

Enhance your family prayer with
FAMILY ROSARY

*We Are Dust;
We Are Timeless*

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER



WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Transitioning out of Ordinary time and into Lent, we're reminded how the special seasons of the Church are a gift from God. Though we're called to continuously grow our faith throughout the year, Lent gives us a particular reason to take time and reflect. So as we enter this Lenten season, embrace this spiritual opportunity you and your family have been gifted by God.

During this time, commit to beginning or ending each day with family prayer. After a few days you'll soon be in the habit of praying together! Don't worry, it doesn't have to be perfect! Take comfort in knowing there is no one "correct" way of doing it.

We know it's a busy time and you've likely already decided on a few other Lenten promises. Let us help you accomplish this part of your family's Lenten journey, so you can nurture your relationships and enjoy the time you share together.

Know that we are joining you and your family in prayer. We promise to be with you, growing in faith, every step of the way. May God continue to bless you and your family.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building **family unity** through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of **family prayer**. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the message created by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



TO DIE FOR CHRIST, MY YOUNG FRIENDS, IS TO LIVE.
SAINT JAIME HILARIO BARBAL





WE ARE DUST; WE ARE TIMELESS



In this year 2018, Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday share the same calendar day and date, February 14th. It happened last in 1945 and won't happen again until 2024 and 2029.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the 40 day Lenten Liturgical Season, a time set aside and devoted to personal penance through a tradition of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

In contrast to the serious purpose of Lent, Valentine's Day celebrates the delightful feelings of romantic love. It is devoted to the celebration of a joyful affection for one who has touched our heartstrings. "Will you be my Valentine?"

Can Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day be reconciled? Do they have anything in common? Yes, without too much of a stretch of the imagination it is quite possible to see a relationship, a serious relationship, between the two. We remember that we are dust yet made for eternal love. Romantic Love is feeling based on affection. But love is more than that, much more. Its truth found through a martyr's death.

The Greco-Christian word Agape is identified as the self-sacrificing love God has for all humanity. We in turn are called to live within that same love for each other. Both romantic love and agapic love seek reciprocation through a fulfillment of the heart's desire.

Lent's origin is contained within the very meaning of the word. Lent means "a lengthening of days." It coincides with the stirrings of spring when the day's light lengthens in hours, dispelling the early darkness of both morning and evening.

In this holy season Christians devote themselves to the glorious yet arduous work of expanding our heart's capacity for a greater depth of relationship with our beloved God. We do so through intense prayer with our Beloved; through a timely, periodic fasting from various fascinations with our material world, such as food or drink or constant use of digital communication, which sometimes have a way of overshadowing our Beloved; through almsgiving to those who, often forgotten or hurt, need our attention, for they too embody our Beloved within them. It is a matter not only of giving material assistance but also of giving mercy and forgiveness. It is all about love.

On Saint Valentine's Day, so medieval legend says, spring was in the air and birds began to pair. Young men and women would formally choose each other then or at least send missives and greetings of affection. Thus the Lenten lengthening of days of spring does have a correlation with St. Valentine's Day, but more than that, it calls us through and beyond romantic love to a love beyond all telling, a love through which a person willingly lays down his or her very life for the sake of the beloved.

The historical Valentine was a priest of Rome in the late 3rd century when Claudius II, Emperor of Rome, introduced a persecution against Christians. Valentine was apprehended by the Roman forces and commanded to renounce his faith. He refused and was then beaten with clubs and finally beheaded on February 14th.

Although his gruesome death seems to stand in contrast to springtime longings for pairings, Valentine died for the sake of bringing his love to fulfillment. Greater love than this no one has. Romantic love, if true to the beloved, will give way to the love that gives everything for the beloved including one's very own life. It is not simply a matter of candies and flowers; it is a matter of what one will die for.

Lenten penances are meant to strengthen love for our Beloved through the exercise of sacrifices which will lead us to the supreme sacrifice that, ironically and paradoxically, brings us life's fullness through a conquering of sin and death.

The Resurrection of Jesus is the full day's light of Easter. We are invited to live in that light. He is the light of the world. We willingly undertake a penitential lengthening of days for the sake of an expanded heart, one capable of receiving the greatest gift of love, our Beloved, the light of our lives.

GO DEEPER

Take a moment to consider who you would die for - your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews spouse or friend? Seems like such a sad question, but at the heart of it lies a greater beautiful question – who do you love more than life itself? Whatever your answer, it no doubt reveals a selfless love.

Lent is a time when we need to examine our relationship with Jesus and ponder how He gave his life for each of us. How can you reciprocate this love Jesus has for you this Lent? What stands in the way of you receiving his love and reflecting it in the world?

PRAY TOGETHER

Lord Jesus, we offer you this Lent our hearts. On this Ash Wednesday and Valentines day, reveal to us those things that stand in the way of our relationship with you as a family. Help each of us individually and as a domestic church, resolve to remove the barriers that block our capacity to receive your love and reflect your love in our world.
Jesus, I Trust in You!



FATHER HUGH

Father Hugh Cleary, C.S.C. is the parochial vicar of two parishes in Vermont: Sacred Heart/Saint Francis de Sales in Bennington and St. John the Baptist in North Bennington. In addition to other parishes, he has also served the Congregation of Holy Cross in internal ministries as novice director, provincial and superior general. Other ministries have included Campus Ministry at Stonehill College and Holy Cross Family Ministries.

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER



We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Remember, we're with you in prayer, every step of the way!

For additional reading come back each week for a new Lenten eBook to enrich your journey! Also if you're searching for new meatless recipes, visit CatholicMom.com every Friday for fresh meatless dinner options for you and your family!

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.*"

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