
For Our Mothers



Dear Friends in Christ,

Years ago, I read the observation that a mother's love is so organic and powerful, so elemental, that we just presume its presence -- even to the point of taking it for granted. Mother's Day is an occasion to right that wrong, to make sure that we have not taken mom or her love for granted.

It is fitting that as a society we honor our mothers, renew our gratitude for their sacrifices, and pray for them. Indeed, thanking those who do good to us is a fundamental duty -- and no greater good has come to us in the natural order than life. The simple fact that our mothers gave us life -- never mind the sacrifices and love that followed -- calls for our gratitude and honor.

This attention to and appreciation for motherhood helps us as Catholics also. By His covenant Christ introduces us into a family. In the Church we have many and varied fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters. So, as we honor our natural mothers, we should honor our spiritual mothers as well.

The most obvious is our Mother in the order of grace, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Obviously, Mary as our Mother is not a biological or physical description. But neither is it just a metaphor or analogy. When we speak of the order of grace, we refer to the reality of Christ's life in our souls. Our participation in His life is so profound, real, and intimate that through, with, and in Him we are children of God the Father -- and children of Mary. Just as we can call God "Father" so also we can call Mary our Mother.

We should also call to mind Mother Church. The secular mentality sees the Church as just an institution -- replete with bureaucracy, offices, departments, and so on. And there is plenty of that in the life of the Church. But the Church herself is mother. By Baptism she gives spiritual birth to new children of God, by the Eucharist she nourishes them, and by Confession heals them. By her teachings she instructs them in love of God and neighbor. Thus the ancient saying, "No one can have God for his Father, who does not have the Church for his mother."

So, call your mother. Say, *Thank you* and *I love you*. Maybe even, *I'm sorry*. Pray that God bless, console, and reward your mother. If she is deceased, visit her grave and/or pray for the repose of her soul.

Pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary, your mother in the order of grace. Thank her for her *Yes*, by which she became the Mother of Christ and of all Christians. Ask help to be more like her Son (nothing delights her heart more than that request). Apologize for not speaking with her more.

And pray for Mother Church. Pray that her children remain faithful to what she has given them and that they never bring her dishonor. Pray to be a faithful, loving child of the Church, one that will rush to her defense and always seek her honor.

Updates...

- **Public Masses.** As you no doubt heard, Governor Northam has given houses of worship permission to hold services beginning next weekend -- provided they do not exceed 50% of their building's capacity. This means that we will be able to have public Masses once again. But we should not presume that it will be back to normal. Due to restrictions in capacity and other requirements, not every parish will be able to accommodate everyone every Sunday. As we move forward with reopening, please keep these things in mind:
 - Bishop Burbidge's dispensation from the Sunday obligation continues. Thus, no one is required to attend Sunday Mass.
 - The elderly and those with medical conditions should not attend.
 - Anyone coming to Mass must wear masks.
 - Social distancing within Mass must be observed.

Please visit our website or Facebook page this week for more information on how we will begin our public Masses again.

- **May Crowning.** We will live-stream our praying of the Rosary and crowning of the Mary statue in the church at 10am, Thursday May 13th.
- **Special Needs Parish Collection.** As in years past, throughout the month of May we have a Special Parish Needs Collection. The funds raised will be

used for our social outreach, which, as you can imagine, has been stretched in resources at this time. Please help us help those in need by way of this collection.

- **Pop-n-Go Drive Thru...** Won Saturday, May 15th we will have a collection of baby items for families in need throughout our area: diapers of all sizes, non-perishable baby foods and formula (preferably Similac), new bottles, and new clothes up to 24 months. Donations will be given to [A Woman's Choice](#) and [The Gabriel Project](#). Put items in a plastic or paper bag in your trunk and just drive thru. Our volunteers will do the rest. More info below. Thank you for your generosity!
- **Rectory Ramblings...** What's an *epiclesis*? Does it hurt? Should I be concerned that there are two of them at Mass? These questions and more, cheerfully answered tomorrow at 8pm!

Through the intercession of our Lady and Saint Joseph, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Scalia



St. James Catholic Church needs your help to help others!

POP-n-Go Drive Thru

for the **WEE ONES!**



Saturday May 16th, 10 am -1 pm, B-Lot (by the gym)

We are collecting:

- Diapers of all sizes
- New bottles
- non-perishable baby foods and formula (preferably Similac)
- New clothes up to 24 months

Drive up, POP your trunk, and a volunteer will get the plastic/paper bag(s) (no cloth bags) with the donated items. Then Go!

Faith in action is love, and love in action is service. -Mother Teresa

St. James Parish, 905 Park Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22046

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