

OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



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Marching throughout the church year is the steady beat of Christ's Heart, to which all melodies are attuned. We hear the voice of Jesus through the year, in seasons of dying and rising. Harmonizing with this song is Our Lady, who accords her will with the will of God. In March, we hear the sweet sound of Our Lady's "fiat": her "yes" to God. March 25 marks 9 months to Christmas, the start of Our Lady's maternity, when she was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, and Christ was conceived in her womb. It is the Feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord, when the angel Gabriel came to reveal to Mary that God had chosen her to be the Mother of His only Son, Jesus. Our Lady was amazed, in disbelief that she had been specially chosen by God for this enormous role in salvation history. Although the prospect of being the Mother of God would seem daunting, Our Lady embraced God's plan, her love overcoming any fear or concern she may have felt. Ultimately, Our Lady is a woman of faith. Faith transcends anxiety, as we fully place our trust in God, living with hope that He will work out all things for our good, no matter how desperate times may appear to be. Knowing our God is a good, loving God, there is no need to fear: only to have hope, joy in expecting that He will help us to become our best selves, the people He intended us to be, through the crosses and the consolations both. Our Lady would experience sorrows, but they would lead to glory. On our journey to Heaven, we are given insights into God's beautiful vision. We increasingly come to see our souls more like He does; as we detach ourselves from sin and open ourselves to receiving God's grace, the Holy Spirit works in our souls, transforming us from the inside, so that we can more fully live in God's image, and grow into the masterpieces He created us to be. Our Lady is the Bride of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwelt in her soul in a special way, and as we say "yes" to God's plan for us, with her same spirit of faith, hope, and love, we make our souls places where the Holy Spirit may more fully dwell, and work to transform us. We can become more like Our Lady in virtue and grace. Like Our Lady, may we hear what God is speaking into our hearts with openness, the will to do His will! Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

Deo gratias,

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March Dates to Remember

- March 1: First Saturday
- March 2: Quinquagesima Sunday
- March 3: Feast of St. Katharine Drexel
- March 4: Feast of St. Casimir; Shrove Tuesday
- March 5: Ash Wednesday
- March 6: OLV Religious Education Class, 6:00 p.m., parish hall
- March 7: First Friday; Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas
- March 9: First Sunday of Lent; Feast of St. Frances of Rome
- March 12, 14, 15: Spring Ember Days
- March 13: OLV Religious Education Class snow date
- March 16: Second Sunday of Lent
- March 17: Feast of St. Patrick; Feast of St. Joseph of Arimathea
- March 19: Feast of St. Joseph
- March 21: Feast of St. Benedict
- March 23: Third Sunday of Lent
- March 24: Feast of St. Catherine of Sweden
- March 25: Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord; Feast of St. Dismas
- March 30: Fourth Sunday of Lent



Marian Chant of the Season:
Ave Regina Caelorum

Chaplet Spotlight: **Josephian
Rosary or Chaplet of St.
Joseph**

Other recommended chaplets:

- **Chaplet of the Holy
Face**
- **Chaplet of St.
Patrick**
- **Sorrowful Mysteries
of the Rosary**



Traditional Austrian Harvest Prayer to Our Lady of the Annunciation

O Mary, Mother, we pray to you;
Your life today with fruit was blessed:
Give us the happy promise, too,
That our harvest will be of the best.
If you protect and bless the field,
A hundredfold each grain must yield.

Saint Spotlight: St. Joseph

St. Joseph, the husband of Our Lady, experienced his own Annunciation. He learned of God's plan for him to be the adopted father of Jesus, His earthly guardian, and protector of the Holy Family. A faithful man, St. Joseph was like Our Lady in following God. In the Bible, the spoken words of St. Joseph are not quoted. However, the stories of the Bible reveal St. Joseph's strength: listening. When God gave St. Joseph messages in dreams and visions, St. Joseph honored what God was calling him to do. In taking decisive action to protect his family, rather than questioning God, St. Joseph showed true wisdom, because he looked to God as the Source of all wisdom. St. Joseph was guided by his love of God, which allowed him to love his family well. Known as the "savior of the Savior," St. Joseph ensured that Jesus was safe, leading his family away from danger. For this reason, St. Joseph occupies a special place in Heaven, where he brings petitions of prayer to Christ. Our Lord listens well to St. Joseph, since St. Joseph was His foster father on Earth, to whom He was obedient as a child. When we bring our prayers to St. Joseph, we can be assured of the fact that he will listen, caring for us with fatherly tenderness. Having been a carpenter, St. Joseph was a skilled tradesman. He knew how to craft things with loving care to help other people, all for God's glory. Asking for St. Joseph's intercession, we can have hope that St. Joseph will assist us in our life circumstances, guiding our hands to bring forth beauty, purpose, and meaning from these situations, all through the grace of God. St. Joseph's fortitude emerges from his humility and gentleness, godly qualities that endeared him to the Christ Child, and to us. In sacred art, we often see St. Joseph depicted with lilies, a symbol of purity. Lilies are also associated with Easter, resembling angelic trumpets used to sound the good news of Christ rising from the dead. St. Joseph's Chaste Heart mirrors the purity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We are kept on the path to Heaven when we place our trust in the Three Hearts, which steadily beat in sync, out of love. They help us to join in this symphony, to follow the sacred sound of God's voice to Heaven. May we always praise the good works of God, serving as His earthly messengers, just as the angels brought God's news to St. Joseph and Mother Mary.