

# PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

## FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

WEDNESDAY OCT 2	Feast of the Guardian Angels
SATURDAY OCT 19	North American Martyrs, Priests and Martyrs
THURSDAY OCT 31	Vigil of the Solemnity of All Saints

*Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™*

### → MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

*October 2024 – October is dedicated to the Rosary, the Church's most popular and powerful devotional prayer. We must always remember that the Rosary is a calm, repetitive prayer that seeks to focus our hearts on the mysteries of Christ's Life, Death and Resurrection. "Whenever we say 'Mary,' she says 'Jesus'." (St. Louis Marie de Montfort)*

## THE HOLY ROSARY

Like many devotions in the Church, the Holy Rosary developed through a long, organic process in the life of the Church.

The tradition of praying all 150 psalms was common among monastic orders since at least the time of St. Benedict in the 6th century. However, the uneducated lay brothers usually could not read, so they participated in the prayer by repeating 150 Our Fathers and keeping track of them on a string of beads.

This practice was later replaced by reciting the shorter Hail Mary prayer on the same beads. In the early Middle Ages, the 150 beads were divided into three sets of fifty by the Irish missionaries who used the prayer beads for evangelization. This is the traditional form of the Rosary as we know it.

A strong tradition from the Dominicans testifies that St. Dominic in the 12th century had received the Holy Rosary directly from the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary and then propagated the devotion through the Dominican order.

It is more likely, however, that another religious order had a greater role in establishing the Rosary. In the early 1400s, Dominic of Prussia, a Carthusian monk, began linking the 150 prayers with little phrases that reflected the lives of Jesus and Mary. This practice began the tradition of meditating on these precious truths which were termed "mysteries". This monk

was also the one who used the word rosarium (little rose garden) to describe the practice.

The traditional Rosary includes three sets of mysteries—the Joyful, the Sorrowful, and the Glorious—with five mysteries in each set. These give us a full view of the Birth, Death and Resurrection of Christ, the essence of everything we believe.

In 2002 Pope John Paul II issued the Encyclical Letter, *Rosarium Virginis*, in which he added another set of mysteries to the Rosary, the Luminous Mysteries (also called the Mysteries of Light). These mysteries cause us to reflect on scenes from Christ's public ministry that are not found in any of the other mysteries.

Devotees of the Rosary may pray the traditional Rosary alone (15 mysteries) or with the Luminous Mysteries added to it (20 mysteries total).

### BIBLE BASICS



**Judith 14:7** Blessed are you in every tent of Judah! In every nation, all who hear your name will be struck with holy fear.

**Luke 1:41-44** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'

## SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

During October, our challenge is to deepen our love for Our Lady through the Rosary or some other Marian devotion. What matters most with Mary is not the quantity of prayers but the quality. Even a decade of the Rosary offered with devotion is better than multiplying prayers just to pray. Challenge yourself this month to slow down and prayerfully focus your heart on Christ, with Mary.

## CALENDAR OF FAITH | October

OCT 1 Tue	St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor
OCT 2 Wed	Feast of the Guardian Angels
OCT 5 Sat	Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest
OCT 6 Sun	Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, Virgin
OCT 7 Mon	Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
OCT 9 Wed	Sts. Denis and companions, Bishop and Martyrs
OCT 14 Mon	St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr
OCT 15 Tue	St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor
OCT 16 Wed	St. Margaret Mary Alcoque, Virgin
OCT 17 Thu	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr
OCT 19 Sat	Sts. John de Brébuf and Isaac Jogues and companions (the North American Martyrs), Priests and Martyrs
OCT 20 Sun	St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
OCT 22 Tue	St. John Paul II, Pope
OCT 23 Wed	St. John of Capistrano, Priest
OCT 24 Thu	St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
OCT 29 Tue	Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
OCT 31 Thu	Vigil of the Solemnity of All Saints

## CATECHISM CONNECTION



**2677** Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death: By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the “Mother of Mercy,” the All-Holy One. We give ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. And our trust broadens further, already at the present moment, to surrender “the hour of our death” wholly to her care. May she be there as she was at her son’s death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise.



## THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



“There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.

~ *Sister Lucia dos Santos, seer of Fatima*

“Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential. Prayer shakes the Heart of God, it obtains necessary graces!”

~ *St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina*

## FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



### The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

According to our Catechism, the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit are interior perfections, not of human talents or intelligence, but of character and spirit. Human perfections must be developed through hard work, but spiritual perfections are the result (that is, the fruit) of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

The fruits of God’s Spirit are wholly good and have nothing evil in them because they are produced by the divine Tree of Life. The only thing that destroys the Spirit’s fruit is the corruption of sin. The Apostle Paul lists nine fruits of the Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians (Gal. 5:22-23).

Love | Joy | Peace | Patience | Kindness | Generosity  
Faithfulness | Gentleness | Self-control

Since fruit is always the product of some vital source (like a tree), we don’t actually pray for the fruits of the Spirit themselves. We pray for the Holy Spirit, the “Lord and giver of life”, who produces them in us. Asking the Lord to send you His Spirit is a prayer the Father always answers (Luke 11:13).

### Back to Basics Featured Prayer

## Holy Spirit Prayer

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Sent forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit, we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(This prayer is taken from the Prayers in the Pew Church Edition Prayer Card. Please refer to our website [SitStandKneel.com](http://SitStandKneel.com) for the online version of this newsletter and all our prayer cards.)