MOTHERS

The most important person on earth is a mother.

She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not.

She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral ... a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby’s body.

Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature. God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation.

What on God’s good earth is more glorious than this:

to be a mother!

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty

TO ALL OUR MOTHERS,
HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY.

-Fr. Wojciech and OLV Family

Masses are ONLY Live Streamed
Join us at olvhp.org
Sundays 9:30AM

To our Mothers who have gone before us, eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord!
Happy Mothers Day to all our Mothers!

It is always a great joy to celebrate Mothers Day in May - the month of Mary - THE MOTHER per se and par excellence.

Let us remember, that we do not only honor Her because She is the Mother of Jesus, but because She is OUR MOTHER as well. What a joy to be Catholic - to have such a privilege. Jesus Himself gave US to HER first though - Woman, behold thy son. (cf. John 19:26) Only then, He gave HER to US - Behold Thy mother. (cf. John 19:27)

Christ did not only bind us to Her, but He bound Her to us also. So, it is also our feast. And so...? And from that hour, the disciple took Her to his own. (cf. John 19:27)

Let us take Her today in a special way as OUR MOTHER.

There is another mysterious passage from Scripture that reveals a beautiful secret of our connection as Christians to Mary THE Mother and makes this day for all of us a mothers day. A certain woman from the crowd, lifting up her voice, said to Him: Blessed is the womb that bore Thee, and the paps/breasts that gave Thee suck. But He said: Yea rather, blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it. (cf. Luke 11:27-28) Jesus was grateful not only that His Mother was His physical mother, but EVEN MORE that She was the Mother who conceived His Word in her soul before her womb. As we recite the Rosary during this month in our families or neighborhoods, let us learn from Her to be true Christians =“mothers” of His WORD in our souls and then also in our bodies, in our actions.

I invite families to have their statues or images of Mary ready for crowning this Sunday. Place Her in a prominent place in your house and She will keep you in a prominent place under Her maternal mantle. May all the mothers who have gone before us enjoy HER MOTHERLY embrace in heaven.

Happy MOTHERS DAY to ALL and to ALL of US!

Lovely Lady dressed in blue - Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy,
Tell me what to say!
Did you lift Him up, sometimes,
Gently on your knee?
Did you sing to Him the way
Mother does to me?
Did you hold His hand at night?
Did you ever try
Telling stories of the world?
O! And did He cry?
Do you really think He cares If I tell Him things -
Little things that happen? And Do the Angels’ wings
Make a noise? And can He hear Me if I speak low?
Does He understand me now? Tell me -for you know.
Lovely Lady dressed in blue - Teach me how to pray!
God was just your little boy, And you know the way.

This poem was made popular in the 1950s by Bishop Fulton Sheen though written in 1926 by Mary Dixon Thayer

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She is more Mother than Queen."

--Saint Therese of Lisieux, Doctor of the Church

So don’t try to be more queen than a mother.

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The Queen of this Land
Jaime Cardinal Sin, Primate of the Philippines, spoke at Stonehill College in North Easton, Massachusetts, to graduating seniors on May 18, 1986. His Eminence said of a scene he witnessed on February 23, 1986: “We knew that Marcos had sent out his troops, and that the only way to stop that dictator was to encourage the people to go to EDSA and pray to Our Lady.”

Cardinal Sin said “Through all the available media sources, I, along with many other religious and media individuals, pleaded with the people to “Go to EDSA!” Shortly after the EDSA event, Rosalie was in the Philippines, and she spoke to Mr. Alex Reyes, the President of the local Blue Army, and a restaurant owner. At the time of the plea, he asked his family, “Who will go with me to die for God?” Several of his grandchildren joined him in his mission, fully expecting to be run over by the tanks ... and die. And, they went!

Without any other weapons, several hundred people were praying the Rosary – everyone in deep and earnest prayer, with beads in their hands and candles flickering beside them.

On the front lines of EDSA stood Brother Joseph Rona with the statue of Our Lady that he had received from Rosalie, John, and the Blue Army, some two years before. Because the people had seen miracles with this statue, they asked Our Lady to intercede for them again, since their only alternatives now were Her help, or death. Facing them were hundreds of combat-ready marines whom this assembly of prayer had stopped; and, behind the soldiers (ready to climb up the little hill), the tanks, trucks, there stood two battalions about to launch an attack!

