

SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

VOLUME VI, ISSUE I



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"SAINT JUDE,
RELATIVE OF MARY,
PRAY THAT I REALIZE THAT SHE IS MY MOTHER."





DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friend of Saint Jude,

During these trying times, I ask you to pray with me this Miracle Prayer to Saint Jude:

Lord Jesus, I come before you just as I am. I am sorry for my sins; I repent of my sins; please forgive me. In Your name, I forgive all others for what they have done against me.

I renounce Satan, the evil spirits, and all their works. I give you my entire self, Lord Jesus, now and forever. I invite you into my life, Jesus. I accept you as my Lord, God, and Saviour. Heal me, change me, strengthen me in body, soul, and spirit.

Come, Lord Jesus, cover me with your precious blood, and fill me with your Holy Spirit. I Love You, Lord Jesus. I Praise You, Jesus. I Thank You, Jesus. I shall follow you every day of my life.

Mary, Mother of Sorrows, Queen of Peace, pray for me.

Saint Jude, cousin of the Lord, take me by the hand with Jesus before our Heavenly Father.

Saint Jude, relative of Mary, pray that I realize that she is my mother.

Saint Jude, brother of Saint James, be my caring sibling.

Saint Jude who sailed with Jesus as He slept in the storm and cried out to Him when you thought the boat would sink, pray for me in the storms of my life.

Saint honored by your humble Master washing your feet, pray that I may have your same humility to accept Jesus' love for me as He washes away my sins.

Saint Jude who received your Eucharistic Lord from His own hands at the Last Supper, send your Guardian Angel, to go for me to the church, there kneel down during Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place.

Saint of the Impossible, pray for all healthcare workers during this pandemic who have an daunting workload and give them your strength.

Saint Jude who received the martyr's crown, give me protection from the Coronavirus.

Saint Jude sent by Christ on missions of healing, aid all those in danger of death because of this pandemic, that they may be healed.

Saint Jude sent without silver, staff, or sandals, provide for me during these financially hard times.

Saint Jude, witness to the Resurrection of Christ and His Ascension, shed a ray of Easter sunrise into my gloomy days and lift my eyes up with yours to the Risen Lord.

Saint Jude, filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, enkindle the smoldering wick of my soul with the fire of your faith which you carried throughout your journeys.

Amen



Having put our trust in God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Saint Jude, let us go about all the Lord has called us to do with confidence in His everlasting protection.

You and your loved ones are in my prayers,

Father Gabriel

Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P.

Director, Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude

THANK YOU, SAINT JUDE!

LETTERS FROM PATRONS OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

For generations, Catholics have publicly thanked Saint Jude for favors received through his intercession. In these pages, patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude carry on the tradition!

A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

I was in my kitchen alone just before Christmas. I had been suffering from despair because for a year after back surgery I was unable to walk without a walker or cane. Suddenly, I felt my heart race as it sometimes does during prayer. I listened and heard “You can walk.” I immediately pushed aside the walker and started walking with my own two legs for the first time in three years! What a sudden miracle. I had prayed for years for healing to Christ, Mother Mary, and Saint Jude. I’m still walking on my own to this day. More prayer, less worry!

-Dr. Melody

IMPOSSIBLE?

My son's father-in-law was dying of cancer. I asked him what three things he wanted to see before passing. His last wish was to see his birthday but he said that it was impossible as it was much too far away and he was not expected to live that long. I prayed to St. Jude and every wish came true. He died two weeks past the birthday he so longed to see and passed away from a heart attack, not cancer.

