

Dear Marian Day Triduum Participant,

The Salesian Family in Canada and the Eastern US welcomes you to this online experience in honor of Don Bosco's Madonna, Mary Help of Christians!

During the Marian Day Triduum weekend (Friday, May 22 – Sunday, May 24, 2020), we welcome the Holy Family into our homes to share our experience of being church as a family (as Domestic Church). During these days, we place ourselves in the presence of the Holy Family of Nazareth to learn from them the way of holiness, wisdom, and love within everyday family life.

We invite each family and participant to live the Triduum in its entirety. Its scheduled events are the anchor points around which you can build your own Holy Family experience. Take the time to prepare for yourselves a daily schedule that will permit you to participate fully on each of the three days. This will then help you root the moments of your daily family life in communal worship, instruction, devotion, and shared reflection.

Here are some hints to help you make these three days a profound experience of communion with the Holy Family in your own homes.

1. Take a tour of the www.marysmoon2020.org website. Open the "Resource" window and look through the materials available for each day.
 - a. Look at the schedule with the themes for each day.
 - b. Look through the videos, images, games, prayers, music, and projects.
 - c. Become acquainted with the keynote speakers and the discussion/reflection questions.
 - d. Read and view the videos instructing us on Don Bosco's Madonna, Mary Help of Christians. During this time of pandemic, our devotion to our Lady, Help of Christians has to become an integral part of our lives as family.
2. Prepare a daily schedule for you and/or your family. Be sure to include some time for prayer, scripture, sharing, and some fun activities. The Marian and Salesian videos on the web site can help in this regard. The important thing is to prepare your hearts and minds for encountering the Holy Family in your homes.
3. Look up the background and topic of the keynote speakers for each session as found on the web site. These keynote speakers are examples of living in union with Mary as our model and companion. Look over the reflection questions before clicking on the link to listen to and watch each keynote presentation on your own.
4. Spend some time readying your home environment and hearts to encounter the Lord during the Eucharistic moments of Mass and Adoration. Listen and respond to the Lord in prayer. Be sure to make an act of Spiritual Communion.
www.vaticannews.va/en/prayers/the-spiritual-communion.html
5. Set up a "Marian Shrine" of your own making in your living room. Let that image remind you of Don Bosco's hopeful conviction about Mary's presence ("Mary is here.")

6. Follow the life-giving words of Fr. Angel Fernandez, S.D.B., (Don Bosco's Tenth successor) during the Novena of Mary Help of Christians from May 15-23. Follow the link on this web site.
7. Look to setting up a path for your family to continue its devotedness to Mary Help of Christians and the Eucharist after the Marian Day Triduum and Mary's Month is over.
 - a. Make plans to recite the Prayer to Mary in time of Pandemic written by Our Holy Father, Pope Francis every day. www.kofc.org/en/resources/news-room/11036-protection-prayer.pdf
 - b. Pray the Rosary each day in keeping Mary's presence alive in families and hearts.
 - c. Follow Don Bosco's admonition to his boys: Say three Hail Mary's before going to sleep for the night.