

PARISH FAMILY PRAXIS—DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS (2-7-21)

OPENING PRAYER: THE DIVINE PRAISES

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 Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

SACRED SEVEN

- ___ 1. Many of the memorials of the saints are celebrated during the liturgical year on the date that the saint died.
- ___ 2. We celebrate a feast day for each Apostle selected by Christ at some point during the liturgical year.
- ___ 3. During the liturgical year, we celebrate the birthdays of Jesus, Mary, and Saint John the Baptist.
- ___ 4. The only saints that are in heaven are those who have been canonized by the Church.
- ___ 5. There are churches where we can find relics of Saint Mary taken from her body.
- ___ 6. Sometimes certain bodies of saints do not decompose—we refer to these as *incompressibles*.
- ___ 7. The first recorded stigmatic in history is Saint Francis of Assisi.

PRAXIS: DEVOTION TO THE SAINTS—HOW THEY HELP US

- I. Apostles:
 - A. Remind us to follow Christ as disciples and to lead others to Christ as Apostles
 - B. Teach us that our conversion is ongoing
 - C. Teach us to show reverence for Mary and to be willing to die in proclaiming her Son Jesus
 - D. Remind us of the Sacramental life and of gathering for prayer and liturgies:
 - 1. Eucharist—Last Supper/The Breaking of the Bread
 - 2. Baptism and Confirmation—Ascension/Pentecost

- E. Remind us to live as Catholics and missionaries
 - F. Remind us of our founding and of the Church hierarchy:
 - 1. Bishops
 - 2. Priests
 - 3. Deacons
 - G. Remind us that all of us are called by Christ to a vocation of holiness and love
- II. Martyrs:
- A. Teach us of faithful and sacrificial love for God and neighbor
 - B. Remind us of the power of the Cross and that our own suffering is the portion of the Cross in which Christ wishes us to share to complete His suffering throughout history as members of His Body
 - C. Teach us courage and of hope truly placed in Heaven as our home
 - D. Teach us of the power of truth and love over malice and mercy
 - E. Show us that what appears to be loss in worldly terms is actually gain in heavenly terms
- III. Pastors
- A. Teach us how true spiritual fathers lead and form followers
 - B. Remind us of the need for Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium
 - C. Reveal the power of celibacy and of offering one's life to God for His people and for all of the world
 - D. Teach us how to face difficulties and overcome differences
 - E. Show us how to pray, fast, and give alms
 - F. Show us how to live as priest, prophet, and king in Christ
- IV. Doctors
- A. Show us the immeasurable riches of God's wisdom and goodness
 - B. Remind us of the splendor of truth and its worthwhile pursuit
 - C. Show us how to "put on the mind of Christ"
 - D. Teach us how to pray and to practice the spiritual life
 - E. Help us appreciate both right reason and revelation, and the gift of being rational and spiritual creatures
- V. Virgins
- A. Remind us of the beauty and power of purity
 - B. Point to the ultimate nuptial union in Heaven between Christ and His Bride at the Wedding Feast of the Lamb
 - C. Remind us that there is only one perfect Bridegroom and that sacrificing one's whole life is a person's purpose on earth
 - D. Reveal the courage and strength of holy womanhood
 - E. Remind us of the ultimate spiritual dimension of motherhood

QUESTIONS

- I. What category of saints do you find most interesting. Explain.
- II. Can the life of a lay saint help inform the life of a priest or religious, and can the life of a priest or religious inform the life of a lay person? Explain.

- III. How can female saints be helpful to males, and male saints be helpful to females? Give examples.

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer—Include the “Signum Crucis,” “Pater Noster,” “Ave Maria,” “Gloria Patri,” and “Capital Campaign Prayer to Saint Joseph”
- II. Mid-Day Prayer—Praying “The Divine Praises” and making a particular examination of conscience with an Act of Contrition
- III. Daily Mental Prayer—Conversing with any saint
- IV. Nightly Examination of Conscience followed by the Confiteor:
Have I expressed my devotion to the Communion of Saints by:
- A. Asking for the help of saints in Heaven, and imitating the virtues found in the saints.
 - B. Praying for the souls in Purgatory, and asking for their prayers.
 - C. Making sure I remain in a state of grace and helping to strengthen the Body of Christ as a member of the Catholic Church.
 - D. Praying for and helping others to come into or back to the Catholic Church.