-Grace

My grandson was unable to find a full-time teaching job. Over the years, he worked as a substitute teacher but when he married and his wife bore a son, my grandson's situation became even more dire. I prayed, begging Saint Jude's intercession, and am thrilled to report that my grandson obtained a full-time teaching position with good benefits

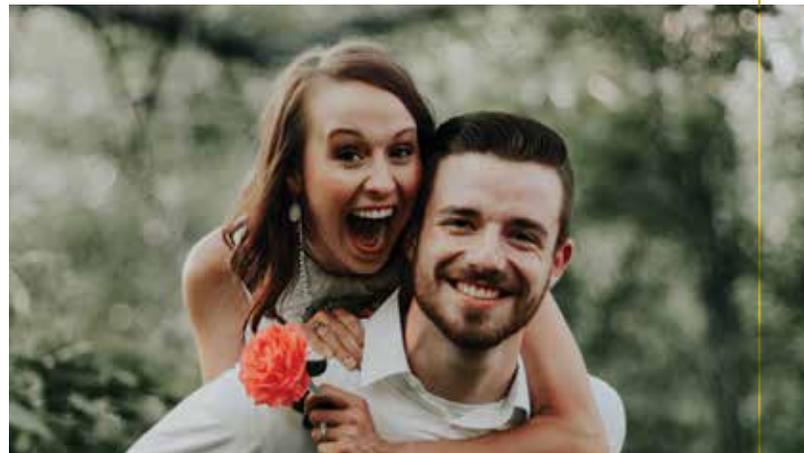
and a decent salary. Thank you Saint Jude. I will always be grateful to you and faithful in seeking your help.

-Annemarie

RELUCTANT BOYFRIEND

Saint Jude won over my boyfriend. I didn't want to live in sin with him, and he didn't ever want to marry. But after three days of prayer to Saint Jude, he asked me last night to marry him. Thank you, Saint Jude. I love you!

-Jeanne



My fiance and I broke up over a misunderstanding. He thought I abandoned him in a time of need. I prayed to Saint Jude, asking him to give my fiance clarity and to reunite us. I specifically asked for him to ask me to marry him again. On the 5th day of the Novena he did just that and gave me back the engagement ring.!

-Anonymous

SOBER THROUGH SAINT JUDE

Saint Jude found me at my lowest point in my

relationship with my boyfriend, an alcoholic. I prayed the Saint Jude novena. On the seventh day, he answered my prayer. My boyfriend is now one year and four months sober. We are pursuing our dream career together. Thank you, Saint Jude, for helping me find my way to Jesus and thank you for everything you've done for me and my relationship.

-Anonymous

Leigh Thank you, Saint Jude, for never giving up on me. I pray every morning and every night and have been sober for 26 years.



OUT OF WORK

I recently became unemployed when a client contract did not renew. I began collecting unemployment benefits while I started my job search. A few days ago, my benefits were placed on hold. I still hadn't found employment and my benefits were desperately needed. I prayed to Saint Jude and the Holy Family that I could get through to someone at the Unemployment Office who would help me resolve the issue quickly. I received a call later that day from a kind and understanding gentleman at the Unemployment Office who resolved the situation and restored my benefits. Thank you, Saint Jude!

-Christopher



A few years ago, my dad was in the hospital with head trauma. The doctors gave him only a 50/50 chance of making it. This sweet lady was in the waiting room with me. She saw that I was very upset: tears just rolling down my cheeks. She took from her purse a little paper book.

“Here,” she said, “this is a Saint Jude Novena. Saint Jude will help your father.”

My dad made it after three months in the hospital and a lot of therapy. He lived to be 93 years old. Since that day, Saint Jude has been my patron saint.!

-Margie

FEDERAL AGENT

I am a retired federal agent and I have said a daily prayer to Saint Jude for approximately 50 years. I have also carried a Rosary with a Saint Jude medal attached in my suit pocket every day for 25 years.

I had some bad fortune prior to retirement and had to have back surgery, which was a total mess. Since my operation in 2004, I suffered a stroke and had to have another surgery on my back, as I was literally losing my ability to walk. Through it all, I prayed to our Blessed Mother and Saint Jude through the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude.

I have also prayed that my son, who is a police officer, could find another job that he would enjoy and be much safer at. Today he was transferred to another, much nicer, district. I continue to ask that he find another job, possibly in the federal government.

Since my back surgery this May, I have regained quite a bit of mobility in my lower back, and every day my legs are getting stronger, and I can actually pick up my grandchildren without the fear of falling. I have not had another event--for that I'm truly blessed.

