

OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



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October Dates to Remember

- Oct. 1: Respect Life Sunday
- Oct. 2: Feast of the Guardian Angels
- Oct. 3: Feast of St. Therese
- Oct. 4: Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
- Oct. 5: Feast of St. Faustina
- Oct. 6: First Friday
- Oct. 7: First Saturday, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
- Oct. 17: Feast of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
- Oct. 22: Feast of Pope St. John Paul II
- Oct. 26: Rel. Ed. Class 2
- Oct. 28: Feast of St. Jude
- Oct. 29: Feast of the Kingship of Our Lord
- Oct. 31: All Hallows' Eve

With God, there is no such thing as a coincidence! Everything is divinely planned, designed perfectly. The liturgical calendar is an example of this. It is perfect that in October, the month of the Holy Rosary, we should also celebrate the feast day of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the saint of the Sacred Heart. In this beautiful season of autumn, we see the leaves that fall from the trees aflame with brilliant color, just as Jesus' Sacred Heart is afire with love for us.

The Rosary itself is a perfectly designed prayer, one that helps us to better honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As we begin the Rosary, we make the Sign of the Cross, remembering that we offer our prayers in honor of Jesus. Kissing the crucifix on the rosary, we are reminded that the source of all love is God, and that we offer our hearts to the suffering servant, Christ Himself, making reparations to His Sacred Heart through our acts of love for God. Every "Our Father" on the rosary's largest beads remind us of God's Providence, that in the bread He gives for our bodies and souls, we are filled. Each "Hail Mary" on the smaller beads turns our hearts and minds to calling on our Mother, Mary, Who guides us to Jesus, showing us how we can stand by the Cross as faithfully as She did. The "Glory Be" and "Fatima" prayers remind us to look to the Blessed Trinity as an example of harmony, of how we should treat others with love, and help lead others to Heaven through a shared focus on God.

And, of course, the "Hail Holy Queen" prayer, the jewel in the crown of the Rosary prayers, brings us to the Queen of Heaven again, Who invites us to pray the Rosary so that we may meet Her in Heaven one day. Like St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who rested her head on Jesus' Heart, Mother Mary calls us to hear Jesus' heart beating in each person, made in His image. She calls us to love with a heart like Jesus', a heart of love, so much like Hers as well. When we hold a rosary in our hands, we can see how it is shaped like a heart. Our hearts are crowned in Heaven with God's love. As we shine God's love on Earth, we prepare to shine forever in Heaven.

In Him through Her,

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Prayer: Our Lady of the Rosary

"My dearest Mother Mary, behold me, your child, in prayer at your feet. Accept this Holy Rosary, which I offer you in accordance with your requests at Fatima, as a proof of my tender love for you, for the intentions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in atonement for the offenses committed against your Immaculate Heart, and for this special favor which I earnestly request in my Rosary Novena: [state intention here].

I beg you to present my petition to your Divine Son. If you will pray for me, I cannot be refused. I know, dearest Mother, that you want me to seek God's holy Will concerning my request. If what I ask for should not be granted, pray that I may receive that which will be of greater benefit to my soul.

I offer you this spiritual Bouquet of Roses because I love you. I put all my confidence in you, since your prayers before God are most powerful. For the greater glory of God and for the sake of Jesus, your loving Son, hear and grant my prayer. Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation." - EWTN



Song of the Month:
"O Sacred Heart O
Love Divine"

Scripture Spotlight:
"Trust in the Lord with
all your heart."
(Proverbs 3:5)



Saint Spotlight: St. Therese

St. Therese's feast day is celebrated on October 3 in the traditional calendar, and on October 1 in the new calendar. Mother Mary is the Mystical Rose, a beautiful flower emitting a holy fragrance. St. Therese, who modeled herself after the Blessed Mother in her faith, hope, and love, is the Little Flower. St. Therese's full title was "Therese of the Child Jesus." Her special devotion to the Child Jesus meant that she made herself like a child before God, humble and gentle in her love for Him. As a child, St. Therese had big plans for her life. She knew she wanted to do something special to honor Jesus, and dreamed of traveling the world as a missionary. God had something even more special in mind for St. Therese, though. He showed her that she could make a difference right where she was, without having to travel, and that as long as she let her love for God grow, she could bloom where she was planted, helping others to grow in their faith, too. Gaining permission from the pope to become a nun at a very young age, St. Therese offered all prayer and work, even the smallest of tasks, to God with love. She prayed and did good deeds to help other souls, and continues to do so in Heaven. When she answers a person's prayers, it is said that one can smell the sweet scent of roses. St. Therese's heavenly presence can be felt in how she responds to faithful followers of Christ, even now, with love, helping to lead us to Heaven through her example, so that we, too, may become saints just like her.