Then a very amazing thing happened. The troops stopped, the tanks were halted, not by any force of weapons, nor even by the force of bodies bound together in a human barricade. In the United Press International, Cardinal Sin reported that the government troops held their fire and did not attack the crowds blocking their way to Camp Crame, “because,” as the soldiers told him, “a very beautiful Lady appeared,” saying to them, “Dear soldiers, stop! Don’t attack my people. I am the Queen of this land.” The troops dispersed!

Cardinal Sin said, “I have not said this publicly before, and I hesitate to say it here, but I firmly believed, in my heart of hearts, that if the people prayed there, there would indeed be a miracle, and that our deliverance would come in peace from the Lord, through His Mother’s hands.

“That is why I had to encourage them to go there. I felt that their confidence in Our Lady was necessary to save the day. Their lives were at stake, but we all trusted in God’s power and Our Lady’s love.”
Pray for Those in the Military

US Army
Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Specialist Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Captain Shawn Linn
Lieutenant Gigi McElroy
Colonel John McLaughlin
Captain John G. Miele
US Air Force
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.
Corporal Shanna Bennett
Corporal Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Thomas Iafrate
Corporal Joseph Levine

US Navy
Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
Ensign Jon Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger
OS2 Daniel T. LoVecchio

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Pray for Our Sick

Please Pray in the name of JESUS, the Healer, that the sick of the Parish may be restored to health and all those who assist and care for the sick will be given the strength to continue God’s Will: baby Cordelia, baby Emmet Fischer, baby James Amicucci, baby Jonathan, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Dominick Carini, Sal Ceniclala, Helen Choma, Kevin Columbo, Marie D’Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine Degerdon, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Carl Falasca, Jay Filipponi, Marie Filippone, Marie Foley, Amy Hartwell, Peter Kellar, Milan Krupa, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Robert Milli, Gianna Moscatello, John Pal, John Peterson Jr, Joan and Buddy Phalon, Marie Piazza, Canice Prince, Louise Ricciardi, Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Anthony Sanchez, Mike Tobia, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Fiona, Jennifer, Joann, Karen, Lisa, Liz, Lucas, Lynn, Michael, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Roseann, Sean, Sharri.

Spiritual Communion composed by Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val

As I cannot this day enjoy the happiness of assisting at the holy Mysteries, O my God! I transport myself in spirit at the foot of Thine altar; I unite with the Church, which by the hands of the priest, offers Thee Thine adorable Son in the Holy Sacrifice; I offer myself with Him, by Him, and in His Name. I adore, I praise, and thank Thee, imploring Thy mercy, invoking Thine assistance, and presenting Thee the homage I owe Thee as my Creator, the love due to Thee as my Savior.

Apply to my soul, I beseech Thee, O merciful Jesus, Thine infinite merits; apply them also to those for whom I particularly wish to pray. I desire to communicate spiritually, that Thy Blood may purify, Thy Flesh strengthen, and Thy Spirit sanctify me. May I never forget that Thou, my divine Redeemer, hast died for me; may I die to all that is not Thee, that hereafter I may live eternally with Thee. Amen.

Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother. - St. Padre Pio

Mass Intentions

(offered privately by Fr. Wojciech)

Monday, May 11–St. Francis Di Girolamo–Jesuit Missionary
8:00 George Minish                                           R/b Barbara Sita
12:00 Philomena Mello                                   R/b Ray Lawlor

Tuesday, May 12–Sts. Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras-Martyrs
8:00 Gallagher Family                                    R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Michael Giotta                                      R/b Anne Giotta

Wednesday, May 13—Our Lady of Fatima
8:00 John Plinio                                           R/b Stephen and Robin Hartman
12:00 Winifred Pavlu                                       R/b the Kip Family

Thursday, May 14 – St. Matthias, Apostle
8:00 Rita Burke                                      R/b Glynis Burke
12:00 Intentions of Joseph and Barbara Zwerle-60th Wedding Anniversary

Friday, May 15 – St. Isidore the Farmer
8:00 Alberto Bellini                                      R/b Carole Bellini
12:00 Wesley Kelly                                        R/b Monika Senicar

Saturday, May 16–St. John Nepomucene of Bohemia–Priest
8:00 Patrick, Rita and John Dolan                    R/b Glynis Burke
12:00 Robert K. Raymond                                 R/b William Raymond
4:00 Mario Gobbetti                                      R/b Lorraine Gobbetti
5:00 Sr. M. Egidia                                       R/b Josephine F. Fogarino and Marie Michaels

