

ST LAWRENCE

MAY 13, 2018

Happy Mother's Day!



7th Sunday of Easter

**“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God,
God abides in him, and he in God.” -1 John 4:15**

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to share your witness with others.

Why is May the Month of Mary?

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It's here.

May, the month in which the earth springs into bloom (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) and we start thinking about planting gardens, family picnics, and making vacation plans.

It's also the Month of Mary.

Having gone to a Catholic grade school run by the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, my early childhood memories include honoring Mary during May – a practice I've continued all of my life and taught my children to do as well. It's as natural and essential to me as my morning coffee (only far, far more joy-filled if you can even imagine that).

I know a number of Catholics who see May as the Month of Mary, and we all get the same question from time to time:

Why is May Mary's month?

Here's a brief explanation.

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, mind you, but the entire month.

The custom spans both centuries and cultures, with roots going back as far as the Ancient Greeks. In early Greece, May was dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity.

In Ancient Rome, May was dedicated to Flora, the goddess of blooms, or blossoms. They celebrated *ludi florals*, or floral games, at the end of April and asked the intercession of Flora for all that blooms.

In medieval times, similar customs abounded, all centering around the practice of expelling winter, as May 1 was considered the start of new growth.

During this period, the tradition of *Tricesimum*, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary," came into being. Also called, "Lady Month," the event was held from August 15-September 14 and is still observed in some areas.

The idea of a month dedicated specifically to



Mary can be traced back to baroque times. Although it wasn't always held during May, Mary Month included thirty daily spiritual exercises honoring Mary.

It was in this era that Mary's Month and May were combined, making May the Month of Mary with special devotions organized on each day throughout the month. This custom became especially widespread during the nineteenth century and remains in practice until today.

The ways Mary is honored in May is as varied as the people who honor her.

It's common for parishes have a daily recitation of the Rosary 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. May Crowning, in some areas, is a huge celebration and is usually done outside of Mass, although Mass may be celebrated before or after the actual crowning.

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 place there 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. You can do it in the beginning, at the end of May or anywhere in between.

Just do it. Why?

Not because it's a long-standing tradition in the Church, although it is. Not because there are any special graces connected to it, although there is.

No, 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.

Source: <http://m.ncregister.com/blog/mfenelon/why-is-may-the-month-of-mary#.WuoxJhYpCEc>

A Prayer for Mothers

All-loving God,
we give you thanks and praise
for mothers young and old.

We pray for young mothers,
who give life and count toes and tend to our every need;
May they be blessed with patience and tenderness
to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers
who have nurtured and cared for us;
May they continue to guide in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated
from their children because of war, poverty or conflict;
May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers
but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers
who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory
and nourish us with their love.

Amen.

Happy Mother's Day!

Announcements

SINGLE PARENT SUCCESS The Archdiocese of Newark's Family Life Office is sponsoring a special event to honor single parents on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 6:45pm to 8:30pm at Notre Dame RC Church, 359 Central Ave, N. Caldwell, NJ 07006. If single parenting leaves you feeling overwhelmed or inadequate some days, or overlooked in terms of your needs, join Loyla Louvis from Mothers in Training, LLC. for an insightful look at 5 strategies every single parent should know. Loyla Louvis is a parenting coach, a mentor, a public speaker, and last but not least, a mother and wife. If you are a single parent, were raised by a single parent, a grandparent raising children or have ever been a single parent you are welcome to come! Babysitting and food provided. Free of charge! **Must RSVP: <https://www.smore.com/dnqb9> or email Lauren.Egan@rcan.org**

A DAY OF COMFORT AND HOPE - A RETREAT FOR BEREAVED PARENTS

The Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark invites all parents who have suffered the loss of a child to attend 'A Day of Comfort and Hope' on Saturday, June 2, 2018 at Notre Dame RC Church, 359 Central Avenue, North Caldwell, NJ. This full-day retreat affords bereaved parents the opportunity to join together in a caring, spiritual setting for prayer, meditation, discussion, presentations, fellowship and Holy Mass. **Pre-registration is required by May 29th as space is limited. For information, please contact Lauren Egan at 973-497-4327 or Lauren.Egan@rcan.org.**

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK "MERCY HOUSE" OFFICIAL OPENING

on Friday, June 22, 2018 at Blessed Sacrament Convent Parish, 620 Clinton Avenue, Newark, NJ at 10:30AM with Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. Archbishop of Newark. All are welcome! The mission of The Mercy House is to offer a welcoming space for individuals and families in need-and to provide emotional support and healing in a comfortable, faith-filled environment. **RSVP no later than Monday, June 18, 2018 to Cheryl A. Riley 973-497-4350 / email rileyche@rcan.org**

Visit us online at stlweehawken.com

 St Lawrence RC Church

Parish info

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PARISH SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8 AM (no music) • 10:30 AM • 12 PM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 3 PM - 8 PM
Tuesday • Wednesday 9 AM - 3 PM
Thursday 9 AM - 10:30 AM
Friday • Saturday • Sunday Closed

CHURCH OPENING HOURS

Tuesday • Wednesday 9 AM - 3 PM
Thursday 9 AM - 10:30 AM
Sunday 8 AM - 1 PM
Monday • Friday • Saturday Closed

The Weekday Mass also serves as Funeral Mass as needed. No Daily Mass on Mondays, Fridays or Saturdays unless a funeral is requested.

DAILY MASS

Tuesday ▶ Thursday Mass 9:30 AM

Other Daily Masses available in the Deanery:

St Ann	Monday ▶ Friday	7 AM
St Francis	Monday ▶ Friday	8 AM
St Peter & Paul	Tuesday ▶ Friday	12:10 PM
OLG	Monday ▶ Friday	12:30 PM
OLG	Monday ▶ Thursday	7 PM

ST JUDE PRAYER After the Sunday noon Mass

This Week's Mass Intentions

Sunday, May 13

8:00 am † All Living and Deceased Mothers
10:30 am † All Living and Deceased Mothers
12:00 pm † All Living and Deceased Mothers

Tuesday, May 15

9:30 am † Mary Passaretti & Elizabeth Cosentino

Wednesday, May 16

9:30 am † George Edwards

Thursday, May 17

9:30 am † Anne Fredericks

Sunday, May 18

8:00 am † George Edwards
10:30 am † Philomena McGowan
12:00 pm † Thema Rega