

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA DETROIT ARCHDIOCESAN DIVISION





Fr. John's Journal Fr. John Hedges, Spiritual Director Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima



Year of the Holy Family

On December 10, we celebrated the newly-restored memorial of Our Lady of Loreto, to celebrate and venerate the Holy House of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Pope Francis restored this feast day in order that we may pray for our

families and the sanctification of our homes.

Are there signs of the Kingdom of God in our holy houses? Is there a spirit of prayer in our homes, together with charity, humility, peace, and

forgiveness? Does God's truth reign in our homes through consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the



Chaste Heart of St. Joseph?

Pope Francis has declared the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time the "Feast of God's Word," or "Divine Word Sunday" in order that our families and homes will be established on the firm foundation of God's Word – Jesus Christ. January 26, feast of Sts. Timothy and Titus, co-workers of St. Paul, and the feast of St. Paula, assistant of St. Jerome who is the patron saint of the Scriptures, will be the first

commemoration of "Divine Word Sunday."

In order to prepare for this feast, we will have a novena of Holy



Hours in honor of the Holy Family – the Incarnate Word, the Mother of the Word Incarnate, and the Guardian of the Word made Flesh. This Scriptural Holy Hour will be our preparation to welcome Jesus, Mary and Joseph into our homes to make them "holy

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The relics of the second class are something that had contact with their body (example the Saints clothing). The second class relics that we received, are particles of the original coffins.



January, February, March 2020

houses" in imitation of their Holy House at Nazareth. This novena will begin each day with a reading of the Prologue of St. John's Gospel – "In the beginning was the Word ..." (the "Last Gospel" of the Traditional Latin Mass) with the recitation of the Rosary (the "Scriptures on a chain"). It will include a reading from the Second Epistle of St. Peter, and first Pope and eyewitness of the earthly life of the Word Incarnate Jesus Christ and His Sacred Mission to save us from our sins. The daily novena will conclude with a prayer to St. Joseph, the man chosen by the Eternal Father to be the Father and Guardian of the word Incarnate; and the Church's prayer of the Psalms in the Divine Office.

This new year, 2020 will be the "Year of the Holy Family" and the "Year of the Bible" to sanctify family life and the home. The Sacred Scriptures, solemnly enthroned with the images of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in our houses, will remind us to build our family life on the rock

foundation of Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, still living among us in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In the beautiful prayer, the Memorare, we say, "....I fly unto thee, O virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions...." This prayer will be recited after the Rosary each



day to remind us that the Eternal Word was "conceived" in the Immaculate Heart of Mary before He was conceived in her virginal womb. Mary is the Queen and Mother of our families. In Ireland, Mary has always been venerated as the "Queen of the Hearth" – the Mother who keeps the "home-fires" burning – the fires of divine Faith, Hope and Love – through the recitation of the family Rosary.

St. Joseph must be recognized more and more in our families in 2020. He appeared at Fatima on October 13, 1917, blessing the world with the Infant Jesus. As the

"Guardian of the Word Incarnate" he is the Patriarch and Guardian of our families. Cultivate in this new year a tender and true devotion to St. Joseph through the observance of the "First Wednesdays," the recitation of the Joyful mysteries in his honor, the meditation on his "Seven Joys and Sorrows," and consecration to the Most Chaste Heart of St. Joseph.



The novena to the Holy Family – nine days

of Scriptural prayer and meditation in the Holy Hour – will begin on Saturday, January 18, at St. Stephen Parish, and will solemnly close on the Feast of the divine Word, January 26, 2020 at 2 P.M. This novena for the family and the sanctification of our homes will set the tone for the entire year. Our homes can only be transformed through the power of Scriptural prayer – the Holy Rosary and the Holy Gospels and Psalms – within our families. The Servant of God, Venerable Patrick Peyton who coined the phrase, "the family that prays together, stays together," inspires us to faithful devotion to Jesus, Mary and Joseph through the family Rosary. Our families are fragmented

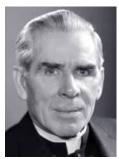
A FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER, STAYS TOGETHER.



and scattered in these times because of the apostasy from God and His Holy Catholic Church. From the Holy Rosary flows the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Wisdom, Fortitude, Courage, Piety, Holy Fear, Understanding, Knowledge; patience, purity, joy, peace, long suffering, love and faith. In this new year, Venerable Father Patrick Peyton, the "Rosary Priest," together with Blessed Fulton John Sheen reminds us in the Communion of the Saints, to pray the Word of God in the Holy Rosary, and to adapt the Word of Cod mode

and to adore the Word of God made Flesh in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Both of these American Saints will be our companions this year as we grow in love and devotion for the Sacred Scriptures and for Jesus, Mary and Joseph within our own holy families.