I owe all of these granted wishes to the Blessed Mother, Saint Jude, and the Friars of The Rosary Shrine. They have never let me down. Every chance I get, I encourage devotion to the same. Thank you so much for your continued prayers. I am sending along a special donation for the Friars.

-Don

PLAYING WITH THE INFANT OF PRAGUE



I am 88 years old. When I was a child of three years old I was playing in my grandmother's yard, and a little boy with a crown on his head and blond hair and blue eyes came to play with me. He had a ball with a cross on it in his hand.

I didn't know who he was until I started attending school and asked my priest. He told me to go to the Polish church and they would tell me. So I went,

and the Polish priest told me it was the Infant of Prague. To this day I have kept his statue in my home and he has protected me.

-Dorothy

Saint Jude helped me when I almost lost my baby. I was told she would not survive. She was born at seven-and-a-half months. She spent two weeks in the NICU, while I was being treated in a different hospital. The entire time I prayed to Saint Jude. I begged him to help her. She was tiny and her lungs were not fully developed. I did not get to meet her for a whole week after she was born. When I first

saw her in the incubator she just had a little tag that said "baby girl." I told the nurse, "her name is Judith."

-Olga

I suffer from depression. The last bout lasted two years. I tried every kind of medication out there for my illness. Nothing helped, so I stopped going to my doctors and started praying to Saint Jude every day. I started feeling better in a few months. I will never forget Saint Jude and tell all my friends that Saint Jude is a miracle worker!

-Anonymous

I have had a thoracic aortic aneurysm for some time now. I recently had a checkup and was told that I have a small ulcer on the side of this aneurysm. Surgery was required ASAP. I am 91, and at my age this is a very risky procedure. I was a basket case.

Saint Jude has granted me many impossible miracles, so I placed myself in his and the Lord's hands. In October, I received a letter from Father Gabriel in which he enclosed a gift from the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude: a beautiful Saint Jude chaplet with a convenient folder explaining all the chaplet prayers. I began to pray this chaplet and asked my friends to pray for me as well.

When I met with the surgeon, he explained that further tests showed the ulcer was very small and did not require an operation after all. I said a prayer of thanks to Saint Jude and the Lord.

-Teresa

Share your Saint Jude story by using the reply envelope attached to this issue, emailing rssj@dominicanfriars.org, or contacting us on Facebook at [facebook.com/rosarysaintjude](https://www.facebook.com/rosarysaintjude).



SAINT ANNE, A COMPASSIONATE INTERCESSOR FOR THE SUFFERING

Saint Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and grandmother of the Lord has long been a source of refuge to the sick and suffering. As Pope Gregory XIII put it when introducing the feast of Saint Anne, "We believe that Saint Anne continually intercedes for us with the merciful Lord, for through her great benefits have come to mankind. From her was born the ever pure and immaculate Virgin Mary, who was found worthy to bring forth Jesus Christ, our Redeemer."

Use the enclosed envelope to send us your prayer intentions for the upcoming Novena of Masses to Saint Anne, which will be celebrated at the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude beginning on July 18 and concluding on her feast day, July 26.

PRAYER IN HONOR OF SAINT ANNE

O Glorious Saint Anne, you are compassionate toward those in need who invoke your heavenly

intercession. Burdened with life's difficulties, I place myself before you, and ask that you assist me with the petitions and intentions I now recommend to your special protection.

(Here mention your requests.)

Place my concerns before Our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek the loving aid of your daughter, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please continue interceding for me until my requests are granted.

Above all, obtain for me the grace of one day seeing Almighty God face to face, with you and Mary and all the saints, honoring and praising God through all eternity.

Pray for us, good Saint Anne. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Gracious God, who chose Saint Anne to bring into the world the mother of Your only Son, mercifully grant to us who devoutly honor her memory, the grace of happiness in this life, and the joy of life with You for all eternity. Amen.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE



Help us continue our mission of spreading devotion to Saint Jude through a gift in your will.

