

PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

SUN APR 7	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
MON APR 8	Feast of the ANNUNCIATION of the Lord
MON APR 29	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin / Dr. of the Church

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

April 2024 – Holy Week and Easter are early this year so the entire month of April is filled with Easter joy! Let us make sure to adore Christ with our reverent participation at Mass this month, our Easter Duty, and to thank the Lord for the gifts of family and faith that He has given us so generously.

THE SERENITY PRAYER

The Serenity Prayer is one of the most beloved prayers in existence today. This simple prayer is attributed to a Protestant clergyman, Reinhold Niehbur, and was originally part of a longer prayer he wrote in the 1930s. It was adopted in its short form as the official prayer of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement in 1941, which led to its wide dissemination and popularity.

Few prayers better help us maintain a peaceful demeanor on a daily basis than the Serenity Prayer. This short, focused prayer provides tremendous comfort for those who are experiencing difficulties in life. It helps us to look at those problems from God's perspective.

THE SERENITY PRAYER

*God, grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference.*

The first petition acknowledges that we sometimes encounter circumstances and situations beyond our control. The petition is a cry of childlike humility to the Lord of all things to give us a grace-filled acceptance of the harsh realities of life when we can do nothing about them.

The second petition recognizes that we also have a responsibility to change those actual situations

are within our control. Christianity does not advocate a passive approach to the evils of the world. We ask God to give us the Holy Spirit's gift of Fortitude (Courage) to exercise our influence over those things we can actually change.

The third and final petition recognizes that we need divine Wisdom to penetrate the mysteries of life and its problems. In essence, it asks for the grace to see things from God's perspective. We often don't know the appropriate times to act or to be silent in any given situation, but God does. We ask for His Wisdom to help us sort everything out so that we can do His Will above all things.

The Serenity Prayer is short enough to be memorized by anyone. Why not spend a few minutes each day reciting this prayer, and soon you will have it fixed in your mind and heart!

THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed."

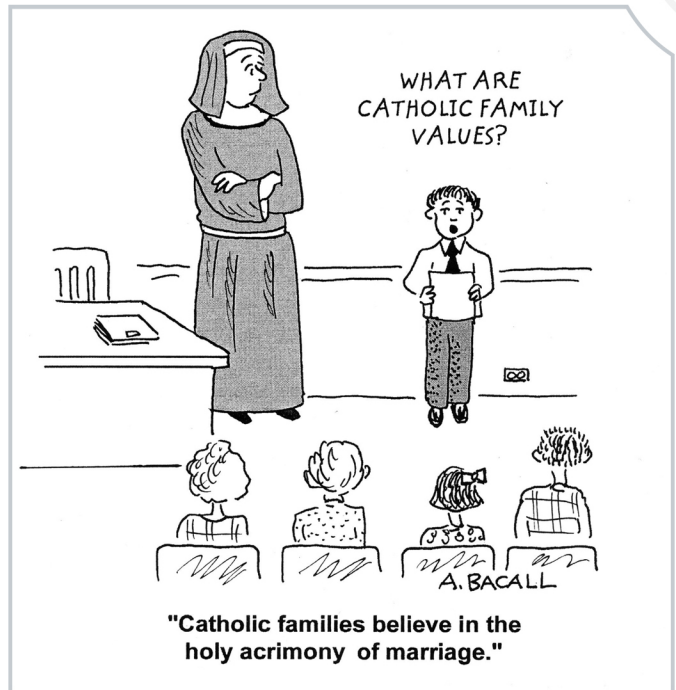
~ Pope Benedict XVI

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Our challenge this month is to fill both our environments and our relationships with Easter joy and serenity. The world is negative and harsh. People feel the anxieties that inhabit a world out of synch with its Creator. Challenge yourself to be a positive influence on someone this month, especially someone who is suffering a personal misfortune or loss.

CALENDAR OF FAITH | April

APR 1 Mon		St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
APR 4 Thu		St. Isidore of Seville, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
APR 5 Fri		St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
APR 7 Sun		St. John Baptist de la Salle, Priest
APR 7 Sun		St. Frances of Rome, Religious
APR 8 Mon		Feast of the ANNUNCIATION of the Lord
APR 21 Sun		St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
APR 25 Thu		St. Mark, Evangelist
APR 28 Sun		St. Louis Marie de Montfort, Priest; St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr
APR 29 Mon		St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
APR 30 Tue		St. Pius V, Pope



FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



The Easter Duty

In order to emphasize that the Eucharist is the most important institution and reality of our faith, the Catholic Church actually *requires* the faithful to receive Communion during the Easter Season.

This practice is called the “Easter Duty” and is considered one of the five precepts of the Church: *You shall humbly receive your creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.* (Catechism, 1389, 2041–2043, and canon 920.)

In an age where people receive the Eucharist frequently, this may not seem like a “duty” at all, but it is connected with another equally important precept: *You shall confess your sins at least once a year.* Thus, every year, the Church reminds each of us to keep our spiritual priorities in the proper order.

CATECHISM CONNECTION



1389 The Church obliges the faithful to take part in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and feast days and, prepared by the sacrament of Reconciliation, to receive the Eucharist at least once a year, if possible during the Easter season.

But the Church strongly encourages the faithful to receive the holy Eucharist on Sundays and feast days, or more often still, even daily.

BIBLE BASICS



Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Praying with the National Eucharistic Revival

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
 Body of Christ, save me;
 Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
 Water from Christ's side, wash me;
 Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
 O good Jesus, hear me;
 Within Thy wounds, hide me;
 Suffer me not to be separated from Thee;
 From the malicious enemy, defend me;
 In the hour of my death, call me;
 And bid me come unto Thee;
 That I may praise Thee with Thy saints
 And with Thy angels, forever and ever. **Amen.**

[Prayers concerning the Eucharist can be found on the Official Prayers in the Pew Eucharistic Revival Edition Prayer Card.]

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