



# MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD ATLANTIC PROVINCE

*Lord, grant me  
the grace  
to respond  
to Your call  
with a heart  
open to the  
journey ahead.*



**2025 CALENDAR**

# HOPE IN NEW BEGINNINGS AND RENEWAL

**THEME:** Embracing the Call

**SCRIPTURE:** *Isaiah 6:8 Here I am, send me.*

**REFLECTION:** January marks the beginning of the pilgrimage. As Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to listen to God's voice and respond with openness and courage. The spirituality of the Precious Blood invites us to embrace this journey as an opportunity for redemption and transformation. Like the blood of Christ that flows for the salvation of all, we are called to be instruments of hope, accepting the invitation to journey with God.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Ask for the grace to respond to God's call with a heart open to the journey ahead.



# JANUARY 2025



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

*Let us do great work for the glory of God and let us become saints.*

ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>DECEMBER 2024</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28</p>		<p><b>1</b> MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (S)</p> <p>World Day of Peace</p>	<p><b>2</b> Season of Christmas Begins ST. BASIL THE GREAT AND ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS AND DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p><b>3</b> THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS (OM)</p>	<p><b>4</b> ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, RELIGIOUS (US)</p>
<p><b>5</b> EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (S)</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>BIRTH OF ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO</p>	<p><b>7</b> ST. ANDRÉ BESSETTE (M)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> Season of Christmas Ends BAPTISM OF THE LORD (F)</p> <p>BEATIFICATION RITE OF DON GIOVANNI MERLINI</p>	<p><b>13</b> Ordinary Time Begins</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> ST. ANTHONY, ABBOT (M)</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>
<p><b>19</b> 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p><b>21</b> ST. AGNES OF ROME, VIRGIN AND MARTYR (M)</p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p><b>24</b> ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>	<p><b>25</b> THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, APOSTLE (F)</p> <p>Prayer for Christian Unity</p>
<p><b>26</b> 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>Sunday of the Word of God</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> ST. JOHN BOSCO, PRIEST (M)</p>	<p>● FEAST OR SOLEMNITY</p> <p>● MARTYR</p> <p>■ SPECIAL COMMEMORATION FOR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY</p> <p>M = MEMORIAL</p> <p>OM = OPTIONAL MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p>

# ANCHORED IN HOPE

**THEME:** Becoming Missionaries of Love

**SCRIPTURE:** *Romans 5:8*

*But God proves his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

**REFLECTION:** February, often celebrated as the month of love, invites us to reflect on the depth of God's love as revealed through the Precious Blood of Christ. In this year of jubilee, as Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to journey in love, carrying within us the hope that stems from Christ's ultimate sacrifice. Just as the Israelites were sustained by the hope of the Promised Land during their journey in the wilderness, we too are sustained by the hope found in the Precious Blood, which assures us of God's unwavering love and mercy.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Commit to living out this love in your daily life, offering hope to a world in need of love and mercy. Pray for God to grant you the grace to be a vessel of His love, reflecting the light of Christ's sacrifice to all you encounter.



# FEBRUARY 2025



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION**  
 Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

*Seek to maintain peace at all times.*  
 BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI  
 (Letter 389)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MARCH 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					1
<b>2</b> THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD  World Day for Consecrated Life	<b>3</b> ST. BLAISE, BISHOP AND MARTYR (OM)	<b>4</b> BIRTH OF ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS, FOUNDRRESS OF THE SISTERS ADORERS OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST	<b>5</b> ST. AGATHA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR (M)	<b>6</b> ST. PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS (M)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA, VIRGIN (OM)
<b>9</b> 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>10</b> ST. SCHOLASTICA, VIRGIN (M)	<b>11</b> OUR LADY OF LOURDES (OM)  World Day of the Sick	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> ST. CYRIL, MONK, AND ST. METHODIUS, BISHOP (M)  St. Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>17</b>  - Family Day (ON) - Presidents' Day (US)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER, APOSTLE
<b>23</b> 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	● FEAST ● MARTYR ■ SPECIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY M = MEMORIAL OM = OPTIONAL MEMORIAL YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025

# THE SACRIFICE OF LOVE

**THEME:** The Power of Sacrifice

**SCRIPTURE:** *John 15:13*  
*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

**REFLECTION:** March is a time to meditate on the sacrificial love of Christ, who shed His blood for the redemption of humanity. As Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to participate in this sacrifice by offering our own lives in service to others. The spirituality of the Precious Blood teaches us that true hope is born from the willingness to give of ourselves, even when it costs us dearly.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Reflect on Christ's sacrifice and pray for the courage to offer your own life in love and service.



