

May and June Celebrations

(May, a Month for Mothers, our own and the Virgin Mary
And June, a month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)



Mary Gardens: Try placing a Mary statue in one of your garden beds this year and plant some flowers in her honor.

May 1 St. Joseph the Worker

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

This feast was given to the church to sanctify and give dignity to all work. Here is a simple prayer to St. Joseph for workers.

Prayers to St. Joseph for Workers

Joseph, by the work of your hands
and the sweat of your brow,
you supported Jesus and Mary,
and had the Son of God as your fellow worker.

Teach me to work as you did,
with patience and perseverance, for God and
for those whom God has given me to support.
Teach me to see in my fellow workers
the Christ who desires to be in them,
that I may always be charitable and forbearing
towards all.

Grant me to look upon work
with the eyes of faith,
so that I shall recognize in it
my share in God's own creative activity
and in Christ's work of our redemption,
and so take pride in it.

When it is pleasant and productive,
remind me to give thanks to God for it.
And when it is burdensome,
teach me to offer it to God,
in reparation for my sins
and the sins of the world.



(Note: This prayer was taken from the booklet "Devotions to Saint Joseph" by Brian Moore, S.J., printed and published by the Society of St. Paul.)

May 3 St. Philip and St. James

Symbols of St. Philip: basket; basket and Tau cross or letter Tau; two or three loaves and a cross; patriarchal cross and spear

Symbols of St. James: Vertical saw; Fuller's club; windmill; halbert; three stones; loaf of bread

Collect from the Mass: O God, who gladden us each year with the feast day of the Apostles Philip and James, grant us, through their prayers, a share in the Passion and Resurrection of your Only Begotten Son, so that we may merit to behold you for eternity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

May 10 St. Damien Molokai

Share his inspirational story with a movie, youtube, or book. Have an Hawaiian meal and/or dessert.

(From AmericanCatholic.org)

When Joseph de Veuster was born in Tremelo, Belgium, in 1840, few people in Europe had any firsthand knowledge of leprosy (Hansen's disease). By the time he died at the age of 49, people all over the world knew about this disease because of him. They knew that human compassion could soften the ravages of this disease.

Forced to quit school at age 13 to work on the family farm, Joseph entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary six years later, taking the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. When his brother Pamphile, a priest in the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to the Hawaiian Islands as assigned, Damien quickly volunteered in his place. In May 1864, two months after arriving in his new mission, Damien was ordained a priest in Honolulu and assigned to the island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he went to the Hawaiian government's leper colony on the island of Molokai, set up seven years earlier. Part of a team of four chaplains taking that assignment for three months each year, Damien soon volunteered to remain permanently, caring for the people's physical, medical and spiritual needs. In time, he became their most effective advocate to obtain promised government support.

Soon the settlement had new houses and a new church, school and orphanage. Morale improved considerably. A few years later he succeeded in getting the Franciscan Sisters of Syracuse, led by Mother Marianne Cope (January 23), to help staff this colony in Kalaupapa.

Damien contracted leprosy and died of its complications. As requested, he was buried in Kalaupapa, but in 1936 the Belgian government succeeded in having his body moved to Belgium. Part of Damien's body was returned to his beloved Hawaiian brothers and sisters after his beatification in 1995.

Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

When Hawaii became a state in 1959, it selected Damien as one of its two representatives in the Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol.



May 13 Our Lady of Fatima

A special day for Our Lady. Remember to pray the Rosary today. Perhaps view a movie about this miraculous event.

May 22 St. Rita

She is known as the Saint of Impossible situations and is certainly understanding of those in troubled marriages. We probably all have something that St. Rita can help us with.



Prayer of St. Rita

Holy Patroness of those in need, Saint Rita, so humble, pure and patient, whose pleadings with thy Divine Spouse are irresistible, obtain for me from thy Crucified Christ my request (mention it here). Be kind to me, for the greater glory of God, and I promise to honor thee and to sing thy praises forever.

Oh glorious St. Rita, who didst miraculously participate in the sorrowful Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, obtain for me the grace to suffer with resignation the troubles of this life, and protect me in all my needs. Amen

May 26 St. Philip Neri

From AmericanCatholic.org:

Many people wrongly feel that such an attractive and jocular personality as Philip's cannot be combined with an intense spirituality. Philip's life melts our rigid, narrow views of piety. His approach to sanctity was truly catholic, all-embracing and accompanied by a good laugh. Philip always wanted his followers to become not less but more human through their striving for holiness.

