

PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

SUN JUNE 4	TRINITY SUNDAY
SUN JUNE 11	CORPUS CHRISTI (BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST)
THU JUNE 22	St. John Fisher, Bishop & St. Thomas More, Martyrs

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

June 2023 – This month is incredibly rich with spiritual significance. Above all, we celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) in which we commemorate the sacrificial offering that Christ made on the Cross for our sins. His Body and Blood are the source of the sacramental life of the Church. All the faithful are encouraged to participate in a Novena of prayer prior to this great feast (please visit 9daysofprayer.com to download the Novena).

THE SERENITY PRAYER

The Serenity Prayer is not strictly biblical, but it is certainly one of the most beloved prayers in existence today. It stands as a monument to the central gift of Christ to His followers, the gift of interior peace (serenity, Jn 14:27). This short but 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 help us maintain a peaceful demeanor on a daily basis better than the wonderful Serenity Prayer. This short, simple, 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 that are under 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 changes 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!

BIBLE BASICS



John 6:34-35 So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

Philippians 4:8 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.

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month I challenge you to place the highest possible priority on developing a Eucharist-centered spirituality. This may take the form of visiting Him directly in your parish's adoration chapel, or attending a daily Mass, or just making a visit to a Catholic church to pray. A Eucharist-centered spirituality is the spirituality of the Church itself.

- CA State Chaplain, Father John P. Grace, OSA



The Spiritual Works of Mercy

Relieving human suffering through the Corporal Works of Mercy is extremely important. However, Catholics are not only concerned about people's bodily needs but about their deeper spiritual needs as well. Catholicism's core mission is the salvation of souls.

By means of the Spiritual Works of Mercy, we directly participate in the Church's mission of saving souls. They are called acts of mercy because they are the means by which we help our neighbor get to heaven, the greatest form of mercy we can give to others.

These are the Church's seven Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. To admonish the sinner.
2. To instruct the ignorant.
3. To counsel the doubtful.
4. To comfort the sorrowful.
5. To bear wrongs patiently.
6. To forgive all injuries.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

Just as we must not ignore our neighbor's bodily suffering, so too we must not ignore his spiritual deprivation and need for salvation.

— FAITH IN ACTION —

FEATURED PROGRAM

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Knights of Columbus councils work closely with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit Christian organization, to build homes for families in need at substantially reduced costs. Each year, councils throughout the Order donate a considerable number of volunteer hours and dollars to this worthy cause. If you would like to assist the Knights in this worthy endeavor, please contact your local council.



CALENDAR OF FAITH | JUNE

JUN 1 <i>Thu</i>		St. Justin, Martyr
JUN 2 <i>Fri</i>		Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs
JUN 3 <i>Sat</i>		St. Charles Lwanga, Companions, Martyrs
JUN 4 <i>Sun</i>		TRINITY SUNDAY
JUN 5 <i>Mon</i>		St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
JUN 6 <i>Tue</i>		St. Norbert, Bishop
JUN 9 <i>Fri</i>		St. Ephrem, Deacon, Doctor of the Church
JUN 10 <i>Sat</i>		Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
JUN 11 <i>Sun</i>		St. Barnabas, Apostle
JUN 11 <i>Sun</i>		CORPUS CHRISTI (BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST)
JUN 13 <i>Tue</i>		St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church
JUN 16 <i>Fri</i>		SACRED HEART OF JESUS
JUN 17 <i>Sat</i>		IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY
JUN 21 <i>Wed</i>		St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious
JUN 22 <i>Thu</i>		St. John Fisher, Bishop and St. Thomas More, Martyrs
JUN 24 <i>Sat</i>		BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
JUN 27 <i>Tue</i>		St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
JUN 28 <i>Wed</i>		St. Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr
JUN 29 <i>Thu</i>		STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES
JUN 30 <i>Fri</i>		First Martyrs of Rome

— THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS —



"Even if we have thousands of acts of great virtue to our credit, our confidence in being heard must be based on God's mercy and His love for men. Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved."

~ St. John Chrysostom

"I forgive Alessandro Serenelli ... and I want him to be with me in heaven forever."

~ St. Maria Goretti, pardoning her killer before she died

— CATECHISM CONNECTION —



1888 It is necessary, then, to appeal to the spiritual and moral capacities of the human person and to the permanent need for his inner conversion, so as to obtain social changes that will really serve him.

2447 The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently.