

PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY AUG 4	St. John Vianney, Priest
MONDAY AUG 14	St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
TUESDAY AUG 29	The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

August 2023 – In August, the Church remembers and celebrates the great mystery of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was sinless from the first moment of her conception and after her death was taken up by Christ – body and soul – to reign with Him in heaven. Let us live this month in prayer and devotion to Mother Mary, our Queen, and in union with the extraordinary number of saints whose feasts surround her this month.

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Sacraments are tangible signs instituted by Christ to give grace. The Catholic Church recognizes seven sacraments and divides them into three categories:

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism – Removes Original Sin; infuses sanctifying grace into the soul; makes us members of the Church; gives us Faith, Hope, and Love; establishes our relationship with God the Father.

Eucharist – The greatest of all the sacraments; the source and summit of our life; a true re-enactment of Christ's sacrifice at Calvary; the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ; establishes our relationship with God the Son.

Confirmation – Increases the graces given at Baptism; anoints us to be soldiers of Christ for the Christian mission in the world; establishes our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Sacraments of Healing

Penance – Christ liberated people from sin and gave the power of forgiving sins to His Church (John 20:23). This sacrament's four essential elements are Contrition, Confession, Absolution by a priest, and Satisfaction (performing a penance).

Anointing of the Sick – Christ sent His apostles to anoint

the sick with oil (Mark 6:13) and the ordained leaders of the Church the power to anoint the sick (James 5:14) for healing of body and soul.

Sacraments at the Service of Communion

Matrimony – A baptized man and woman are joined in an unbreakable, permanent union through their wedding vows. The couple symbolizes the love of the Bridegroom (Christ) for His Bride (the Church) and anticipates the marriage banquet of Heaven.

Holy Orders – A baptized man with a calling from God receives a share in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ through ordination. The three degrees of this sacrament are bishop, priest and deacon. The Church's ordained ministers carry out the three-fold ministry of word, sacrament, and service.



SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

This month, let us challenge ourselves to arrive early to Mass and spend time recollecting our souls in preparation for the reception of Word and Sacrament during the liturgy. Secondly, instead of rushing out of the church after Mass, let us spend five extra minutes giving thanks to the Lord so that we may reap the interior fruits of the divine Gift we have just received.

BIBLE BASICS



Matthew 28:19-20 "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

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.'"

THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"The devotion to the Eucharist is the most noble, because it has God as its object; it is the most profitable for salvation, because it gives us the Author of Grace; it is the sweetest, because the Lord is Sweetness Itself."

~ Pope St. Pius X

"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now."

~ St Teresa of Calcutta

"The spiritual virtue of a sacrament is like light; although it passes among the impure, it is not polluted."

~ St. Augustine of Hippo

CATECHISM CONNECTION



1116 "Sacraments are 'powers that comes forth' from the Body of Christ, which is ever-living and life-giving. They are actions of the Holy Spirit at work in his Body, the Church. They are 'the masterworks of God' in the new and everlasting covenant."

1131 "The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions."

..... **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 EucharisticRevival.org for more information.

CALENDAR OF FAITH | August

- AUG 1 Tue | St. Alphonsus Liguori, Priest and Doctor
- AUG 4 Fri | St. John Marie Vianney, Priest
- AUG 5 Sat | Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
- AUG 6 Sun | Feast of the Transfiguration
- AUG 8 Tue | St. Dominic, Priest
- AUG 10 Thu | St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
- AUG 11 Fri | St. Clare, Virgin
- AUG 12 Sat | St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
- AUG 13 Sun | Sts. Pontian, Pope and Martyr, and Hippolytus, Priest and Martyr
- AUG 13 Sun | Bl. Michael J. McGivney, Priest and Founder, Knights of Columbus
- AUG 14 Mon | St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
- AUG 15 Tue | The Assumption of Mary
- AUG 19 Sat | St. John Eudes, Priest
- AUG 20 Sun | St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot and Doctor
- AUG 21 Mon | St. Pius X, Pope
- AUG 22 Tue | The Queenship of Mary
- AUG 24 Thu | St. Bartholomew, Apostle
- AUG 25 Fri | St. Louis, Confessor
- AUG 27 Sun | St. Monica, Widow
- AUG 28 Mon | St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor
- AUG 29 Tue | The Beheading of St. John the Baptist

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*