



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
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October 1, 2017

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

As you have surely noticed, we have placed the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in the sanctuary of the church this weekend. She will remain in that place of prominence throughout the month of October. Traditionally, October is one of two months (along with May) during which we give special honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is our Queen and Mother.

One of the reasons for giving special honor to Mary during October is that this is the month of the Holy Rosary. On October 7th, Catholics throughout the world will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Here, in our own parish, the archbishop has given us special permission to extend that feast for an extra day. Therefore, we will celebrate our parish feast day both on Saturday and on Sunday of next week.

But this year, the month of October has another special significance. In 1917, one hundred years ago, the Blessed Mother appeared to three shepherd children just outside of the town of Fatima in Portugal. Her apparitions lasted for several months, beginning on May 13th and ending on October 13th. At that last apparition, the Lady of Fatima (who had identified herself to the three children as Our Lady of the Rosary) spoke to them for a final time. Then, tens of thousands of people, who had gathered in the field, witnessed the great miracle of the sun.

As we celebrate this month of Mary, as we remember the 100th anniversary of her apparitions at Fatima, let us turn to Mary in our own lives. She is our holy mother who always seeks to lead us closer to Jesus, and she is a faithful intercessor who always lifts us up in prayer in the presence of God the Father. May we follow her example of holiness and listen to the words that she spoke to the children of Fatima: **“I want you to continue saying the Rosary every day.”**

To Jesus through Mary,

Fr. Jonathan
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As a way of celebrating our parish feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th, we will pray the rosary as a community after the 4pm Mass next Saturday in the meditation garden. The choir will sing at the 4pm Mass, as well. Please bring your family and join us for the Feast Day!