiritual Directors:

Fr. Matthew Kibuka (NY)  
Fr. Javan Saxon (NC)  
Fr. Pat Labassano  
(Philippines)

### Spiritual Advisors:

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

The Dominican Nuns of the  
Perpetual Rosary, Fatima,  
Portugal

### Deceased Priests who provided Spiritual Guidance

Fr. James Keenan (NC)\*  
Rt. Rev. George Lynch (NY)  
Fr. John Cain (TN)  
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. Pooppillil (India)  
Fr. R. Jungulu (Africa)  
Fr. Thomas Choo (HI)  
\*Founder of the Rosary Calendar

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