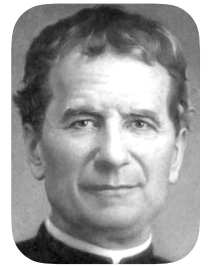


Mary, Help of Christians is a Marian feast day which occurs in May; on the 24th. While it does not appear on the Canadian Liturgical Calendar, it appears on the calendars of other countries. The title of *Mary Help of Christians* was present as early as 1500 in the Loreto litanies. Pope Pius VII initiated the celebration of *Mary Help of Christians*, fixing the date as May 24th, the day of his return to Rome after liberation from Napoleonic imprisonment in 1814. St. John Bosco (1815-1888), founder of the Salesians of Don Bosco, encouraged devotion to the *Mary Help of Christians*. He used to always say, "Have faith in the Blessed Sacrament and *Mary Help of Christians* and you will see what miracles are."



In the basilica in Turin, Italy, erected by the Saint in 1868, there is a beautiful painting of the Mother of God in which she is pictured with the sceptre of command and with the Child Jesus in her arms, surrounded by the Apostles and Evangelists, and suspended on a cloud. The meaning of the whole picture is very clear: as Mary was present together with the apostles in Jerusalem at Pentecost, at the beginning of the Church, she remains the protector and guide of the Church throughout the centuries. Interestingly, St. John Bosco associated the title of *Mary Help of Christians* with that of *Mary Mother of the Church* to indicate the special intervention of Mary in the most difficult trials of personal human life, of the Church, and of the whole human family.

In 2018, **Pope Francis** established a **new Marian feast; *Mary Mother of the Church*** to be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost. Veneration of Mary as Mother of the Church has ancient roots reaching back to St. Augustine and St. Leo the Great. The title is rooted in New Testament accounts about Mary when "she became the tender Mother of the Church which Christ begot on the cross" and when "Christ, in turn, in the beloved disciple, chose all disciples as ministers of his love towards his Mother, entrusting her to them so that they might welcome her with filial affection" (Vatican document 03/03/18). In 1964, at the close of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), Blessed Pope Paul VI formally declared Mary as the "Mother of the Church." "Having attentively considered how greatly the promotion of this devotion might encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety, Pope Francis has decreed that the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, should be inscribed in the Roman Calendar on the Monday after Pentecost and be now celebrated every year," the Vatican document said. "This celebration will help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who makes her offering to God," said the same document.



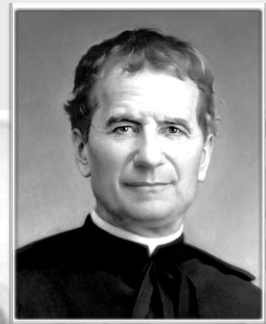
NINE DAYS FOR OUR YOUTH May 16-24, 2019

~Praying for the youth of our families and parish~

Do you know a young person who is discerning his/her vocation (married, single, religious), needing to be set free from addiction, needing to come back to the faith, or in need of a special grace?

“Entrust everything to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary Help of Christians and you will see what miracles are!”

St. John Bosco, Father and Teacher of Youth



MAY is the month of Mary!



How to proceed

1. Pick up your **prayer card** to *Mary Help of Christians* in church foyer.
2. Fill out a **prayer intention form** and place in designated box.
3. Pray the short Novena to *Mary Help of Christians* daily from **May 16-24**.
4. Try to make a **Holy Hour** (even outside these dates) for the person for whom you are praying. Remember, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Tuesdays 6-7pm.
5. On Friday **May 24th, the Feast of *Mary Help of Christians***, Holy Mass will be offered for those whose names were placed in the NINE DAYS FOR OUR YOUTH petition box. Holy Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy 8:30 am, Holy Mass 9am. Day 9 of Novena prayer.