

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FORTY-NINTH YEAR VOLUME IV

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MARCH, APRIL 2021

Prayer to St. Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

President's Corner

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph We Love You, Save Souls



It has been several months since we have been together as Avila's, however, I know that we have been of one mind, heart and spirit as we continue to press on in prayer for our priests, seminarians, and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

While reading Father Donald Calloways's book *Consecration to St. Joseph*, I was struck by this quote from Blessed Bartolo Longo, "Pronounce often and with great confidence the names of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Their names bring peace, love, health, blessings, majesty, glory, admiration, joy, happiness, and veneration. Their holy names are a blessing to angels and men, and a terror to demons. Christians should always have the names of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in their hearts and on their lips."

We certainly need all the above and so do our priests. I recently viewed a video of a priest who was pouring out his heart during a homily. Bottom line, he expressed that he felt betrayed, alone in the battle and was ready to give up. It brought me to tears and reaffirmed how important our work of prayer is for our priests. Many other priests may be struggling like this priest is with all that is going on in the Church and in our Country and the World. But as Blessed Bartolo assures us, we can pray with confidence with the names of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in our hearts and on our lips. There is power in Their names and along with that power, according to Pope Leo XIII, two of the greatest spiritual weapons the Church has in her arsenal, is the rosary and St. Joseph.

Quoting the late Father John Hardon, from his book *The Value of Prayer and Sacrifice for Priests...* "No words I can use would be too strong to state that the Catholic priesthood needs prayer and sacrifice as never before since Calvary. One Saint after another has declared that the devil's principal target on earth is the Catholic priest." St. John Vianney has said, "When people want to destroy religion they begin by attacking the priest; for when there is no priest, there is no sacrifice, and when there is no sacrifice, there is no religion."

(continued)

March Avila Mass, Holy Hour, and Luncheon is cancelled.

Dear faithful Avila prayer warriors, we have our marching orders. It is a privilege and duty to be called to the work of prayer for our priests, so let's pick up our weapons and pray more, fast more, and sacrifice more. With the names of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in our hearts and on our lips and the Rosary in our hands, we can pray for our priests with confidence. We can confidently pray for their Protection, for Strength, Holiness, for Fidelity, and Holy Boldness. Pray also for them to have courage to speak and protect the truths of the Catholic faith and to proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord no matter the cost. May God grant our priests all the graces they need to say "Yes" daily. May they be refreshed in body, mind, and spirit and strengthened in Faith and Hope.

Perhaps, along with prayer, we can all make an extra effort to let our priests know how much they are appreciated and that we support them and pray for them daily. As we pray for our priests let us also pray for one another to daily say "yes" to God's will in our lives, that we too will have courage to be faithful to Jesus and that we grow in love and holiness and bring His light, love and hope to those to whom we come in contact. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, We love you, Save Souls.

*Peace in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
Marlyn Tunnell, Avila President*

What is Lent?

"Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism.

Why do we give up things for Lent?

Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan." (source: umc.org) It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. This is when most people ask themselves "What should I give up for Lent?" or when people find themselves asking others... "What are some good things to give up for Lent?"

What is Ash Wednesday?

"The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and calls us to repentance. In the early Church, Ash Wednesday was the day on which those who had sinned, and who wished to be readmitted to the Church, would begin their public penance. Now, the ashes that we receive are a reminder of our own sinfulness, and many people that receive them will leave them on their foreheads all day as a sign of humility. (Source: catholicism.about.com) Fasting is done on Ash Wednesday: we abstain from meat and snacks during these fasting days in the Lenten season. There are certain things that you can eat/not eat during Lent. In fact, no meat on Friday is followed until Lent is finished. You also will try to refrain from what you gave up for Lent.

Things you can do for Lent:

- ◆ Don't buy anything you don't need.
- ◆ Throw away 40 things for 40 days.
- ◆ Forty days of home organization
- ◆ Don't gossip.
- ◆ Work out daily to take care of the body God gave you.
- ◆ Don't eat after dinner.
- ◆ No snacking in between meals or in the evenings
- ◆ Say one nice thing to your spouse and kids daily.
- ◆ Don't eat out for 40 days.
- ◆ Limit screen time (computer, games, TV) and do spiritual reading instead.