To learn more, contact Diana Kilarjian,

Director of Gift Planning:

(646) 350-0108

diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org

THE PATRON SAINT OF IMPOSSIBLE CAUSES REMINDS US THAT GOD IS ALWAYS NEAR

BY GARY JANSEN

*This article was originally published in Angelus and has
been reprinted with permission.*

**“TEN MESSAGES FLASHED ON
THE SCREEN. I RACED TO MY
CAR, AND AS I DID, I COULD
HEAR MY GRANDMOTHER
CALLING OUT TO ME, ‘GO TO
GRACE! PRAY FOR GRACE!’”**

When I was growing up, my maternal grandmother was one of my best friends. Nana and I were close, not just in spirit, but in proximity. I lived for most of my early life just a few doors away, and I visited her almost every day, sometimes for breakfast and sometimes for a snack of soda and pretzels after school.

Back in those days, my parents didn't always get along, so I would often do my homework at Nana's house. It was a respite from all the arguing

that often punctuated the days and nights at my own home.

As I sat in my grandmother's tiny kitchen working through my math, I'd take breaks and listen to her tell stories about growing up in Brooklyn during the Depression. Her family was poor, but they had fun with the little they had, she would always say. Once in a while, she would help me forget my troubles by dancing a bar or two of an Irish jig.

I continued making my daily pilgrimage to Nana's house as I grew older, throughout high school and college, and even after I started my New York City career in publishing. I stayed local, and while I never really thought about it until just now, I may have never gone too far from home because I always wanted to be near her.

One evening after work, I was walking from the train station to Nana's. As I crossed the street, I heard her calling out to me in a panic. She was leaning out her living room window, her face contorted in grief. "Grace has been calling you. Her father had a heart attack and died. Go to her, Gary. Go to her!"

Grace was my girlfriend at the time (and would become my wife a couple of years later). I was in shock. I reached into my pocket and pulled out my cellphone. Earlier, I had switched the ringer to silent mode and had forgotten to turn it back on (this was back in the day, before we had become addicted to checking our phones every few minutes).

Ten messages flashed on the screen. I raced to



my car, and as I did, I could hear my grandmother calling out to me, “Go to Grace! Pray for Grace!”

Fumbling with my keys, I cranked the ignition and pulled away. My heart seemed to dislodge from my chest — broke in two — and began pounding in my temple. I sped toward Grace’s home, blowing through traffic lights, flipping through my phone and listening to her messages.



PHOTO BY STEVEN KELLEY

She was crying, and it was often difficult to understand her. But I was able to make out how her father had felt ill at work, how her mom and brother took him to the hospital, how Grace stayed behind to make soup for when he got home, and how he had died in the hospital as doctors tried to resuscitate him. She never got to say goodbye to him.

As I drove, I remembered that Grace’s father’s favorite saint was Jude. I started praying to the patron saint of lost causes for help. “Saint Jude, please make this all a big mistake. Please save him. Please, Saint Jude. Help.”

When I arrived at Grace’s house, I was still

holding out hope that the news was wrong. But when she opened the door, I stepped into the living room and saw everyone in her immediate family in tableau, a living portrait of shock and grief.

In a split second, it became evident that my prayer to Jude had not been answered.

What happened to Grace’s father, Bert, was way beyond a hopeless cause. There was seemingly no possibility for a miracle, but we were all still hoping for one, praying this was all a big joke and he would walk through the door and shout, “Surprise!”

That never happened, but the anticipation was so very real. Though we didn’t know it at the time, Grace’s family and I were experiencing the first and second stages of grief: denial mixed with anger. This can’t be happening. How could God allow this? Where was Jesus in all of this?

Of course, I have no answers to those questions. But in the days that followed, while God often seemed far away, Jude seemed to be close at hand, watching over Grace’s family, offering all of us not miracles, but consolation and strength precisely when we were at our lowest.

This came through random acts of kindness from strangers, flashes of peace, inspiration from Jude prayer cards given to the family by neighbors, and certain odd occurrences. One possible moment that seemed to be divinely inspired happened on the day of the funeral.

