

PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY JULY 1	St. Junipero Serra, Priest
MONDAY JULY 11	St. Benedict, Abbot
SUNDAY JULY 31	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

July 2022 – July is the month dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, and we find an echo of this devotion in the Divine Praises reflection. In the midst of the summer season, let us strive to develop virtue and cultivate a sense of prayer in all we do. Hopefully this month's reflections will strengthen you to enter more deeply into the sacramental and worship life of the Church.

THE DIVINE PRAISES

The atheistic French Revolution in the 1790s unleashed the terrible practice of cursing by taking God's Name in vain. This practice overflowed into the rest of Europe. 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, 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.

Could future popes add more praises to the list? Of course! Yet, 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary and her attributes, with St. Joseph and all the angels and saints finishing the list. There are also two Marian doctrines in this list which occur in chronological order.

Not surprisingly, the corresponding praises were added by the popes who promulgated the doctrines: 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

Striving for virtue is something no one can do for us. It is a very personal effort, and I challenge each one of us to focus on the Theological Virtues that come to us from the very Heart of God, so that we can be men and women of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Will they know we are Christians by our virtue?

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



Daniel 3:52-53 "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever; and blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages. Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, praiseworthy and glorious above all forever."

Matthew 11:25-26 "At that time Jesus said in reply, 'I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.'"

FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



The Three Theological Virtues

Like most Catholics, you were given a great gift when you were a newborn baby, and you didn't even know it. You were baptized, which laid the foundation of your whole spiritual life and gave you spiritual gifts.

These gifts are Faith, Hope and Charity, the sparks of God's life in our souls that we call the Theological Virtues. In the Rosary we pray those first three beads after the Crucifix just to ask for the Theological Virtues.

The first Theological Virtue – Faith – is simply the mind's ability to know the truth as God has revealed it to us. In a society that is filled with powerful lies, propaganda, and distortions of reality, the ability to know and embrace the truth is a great virtue indeed.

The second Theological Virtue, Hope, is the ability to persevere through hardships and to keep our eyes fixed on heaven. Hope that gives us an unshaken confidence about reaching the goal of eternal life is often described as an anchor holding the ship firm during a storm.

Third, St. Paul calls Charity (Love) the greatest Theological Virtue. By it, we are able to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbors as ourselves, as Jesus commanded (Matt. 5:35-40).

Best of all, Faith, Hope and Charity reflect the life of the Trinity in us: God the Father (Faith); God the Son (Hope); God the Holy Spirit (Charity). St. Paul calls these virtues the "three things that last" – because they are the very life of God.

THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"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

"Charity is that with which no man is lost, and without which no man is saved." ~ St. Robert Bellarmine

"Charity is certainly greater than any rule. Moreover, all rules must lead to charity." ~ St. Vincent de Paul

CALENDAR OF FAITH | JULY

JULY 1 <i>Fri</i>	St. Junipero Serra, Priest
JULY 3 <i>Sun</i>	St. Thomas, Apostle
JULY 6 <i>Wed</i>	St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
JULY 9 <i>Sat</i>	St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions, Martyrs of China
JULY 11 <i>Mon</i>	St. Benedict, Abbot
JULY 13 <i>Wed</i>	St. Henry, Confessor
JULY 14 <i>Thu</i>	St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
JULY 15 <i>Fri</i>	St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor
JULY 16 <i>Sat</i>	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
JULY 18 <i>Mon</i>	St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
JULY 21 <i>Thu</i>	St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor
JULY 22 <i>Fri</i>	St. Mary Magdalene
JULY 23 <i>Sat</i>	St. Bridget, Religious
JULY 24 <i>Sun</i>	St. Sharbel Makhluf, Hermit
JULY 25 <i>Mon</i>	St. James, Apostle
JULY 29 <i>Fri</i>	St. Martha
JULY 30 <i>Sat</i>	St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor
JULY 31 <i>Sun</i>	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

CATECHISM CONNECTION



1813 The theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity; they animate it and give it its special character. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues. They are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life. They are the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the faculties of the human being. There are three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity.

– FAITH IN ACTION –

FEATURED PROGRAM

REFUND SUPPORT FOR VOCATIONS PROGRAM (RSVP)

Our local Knights of Columbus council keeps the faith alive by supporting our diocesan seminarians and postulants to religious orders. As the strong right arm of the church, the Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. Through its Refund Support for Vocations Program (RSVP), council and parish families raise funds to support men and women in religious formation in their area. The Supreme Council refunds a portion of the proceeds to the local council. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP program. Councils are also called to provide their "adopted" seminarian or religious with moral support and prayers for their success.