

Month of the Rosary



Dear Parish Family,

Welcome to October!

As autumn arrives and the leaves begin to change, we are reminded of God's beauty in every season. October is especially rich for us as Catholics—a **powerhouse month of saints** whose lives continue to inspire us today. Just last month, Pope Leo IV recently canonized two modern examples of holiness: **St. Carlo Acutis**, the first millennial saint, and **St. Pier Giorgio Frassati**, both of whom remind us that holiness is possible at any age and in every walk of life.

This month, as we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Rosary** and many other saintly feasts, we are invited to deepen our prayer, reflect on our call to holiness, and rejoice in the great cloud of witnesses who accompany us.

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The Liturgical Year in October

The Church dedicates the month of **October to Our Lady of the Rosary**.

This devotion traces back to the miraculous victory at the **Battle of Lepanto** in 1571, a turning point in history credited to the power of the Rosary. Be sure to read more in this

issue about how prayer changed the course of nations!

You may wonder why so many months and devotions are centered on Mary. The answer is simple: whenever we draw near to Mary, she draws us closer to her Son. Mary's *fiat*—her “yes” to God—is her constant invitation for us to focus on Jesus. Through the Rosary, the **mysteries of Christ's life, death, and resurrection** become woven into our own daily lives. In praying them, the Gospel is no longer just words on a page, but truths planted deep in our hearts—while Mary, like a loving mother, takes us by the hand and leads us to her Son.

Liturgically, October continues in the quiet rhythm of **Ordinary Time**, yet it is rich with treasured feasts. We celebrate beloved saints such as St. Thérèse of Lisieux (Oct 1), St. Francis of Assisi (Oct 4), and St. Teresa of Ávila (Oct 15), among many others. We also mark the anniversary of the **Miracle of the Sun at Fatima** on October 13, a moment that many grandparents and great-grandparents still recall passing down in awe and wonder.

This month, we'll highlight a few of these saints in our newsletter, but don't stop there—take time to look up others, learn their stories, and be inspired. The communion of saints is a family, and each one has something to teach us about following Christ faithfully in every season of life.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux – The Little Way, Seen Anew

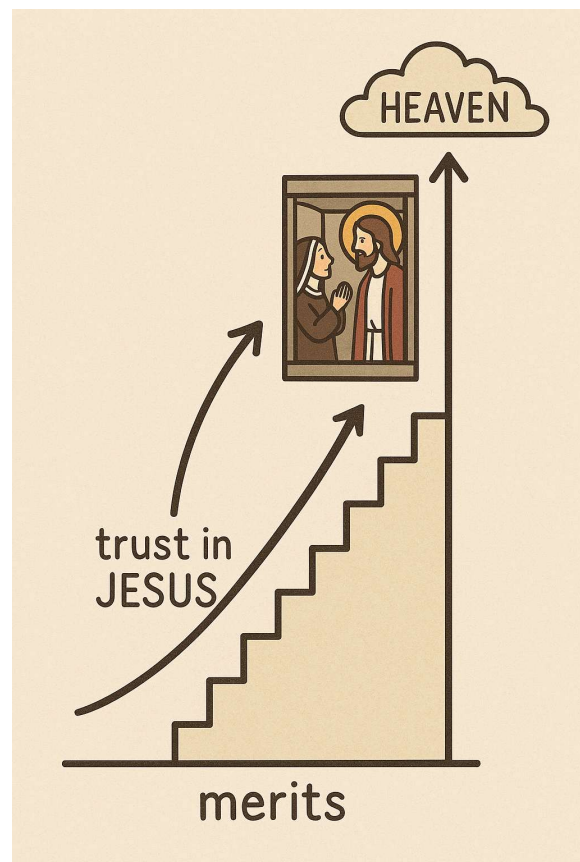
St. Thérèse of Lisieux (Oct 1) is often remembered for her “Little Way”—doing

small things with great love. Because this phrase is so familiar, it's easy to treat it as a gentle platitude. But Thérèse's teaching is far more radical than it first appears.