# MARCH 2025

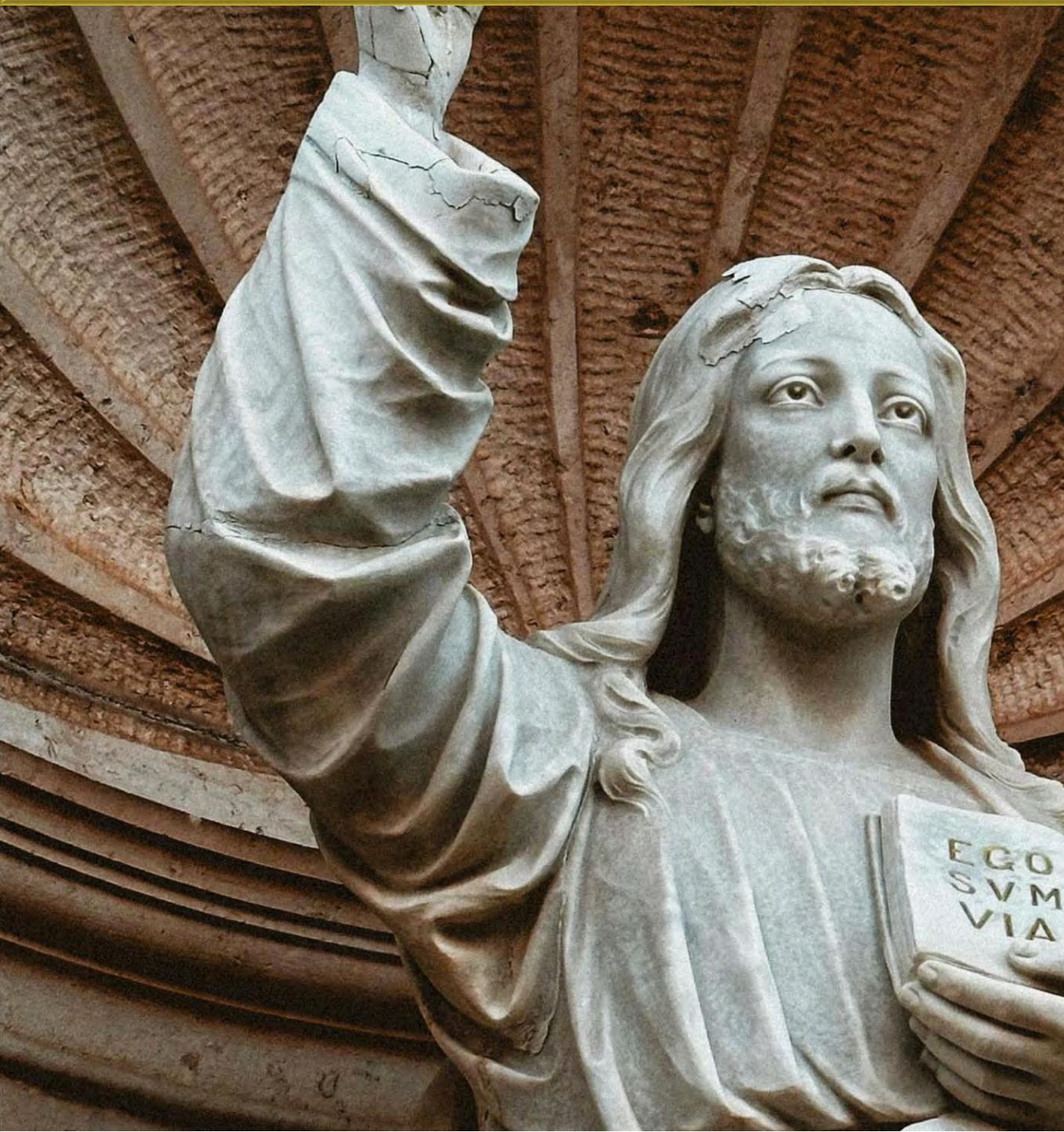


**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION**  
 Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

*Let's pray that the holy will of God be fulfilled in us. Don't ever feel overwhelmed, for God is there to help you. Be strong.*  
 ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS (II:237)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>FEBRUARY 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	<p>APRIL 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p>● SOLEMNITY</p> <p>● MARTYR</p> <p>OM = OPTIONAL MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p>				1
<p>2 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	3	4 <i>Ordinary Time Ends</i>	5 <i>Lent Begins</i> ASH WEDNESDAY	6	7 ST. PERPETUA AND ST. FELICITY, MARTYRS (OM)	8
<p>9 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p><i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i></p>	10	11	12	13	14 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	15
<p>16 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT</p>	17 ST. PATRICK, BISHOP (OM)	18	19 ST. JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	20	21	22
<p>23 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT</p>	24	25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	26	27	28	29
<p>30 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)</p>	31					

