



# ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT HOME MAY 2020



May's Virtue is **ZEAL**  
Zeal is being driven by an intense love for God.  
"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."  
**1 Corinthians 15:58**

## WAYS TO HONOR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IN OUR HOMES

**Make a May Altar for Mary**  
You will find everything you need to know about [how to set up a May altar for Mary here](#) with lots of ideas of what to put on the table!

**Hold a May Crowning**  
You can have a May crowning at home. Information on [having a May crowning with kids](#) has all the info you need.

**Plant a Mary Garden (Clean up the one you Have)**  
Having a Mary garden is not only a great way to honor Mary, but it can also provide a quiet and reflective place for your family to go to her in prayer. A post on [how to start a Mary garden is here.](#)

**Mary Crafts and Activities**  
If you like to celebrate Mary with fun kid crafts, visit this [post with more than 20 Mary crafts for kids!](#)

These links are from [www.catholicicing.com](http://www.catholicicing.com)

A great activity for the whole family is to

**Pray the Rosary** daily.  
Visit [TheCatholicKid.com](http://TheCatholicKid.com) for coloring pages and a video on how to pray the Rosary.

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the Rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary’s intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. The Holy Father also wrote two prayers to recite at the end of the Rosary for this intention.** (link for letter and prayers [Vatican Pope Francis Letter](#))

## MAY THE MONTH OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

For centuries, the Catholic Church has set aside the entire month of May to honor Mary, Mother of God. Not just a day *in* May but the entire month. The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. It is common to recite the Rosary daily during May, and many erect a special May altar with a statue or picture of Mary as a reminder of Mary’s month. Additionally, it’s a long-standing tradition to crown the statue of Mary during May – a custom known as May Crowning. Often, the crown is made of beautiful blossoms representing Mary’s beauty and virtue. It’s also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother’s virtue in our own lives. But May altars and crownings aren’t just “church” things. We can and should be doing the same in our homes. When we echo the customs and traditions of the Church in our homes – our domestic churches – we participate more fully in the life of the Church. If you haven’t already, I encourage you to erect a prayer corner in your home. No matter how fancy or simple it is. The main point is that it’s a place designated for God, and more specifically, for spending time with him. Just as you need proper atmosphere to sleep, you also need proper atmosphere to pray. For May, give Mary a special spot in your prayer corner. It can be a statue or picture, but put some representation of our Blessed Mother. Make it appealing and a real tribute to her beauty and virtue. Then, crown Mary. You can give her an actual or spiritual crown and you can make it a subtle gesture or ornate ceremony of your own device. The meaning is far more important than the action. Do it because Mary is Mother – your mother, my mother, everyone’s mother – and because she cares for all of us day-in-and-day-out without fail, interceding for us in even the tiniest matters. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honor. Mary, Mother of God ~ pray for us.

Our Lord gave us His greatest commandment when he said,  
"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind."  
Matthew 22:37 & Mark 12:30. We are all born with the call to become saints.  
Who better than those who already wear the crown of sainthood, to inspire us to fulfill our calling!

## UPDATES

There is no new information about when we will hold the Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation. Public celebrations of the Mass are not taking place in the Diocese of Arlington until further notice. The Religious Education Office will be in touch as soon as we have any new information.

Final exams will be emailed home the week of May 11. Please proctor your children while they are taking the exams.

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish has a new website. The updated website has links for the Parish YouTube site to watch Mass as well as a tab for Religious Education. Under the Religious Education tab you can find handbooks, the calendar, and the registration form for 2020-2021 and so much more. We will no longer support the old St. Andrew Religious Education website so moving forward please use the Parish website to get information on Religious Education. Visit the Religious Education Resources page for links to all sorts of Catholic activities you can do with your children at home.

[www.st-andrew.org](http://www.st-andrew.org)

## MAY SAINTS

- 1 **Joseph the Worker**
- 2 **Athanasius**
- 7 **National Day of Prayer**
- 10 **Damien of Molokai**
- 13 **Our Lady of Fatima**
- 14 **Matthias**
- 15 **Isidore the Farmer**
- 16 **Simon Stock and Margaret of Cortona**
- 18 **John I**
- 20 **Bernadine of Siena**
- 21 **The Ascension of the Lord and Christopher Magallanes and Companions**
- 22 **Rita of Cascia**
- 23 **John Baptiste de Rossi**
- 25 **Bede, Madeline Sophie Barat, Mary Magdalen de Pazzi and Gregory VII**
- 26 **Philip Neri**
- 27 **Augustine of Canterbury**
- 29 **Pope Paul VI**
- 31 **Pentecost**



## FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

**In 1955 Pope Pius XII instituted the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker to be celebrated on May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

*As the Vicar of Christ, we wish to reaffirm highly, on this day of May 1 ... the dignity of work, and [to] inspire social life and laws, based on a fair share of rights and duties ... [We have determined to] establish the liturgical feast of St. Joseph the Worker, assigning it precisely on the 1st of May ... because the humble craftsman of Nazareth not only embodies the dignity of the arm of the worker ... he is also always the guardian of you and your families.*

## Prayer to Saint Joseph for Success in Work

Glorious St. Joseph, model for all those who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work conscientiously, putting the call of duty above my many sins; to work with thankfulness and joy, considering it an honor to employ and develop, by means of labor, the gifts received from God; to work with order, peace, prudence, and patience, never surrendering to weariness or difficulties; to work, above all, with purity of intention and with detachment from self, having always death before my eyes and the account which I must render of time lost, of talents wasted, of good omitted, of vain complacency in success so fatal to the work of God. All for Jesus, all for Mary, all after thy example, O Patriarch Joseph, Such shall be my motto in life and death. Amen.

**PLEASE REGISTER FOR 2020-2021 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2020.  
VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED. CONTACT THE RE OFFICE FOR DETAILS.**

**RE Office Hours are by appointment only  
Contact [plaing@st-andrew.org](mailto:plaing@st-andrew.org) or [fturbulencia@st-andrew.org](mailto:fturbulencia@st-andrew.org)  
703-817-1773  
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