



# A Prayer Request from Bishop Strickland

# Diocesan Rosary Novena

In honor of Our Lady of Fatima and asking her intercession for the Diocese of Tyler to become an outstanding teaching diocese in the service of the Lord.

*August 15 to October 7, 2017*

# Praying the rosary... as a Family

I recently outlined in my *Constitution for Teaching the Catholic Faith* a bold new vision for catechesis and evangelization in the Diocese of Tyler. My earnest hope is that we as a Diocese more boldly and effectively proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ and in the teachings of his Church. But for our efforts to bear fruit we must begin with prayer. Therefore, I invite all the people of the diocese to join me in praying a 54-Day Rosary Novena, beginning on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, and ending on October 7, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, asking our Lady's intercession for the Diocese of Tyler to become an outstanding teaching diocese in the service of the Lord.

Even if you've never prayed a Novena, even if you've never prayed the Rosary or don't even own one, don't worry. On the facing page are instructions and a printed Rosary you can use to get started. On the back page is a calendar to follow. As a family, we can do this!



## So, what is a novena?

The term "novena" comes from the Latin word for nine (novem) and consists of set prayers offered every day for nine consecutive days for a specific intention. Praying a novena is a devotional practice with a long history in the Church. Many believe that it is patterned after the nine days of sustained prayer made by the apostles, Mary, and the holy women in the upper room in Jerusalem, before experiencing on the tenth day the powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost: *All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers* (Acts 1:14). Christ himself praises persistent prayer because it is a sign of our faith in the goodness of God who provides for all our needs: *And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you* (Luke 11:9).

While most novenas last nine days, the 54-Day Rosary Novena consists of praying three novenas of the daily Rosary in petition for the first 27 days, followed immediately by praying three novenas of the daily Rosary in thanksgiving during the second 27 days, for a grand total of six Rosary novenas over the course of 54 days. The 54-Day Rosary Novena is sometimes called "miraculous" because so often God rewards the faithfulness of its devotees with remarkable results. The 54-Day Rosary Novena originates in 1884 with a young Italian girl named Fortuna Agrelli who suffered an incurable disease that her doctors said was a hopeless case. Fortuna and her family in their desperation began to pray a novena of Rosaries to Our Lady of Pompeii for her healing. Our Lady appeared to Fortuna, told her she was the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and asked her to pray three Rosary novenas of petition and three Rosary novenas in thanksgiving for her healing. Fortuna and her family followed our Lady's instructions, and she was miraculously cured. From there the devotion of praying the 54-Day Rosary Novena for an outpouring of special graces spread throughout the world. We need those kinds of graces here in the Diocese of Tyler!



I am filled with gratitude for all your prayers, support, and good works in our wonderful Diocese. I also thank you for making a commitment to join me in praying this 54-Day Rosary Novena for an outpouring of grace upon our Diocese to become an outstanding teaching diocese in service to the Lord. I cannot wait to see the tremendous graces God will surely pour out upon our Diocese through Our Lady's intercession!

May the Blessed, Ever-Virgin Mother of God, the patroness of this Diocese under her title of Immaculate Conception, support us with her maternal strength and protection as we pray this 54-Day Rosary Novena, and may God bless the Diocese of Tyler as we bring the Light of Jesus Christ to all.



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Bishop Joseph Edward Strickland  
Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas



# The Rosary and Fatima



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of our Lady to three young shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. The Blessed Virgin Mary in each apparition asked the children to pray the Rosary every day and to spread this urgent message of praying the daily Rosary to the entire world. During her final appearance on October 13, Our Lady told the children, *"I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue always to pray the Rosary every day."* Our Diocese is doing its part to highlight the message of Fatima in a variety of ways this year, including consecrating our Diocese to the Immaculate

Heart of Mary at the annual diocesan Marian Conference on May 13, hosting the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima in five parishes in our diocese from July 21–27, and giving a series of talks on Fatima in some of our parishes.

Our 54-Day Rosary Novena, however, is the specific way I have chosen for our Diocese to answer the Blessed Virgin Mary's urgent call at Fatima

to pray the Rosary every day. After our 54-Day Rosary Novena concludes on the Feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7, our focus on Fatima will culminate with a special Mass at the Cathedral on Friday, October 13, the anniversary date of Our Lady's final appearance at Fatima, celebrated by me and the priests of the Diocese.

## How to pray the Rosary

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.



2. Holding the Crucifix, say the Apostles' Creed

3. On the first bead, say an Our Father.

4. Say one Hail Mary on each of the next three beads.

5. Say the Glory Be

6. For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery then say the Our Father. For more information on the Mysteries, an excellent online resource is: <https://goo.gl/PjNiUU>

7. While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, say ten Hail Marys while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a Glory Be.

8. After finishing each decade, say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.

9. After saying the five decades, say the Hail, Holy Queen, followed by this dialogue and prayer:  
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son,  
by his life, Death, and Resurrection,  
has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life,  
grant, we beseech thee,  
that while meditating on these mysteries  
of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary,  
we may imitate what they contain  
and obtain what they promise,  
through the same Christ our  
Lord. Amen.

# Family Rosary Calendar

“Even if you’ve never prayed the Rosary before, here is a chance to start a family tradition of prayer.”

-Bishop Joseph Strickland

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13 August	14	15 Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary today.	16 Pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary today.	17 Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary today.	18 Pray the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary today.	19 Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary today.
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20 Pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary today.	21 Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary today.	22 Glorious	23 Joyful	24 Luminous	25 Sorrowful	26 Glorious
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Joyful	28 Luminous	29 Sorrowful	30 Glorious	31 Joyful	1 Luminous	2 Sorrowful
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Glorious	4 Joyful	5 Luminous	6 Sorrowful	7 Glorious	8 Joyful	9 Luminous
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 Sorrowful	11 Joyful	12 Luminous	13 Sorrowful	14 Glorious	15 Joyful	16 Luminous
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 Sorrowful	18 Glorious	19 Joyful	20 Luminous	21 Sorrowful	22 Glorious	23 Joyful
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24 Luminous	25 Sorrowful	26 Glorious	27 Joyful	28 Luminous	29 Sorrowful	30 Glorious
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Joyful	2 Luminous	3 Sorrowful	4 Glorious	5 Joyful	6 Luminous	7 Sorrowful