# THE RESURRECTION AND NEW LIFE



**THEME:** Healing Wounds, Building Bridges

**SCRIPTURE:** *Ephesians 2:13*

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

**REFLECTION:** April brings the joy of Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection. The Precious Blood is not only the sign of sacrifice but also the source of new life. As Pilgrims of Hope, we celebrate the victory of life over death, of hope over despair. The Resurrection calls us to live as people of hope, confident in the promise of eternal life.

This month, we reflect on how the Resurrection shapes our pilgrimage, giving us the courage to continue our journey with renewed vigour and joy. Through the blood of Christ, we have been reconciled to God and to one another.

As Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to be agents of reconciliation, healing the wounds of division, and building bridges of peace. This month, we reflect on our role in fostering unity in our communities.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for the grace to be a peacemaker, working towards reconciliation in your relationships and community.

# APRIL 2025



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

*Oh how blessed is the soul that receives Jesus! He has within himself the author of grace and of glory, the only center of our true delights.*  
ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO (Letter 1680)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>MARCH 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>	<p>MAY 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p><i>Collection: Development and Peace</i></p>	7	8	9	10	11 ST. STANISLAUS, BISHOP AND MARTYR (OM)	12
<p>13 HOLY WEEK PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</p>	14 MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK	15 TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	16 WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	17 TRIDUUM HOLY THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	18 TRIDUUM GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	19 TRIDUUM HOLY SATURDAY
<p>20 EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</p>	21 EASTER OCTAVE  <i>Easter Monday (CA)</i>	22 EASTER OCTAVE	23 EASTER OCTAVE	24 EASTER OCTAVE	25 EASTER OCTAVE	26 EASTER OCTAVE
<p>27 EASTER OCTAVE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (or DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)</p>	28 EASTER SEASON	29 ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (F)	30 ST. MARIE DE L'INCARNATION, RELIGIOUS (M)			<p>● SOLEMNITY</p> <p>● MARTYR, PALM SUNDAY, GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>M = MEMORIAL</p> <p>OM = OPTIONAL MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p>

# HOPE IN MISSION AND WITNESS



**THEME:** Being Pilgrims of Hope in the World

**SCRIPTURE:** *Matthew 9:36*

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

**REFLECTION:** Compassion is at the heart of the Precious Blood spirituality.

May is a month to deepen our understanding of what it means to be compassionate pilgrims, moved by the suffering of others and motivated to act. As Pilgrims of Hope, we carry the light of God's mercy into a world in need.

May is also a month dedicated to Mary, the first disciple of Jesus.

As missionaries of hope, we are sent out to proclaim the good news of salvation, inviting others to join the pilgrimage.

The Precious Blood of Christ not only redeems but also sends us forth to be bearers of hope to others.

Like Mary, who brought Christ to the world, we are invited to bring His hope to those we encounter. This month, we reflect on how we can be more effective witnesses, sharing the hope we have received with those in need.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for a heart that is sensitive to the suffering of others and for the grace to respond with compassion.

# MAY 2025



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray that, through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

*May the Holy Virgin Mary be our guide, our leader in our holy journey.*

BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI  
(Letter 440)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>APRIL 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>	<p>JUNE 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30</p>	<p>● FEAST</p> <p>● APOSTLE, MARTYR</p> <p>■ SPECIAL</p> <p>COMMEMORATION OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY</p> <p>M = MEMORIAL</p> <p>OM = OPTIONAL MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p>		<p><b>1</b> ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER (OM)</p> <p><i>International Workers' Day</i></p>	<p><b>2</b> ST. ATHANASIUS, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p><b>3</b> ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, APOSTLES (F)</p>
<p><b>4</b> 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> ST. FRANÇOIS DE MONTMORENCY-LAVAL, BISHOP (M)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>11</b> 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>- World Day of Prayer for Vocations</p> <p>- Mother's Day</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><i>Canada Health Day</i></p>	<p><b>13</b> OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA (OM)</p>	<p><b>14</b> ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE (F)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>18</b> 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><i>Victoria Day (CA)</i></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (F)</p>
<p><b>25</b> 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p><i>Collection: Pope's Pastoral Works</i></p>	<p><b>26</b> ST. PHILIP NERI, PRIEST (M)</p> <p><i>Memorial Day (US)</i></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</p>