Why not have everyone share there favorite joke around the table today.

End with this prayer:

Saint Philip Neri, we take ourselves far too seriously most of the time. Help us to add humour to our perspective — remembering always that humour is a gift from God.

May 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A great Marian Feast to end the month. Let's follow Mary's example and visit someone in need. Let's pray the Joyful Mysteries today.



(The following feasts have no dates because they change every year. Please check your Calendar/Catholic Calendar for the exact date for the current year.)

Mother's Day

Besides the usual gifts and nice dinner, don't forget to pray:

A Mothers' Day Prayer

I [we] thank you, Creator of us all, for my [our] mother[s].

I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth.

Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her. Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace.

Bless her this day with your love.

First Communions and Graduations

Are there some traditions you want to start with your family for these milestones? Even if you are mid-family, you can still start a tradition—who knows, even if you only do it once for that particular child, that child may in turn do it for his child—and so the tradition continues.

Since we don't have any extended family who are Catholic, our First Communion tradition has consisted of just our family going out to eat at a restaurant and hanging out at a park.

Our High School Graduation tradition has been to have a party on our back patio with lots of friends and family, bonfire, and music. I also always make a slideshow of photos showing the graduate from birth to current year.

May this also serve as a reminder to purchase gifts that not only will be practical (like cash) but also will encourage them in their faith. (I usually try to do both.)



Ascension Thursday

(40 days after Easter, often celebrated on the following Sunday)

Make a Cloud Mobile with Jesus to decorate your home.

Eat a "cloudy" dessert—one with whipped cream or meringue.

Pentecost (50 days or 5 weeks after Easter)

This is a great celebration of the church. Plan a fun afternoon and special meal for your family. Red is the color of the day. Incorporate this into your dessert. (Fire, too.)

Here is the Chaplet of the Holy Spirit: (For a shorter prayer—do the Glorious Mysterious of the Rosary)



Prayer:

Sign of the Cross. Act of Contrition

FIRST MYSTERY

Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary.

Meditation: The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. There the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God (Luke 11:35).

Prayers: One Our Father and Hail Mary; seven Glory be to the Father.

SECOND MYSTERY

The Spirit of the Lord rests upon Jesus.

Meditation: When Jesus was baptized, He immediately came up from the water. And behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a Dove and coming upon Him. (Matthew 3:16).

Prayers: One Our Father and Hail Mary; seven Glory be to the Father.

THIRD MYSTERY

Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert.

Meditation: Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit about the desert for forty days, being tempted the while by the devil (Luke 4:11).

Prayers: One Our Father and Hail Mary; seven Glory be to the Father.

FOURTH MYSTERY

The Holy Spirit in the Church.

Meditation: Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak of the wonderful works of God. (Acts 2:2, 4, 11).

Prayers: One Our Father and Hail Mary; seven Glory be to the Father.

FIFTH MYSTERY

The Holy Spirit in the souls of the Just.

Meditation: Or, do you not know that your members are the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you? Do not extinguish the Spirit. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption (I Cor. 6:19; I Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30).

Prayers: One Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary; seven Glory be to the Father.

Prayer Source: *Family Liturgical Customs No. 4: Easter* by Ethel Marbach, Abbey Press Publishing Division, St. Meinrad, Indiana, 1964

Trinity Sunday

Father,
You sent your Word to bring us truth
and your Spirit to make us holy.
Through them we come to know the mystery of your life.
Help us to worship you, one God in three persons,
You reveal yourself in the depths of our being,
by proclaiming and living our faith in you.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen
The Liturgy of the Hours

**The Story of St. Augustine and the Boy at the Beach
as recounted in the Golden Legend,
written in A.D. 1275 by Jacobus de Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa**

St. Augustine was walking on the beach contemplating the mystery of the Trinity. Then he saw a boy in front of him who had dug a hole in the sand and was going out to the sea again and again and bringing some water to pour into the hole. St. Augustine asked him, "What are you doing?" "I'm going to pour the entire ocean into this hole." "That is impossible, the whole ocean will not fit in the hole you have made" said St. Augustine. The boy replied, "And you cannot fit the Trinity in your tiny little brain." The story concludes by saying that the boy vanished because St. Augustine had been talking to an angel.