The family had been sitting around the dinner table, talking about the church service earlier in the day. At one point, the conversation invariably turned to Jude. Grace’s father’s beeper — more common than cell phones in 1997 — went off.

Grace’s brother checked the pager to see who was calling, and the number on the device indicated the call was coming from their house. Eerily, no one there was near a phone.

To this day none of us know what happened, but we like to think Grace’s father and Jude were reaching out to remind us: “Even in hopeless cases, do not fear, for I am always with you.”



ELVIS AND THE ROSARY

BY FATHER JOHN MARIA DEVANEY, O.P.

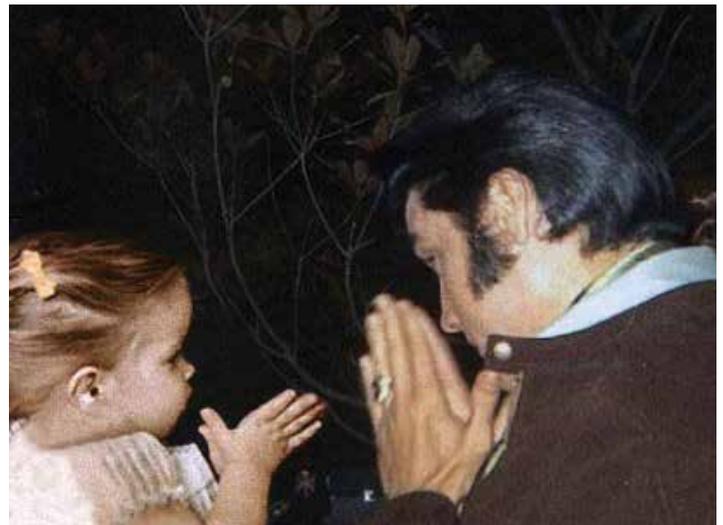
“THE MIRACLE IS THAT MORE AND MORE, AS THE YEARS GO BY IN OUR LIFE OF FAITH, THE MOTHER OF GOD INTERCEDES FOR US TO HER SON JESUS, WHO OBTAINS GRACE UPON GRACE FOR OURSELVES, THE CHURCH – THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST – AND THE WHOLE WORLD.”



In May of 1971, the 15th to be exact, Elvis Aaron Presley recorded a song entitled “The Miracle of the Rosary”. It would be released the following year on February 20, 1972 on the album entitled *Elvis Now!* It’s one of the great mysteries of faith why Elvis, raised in the evangelical Christian denomination Assemblies of God, recorded a song devoted to arguably the greatest Catholic sacramental, the Rosary.

For Dominican friars and our history of promoting the Rosary, this question bears particular interest. How many songs have been recorded about the Rosary by major artists and released on a major record label? None... except for Elvis. Now Elvis recorded and performed dozens of other hymns and spirituals over his whole career. Interestingly enough, of the 14 Grammy nominations from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), his only three wins were for gospel recordings: the album “How Great Thou Art” (1967), the album “He Touched Me” (1972), and his live concert recording in Memphis of the song “How Great Thou Art” (1974). Don’t forget this is the person who has sold over one billion albums, more than any other person in recording history.

It wasn’t Elvis who actually wrote “Miracle of The Rosary,” but an early pioneer of rockabilly music and the man who first taught Elvis to play guitar at the age of 13. The writer’s name was Lee Denson. Denson’s father, Rev. James Denson, ran the Poplar Street Mission, a Pentecostal church that Elvis and his mother and father attended in Memphis after moving there in 1948. It was here that the two families became friends. Denson went on to have a music career with a few minor hits, but obviously never to the same success as Elvis.



ELVIS TEACHES HIS DAUGHTER, LISA MARIE, HOW TO PRAY.