Open the doors of your hearts

and homes! Allow the Holy Family to dwell under your roofs and you will see the signs of God's Kingdom all around you in your family: faith, forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, joy, and hope. 2020 is indeed the "Year of the Holy Family" and the "Year of the Holy Bible". May you hear, in the recesses of your soul, the voice of Jesus Christ:

> "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God, and keep it!"



The Sorrows of St. Joseph

 The doubts of St. Joseph
The poverty of Jesus' birth.
The circumcision of Jesus.
The prophesy of Simeon
The flight into Egypt'
The return to Nazareth.
The loss of Jesus for three days.

The Joys of St. Joseph

- 1. The angel's message of the Incarnation.
- 2. The Savior's birth.
- 3. Having the honor of naming Jesus.
- 4. Knowing the effects of Jesus' redemptive work.
- 5. The idols of Egypt fell at Jesus' feet.
- 6. Holy life with Jesus and Mary.
- 7. Finding Jesus in the Temple



President's Corner By: Leonard St. Pierre

Greetings from the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and Happy New Year!

Exciting News!

We have just acquired second -class relics straight from Fatima, Portugal of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco. They are on display in the chapel for your veneration. Please join me in praying that we receive first-class relics soon from Fatima.

The past year was a blessed and eventful one at the Shrine. Several pilgrimage groups came to the Shrine to celebrate Mass, receive graces and learn more about the Fatima messages. This past year, several groups told us how grateful they were to come to take a pilgrimage to the Shrine, including students from Gabriel Richard Catholic High School and St. Stephen Catholic grade school, the Knights of Columbus, Downriver Right to Life, Downriver Council of Catholic Women, and Michael Semaan's Prayer Pilgrimages.

If you are part of a prayer group, RCIA group, school, parish, or another Catholic organization and would like to make a special pilgrimage to the Shrine, please contact me at (313) 320-7887. I will work with you to accommodate your needs to make your pilgrimage special. We also offer the use of the gathering room for meals and will open the adjacent St. Joseph bookstore for your group.

As we enter the first quarter of the new year, please begin your attendance to make your nine First Friday and First Saturday devotions with us. Begin with us on Friday, Jan 3rd at 7pm and Saturday, Jan 4th with 8am Mass. Specifically, the First Friday devotion involves receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays with the intention, as Jesus told Saint Margaret Mary, of making reparation to "the Heart that has loved men so and is loved so little in return."

Jesus also told St. Margaret Mary of His great love for souls and His desire to shower His mercy on those who were devoted to Him.

Jesus revealed several promises for those who lovingly practiced the First Friday devotion. Among the promises to those who practice the First Friday Devotion:

- Final Perseverance in the Catholic Faith
- Reception of the Sacraments before death
- Death in the state of grace
- Consolation of Christ's love at the time of death

The Blessed Mother told the eldest of the three Fatima children Sister Lucia, that she would "assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls" all who for five months on the first Saturday of each month:

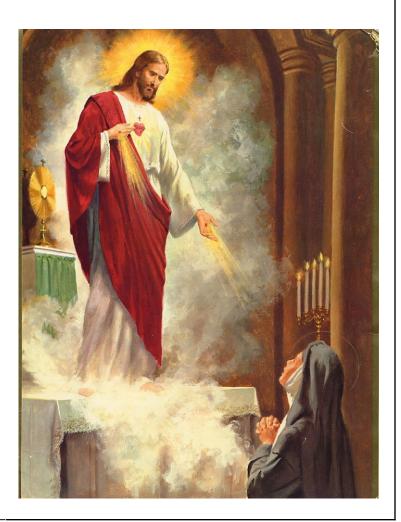
- Confess their sins
- Receive Holy Communion
- Recite the Rosary
- Keep Mary company for 15 minutes and offer all in a spirit of reparation

Jesus and Mary, make our hearts like yours! Please continue using the envelopes in this newsletter to make a gift of sacrifice with your tax-deductible donation to the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. We are completely operated by volunteers and put your donations to good use in our mission of spreading the Fatima messages. A special thank you to the select few that support us and it is my prayer that others reading this newsletter will join them in their generosity and give a donation to support the mission.

A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus Msgr. John Eppenbrock Council (3615) for their ongoing financial support to help us bring Jesus and Mary to so many people!

As we start 2020, be assured that I keep your intentions in my daily rosary. May God bless you!

Wishing you and your families a Happy and Blessed New Year!



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