We devote the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary

In our Catholic faith, devotion to the Blessed Virgin is called the Marian Devotion. We practice several traditions and events during the month of May to express the love we have for our Holy Mother. This is a wonderful time to give thanks to Mary for the grace and bounty that we received after Lent. We offer beautiful garlands and vibrant flowers to praise Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. We also respect and honor her through praying the rosary.

For family discussion:

When Mary said, “I am the servant of the Lord, let his will be done to me,” Mary made a lifelong promise to the fealty to God.

How in my life have I made a lifelong promise to God?

How is my life obedient to God’s will?
Family Faith Sunday is a multi-generational program where parents/guardians and their children (K–8th) gather to pray, play and share their faith in community with other families in a fun way! More information here.

Easy Rosary Craft for Kids to Make at Home!

To Make this simple one-decade rosary, you need one pipe cleaner and 11 pony beads per person.

1. String ten beads onto the pipe cleaner.
2. Twist the ends to create a circle leaving about two to three inches on each end.
3. Add one more bead for the Our Father.
4. Cut off the end and twist around the remaining end to form a cross or make a bead cross.

Did you know?

“Like Mary, the Church has a maternal role, giving birth to people in Christ. The Church can never cease to look at Mary, who gave birth to Jesus Christ. The Church contemplates Mary’s motherhood in order to fulfill her own calling to be mother of the members of Christ’s Mystical Body, the Church.”

(page 146, U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults).
Saint Catherine Laboure

Catherine, born May 2, 210 years ago, had a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin and prayed that she might see her in person. She was a young novice in the Daughters of Charity. Mary appeared to Catherine in the convent chapel. Mary said, “God wishes to change you with a mission,” and asked her to have a medal made that reflected the vision that she saw. This is what we know today as the “miraculous medal” though it was not called that in the beginning.

Catherine lived a long life caring for the elderly and the infirm. Her cause for canonization was declared when it was discovered that her body was incorrupt more than fifty years after her Death.

Feast Day:
28 November

Patron Saint of:
Miraculous Medal

Saint Catherine Laboure, Pray for us!
Family Activity Corner

Mother’s Day Bracelets
Sunday, May 10, 2020

Make a Mother’s Day bracelet with homemade beads, using recycled magazines to show your Mom some Love on her special day!

An added loving touch to add to your bracelet be to add this poem or write your very own: To Mom on Mother’s Day!

This bracelet was made with love for you on this Mother’s Day, the beads were strung to show you what you mean to me in Oh so many ways. I love you Mom!
May 30 (Traditional) – Memorial Day

“Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he dies; yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” John 11: 25,26

On Memorial Day we honor all Americans who gave their lives for their country. Flags fly at half-mast and flowers and flags are used to decorate the graves of soldiers who died in battle. Memorial Day is also called Decoration Day because of the tradition of decorating the graves of services men and women. Some activities you can do as a family on Memorial Day:

Memorial – Cut out a cross from tag board and write the names of the people in your family who have died in service. You can place this cross in your window on Memorial Day.

Memorial Walk- Take a walk in the neighborhood and look for flags that may be half-mast. What other things might you see to remind you that it is Memorial Day? (flags, parades, poppy sales etc.)

Memorial Day Reflection as a family – Discuss as a family about the ways we remember those who have died, such as visiting the cemetery and leaving flowers. Discuss that as Christians we believe that people who die have eternal lie with God in heaven.

Prayer:

On this Memorial Day, we remember the men and women who have died serving our country. We are grateful for the sacrifice they have made. Lord Jesus, we pray that you will always keep these special people in your loving care. Amen
In their last earthly encounter with Jesus, the disciples worshiped, but still had doubts. We can ask ourselves, how could the disciple’s worship with Jesus Christ and at the same time, doubt the truth of his identity? Jesus understood this, and did not spend time on this paradox, as he was only interested in making them disciples of all nations. This is an important message for us today. When we have doubts or sin, we are still called to be messengers of the Good News.

Jesus left his disciples in the care of the Holy Spirit. We can ask ourselves individuality and as a family, how do we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?

Here is a fun craft to make at home using cotton balls, some ribbon and a cut-out picture of Jesus. Display this in your prayer space in your home or in your children’s room. It is important to have images that can remind us of our relationship with God.
The Church has used three sets of mysteries for many centuries. In 2002, Pope John Paul II proposed a fourth set of mysteries – The Mysteries of Light or Luminous Mysteries. According to his suggestion, the four sets of mysteries might be prayed on the following days: The Joyful Mysteries on Monday and Saturday, the Sorrowful Mysteries on Tuesday and Friday, the Glorious Mysteries on Wednesday and Sunday, and the Luminous Mysteries on Thursday.

The Joyful Mysteries
The Annunciation:
Mary learns that she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus.
The Visitation:
Mary visits Elizabeth, who tells her that she will always be remembered
The Nativity:
Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem.
The Presentation:
Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to the Temple to present him to God.
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple:
Jesus is found in the Temple discussing his faith with the teachers.

The Mysteries of Light
The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan:
God proclaims that Jesus is his beloved Son.
The Wedding Feast of Cana:
At Mary’s request, Jesus performs his first miracle.
The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God:
Jesus calls all to conversion and service to the Kingdom.
The Transfiguration of Jesus:
Jesus is revealed in glory to Peter, James and John.
The Institution of The Eucharist:
Jesus offers his Body and Blood at the Last Supper.
The Sorrowful Mysteries:
The Agony in the Garden:
Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before he dies.
The Scourging at the Pillar:
Jesus is lashed with whips.
The Crowning with Thorns:
Jesus is mocked and crowned with thorns.
The Carrying of the Cross:
Jesus carries the cross that will be used to crucify him.
The Crucifixion:
Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies.

The Glorious Mysteries
The Resurrection:
God the Father raises Jesus from the dead.
The Ascension:
Jesus returns to his Father in heaven.
The Coming of the Holy Spirit:
The Holy Spirit comes to bring new life to the disciples.
The Assumption of Mary:
At the end of her life on earth, Mary is taken body and soul into heaven.
The Coronation of Mary:
Mary is crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Ideas for Praying the Rosary with Kids!
1. Don’t expect a longer attention span form your child than is developmentally appropriate for their age/or personal situation.
2. Start by teaching your child the prayers of the rosary which will help them feel successful and process.
3. Have a variety of rosary’s for children to choose from.
4. Display your rosary’s prominently in your home and talk about where you got them.
5. Word to have good association with rosary time.
6. Set a prayerful at atmosphere to set the mood and to let your children know this is important to do as a family.
7. Pray the rosary around your children even when you aren’t expecting them to participate.
8. Start by praying just one decade at a time.
9. Move onto praying a shortened version of the rosary.
10. Eventually try praying one family rosary per week.
Bonus Tip...just pray the rosary, even if your children are not “there yet”, they will see that it is important to you!!!