# HOPE IN COVENANT



**THEME:** Renewing Our Commitment

**SCRIPTURE:** *Hebrews 9:15*  
*For this reason, Christ is the mediator of a new covenant.*

**REFLECTION:** June is a time to renew our covenant with God as Pilgrims of Hope. The Precious Blood of Christ is the sign of the new and everlasting covenant, a promise of redemption and eternal life.

This month, we reflect on the commitments we have made to God and to one another, and we seek to strengthen our resolve to live out these promises with fidelity and hope.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Renew your commitment to God and ask for the strength to uphold your promises with integrity and faithfulness.

# JUNE 2025



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION**  
 Let us pray that each one of us  
 might find consolation in  
 a personal relationship with Jesus,  
 and from his Heart,  
 learn to have compassion on the world.

*By silence and prayer we'll come  
 to understand much better  
 the preciousness of the Cross,  
 made sacred by the Precious Blood  
 of Jesus Christ.*  
 ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS (1:51)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD  <i>World Communications Day</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ST. CHARLES LWANGA AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS (M)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> ST. BONIFACE, BISHOP AND MARTYR (M)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Season of Easter Ends</i> <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	<b>9</b> BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH (M) <i>10th Week in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> ST. BARNABAS, APOSTLE (M)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> THE MOST HOLY TRINITY  <i>Father's Day</i>	<b>16</b> <i>11th Week in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA, RELIGIOUS (M)
<b>22</b> THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)	<b>23</b> <i>12th Week in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>24</b> THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS  <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests</i>	<b>28</b> ST. IRENAEUS, BISHOP, MARTYR AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M) or THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BVM (M)
<b>29</b> ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL, APOSTLES (5)	<b>30</b> <i>13th Week in Ordinary Time</i>			MAY 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	● SOLEMNITY ● APOSTLE, MARTYR M = MEMORIAL  YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025

# HOPE AS A SACRIFICE OF LOVE



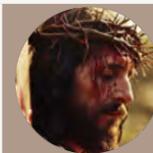
**THEME:** The Power of Sacrifice

**SCRIPTURE:** *John 15:13 No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

**REFLECTION:** The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood. In this month we meditate on the sacrificial love of Christ, who shed His blood for the redemption of humanity. As Pilgrims of Hope, we are called to participate in this sacrifice by offering our own lives in service to others. The spirituality of the Precious Blood teaches us that true hope is born from the willingness to give of ourselves, even when it costs us dearly. As pilgrims, we often encounter wounds — both our own and those of others. This month, we seek reconciliation with God and with one another, allowing the Precious Blood to heal and restore us. We reflect on how we can be instruments of healing in our communities, bringing the peace of Christ to those who are hurting.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Ask the Precious Blood of Jesus to heal your wounds and reconcile you to Himself and to your neighbour. Become an agent of this healing love in a world in need of peace and reconciliation. Also reflect on Christ's sacrifice and pray for the courage to offer your own life in love and service.

# JULY 2025



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

*We must let it be known how the Blood of Christ cleanses the souls and sanctifies them, particularly by means of the sacraments.*  
ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO (Letter 1680)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
<p>JUNE 2025</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<p>AUGUST 2025</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Su</td><td>Mo</td><td>Tu</td><td>We</td><td>Th</td><td>Fr</td><td>Sa</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<p><b>1</b> THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD</p> <p>Canada Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p><b>3</b> ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE (F)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p>	<p>5</p>
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<p><b>27</b> 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly</p>	<p>28</p>	<p><b>29</b> ST. MARTHA, ST. MARY, AND ST. LAZARUS (M)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p><b>31</b> ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST (M)</p>		<p>● FEAST</p> <p>■ SPECIAL COMMEMORATION FOR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY</p> <p>M = MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p>																																																																																											

# HOPE IN PERSEVERANCE

**THEME:** Strength for the Journey

**SCRIPTURE:** *Romans 6:4*  
*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

**REFLECTION:** As the journey continues, we need the strength to persevere. The Precious Blood is our source of strength, sustaining us through the trials and challenges of our pilgrimage. Like the martyrs who shed their blood in witness to Christ, we are called to persevere in our faith, even when the road is difficult. This month, we reflect on the importance of perseverance, trusting that the Precious Blood will give us the strength we need to continue our journey with hope.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for the strength to persevere. May you never lose hope, even in the face of difficulties, knowing that Jesus Christ is with you every step of the way.

