

SAINT FRANCIS EXCHANGE

The Newsletter and Bulletin of the Oratory of Saint Francis of Assisi

MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BVM – AUGUST 2026

LETTER FROM
THE MONSIGNOR

ALMIGHTY and
everlasting God, Who in the
heart of the Blessed Virgin
Mary didst prepare a
dwelling worthy of the Holy
Ghost; grant in Thy mercy,
that we who with devout
minds celebrate the festival
of that Immaculate Heart,
may be able to live
according to Thine own
Heart.

– Collect from the Feast of the Immaculate
Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE beautiful feast of Our
Lady's Immaculate Heart,
celebrated on the 22nd of August
(the octave of Our Lady's
Assumption) by Catholics
faithful to holy tradition. Our
Lady's double feast of her
Assumption into heaven and
that of her Immaculate Heart
compliment each other so
wonderfully, as Our Lord
teaches us, *Blessed are the clean of
heart: for they shall see God* (S.
Matthew 5:8)!

During these turbulent
times we must cleave to Our
Lady's most holy example and
heed her warnings, most
especially those from the
approved apparitions at Fatima.
Her maternal care for us must be
respected and promoted by the
faithful, as we read in the book of
Ecclesiasticus, *They that explain
me shall have life everlasting*
(24:31).

We must remember that
when we pray to Our Lady, we
are asking for her to *intercede on
our behalf*, that is, we are asking
for her special assistance and
favour *by the Holy Name* – she is
asking God, on our behalf, for a
grace and spiritual favour. That
is the key point: she does not
grant a favour by her own power,
but rather, she asks for us,
pleading before the Throne of
God. Our Lady, and all of the
angels and saints in heaven, are
not “little gods”, but rather, they
are our *advocates*.



The word *advocate* means
“to speak for you” and this is
what Our Lady does, she speaks
for you and I before the Throne
of the Most High God. When
writing to the Church in Corinth
the Apostle reminds of the
importance and efficacy of
intercessory prayer: *Your helping
withal in prayer for us: that for this
gift obtained for us, by the means of
many persons, thanks may be
given...* (II Corinthians 1:11),
and therefore I ask all of you,
who helps us to obtain gifts if not
Our Lady?

We have examples of Our
Lady interceding in the Holy

Gospels; did she not ask Our Lord
to perform His first *public* miracle
by turning water into wine (cf. S.
John 2:3 – 5)? If she would assist at
a wedding how much more will
she assist us in obtaining the grace
to save our souls? Be Our Lady's
and she shall be yours! The
Blessed Virgin Mary is the *Mother
of fair love* (Ecclesiasticus 24:24),
and she shall bring comfort and
confidence to your heart, and take
to yourself her example, *Behold
the handmaid of the Lord: be it done
until me according to thy word* (S.
Luke 1:38). Let us imitate her
perfect humility with love and
confidence, and let us also become
examples to others of how the
well-ordered Catholic lives and
behaves: *but the path of the just, as
a shining light, goeth forwards, and
increaseth even to the perfect day*
(Proverbs 4:18), to which the
Apostle commands, *Wherefore I
beseech you, be followers of me, as I
also am of Christ* (I Corinthians
4:16)!

And with Our Lady's
assistance and intercession I have
a happy update for our apostolate:
we will now have *two* seminarians
starting their *Spiritual Year* in the
fall. Please keep them in your
prayers; tomorrow's Church
depends on your prayers,
encouragement and support!

We are ever grateful for
your continued support and
prayers for our little Chapel, we
ask that you continue to
remember us in your prayers. You
and your intentions are prayed for
every single day, especially at
Holy Mass offered on our Altar.

In Christ the King,
Monsignor ✠ Thomas JF Sebastian

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Monsignor: Regarding prayer, what is the best method of organizing your prayer life? Are there methods that take precedent over each other? I often form one "run on" prayer, but try to stay concise as we are told, *And when you are praying, speak not much, as the heathens. For they think that in their much speaking they may be heard* (S. Matthew 6:7).

RCG, North Hollywood, CA

A: I commend you for the question; for prayer to be efficacious it must contain three elements: *adoration, petition and thanksgiving...*

I will give praise to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart: I will relate all Thy wonders. I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing to Thy Name, O Thou Most High (Psalm 9:2-3)!