Her “Little Way” is not about doing less, but about **trusting more**. It is about living with the bold confidence of a child who believes her Father will carry her wherever she cannot go. For Thérèse, holiness was not reserved for the strong, the learned, or the heroic—it was within reach of every ordinary soul who dares to love without measure. She wrote: *“Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but only surrender and gratitude.”*

In our world, we often equate success with control, perfection, or achievement. Thérèse challenges that by teaching us that weakness itself can become a path to God. Instead of hiding our littleness, she invites us to place it in His hands. She described her soul as a **small elevator**—unable to climb the great staircase of perfection, she simply stepped inside and let Jesus lift her up.

Perhaps the deeper wisdom of Thérèse is this: holiness is not about **becoming extraordinary**, but about **letting God's love transform the ordinary**. Every hidden act of kindness, every unnoticed sacrifice, every moment of trust **becomes immense** in the eyes of God. The “Little Way” is not little at all—it is the greatest of ways, because it is the way of love.



**The Feast of the
Guardian Angels –
October 2**

When we think of guardian angels, many of us picture sweet childhood prayers or artwork of angels watching over little ones. But the truth is, guardian angels are not just for children—they are lifelong companions, entrusted to each of us by God from the moment of our birth until we take our last breath.



Your guardian angel is not a distant symbol or pious idea. He is a **real, spiritual being**—a messenger of God—assigned to guide, protect, and intercede for you personally. Angels do not grow tired of us as we age; in fact, their mission often becomes even more vital as the choices, challenges, and burdens of adulthood grow heavier. They guard us against temptations, prompt us to do good, and remind us—often quietly—of God’s presence when life feels overwhelming.

Think of how many times you’ve felt an unexpected nudge to make the right decision, or found yourself spared from danger in ways you can’t explain. These may well be the quiet fingerprints of your guardian angel’s care. St. Bernard once wrote: *“Make the holy angels your friends... In every difficulty, in every temptation, call upon them. They are ready to protect and help you.”*

The Feast of the Guardian Angels is a reminder that **none of us walk alone**. As adults, we carry responsibilities, sorrows, and fears far greater than when we were children—and so we need our guardian angels all the more. They are companions on the journey, urging us

closer to God and standing at our side until the day we finally behold Him face to face.

St. Padre Pio on Guardian Angels

Few saints spoke more tenderly—and more practically—about guardian angels than **St. Padre Pio**. He urged the faithful not to neglect these heavenly friends, but to call on them in every circumstance of life.

"Invoke your guardian angel, who will enlighten you and guide you. God has given him to you for this reason. Therefore, use him!"

Padre Pio himself relied on his guardian angel constantly and even encouraged people to "send" their angels to him with requests for prayer. His confidence reminds us that our angels are not distant figures, but daily companions—ready to carry our prayers, protect our steps, and whisper God's truth to our hearts.

The Battle of Lepanto and the Feast of the Holy Rosary – October 7

On October 7, 1571, one of the most decisive battles in Christian history took place—the **Battle of Lepanto**. At stake was not just territory, but the very survival of Christian Europe. The mighty Ottoman fleet had long been expanding, and their ships threatened to dominate the Mediterranean and spread further into Christian lands.



Pope St. Pius V, recognizing the danger, called on all of Christendom to unite in both arms and prayer. He organized the **Holy League**—a coalition of Christian naval forces from Spain, Venice, and other Catholic states. But while brave men prepared for battle, the Pope turned above all to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He urged all of Europe to pray the **Rosary**, entrusting the cause to Our Lady's intercession. Confraternities of the Rosary held processions in the streets, and ordinary families prayed with urgency and faith.