It was in 1960, however, that Denson penned an English version of the “Ave Maria.” With lack of interest from his publishers because it was of a religious nature, Denson was living in L.A. at the time and took it to Elvis, knowing his love of Gospel music. Elvis, who was in town filming a movie, received Denson warmly at his Bel-Air home where he performed it for him. A little later on, one of Elvis’ entourage reached out to Denson

about the publishing, but nothing ever came of that at the time. Then over a decade later, Denson got a call from one of his old band mates in Memphis, telling him to sit down as he broke the news that Elvis had recorded a version of it. Denson couldn't believe that after all that time, Elvis had held onto the song and had actually recorded it. (Don't forget, Lee Denson grew up evangelical as well, and there is no record of him being a Catholic. Maybe somewhere there is another story which explains why Lee Denson wrote the song in the first place. Was there a basket of rosaries in the back of the pentecostal mission his father ran? We'll never know.)

What moved Elvis to record that song so many years later? That we must leave to providence and the mystery of God's plan for salvation. Yet we can speculate, and in the case of Elvis and his salvation, it is worth it. Here's where we can begin: Jesus loves His mother perfectly, dearly, and greater than any of us can love her, or our own mothers.

For decades Elvis sang of Jesus (and the rest of the Holy Trinity), and he even recorded a version of the perfect prayer, the Our Father, all via what we commonly call Gospel Music. But what is the Rosary? Nothing else but the Prayer of the Gospels! The whole point of the Rosary – “The Miracle of the Rosary” if you will – is to ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to bring us closer to her Son, as we reflect on his life, death, and resurrection with each bead that slips through our fingers. The miracle is that more and more, as the years go by in our life of faith, the Mother of God intercedes for us to her son Jesus, who obtains grace upon grace for ourselves, the Church – the Mystical Body of Christ – and the whole world. Only in Heaven will we find out all of the Rosary's many miracles. Dare we say that this song is the capstone of Elvis' Gospel recordings, and perhaps of his whole recording career? For what light can his secular work really hold to this subject matter?

Not being Catholic, Elvis obviously did not have the fullness of the sacramental life that Christ left us, but he was baptized. We will only find out in

Heaven how God extended his hand of mercy to Elvis throughout his life. At the foot of the cross, Jesus gave Mary to care for all members of his Church, and every Hail Mary prayed in the Rosary begs the blessed Mother to pray for us “now and at the hour of our death.” Elvis himself sang the Hail Mary, and remember the old adage “singing is like praying twice.” Is not the most loving Mother of her children concerned about the salvation of all God's adopted children? Was she praying for Elvis at the hour of his death? I have no doubt in my mind!



LEE DENSON, SONGWRITER OF
“THE MIRACLE OF THE ROSARY”

“The Miracle of the Rosary” lyrics

Oh Blessed Mother we pray to Thee
Thanks for the miracle of Your Rosary
Only You can hold back
Your Holy Son's hand
Long enough for the whole world to
understand
Hail Mary full of grace
The Lord is with Thee
Blessed are thou among women
And blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus
Oh Holy Mary dear Mother of God
Please pray for us sinners
Now and at the hour of our death
And give thanks once again
For the miracle of Your Rosary



SEND US YOUR INTENTIONS
FOR OUR SAINT ANNE NOVENA
OF MASSES:
JULY 18 - JULY 26

2020 SUMMER/FALL NOVENAS

JUL 18 – 26: SAINTS ANNE & JOACHIM NOVENA
SEP 8 – 16: BLESSED MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY NOVENA
SEP 29 – OCT 7: HOLY ROSARY NOVENA
OCT 20 – 28: SAINT JUDE FEAST DAY NOVENA
MONTH OF NOVEMBER: POOR SOULS MASS
REMEMBRANCE
DEC 17 – 25: CHRISTMAS NOVENA

PRAYER FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE PATRONS

"For all the intentions entrusted to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary and Saint Jude the Apostle: that the Lord will ease the burden and suffering of those in difficult and desperate circumstances and give them grace and peace."

This prayer is included at all weekend (Vigil/Sunday) Masses at Saint Dominic's Church in Washington, DC, where the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude is located.

The Rosary is also prayed daily for the intentions of patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude, and on Fridays there is veneration of the first-class relic of Saint Jude following the midday Mass.



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You'll receive updates on novenas,
special prayers, spiritual reflections
and more!