



MAY - MONTH OF OUR LADY

In addition to the myriad feast days honoring Our Lady under her many titles and virtues, the entire month of May is especially given to her praise. In the words of Pope Paul VI, May is "a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God ... For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne.

ROSARY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY

As a child did you ever fight with your siblings or friends? Do you remember how your parents responded? I'll bet their responses to your disagreements with siblings still effect you to this day. They probably impact the way you parent or deal with conflict. Now you probably know that there is a bunch of tension in the public sphere right now. Even among family, friends and loved ones, there is tension arising from differences in how we react to all that has and is happening.

From Our Mother Mary's viewpoint and perspective this tension among people is the same as when we fought or struggled with family when we were young. We are all her little children and how badly she wishes to reconcile and bring peace to her children. She desires us to see in others and in ourselves children who need the comfort of a mother because life is hard right now. A mother always consoles her child even if what they are upset about or hurt by is "silly" or "childish." Mary is the same way. We are all her children.

Take this opportunity to again renew that loving and intimate relationship with your Mother by praying the Rosary everyday. If you are signed up for our REMIND messages you have been receiving a daily reminder at 12:00 noon to 'pray your Rosary.' I hope you find this a useful reminder as we all make our own individual efforts to pray every day and yet this is something we can all do together.

“When needed, Mary provides for the defense and salvation of her children extraordinary graces and wonderful miracles. What wonders have caused, sustained, spread everywhere, a confidence among Christian people! What striking proofs of her protection the Church recalls to our memory in solemn feasts and devout practices, enriched by precious indulgences! What titles Christians give her to testify to their gratitude, ‘Help of Christians, health of the sick, comfort of the afflicted, refuge of sinners, gate of heaven, our life, our sweetness, our hope!’ What a multitude of people gather to the places where she is most honored, where she obtains the most assistance to those who call on her! What prayers and acts of thanksgiving are offered at the foot of her altars! In our days, what conquests have been made by Our Lady of Victories! What favors have been bestowed on all hearts devoted to the heart of Mary!”

— St. Ignatius of Loyola

THE ORIGINAL NOVENA

Our next novena we are praying is the original novena! Novenas are an ancient tradition that goes back to the days of the Apostles. Jesus told His disciples to pray together after His ascension into heaven, so they went to an upper room along with the Blessed Virgin Mary, (Acts 1:14) and joined constantly in prayer for nine days. These nine days of constant prayer by the Apostles at the direction of Jesus led up to Pentecost. This is when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples as “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:1-4). This pattern of 9 days of prayer is the basis of the novenas we pray today!

Thus, the novena is an imitation of the Lord’s command to the Apostles when they prayed for 9 days in anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit. And that’s why we pray all of our novenas for nine days, followed by one final prayer on the 10th day (which is usually the feast day). So maybe you can guess by now that the next novena we’re praying is The Novena to the Holy Spirit for Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit plays a BIG part in our lives. So, as we pray, ask the Holy Spirit for something concrete and measurable. We will start praying on Friday, May 22nd. Sign up at www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-to-the-holy-spirit. We look forward to praying with you and for you!

THE CHURCH IS AND HAS BEEN OPEN

As a reminder, the church has been open for private prayer since the lockdown began. Tuesday through Friday we are open from 830AM to 1230PM; Saturday from 4:00PM to 5:30PM and Sunday from 830AM to 11:30AM. We are closed for cleaning on Monday.

Thank you to our ushers who are there to open doors and provide a safe environment. Don't be afraid to come. It's probably the safest place you can visit since very few people come by and we clean every day.

“Whenever I go to the chapel, I put myself in the presence of our good Lord, and I say to Him, ‘Lord, here I am. Tell me what You would have me do.’ If He gives me some task, I am content and I thank Him. If He gives me nothing, I still thank Him since I do not deserve to receive anything more than that. And then, I tell God everything that is in my heart. I tell Him about my pains and my joys, and then I listen. If you listen, God will also speak to you, for with the good Lord, you have to both speak and listen. God always speaks to you when you approach Him plainly and simply.”

— St. Catherine Laboure

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Taken from *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary* by Saint Alphonsus Liguori. Published by Tan Books.

PRAYER TO END THE PANDEMIC

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

ANOTHER PRAYER FOR DURING THE PANDEMIC

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary,
We, your children of every nation,
Turn to you in this pandemic.
Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great.
Grant that we might deposit them at your feet,
Take refuge in your Immaculate Heart,
And obtain peace, healing, rescue,
And timely help in all our needs.
You are our Mother.
Pray for us to your Son.
Amen.

SURRENDER TO THE WILL OF GOD

The following quote comes from a very powerful prayer, the *Novena of Surrender to the Will of God* composed by Father Don Dolindo Ruotolo † 1882-1970. There is a link to it on our website under the “Prayers” tab.

You see evil growing instead of weakening?

Do not worry,

Close your eyes and say to me with faith:

“Thy will be done, You take care of it.”

I say to you that I will take care of it,
and that I will intervene as does a doctor
and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed.

Do you see that the sick person is getting worse?

Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say

“You take care of it.”

I say to you that I will take care of it,
and that there is no medicine more powerful
than my loving intervention.

By my love, I promise this to you.