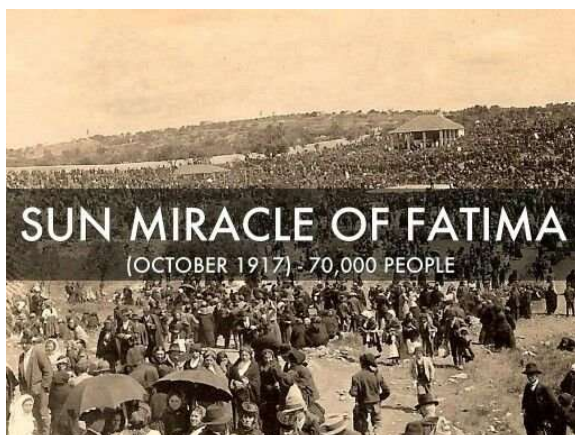
On the morning of the battle, October 7, the Christian sailors—many of them filled with dread but strengthened by their faith—prepared to fight. They knew they were outnumbered. Some of the Turkish ships were rowed by **Christian captives forced into slavery**, men who longed for freedom and silently prayed that their brothers in the faith would prevail. The

air was thick with anticipation, fear, and hope.

The clash near the Gulf of Patras was fierce and bloody. The Christians faced the strongest naval power of the day, but something remarkable happened: against all expectations, the Holy League won a resounding victory. The Ottoman fleet was shattered, their advance halted. Pope Pius V, hundreds of miles away in Rome, is said to have received a miraculous vision at the very moment of victory, declaring: *"The Christian fleet is victorious!"*

The victory of Lepanto was attributed not merely to strategy or strength, but to the **power of prayer**. The Pope instituted October 7 as the **Feast of Our Lady of Victory**, which later became the **Feast of the Holy Rosary**. Ever since, Catholics have remembered this day as a testimony to the Rosary's strength, uniting heaven and earth in the defense of the faith.

When we pray the Rosary today, we join in that same tradition of trust and perseverance. Just as Christians in 1571 faced dread, uncertainty, and danger, we too face challenges in our own times. And just as Our Lady interceded then, she intercedes now—for those who turn to her with love and confidence.



The Miracle of the Sun – Fatima, October 13, 1917

On October 13, 1917, tens of thousands of people gathered in Fatima, Portugal, to witness a promise made by the Blessed Virgin Mary. For months, Our Lady had appeared to three shepherd children—Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco—calling for prayer, penance, and especially the daily Rosary. She told them that on this day, she would give a sign so that all might believe.

Despite pouring rain, nearly **70,000 people** came—believers, skeptics, even journalists. At the appointed time, the clouds parted, and the sun appeared as a brilliant silver disk. To the astonishment of the crowd, the sun began to **dance across the sky**, spinning and radiating multicolored light. It zigzagged, seemed to plunge toward the earth, and then returned to its place. Witnesses reported that their soaked clothes and the muddy ground dried instantly.

The “Miracle of the Sun” was seen up to 25 miles away and was reported in secular newspapers of the time. For the faithful, it confirmed the authenticity of Our Lady’s message at Fatima: pray the Rosary, repent, and seek peace through conversion of heart.

More than a century later, the miracle continues to inspire devotion around the world. It reminds us that God, through Mary, breaks into history to call His children back to Him—and that prayer truly changes the world.

The Jubilee Year: A Time of Grace

We hope that you are taking advantage of the great graces offered this Jubilee

Year and continue to encourage you to visit any of the 9 pilgrimage sites around St. Louis.

[2025 Jubilee Year of Hope Brochure](#)
[2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites](#)

👉 **Check out** the **Hallow** app or website for all things Jubilee Year under the section: **Jubilee of Hope**



October Major Feast Days

- **October 1:** St. Thérèse of Lisieux
- **October 2:** Guardian Angels
- **October 4:** St. Francis of Assisi
- **October 7:** Our Lady of the Rosary
- **October 12:** St. Carlo Acutis
- **October 13:** Miracle of the Sun at Fatima
- **October 15:** St. Teresa of Avila
- **October 16:** St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
- **October 17:** St. Ignatius of Antioch
- **October 18:** St. Luke
- **October 22:** St. John Paul II
- **October 28:** Sts. Simon and Jude
- **October 31:** All Hallows Eve

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