Be nothing solicitous; but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your petitions be made known to God (Philippians 4:6)!

Always rejoice. Pray without ceasing. In all things give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you all (I Thessalonians 5:16-18)!

The next important thing to remember is to take time to *listen* to God in your prayer, this is best achieved by *meditation*. Think of a specific aspect of God, like His goodness and generosity, and take time to meditate and ponder upon that aspect. Keep your thoughts focused on that and let it sink into the quietness of your heart and soul – give God time to speak to

you, remembering that prayer must not be a one-sided conversation.

If you have a question, please feel free to e-mail:

info@stfrancisratory.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

YOUR continued prayers are requested for the sick, especially Mr. George Porter, Mrs. Denise Huizenga, Mr. William Huizenga, Mrs. Norma Hernandez and Mr. Charles E. McClusky. Please also remember in your prayers the souls of those who have died, especially Mr. Paul Howard†, Mr. John Owen† and Mr. Atilano Duarte†. *If you know of someone unable to attend Holy Mass due to sickness, please be sure to let the Monsignor know so he can arrange for a sick call.*



Real Men Kneel at Holy Mass!

HOW TO DONATE AND SEND MASS STIPENDS

DONATIONS and Mass Stipends can be sent online via [Zelle](#) (be sure to select *donation* and not *payment*) or you can always send a cheque to our Post Office Box:

St. Francis of Assisi
PO Box 8469
Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469

The normal stipend for a Mass Intention is \$20.00. Please be sure to include the person's name

(w/Mr., Mrs. or Miss) and if they are living or deceased. Also, be sure to indicate if you wish a **Mass Card** to be sent to that person or their family.

Your continued support is appreciated and quite needed to continue our mission of offer the true and traditional Latin Mass of the Holy Catholic Church. The True Mass and Faith are ours to protect, defend and support!

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION FOR 2026

15 August 2026 (Saturday)
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1 November 2026 (Sunday)
Feast of All Saints

8 December 2026 (Tuesday)
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

25 December 2026 (Friday)
Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

SUNDAYS OF AUGUST: THE CATHOLIC HAND MISSAL

In order to assist the faithful following Holy Mass with their hand missals here are the Sunday Masses for August 2026:

2 August 2026:

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:
 Commemoration of *S. Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop, Confessor and Doctor of the Church* and of *S. Stephen I, Pope & Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Holy Trinity*.

9 August 2026:

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost:
 Commemoration of *S. Jean Vianney, Confessor* and *S. Romanus, Martyr* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Holy Trinity*.

16 August 2026:

Feast of S. Joachim, Father of the BVM:

Commemoration of *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost* and the *Octave of the Assumption* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Holy Trinity*. Proper Last Gospel of the *Sunday*.

23 August 2026:

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

Commemoration of *S. Philip Benizi, Confessor* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Holy Trinity*.

31 August 2026:

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

Commemoration of *S. Raymond Nonnatus, Confessor* at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion, with the *Preface of the Holy Trinity*.

To participate *correctly* at Holy Mass one *silently* unites his prayers with those of the Church through pious and attentive meditation of the prayers and reading of Holy Mass.

If you are unsure how to correctly set your hand missal arrive early for Holy Mass and ask the Monsignor to assist you. It is also important to become familiar with the *Ordinary of the Mass*, those parts that never change, *i.e.*: Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus, Benedictus, and the Agnus Dei. And, of course, the Canon of the Mass, and the *Propers of the Mass*, those which vary according to the feasts of the day, *i.e.*, Introit, Collect(s) (after the Gloria or Dominus Vobiscum), Epistle, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract or Sequence, Gospel, Secret, Communion Verse and Post Communion. On many feasts or days there are *Commemorations* (additional prayers) at the Collect, Secret and Postcommunion. The careful attention to these prayers and readings will help one enter into a deeper spiritual relationship

with the Holy Liturgy, the Saints and Mysteries of God.



