

# PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

## FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

FRI JULY 4	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
SAT JULY 22	St. Mary Magdalene
WED JULY 26	Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary

*Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™*

### → MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

*July 2023 – July is the month where we celebrate our independence as a nation. We should also remember that Christ gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we could become sons and daughters of God. We know that “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17). Our reflections this month are intended to remind us that the Holy Spirit is the source of all good things in our lives and in our families.*

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Pope Paul VI reminded the Church that “vocations are the fruit of communities united in prayer.” This insight highlights different aspects of the journey of a religious vocation.

First, young persons themselves must pray fervently to know God’s will for their lives, whether that involves a choice between a religious calling, on the one hand, or marriage on the other. Both vocations are equally beautiful and both are consecrated to the service of God and His Church in various ways.

This is where the Church plays a vital role: “Vocations are the fruit of communities united in prayer.” Individuals may misinterpret the call of the Lord for their lives, or they may miss their callings due to temptations, worldly attractions, personal mistakes, and other factors. For that reason, the prayer support of the Church, “communities united in prayer”, is essential to vocational discernment.

All Catholics should take to heart the duty to pray for vocations on a regular basis and do our part to encourage young men and women to consider that the Lord might be calling them to a life of total dedication to the work of the Kingdom. As the Lord Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee so many centuries ago and called some fishermen to become “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19), so He continues to call men and women to His service in our modern day and age.

Yet, because there are so many distractions in the 21st century, it’s easy for His voice to get lost in the noise. For that reason, the Church’s Prayer for Vocations is more essential than ever!

### A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ the Eternal High Priest in sacrificial service to Your Church.*

*Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity, and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayer and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to Your call. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.***

### BIBLE BASICS



**John 20:21-23** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

**Romans 8:11** If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month, I challenge you to take another person’s need into your prayers and pray for them fervently. Second, I challenge you to pray for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit so that you may unite yourself more deeply to the Church and to Christ’s Eucharistic Mystery.

*- CA State Chaplain, Father Raymund M. Reyes*



### 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. They are literally the life of God within us, the fulfillment of Jesus’ desire that we “be perfect” as our heavenly Father is perfect (Mathew 5:48).

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 of 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 twelve of them in his Letter to the Galatians (Galatians 5:22-23), but more recent Catholic translations list only nine based on more reliable early manuscripts. Here is the list from our *New American Bible*:

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

One final word: since fruits are always the products of some vital source (like a tree), we don’t actually pray for the fruits 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).

## – FAITH IN ACTION –

FEATURED PROGRAM

### REFUND SUPPORT FOR VOCATIONS PROGRAM (RSVP)

Our local Knights of Columbus council keeps the faith alive by providing moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. Through its Refund Support for Vocations Program (RSVP), council and parish families raise funds to support men and women in religious formation in their area. The Supreme Council refunds a portion of the proceeds to the local council. Though financial support is vitally important, councils and parishes are also called to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious with moral support and prayers for their success.

## CALENDAR OF FAITH | JULY

JUL 1 Sat		St. Junipero Serra, Priest
JUL 3 Mon		St. Thomas, Apostle
JUL 6 Thu		St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
JUL 9 Sun		St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions, Martyrs of China
JUL 11 Tue		St. Benedict, Abbot
JUL 14 Fri		St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
JUL 15 Sat		St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor
JUL 16 Sun		Our Lady of Mount Carmel
JUL 22 Sat		St. Mary Magdalene
JUL 23 Sun		St. Bridget, Religious
JUL 24 Mon		St. Sharbel Makhluf, Hermit
JUL 25 Tue		St. James, Apostle
JUL 26 Wed		Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Virgin Mary
JUL 29 Sat		St. Martha
JUL 30 Sun		St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor
JUL 31 Mon		St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

## — THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS —



“The Holy Spirit leads us like a mother. He leads His child by the hand... as a sighted person leads a blind person.” ~ St. John Vianney

“As the soul is the life of the body, so the Holy Spirit is the life of our souls.” ~ St. Peter Damian

“Those whose hearts are pure are temples of the Holy Spirit.” ~ St. Lucy

## — CATECHISM CONNECTION —



**852** “The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of the whole of the Church’s mission... This mission continues and, in the course of history, unfolds the mission of Christ, who was sent to evangelize the poor; so the Church, urged on by the Spirit of Christ, must walk the road Christ himself walked, a way of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice even to death, a death from which he emerged victorious by his resurrection.”

**1832** The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory.

### ..... Eucharistic Revival Supplement .....

During the time of our National Eucharistic Revival, we are providing a one-page Eucharistic Revival Supplement as a companion to this Newsletter. To download, please visit the SitStandKneel.com website.