**Fr. Al
Sacred Heart Church, Ventura, CA
Vera Casey**

Reeves and Rosemary Cochran

Rosetta Comella

Ann Edwards

Joan Herchl

Pat Hesland

Pat Keating

Regina Lee

Ruth Merriman

Jim, nephew of Ellen Patton

Ed Rollins

Son-in-law of Ellen Newcomb

Patricia Rollins

Great Granddaughter of Ellen Newcomb

William Rutherford

Brother-in-law of Regina Lee

Rosetta Saraniti

Arch Tunnell

David Tunnell

Son of Arch and Marlyn



*May the dear Lord Jesus,
who went about doing good and
healing all, bless all of our Avila
members and their families and friends who
are sick, and let them recover
their health soon. Amen.*



**To family and friends of Avila member
Barbara Kahoun.**

**May the souls of all the faithful departed
rest in peace. Amen.**

**Do not hesitate to contact Joan Evans if
you would like a prayer request sent out
to the Avilas. You can email her at
joanevans1130ad@gmail.com or call her
at 440-331-2383.**

**God Bless,
Susan Federico
Publicity and Scripture Resource**

“There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” *Saint Teresa of Avila*

March 2021

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups
in your Holy Hour this month:

March	7, 2021	Poor Clare Collettine Nuns (PCC)
March	14, 2021	Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration (PCPA)
March	21, 2021	Little Sisters of the Poor (LSP)
March	28, 2021	Sisters of the Precious Blood (CPPS)
April	4, 2021	Society of the Precious Blood (CPPS)

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH



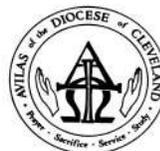
Pope Francis has issued a decree establishing a *Year of St. Joseph* so that “every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God’s will.” He also granted special indulgences to mark the year. In addition to being Patron of the Universal Church, St. Joseph is the Patron of fathers, families, workers, and for a happy death. Very little is said about him in the Bible, yet we can still discover his wonders.

We may not stop to think about the obvious: During his lifetime, St. Joseph learned from Jesus Himself. What better teacher could he have had! And during his time on earth, he also lived with Mary. So many of us have a special devotion to our Blessed Mother. Why not to St. Joseph as well? He is therefore known as the Foster Father of the Son of God, Spouse of the Mother of God, Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, and Head of the Holy Family (from the Litany of St. Joseph). The Litany describes him as “most chaste,” just like the Litany of Loreto describes Mary as “Mother most chaste.”

Our world is filled with immorality; Mary warned St. Jacinta of Fatima that many souls will go to hell because of sins of the flesh. In the battle for purity, we must all turn to him. The world needs men who love their wives as St. Joseph loved Mary. We need the spiritual fatherhood of St. Joseph to protect marriage and family, which are under attack more than ever these days; Servant of God Sr. Lucia dos Santos, the longest living visionary of the Fatima apparitions, wrote, “The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of satan will be about marriage and the family.”

We need the patronage of St. Joseph for the Universal Church more than ever in these days when the Church is in crisis and suffering from scandal, confusion and division. We must turn to him who is most prudent, most courageous, and most faithful.

St. Joseph, pray for us!



“There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” *Saint Teresa of Avila*

April 2021

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups
in your Holy Hour this month:

April	4, 2021	Society of the Precious Blood (CPPS)
April	11, 2021	Sisters of Providence (SP)
April	18, 2021	Religious of the Good Shepherd (RGS)
April	25, 2021	Religious Women and Men of the Diocese of Cleveland
May	2, 2021	Religious Women and Men in Formation

WHAT NOW?

It has been one year since we have been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic, which has cast a cloud over the whole world. We've been isolated in our homes, had groceries and prescriptions delivered, had virtual appointments with our physicians, had surgeries and procedures postponed, worked from home, home schooled our children and watched Mass on TV unable to receive Holy Eucharist. We have mourned friends and relatives who died alone and could not have funerals. Some of us made the best of the time cleaning closets, cooking and baking (and eating) and hopefully expanded our spiritual lives. But what now? What has God wanted us to learn over the past 12 months?

Even though we cannot be physically close, we are all still connected. Every hand we can't shake must become a phone call we make, every inch and every foot of distance we put between ourselves and another must become a thought about how we could help that other should the need arise. Many things have been closed by the virus, but love has not been one of them.

What about our priests? How easy has it been for them to offer Mass without anyone in the pews? Now that our Churches have opened, how easy has it been for them to offer Mass with so few people in the pews than before, socially distant and masked? Like us, they probably can't recognize the faces behind the masks, can't even know who is there? Some priests have contracted the virus, have to isolate themselves and can't do anything to take care of their parishioners. Our commitment as Avilas is to pray for our priests. Step up that commitment by saying more Rosaries for them, having Masses said for them. Write your priests a note of encouragement, thanking them for the sacrifices they have made for us during this difficult time.

**A portion of the hymn *Te Deum* is,
“Every day we bless you, we praise your name forever.”**

**Pope Francis reminds us
“we believe and know that all the good that is done
day by day on earth comes, in the end, from Him.
And looking to the future that awaits us,
we again implore:
‘May Your mercy always be with us, in You we have hoped.’”**