# AUGUST 2025



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION**  
 Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

*Calmly, go about doing good. Let us do whatever we can; the rest is up to God.*  
 BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI  
 (Letter 376)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>JULY 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>	<p>● FEAST OR SOLEMNITY</p> <p>● MARTYR</p> <p>■ SPECIAL</p> <p>COMMEMORATION FOR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY</p> <p>M = MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p>			<p><b>1</b> ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>
<p><b>3</b> 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p><b>4</b> ST. JEAN-MARIE VIANNEY, PRIEST (M)</p> <p><i>Simcoe Day</i></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (F)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> ST. DOMINIC, PRIEST (M)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p><b>11</b> ST. CLARE OF ASSISI, VIRGIN (M)</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, PRIEST AND MARTYR (M)</p>	<p><b>15</b> THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (S)</p> <p>FOUNDATION DAY (C.P.P.S)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b> 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX, ABBOT AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p><b>21</b> ST. PIUS X, POPE (M)</p>	<p><b>22</b> THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>24</b> 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> ST. MONICA (M)</p>	<p><b>28</b> ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p> <p>BIRTH OF BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI</p>	<p><b>29</b> THE PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, MARTYR (M)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p><b>31</b> 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>						

# HOPE IN COMMUNITY AND COMMUNION



**THEME:** Walking Together in Unity

**SCRIPTURE:** *Acts 4:32 All the believers were one in heart and mind.*

**REFLECTION:** The journey of pilgrimage is not one we undertake alone. September is a month to reflect on the importance of community in our journey as Pilgrims of Hope. The spirituality of the Precious Blood emphasizes the unity of the Body of Christ, united by the blood shed for all. This month, we focus on building and strengthening the bonds of fellowship within our communities, walking together in love and unity.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for unity within your community and ask for the grace to be a source of support and encouragement to others.

# SEPTEMBER 2025



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

*Try to be at peace and joyful in Christ.*

*Place all your needs before Mary most holy.*  
ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS (II:202)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  <i>- World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - Labour Day</i>	2	3 ST. GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)	4	5	6
7 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8 THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9	10	11	12	13 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)
14 THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	15 OUR LADY OF SORROWS (M)	16 ST. CORNELIUS, POPE, AND ST. CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYRS (M)	17	18	19	20 ST. ANDREW KIM TAE-GŪN, PRIEST, ST. PAUL CHŪNG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS (M)
21 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	22	23 ST. PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST (M)	24	25	26 ST. JOHN DE BRÉBEUF, ST. ISAAC JOGUES, PRIESTS, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS	27 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST (M)
28 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  <i>- World Day of Migrants and Refugees - Collection: Needs of the Church in Canada</i>	29 ST. MICHAEL, ST. GABRIEL, ST. RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	30 ST. JEROME, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)	AUGUST 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		OCTOBER 2025 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

- FEAST
- MARTYR
- SPECIAL COMMEMORATION FOR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY
- M = MEMORIAL

YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025

# HOPE IN TRUST AND PROVIDENCE

**THEME:** Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

**SCRIPTURE:** *2 Corinthians 5:7*  
*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

**REFLECTION:** In this month, we reflect on the nature of our pilgrimage as a journey of faith.

The Precious Blood of Christ is a testament to the unseen yet powerful work of God in our lives.

As Pilgrims of Hope, we walk in faith, trusting in the promises of God even when the path is unclear.

The blood of Christ is our constant reminder that God's grace is sufficient for every step of our journey.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for the strength to trust in God's plan, even when the way forward is uncertain.



# OCTOBER 2025



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

*The Holy Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life.*  
ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>SEPTEMBER 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>		<p><b>1</b> ST. THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p><b>2</b> THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS (M)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS (M)</p>
<p><b>5</b> 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (M)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Thanksgiving Day (CA)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> ST. TERESA OF AVILA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p><b>16</b> ST. MARIE-MARGUERITE D'YOUVILLE, RELIGIOUS (M)</p> <p>World Food Day</p>	<p><b>17</b> ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP AND MARTYR (M)</p>	<p><b>18</b> ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST (F)</p>
<p><b>19</b> 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>World Mission Sunday</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> ST. GASPAR DEL BUFALO, FOUNDER OF THE MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD (F)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE, APOSTLES (F)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p>● FEAST</p> <p>● EVANGELIST, MARTYR</p> <p>■ SPECIAL COMMEMORATION FOR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY</p> <p>M = MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p>

# HOPE IN THE MEMORY OF THE FAITHFUL

**THEME:** Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

**SCRIPTURE:** *Hebrews 12:1*  
*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.*

**REFLECTION:** In November, we remember and honor the faithful who have gone before us, those who have completed their pilgrimage and now rest in the hope of eternal life. The Precious Blood of Christ unites us with all the saints and martyrs who have journeyed before us. As Pilgrims of Hope, we draw inspiration from their example and seek their intercession as we continue our own journey.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for the souls of the faithful departed and for the grace to live a life worthy of the saints.

# NOVEMBER 2025



## HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community and be open to the beauty of life.

Let us provide a space for prayer and, by doing so, we will discover the will of God.

BLESSED GIOVANNI MERLINI  
(Letter 176)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>OCTOBER 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2025</p> <p>Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>● FEAST OR SOLEMNITY</p> <p>● MARTYR</p> <p>M = MEMORIAL</p> <p>YEAR C: DECEMBER 1, 2024 TO NOVEMBER 29, 2025</p> <p>YEAR A: NOVEMBER 30, 2025 TO NOVEMBER 28, 2026</p>				<p>1 ALL SAINTS (S)</p>
<p>2 COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY) (S)</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends</p>	<p>3 31st Week in Ordinary Time</p>	<p>4 ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, BISHOP (M)</p>	5	6	7	8
<p>9 THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (F)</p>	<p>10 32nd Week in Ordinary Time</p> <p>ST. LEO THE GREAT, POPE AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH (M)</p>	<p>11 ST. MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP (M)</p> <p>Remembrance Day</p>	<p>12 ST. JOSAPHAT, BISHOP AND MARTYR (M)</p>	<p>13 ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI, VIRGIN (US)</p>	14	15
<p>16 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>World Day of the Poor</p>	<p>17 ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS (M)</p>	18	19	20	<p>21 THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (M)</p>	<p>22 ST. CECILIA, VIRGIN AND MARTYR (M)</p>
<p>23 CHRIST THE KING (S)</p> <p>34TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> <p>World Youth Day</p>	<p>24 ST. ANDREW DŨNG-LẠC, PRIEST, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS (M)</p>	25	26	27	28	29
<p>30 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>				<p>Thanksgiving Day (US)</p>		

# THE FULFILLMENT OF HOPE



**THEME:** The Coming of the Lord

**SCRIPTURE:** *Revelation 21:3-4* And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'

**REFLECTION:** December, the final month of the pilgrimage, is a time of anticipation and fulfillment. The Precious Blood of Christ is the guarantee of the hope we await — the coming of the Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom. As Pilgrims of Hope, we look forward to the fulfillment of God's promises, rejoicing in the knowledge that Christ's blood has secured our place in the new creation.

**PRAYER FOCUS:** Pray for the coming of God's Kingdom and for the grace to live in hopeful expectation of His return.

# DECEMBER 2025



**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION**  
 Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

*I encourage you to be humble and devoted to Mary most holy. Often go to the feet of such a dear mother and place your whole self into her holy hands.*  
 ST. MARIA DE MATTIAS (III:480)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 <b>ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST (OUR PATRON) (M)</b>	4	5	6
7 <b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	8 <b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (S)</b>	9	10	11	12 <b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE (F)</b>  <i>National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples</i>	13 <b>ST. LUCY, VIRGIN AND MARTYR (M)</b>
14 <b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <b>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	22	23	24	25 <b>CHRISTMAS: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (S)</b>	26 <b>ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR (F)</b>	27 <b>ST. JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST (F)</b>
28 <b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (F)</b>	29	30	31	<b>NOVEMBER 2025</b> Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>JANUARY 2026</b> Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	● <b>FEAST OR SOLEMNITY</b> ● <b>MARTYR</b> ■ <b>SPECIAL COMMEMORATION FOR THE PRECIOUS BLOOD FAMILY</b> M = <b>MEMORIAL</b> YEAR A: <b>NOVEMBER 30, 2025 TO NOVEMBER 28, 2026</b>



# Unio Sanguis Christi (USC)

**SEEKS TO PROMOTE A PRAYERFUL AND ACTIVE APOSTOLATE AMONG THE FAITHFUL  
IN THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD**

THE USC (UNIO SANGUIS CHRISTI) was founded in Rome, near the Basilica di San Nicola in Carcere, by Canon Francesco Albertini, who named it the Pious Association in honor of the Most Precious Blood. Initially established to promote religious culture, sacramental life, and acts of mercy among the lay faithful, the association was elevated to the rank of Archconfraternity by Pope Pius VII. It soon expanded to include religious and priests. St. Gaspar del Bufalo, recognizing its value for renewing Christian life, became its greatest promoter. When he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1815, he spiritually linked it to the Archconfraternity.

IN 1851, POPE PIUS IX established the Pious Union of the Most Precious Blood and placed it under the direct authority of the General Moderator of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. In 1951, Pope Pius XII reaffirmed its organization and approved its new statutes, which were updated after the Second Vatican Council. On May 24, 1988, the Pontifical Council for the Laity recognized the Union of the Precious Blood as an international association of pontifical right.

THE USC, A SPIRITUAL FAMILY rooted in the charism of St. Gaspar del Bufalo and inspired by the Spirituality of the Precious Blood, aims to spread the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, guided by the Gospel words: *No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* (John 15:13). Members, admitted to the Union after a period of formation, dedicate themselves to listening to the Word of God. They nurture their baptismal grace through frequent participation in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.



They also join in the public worship of the Church through the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours, extending praise, thanksgiving, and remembrance of the mysteries of salvation throughout the day. They collaborate in building up the Church, fostering its unity, and spreading of God's kingdom in the world. USC members commit themselves, according to their abilities, to realizing a social order of justice and peace among peoples. They support, both individually and in groups, every initiative of the Church or civil society in favour of human life and dignity.

THE USC, which includes individual faithful (laypersons, religious, priests) and associates (religious congregations, associations, confraternities), organized at the international, regional, and local levels. The central director of the Union is the General Moderator of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, who, along with the Council, animates the association, promotes the spirituality of the Blood of Christ, and facilitates the exchange of experiences among regional units. Regional and local Directors coordinate activities at those respective levels. The USC is present in five countries across Europe, North America, and South America.

THOSE ENROLLED IN THE UNION become part of the religious family founded by St. Gaspar del Bufalo on August 15, 1815. Any properly disposed Catholic may be incorporated into the Union upon completion of the period of formation.



**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE USC, PLEASE CONTACT  
Fr. Gerardo V. Laguartilla, C.P.P.S., [uscatlanticprovince@gmail.com](mailto:uscatlanticprovince@gmail.com).**

# A regular saint for regular people

**VENERABLE DON GIOVANNI MERLINI  
(1795–1873)**

**"M**

**ERLINI WAS A VERY VERSATILE PERSON,"** said Fr. Emanuele Lupi, C.P.P.S., an Italian priest who currently serves in Rome as the vice moderator general of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood worldwide and as the Congregation's archivist. "He was an artist and an architect. He was a man of God. He was a person who knew when to stop and reflect. He had a very calm personality. Nowadays, Pope Francis talks a lot about discernment. Merlini was a man of discernment. He was a spiritual director for many people, including St. Maria de Mattias," who founded the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, a congregation of sisters who now serve around the world.

Merlini was ordained a diocesan priest on December 19, 1818. He was 25 years old in 1820 when he met St. Gaspar del Bufalo, the founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood during a retreat that Gaspar was leading in the Abbey of San Felice, the Missionaries' first mission house in Giano, Italy. Though he had been ordained a diocesan priest, Merlini was inspired by Gaspar and knew right away that he wanted to take part in St. Gaspar's mission to renew the Church through the Precious Blood of Jesus.

## **A MAN OF WISDOM**

Merlini brought a lot of gifts to the new Congregation of priests and brothers, said Fr. Lupi. St. Gaspar was a passionate, visionary preacher and Merlini was a planner and a designer, someone who could carry out the dreams that St. Gaspar had for the Missionaries. Those who have studied the life of St. Gaspar have marveled at all that he was able to accomplish—but "if Gaspar was able to do it all, it was because of Merlini," Fr. Lupi said.



Gaspar spent much of his life preaching missions in the Italian countryside, traveling from town to town. "Merlini lived in a C.P.P.S. house his entire life. He was the one who was primarily running the Congregation while St. Gaspar was going out and preaching," Fr. Lupi said.

Merlini was compassionate and loyal—after Gaspar's death in 1837, everyone expected Merlini to be elected as his successor, but he was not. It had to be humiliating for Merlini, but he continued to serve the Congregation humbly and well, working hard and never complaining. "In humble silence he continued on, trying to be faithful to the message of St. Gaspar," said Fr. Lupi. "That is another sign of his holiness. Not everyone would have been able to accept that."

## **LEADING THE MISSIONARIES**

Ten years later, Merlini was chosen as the third moderator general and held that position for nearly 30 years, longer than anyone else in the history of the Congregation. Merlini was the spiritual director of Fr. Francis de Sales Brunner, C.P.P.S., who brought the first Missionaries to the United States in 1843. As they established themselves in mission houses and parishes across central and western Ohio, Merlini encouraged and guided Fr. Brunner. Under his leadership, the

Missionaries' ministries stretched far beyond their home country of Italy.

"The secret of the holiness of Merlini is exactly that he was a regular person. Sometimes when we read the lives of the saints, we see that they performed many miracles during their lifetime. That's not true with Merlini," Fr. Lupi said.

"What he can teach us is that it is possible to be saints, it is possible to be holy, in regular daily life. We can make extraordinary all the ordinary things that we do every day.

"The holiness of Merlini consists mainly in the commitments that he made. This tells me that I can be holy if I am faithful to what I have to do. His holiness comes from trying to do his level best to serve God. He didn't heal any paralytic. He didn't make any blind person see. But day after day, he was constant and faithful to God. He's a regular saint for regular people, and he can teach us that if we are faithful and do what we are supposed to do, we can be saints."

## **BEATIFICATION**

Merlini was recognized as venerable in 1973. Working with Sr. Nicla Spezzati, ASC, who is the postulator (a person who presents a case for the canonization or beatification), Fr. Lupi has promoted his cause.

It's hard to say what Merlini himself would think of all this. He might be a little embarrassed by all the attention, said Fr. Lupi. "From what I understand of him, he was such a humble man. He worked hard and he kept a low profile. He didn't like to be in the limelight," he said. "But of course, a person would have to be happy about being canonized."

On May 24, 2024, the Holy See communicated that Pope Francis had accepted the miracle attributed to Venerable Don Giovanni Merlini, priest and Moderator General of the C.P.P.S. and thus agreed that the Beatification Rite of Don Giovanni Merlini would take place in Rome on January 12, 2025 in the Basilica of Saint John Lateran.

ADAPTED FROM: *A Regular Saint for Regular People*, Missionaries of the Precious Blood (cpps-preciousblood.org)

# Peregrinantes in spem



## DEAR FRIEND:

*SINCE 1815, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood have been bringing hope and concrete assistance to numerous individuals around the world. Our mission is clear: we aim to nurture faith, kindle hope, and instigate positive transformations in missions and parishes through the Spirituality of the Precious Blood of Jesus.*



**BY PROUDLY DISPLAYING THIS CALENDAR** in your home or workplace, you join a vast community of Catholics supporting the invaluable work of our missionaries. These Calendars, aside from being a source of inspiration, fulfill a vital purpose: every penny earned directly aids impoverished communities in Africa, especially Tanzania. With the generous support of individuals like you, we provide essential resources such as water, education, medicine, and food to over 3 million people each year across Tanzania. We have been doing this since 1976. Thank you for your support!

**WE ALSO ENCOURAGE YOU** to remember the Congregation in your will. Through a testamentary bequest, you can provide essential support to those in need of food, medicine, and education. Allocating even a small portion of your assets can make a significant impact.

**REMEMBER, MAKING A WILL** is an act of immense responsibility and foresight. Including the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Atlantic Province, or C.P.P.S. Mission Projects in your will transforms it into an eternal act of love for the many children, men, and women that we assist through our missions. This gesture will allow you to be close to them forever. Please do not hesitate to contact us at 416.656.3054 to discuss this important matter further.

**AS YOU ENJOY THIS CALENDAR**, I encourage you to open your heart and delve deeper into the mission of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Atlantic Province. Please take a moment to explore our work by visiting our website at [www.preciousbloodatlantic.org](http://www.preciousbloodatlantic.org) or [cppsmissonprojects.ngo](http://cppsmissonprojects.ngo).



THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts, and may God bless you!

FR. JEROME HOLOGA, C.P.P.S.

## THE JUBILEE PRAYER



FATHER IN HEAVEN,  
may the *faith*  
you have given us in your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity*  
enkindled in our hearts  
by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators  
of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform  
from within both humanity  
and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.