Sunday, May 17–St. Paschal Baylon of Spain - Brother
7:30 Anna Mae Kaelber                                    R/b Tony and Laura Scott
8:15 Margerita Bernard                                   R/b Crispin and Lenore Mariano
7:30 People of the Parish
9:30 People of the Parish
10:45 Brian J. McElroy Sr.                              R/b the McElroy Family
12:00 Tom Walsh                                      R/b the Gaffney Family
1:00 Patsy and Antoinette Inserra                      R/b the Schiano Family
6:00 Catherine Pagano                                  R/b Chris and Mary Oakes
7:00 Michael B. Ryan                                    R/b the Coulter Family

Sanctuary Memorials

The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the sick of the parish.
The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Irene Louise Ricciardi, r/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi.
The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for the souls in Purgatory.
The Altar Flowers have been dedicated in memory of Peter and Barbara Stonitsch, r/b Peter and Carole Stonitsch.

Sanctuary Offerings

We just started a 50 days of feast if you would like to donate flowers for the Altar, flowers for BVM and St. Joseph, please contact the rectory. Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM Votive Lamp, and St. Joseph Votive Lamp, the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church and in the Convent can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

My Parish—COVID-19—My Responsibility

We thank all those who so generously continue to support our parish by mailing in your donations. At the same time, we understand that some have been laid off from their work or experiencing decreased income and are unable to continue their donations at this time. Donations / offering envelopes may be mailed to:
OLV Rectory, 81 Lynn Street, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.
Thank you for your generosity.
Mary is the NECK!!!

Do you remember that scene in the film My Big Fat Greek Wedding in which the Greek mothers teach the Greek girl that the Greek father is the "head" of household, but that the mother is the "neck"?

They may have been Greeks, but they were reading from a Roman script – because a similar thing was said by Pope Saint Pius X in his encyclical Ad diem illum of 1904, # 13 (and also by Saint Bernard of Sienna before him). According to Saint Pius X, the source is Jesus Christ "of whose fullness we have all received" (John i., 16), the Blessed Virgin Mary is the "neck" that connects Christ the Head to the Church as His Body.

But Mary as St. Bernard fittingly remarks is the 'channel' or, even, the neck, through which the body is joined to the head, and likewise through which the head exerts its power and strength on the body. For she is the neck of our Head, by which all spiritual gifts are communicated to His Mystical Body.

Honoring the Bedridden Mothers
St. Anna Schäffer (1882-1925)

Growing up in Bavaria, Anna desired to enter a missionary order, but after her father's untimely death she had to work to support her family. In February 1901, while working in a laundry, she slipped and fell into a vat of boiling lye, suffering severe burns. The next months were ones of excruciating pain. Anna survived gangrene, only to undergo thirty unsuccessful surgeries for skin grafts. Finally the word came that she would be bedridden for the rest of her life.

At first Anna struggled against this diagnosis. Yet, through prayer and frequent Communion, she began to embrace a new path. "Her sickbed became her cloister cell and her suffering a mission service," Pope Benedict XVI would say at her canonization. Anna devoted her days to writing letters of consolation and creating needlework for local churches. "I have three keys to heaven," she said. "The biggest is made out of pig iron and is heavy - it is my suffering. The second is the sewing needle, and the third is the penholder. With these different keys I strive each day to open the door to heaven."

As her prayer life deepened, so did Anna's joyful confidence in God's plan. Paralysis set in, and then colon cancer. A fall from her bed caused a neurological injury that robbed her of her voice. Yet on her deathbed she made one last prayer: "Jesus, I love you." Her feast day is October 5th.

"Whoever finds Mary shall find Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Fr. Peter John Cameron, OP

TOoo. much .........!!!!

It is objected that there is much repetition in the Rosary because the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary are said so often; therefore it is monotonous. That reminds me of a woman who came to see me one evening after instructions. She said: "I would never become Catholic. You say the same words in the Rosary, over and over again, and anyone who repeats the same words is never sincere. I would never believe such a person and neither would God." I asked her who the man was who was with her. She said it was her fiance. I asked, "Does he love you?" "He told me. "What did he say?" He said, "I love you." "But never before?" "He tells me every night." I said, "Do not believe him." He is repeating; he is not sincere." The beautiful truth, there is no repetition in "I love you." Because there is a new moment of time, another point in space, the words do not mean the same as before. Love is never monotonous in the uniformity in the uniformity of its expression. The mind is infinitely variable in its language, but the heart is not. The heart of man in the face of the woman he loves is too poor to translate the infinity of his affection into different words. So the heart takes but one expression, "I love you" and in saying it over and over again, it never repeats. It is the only real news in the universe. That is what we do when we say the Rosary. We are saying to the Holy Trinity, to the Incarnate Savior to the Blessed Mother, "I love you", "I love you", "I love you." -Abp. Fulton J. Sheen

Diapers Needed - Office of Concern

St. Cecilia Office of Concern has an urgent request for sizes 3,4,5 and 6 diapers. A persistent request from our clients is whether they can receive more diapers. Diapers are not covered under any Federal or State program and cannot be bought with food stamps. If you are able in these difficult times, please donate by having diapers shipped to the Office of Concern or send a donation to St. Cecilia Office of Concern earmarked DIAPERS. You may also donate at website officeofconcern.com or Facebook: Office of Concern. Address: 55 W. Demarest Ave. Englewood, NJ 07631

Catholic High School Events

St. Joseph Regional High School is accepting qualified applicants for admission to the Class of 2024 Knights Bridge Academy, a unique academic program that helps 8th grade boys who could benefit from another year of preparation before beginning 9th grade. Visit www.sjnj.org or email admissions@sjnj.org to inquire about becoming a Green Knight!

Bergen Catholic High School will hold their "BC LEAD ON" Program for rising 7th and 8th graders from July 13-July 30, 8AM-Noon. Registration begins May 1st and can be found on the Bergen Catholic website. LET BC COME TO YOU. Bergen Catholic will share a virtual Open House on Wednesday, May 20th. Registration can be found on the Bergen Catholic website. For info contact Matt Rosa, mrosa@bergencatholic.org.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

A woman is a man's mother either if she carried him in her womb or if she was the woman contributing half of his genetic matter or both. Mary was the mother of Jesus in both of these senses; because she not only carried Jesus in her womb but also supplied all of the genetic matter for his human body, since it was through her—not Joseph—that Jesus “was descended from David according to the flesh” (Rom. 1:3).

Since Mary is Jesus’ mother, it must be concluded that she is also the Mother of God: If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. There is no way out of this logical syllogism, the valid form of which has been recognized by classical logicians since before the time of Christ.

Although Mary is the Mother of God, she is not his mother in the sense that she is older than God or the source of her Son’s divinity, for she is neither. Rather, we say that she is the Mother of God in the sense that she carried in her womb a divine person—Jesus Christ, God “in the flesh” (2 John 7, cf. John 1:14)—and in the sense that she contributed the genetic matter to the human form God took in Jesus Christ.

Some assert that Mary did not carry God in her womb, but only carried Christ’s human nature. This assertion reinvents a heresy from the fifth century known as Nestorianism, which runs aground on the fact that a mother does not merely carry the human nature of her child in her womb. Rather, she carries the person of her child. Women do not give birth to human natures; they give birth to persons. Mary thus carried and gave birth to the person of Jesus Christ, and the person she gave birth to was God.

**Mother of the Eucharist**

St. Peter Julian Eymard, that Saint so totally devoted to the Eucharist, declared that even in this world, after Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven, the Blessed Virgin “lived a life in and by the Blessed Sacrament,” and thus he liked to call her “Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.”

St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina would sometimes say to his spiritual children, “Do you not see the Madonna always beside the tabernacle?” And how could she fail to be there --- she who “stood by the Cross of Jesus” on Calvary (John 19:25)?

Therefore St. Alphonsus Liguori, in his book of devotions, used to always join a visit to the Blessed Virgin Mary to each visit to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

St. Maximilian Kolbe used to recommend that when we go before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we never fail to remember Mary’s presence, calling on her and associating ourselves with her, at least seeing to it that her sweet name comes to mind.

The reply St. Bernadette Soubirous gave was very beautiful, when someone put this tricky question to her: “What would please you more, to receive Holy Communion, or to see the Madonna in the grotto?” The little Saint thought for a minute and then answered, “What a strange question! The two cannot be separated. Jesus and Mary always go together.”

**A Little Humor …**

The boss is asking … Mr. Kowalski! You do everything so slow, you think slow, you write slow, you walk slow, is there anything you do fast?? Yes, sir, I get tired fast.

**KIDZ KORNER**

1. Who was St. John the Baptist’s mom?
2. Who was the Virgin Mary’s mom?
3. Who was the mother of Cain and Abel?
4. What famous American Saint was the mother of five children?
5. Who is the patron of expectant mothers?

Answers on page four