The Hidden Mass in Van Nuys

Sunday Mass Time:

10:00 am

(818) 786-2540

e-mail: info@stfrancisoratory.org

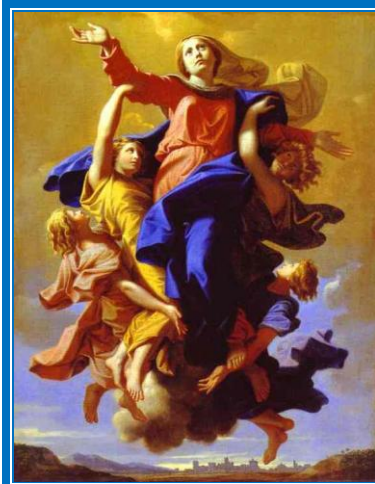
Be sure to visit our web site at:

www.stfrancisoratory.org

N.B.: Our Mailing Address is:

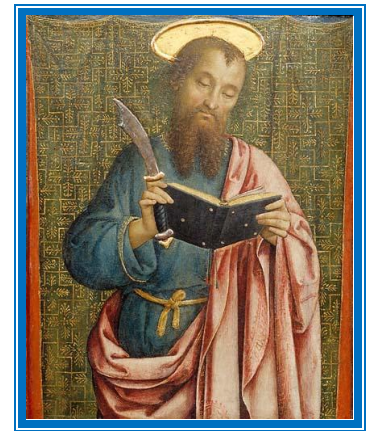
Post Office Box 8469

Van Nuys, CA 91409-8469



**ASSUMPTION OF
THE BVM:
HOLY DAY OF
OBLIGATION**

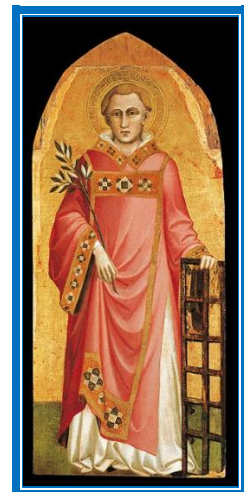
SATURDAY the fifteen of August is the feast of the **ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM:** a Holy Day of Obligation. For the convenience of the faithful Holy Mass will be offered at 08:00 and 10:00 that morning.



*Feast of S. Bartholomew, the Apostle
(24 August):
Pray for us!*



*Feast of S. Jane Frances de Chantal,
Widow
(31 August):
Pray for us!*



*Feast of S. Lawrence, Martyr
(10 August):
Pray for us!*



✿Saint Francis Chapel is staffed by the Priestly Society of Christ the King (SSCR); properly trained and ordained Roman Catholic Priests who are faithful to the teachings and disciplines of the Roman Catholic Church. Saint Francis is not affiliated with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Holy Fathers, the Popes, most especially Saint Pope Pius V in His infallible decree *Quo Primum*, have given their permission in perpetuity to offer the Traditional Latin Mass (*Missal of S. Pope Pius V* and rubrics of *S. Pope Pius X*).

MASS GUILD
HOLY MASS is offered on the First Saturday of every month for all Friends and benefactors of SAINT FRANCIS ORATORY CHAPEL. Your generous donation (one time *or* monthly) enables you to be remembered upon the Altars of the Society, where *only* the traditional Latin Mass is offered, as codified and canonized by His Holiness, Saint Pope Pius V, *perpetually* approved of.

We would like to remind those who send Mass requests to PLEASE include the name of the person and/or intention with your stipend. Mass Cards will be sent to concerned parties upon request. Thank you and God bless you!

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:

www.traditio.com
www.traditionalmass.org
www.novusordowatch.com

N.B.: Recommendation of a website is for information and does not constitute association with or full agreement of opinions or positions.

PETER SPEAKS:



AND, so much the more must it be done since the enemies of the Divine Name — that is, those who have rebelled against and denied and scorned the Eternal God — spread snares for the Catholic Faith and the liberty due to the Church, and finally rebel with insane efforts against divine and human rights, to send mankind to ruin and perdition. Through efficacious recourse to

the Virgin Mother of God, they may be finally bent and led to penance and return to the straight path, trusting to the care and protection of Mary.

Pope Pius XI, *Ingravescentibus Malis*, no.18, 29 September 1937

