

# PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

## FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY <b>SEP 15</b>	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
SATURDAY <b>SEP 16</b>	Cornelius and Cyprian, Martyrs
THURSDAY <b>SEP 28</b>	Sts. Lorenzo Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs

*Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™*

### → MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

*September 2023 – The month of September is full of magnificent feast days of saints. So let us, like them, make every attempt to be faithful to our Eucharistic devotions and to be mindful of the sick and underprivileged in our midst. It's not politicians who make the greatest contributions to culture – it's people who strive to be saints!*

## THE DIVINE PRAISES

Blasphemy is prohibited by the Second Commandment: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain". That commandment goes on to add, "For the Lord will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

In response to the increase in blasphemy in his day (end of the 1700s), an Italian Jesuit named Luigi Felici wrote

the litany we now know as "The Divine Praises." His original version consisted only of eight short phrases in praise of the Holy Trinity and the saints and angels, but subsequent popes added phrases to fill out the list.

Now, fourteen praises comprise this magnificent devotional prayer of the Church. The number fourteen has a biblical character to it – twice the perfect number seven. Soon after Fr. Felici composed them, the Divine Praises became a standard element of the Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction service.



The Church always counters the devil's blasphemies with blessings. This is why each of the divine praises begins with the words, "Blessed be..." In other words, the faithful express our praises as a wish *that God will be blessed* by all people at all times and that this praise may touch all of creation and be brought to fruition through our prayers.

Here are the fourteen Divine Praises that we may pray at any time:

- Blessed be God.*
- Blessed be his Holy Name.*
- Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.*
- Blessed be the name of Jesus.*
- Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart.*
- Blessed be his Most Precious Blood.*
- Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar.*
- Blessed be the Holy Spirit the Paraclete.*
- Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary Most Holy.*
- Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.*
- Blessed be her glorious Assumption.*
- Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.*
- Blessed be St Joseph, her most chaste spouse.*
- Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.*
- Amen.**

Note that the subjects of the Divine Praises proceed hierarchically: the Trinity, God the Father, Jesus and His attributes, and the Holy Spirit. Then come the Blessed Virgin Mary with St. Joseph and all the angels and saints finishing the list.

There are also two Marian doctrines in this list which appear in chronological order: the Immaculate Conception (decreed by Pope Pius IX in 1854) and Our Lady's Assumption (by Pope Pius XII in 1950). Like all things Catholic, there are good reasons for everything we believe and practice!

## SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month, let us challenge ourselves to exercise daily vigilance through the time-tested practice of a simple examination of conscience at the end of each day before going to bed. Also, during this year of Eucharistic Renewal, try to spend some time in silent prayer at church or in Eucharistic Adoration as you are able. Even a ten minute visit before the Lord is of immense value!

BIBLE BASICS



Isaiah 6:2-4 Seraphim were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they hovered. One cried out to the other: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!' At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke.

THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."  
~ St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"Live in faith and hope, though it be in darkness, for in this darkness God protects the soul. Cast your care upon God for you are His and He will not forget you. Do not think that He is leaving you alone, for that would be to wrong Him."  
~ St. John of The Cross

CATECHISM CONNECTION



2096 Adoration is the first act of the virtue of religion. To adore God is to acknowledge him as God, as the Creator and Savior, the Lord and Master of everything that exists, as infinite and merciful Love. 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve,' says Jesus, citing *Deuteronomy*.

FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



Worship and Veneration

The *Catechism* tells us that man owes worship to God as a sacred duty (CCC, 2095), and in obedience to the First Commandment (Ex 20:5, Lk 4:8), we worship God alone! The Catholic liturgies, especially the Eucharist, are the primary and public acts of divine worship.

Yet, Catholics are falsely accused of worshipping Mary, the saints, and angels because we pray to them. But our relationship with the holy ones of God is *not worship or idolatry*. It is veneration – love, esteem, respect, and friendship.

We recognize that God has given the saints and angels special influence in heaven, and from their place in glory, they show concern for our welfare. Christ shares His intercessory power with them and allows them to be spiritual intermediaries for our benefit. We can have recourse to them for all of our needs, both material and spiritual.

Veneration of the saints increases our friendship with the holy ones; they, in turn, strengthen our own connection to God through their intercession for us.

CALENDAR OF FAITH | September

SEP 3 Sun	St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor
SEP 8 Fri	Feast of the Birth of Mary
SEP 9 Sat	St. Peter Claver, Priest
SEP 12 Tue	Feast of the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary
SEP 14 Thu	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
SEP 15 Fri	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
SEP 16 Sat	Sts. Cornelius, Pope and Martyr, and Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr
SEP 17 Sun	St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor
SEP 19 Tue	St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
SEP 21 Thu	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
SEP 23 Sat	St. Padre Pio, Priest
SEP 26 Tue	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
SEP 27 Wed	St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor
SEP 28 Thu	Sts. Lorenzo Ruiz et al., Martyrs
SEP 29 Fri	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
SEP 30 Sat	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor

..... Year of Parish Revival .....

The US Catholic Bishops have declared 2023-2024 as the *Year of Parish Revival* in preparation for the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis (July 17-21, 2024). Please see the Bishops' Eucharistic Revival's website for more information: [EucharisticRevival.org](http://EucharisticRevival.org)

# Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to stay with us always, until the end of the age.

Reawaken our wonder at His presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. May our hearts burn within us as He opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread.

Give us the eyes of faith to recognize His presence in our brothers and sisters, especially in the face of the poor and the suffering.

Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Composed by  
Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles*