

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate Mother's Day with great joy. It is a very different Mother's Day from any other year in that many moms and grand moms will be at a distance from each other. It is certainly not advisable that grandparents, parents and children get together for another month but remember the important thing is to celebrate "mom". Call her, affirm her and appreciate her. Through the grace of God in June, we will hold a wonderful party to celebrate her. As we celebrate Mother's Day, we call to mind our moms who strive to be a reflection of our Blessed Mother; women of faith who lovingly perform duties of love for their children and families. Sacrificial love is part of being a mom. The joy of motherhood is to see your children grown and develop into outstanding Catholic young people. So for all of us, we celebrate our moms this Sunday. Rejoice in her sacrifice and let her know what a difference she has made in your life.

Many of you will celebrate grand mom and while grand mom is our Mother's mom, she is also very special to her grandchildren. It is grand mom who helps with babysitting, play dates, helping to assist in the passing on of our Catholic traditions. The nice thing about being a grand mom is that you have no responsibility except to love and give opinion when it is appropriate. However, grand moms hold a special place in our hearts and the average grandchild, even in their mid-20s will remember her lessons for their entire life. So grand moms, feel our love for you.

Godmothers lovingly assist their charges in the living of their Catholic faith. They role model what it means to be Catholic and teach by their own living example of how to follow Christ. Let's affirm our godmothers today and thank them for the living faith they give us and for the love they generously share. Affirm your godmother today.

My mother died 20 years ago. One of the things that I remember as a child was her generosity and kindness to all. She loved life and during this month of May, she set up a little altar in our house where we prayed together to the Blessed Mother and with great enthusiasm brought flowers to our little altar each day. When I was about 15, I remember my mother brought in a tinker (gypsy) into our family room because it was a cold, wet day and she fed her a delicious stew and sat quietly listening to her story. When the tinker lady had left, our room smelt of an unwashed body and we little brats said to my mom, "Mom, the tinker smells." My mother said, "Yes, unlike us she doesn't have a bathroom. She can't afford a lovely home. Open the windows, let the smell out and remember with privilege comes responsibility." I take that memory of my mom every day, knowing that I have a life of privilege and understanding the need to share my gifts and my talents with those who need them, especially the poor and those who live on the edge. So in the words of my darling mother, "Be kind, be compassionate. Seek not to judge but to give what you can with joy and generosity."

Fr. Alex and I will offer mass for all of our moms, grand moms and godmothers this Sunday. God bless you. We love you.

*Fr. Owen*