Corpus Christi/ Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Collect: O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

Family Discussion: Fr. Alfred McBride has these suggestions for increasing our devotion to the Eucharist:

1. Regularly attend weekend Mass with the family. Come for prayer before and after Mass.
2. Adore the raised Body and Blood of Christ at Mass with the silent phrase, "My Lord and my God."
3. Participate in eucharistic adoration where possible.
4. Genuflect with reverence before the Blessed Sacrament.
5. Make visits to the Blessed Sacrament altar individually and with whole family.
6. Engage family in regular Scripture study and catechesis on the Eucharist.
7. Read lives of eucharistic saints such as St. Katharine Drexel and St. John Neumann.

Father's Day (3rd Sunday)

June 4th (Begin Novena for St. Anthony of Padua)

The St. Anthony Novena Prayer

O wonderful St. Anthony, glorious on account of the fame of your miracles, and through the condescension of Jesus in coming in the form of a little child to rest in your arms, obtain for me of His bounty the grace which I ardently desire from the depths of my heart. (mention your request) You who were so compassionate toward miserable sinners, regard not the unworthiness of those who pray to you, but the glory of God that it may once again be magnified by the granting of the particular (mention your request) which I now ask for with persevering earnestness. Amen.

One Our Father, one Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father, in honor of Saint Anthony.

Saint Anthony, pray for us.

(For different prayers to say on each of the nine days go to <http://www.prayerbook.com/Novenas/anthnove.htm#Anthony>)



June 13 St. Anthony of Padua

The reason for invoking St. Anthony's help in finding lost or stolen things is traced back to an incident in his own life. As the story goes, Anthony had a book of psalms that was very important to him. Besides the value of any book before the invention of printing, the psalter had the notes and comments he had made to use in teaching students in his Franciscan Order.

A novice who had already grown tired of living religious life decided to depart the community. Besides going AWOL he also took Anthony's psalter! Upon realizing his psalter was missing, Anthony prayed it would be found or returned to him. And after his prayer the thieving novice was moved to return the psalter to Anthony and to return to the Order, which accepted him back. Legend has embroidered this story a bit. It has the novice stopped in his flight by a horrible devil, brandishing an ax and threatening to trample him underfoot if he did not immediately return the book. Obviously a devil would hardly command anyone to do something good. But the core of the story would seem to be true. And the stolen book is said to be preserved in the Franciscan friary in Bologna. (from Stanthony.org)

June 21-July 4th Fortnight for Freedom

O GOd Our CreatOr,
from your provident hand we have received
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
You have called us as your people and given us
the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,
and your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel
to every corner of society.
We ask you to bless us
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are
threatened;
give us courage in making our voices heard
on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.
Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters
gathered in your Church
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
so that, with every trial withstood
and every danger overcome—
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
and all who come after us—
this great land will always be “one nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas,
Pray for us.
(from the USCCB)

★ JUNE 21 to JULY 4, 2014 ★
**FORTNIGHT FREEDOM
FOR FREEDOM TO SERVE**
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June 24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Collect: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that your family may walk in the way of salvation and, attentive to what Saint John the Precursor urged, may come safely to the One he foretold, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Blessing of a Bonfire

Leader. Our help is in the name of the Lord. *All.* Who hath made heaven and earth. *Let us pray.* O Lord God, Father almighty, unfailing Ray and Source of all light, sanctify this new fire, and grant that after the darkness of this life we may come unsullied to thee, Who are Light eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. (From *The Year and Our Children* by Mary Reed Newland)

June 29 Sts. Peter and Paul

From a Novena Prayer Card:

O Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, I choose you this day and forever to be my special patrons and advocates, you, St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, because you are the Rock upon which almighty God has built His Church; you, St. Paul because you were fore chosen by God as the vessel of election and the preacher of truth to the whole world. Obtain for me, I pray you, lively faith, firm hope and burning love; complete detachment from myself, contempt of the world, patience in adversity, humility in prosperity, attention in prayer, purity of diligence in fulfilling the duties of my state of life, constancy in my resolutions, resignation to the will of God and perseverance in the grace of God even to death; so that, by means of your intercession and your glorious merits, I may be able to overcome the devil, and may I be made worthy of the Promises of Christ and enjoy His presence and love Him forever. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

