



# family MATTERS

## THE MONTH OF July



The month of July can be a busy time of year for families; 4th of July celebrations, sporting events, family reunions, vacations, festivals, fairs, the activities are endless.

Is your family too caught up in the busyness of life that they neglect and/or forget to celebrate liturgical celebrations, feast days and Sunday Mass?

Is your family too busy to give time to something so worthwhile, something so important to your Catholic Faith?

What can you do to bring those important things back into your family's faith life during this month of July?

Get a liturgical calendar and find out what holy days and feast days are celebrated in the month of July. For example, July 6th is the Feast day of **Maria Goretti** (the young martyr for purity.) As a family, read, research, and study about her life.



What makes **Maria Goretti** stand apart from another Saint that you know about? Pray for St. Maria Goretti and spark your own spiritual life and your children's. Go to mass that day as a family, spend an hour at the adoration chapel. May we imitate her and be modest in everything we do.

By slowing down, acknowledging and celebrating these days we can begin to enjoy prayer more fully and be inspired by the lives of the Saints. Celebrating these feast days with our family helps us to grow spiritually with one another and leads us to other family endeavors

So, how can your family celebrate these feast days in July and then continue throughout the year? It will take time and planning. Use books, the bible, the internet, put modern technology to good use. Keep it simple, stay organized, share it, talk about it with your friends, parish families and to the culture.

"The Gospel lives in conversation with culture, and if the church holds back from the culture, the Gospel itself falls silent. Therefore, we must be fearless in crossing the threshold of the communication and information revolution now taking place."

~John Paul II

No two families will celebrate the same way, some will celebrate all the feast days of the year, some will pick one to do per month, some may just celebrate occasionally. Some will make a special meal, some will do a craft, some will pray. Every family will have their own variation, but all will have the gratification that they truly are putting the important things back into their family faith lives. Below is a short list of some of the feasts and celebrations in July to get you started.

For more information go to [www.CatholicFamilyCelebrations.com](http://www.CatholicFamilyCelebrations.com)

Independence day, a national celebration of our Nation's independence. As we celebrate, let us remember to pray that God will strengthen and bless America and make our nation a haven of liberty and justice for all - born and unborn.

### July Feasts and Celebrations

1st	St. Junipero Serra	14th	St. Kateri Tekakwitha
3rd	St. Thomas the Apostle	22nd	St. Mary Magdalene
4th	Independence Day	23rd	St. Bridget
6th	St. Maria Goretti	25th	St. James
11th	St. Benedict	26th	Sts. Joachim and Anne
		31st	St. Ignatius of Loyola