

Faith & Family - Building the Domestic Church

May: The Month of Mary

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called ‘the domestic church,’ a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity” (No 1666).

The new title of the “Catholic Parenting Newsletter” emphasizes this call to your families to build the Domestic Church in your homes and live out the mission of the family every day. Our hope is to provide activities, information, and prayers along with a multitude of resources for parents to use as they build the faith foundation for their children.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Mary my Mother

One of 101 titles in the Saint Joseph Picture Books Series, this book by beloved author Rev. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D. introduces Catholic children to Our Lady.

(Amazon)





"Remember that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love."
- St. Therese of Lisieux -



9 Ways to Celebrate the Month of Mary

In addition to the myriad feast days honoring Our Lady in her many titles and virtues, the entire month of May is especially given to her praise.

May, when the earth blooms in springtime beauty, is an ideal time for our thoughts and sentiments to be directed towards this supremely lovely Queen of Heaven and Earth, who busily labors from her heavenly throne to conquer hearts, minds, and souls for the greater glory of her Son.

So, how can you honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in a special way this month, and allow her to conquer your own heart? Here are nine ideas.

1. Flower Your Mary Statue

May crownings are one of the most popular ways to celebrate the month of Mary. Make a crown of flowers for your Mary statue and adorn your indoor and outdoor Mary statues with fresh blooming flowers this month.

2. Pray a Novena to Our Lady

Sometime during the month of May, pray a novena to the Blessed Mother for a particular intention that you want to entrust to her Immaculate Heart, for yourself or for someone else. If you don't already have a favorite novena to Our Lady, try one of these three [Novenas to the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#).

3. Spread Devotion to the Rosary

Outside of the Mass, there is no prayer more pleasing to Our Lady and more efficacious for her intercession than the Holy Rosary. If you don't already have the spiritual discipline, make an effort to pray the rosary daily.

4. Learn About a New Marian Devotion

Consider researching and adopting a special devotion to Mary under one of her many titles. For example, Our Lady of Fatima (whose feast is May 13th), Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady Undoer of Knots, Our Lady of Guadalupe, or our Lady of Perpetual Help.

5. Share the Miraculous Medal

When Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Laboure and gave her the vision of the Miraculous Medal in 1830, she promised great graces to those who would wear the medal. Consider buying a pack of Miraculous Medals and have them blessed and distribute them as the Holy Spirit leads.

6. Memorize a Marian Prayer or Hymn

You may already know the Memorare and the Hail Holy Queen by heart, and this month you can add more Marian hymns and prayers into your mental index.

7. Get Invested in the Scapular

A scapular is basically a mini religious habit for the laity, an outward symbol of your consecration to the Blessed Mother, that you wear daily underneath your clothes.

8. Read a Book About Mary

The best way to increase your devotion to the Blessed Mother is simply by reading more about her. There is no shortage of great Catholic books on Mary that unpack the mysteries of her life, virtues, and perfect union with her son, Jesus, and the treasures of grace this unfolds in the life of every Christian who turns to her in faith.

9. Pray the Little Offices of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The [Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) is like the Divine Office (Liturgy of the Hours) in that it is comprised of prayers said at various hours throughout the day, but different in that they are all in praise of Our Lady.

(Adapted from Good Catholic)

MEMORARE

**Remember, O most gracious
Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy
protection, implored thy
help,
or sought thine intercession
was left unaided.**

**Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee, O Virgin of
virgins, my mother;
to thee do I come, before
thee I stand, sinful and
sorrowful.**

**O Mother of the Word
Incarnate, despise not my
petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and
answer me.**

Amen.



JOKE OF THE MONTH:

What do you call a bear
caught in a spring shower?

A drizzly bear!

SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast (May 1st) extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labors. Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labor.

Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph’s carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher and healer. In his encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, Pope John Paul II stated: “the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society.”

Saint Joseph is held up as a model of such work. Pius XII emphasized this when he said, “The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work.”

..... Rolled Paper Roses for Mary

Materials:

- Colored craft paper (4-5 different colors including white)
- Scissors
- Craft Glue

Step 1:

Choose the colors you would like for your flowers and cut 5 circles each about 2 inches in diameter. A template is also available if needed.



Step 2:

Cut the circle into a spiral



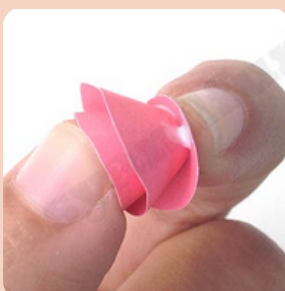
Step 3:

Start rolling the spiral, starting at the outer side. Roll almost all the way to the center.



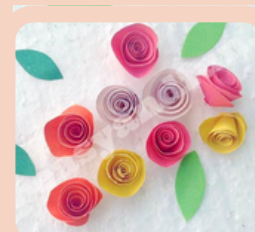
Step 4:

Apply a bit of glue to the center and push the center under the rolled rose. Hold until glue is dry.



Step 5:

Invite your children to place their roses at the foot of a Marian statue or picture and use this opportunity to teach them about honoring Mary in the month of May.



TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT THE SAINTS!

MAY FEAST DAYS

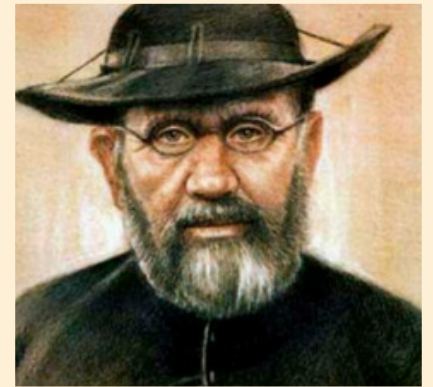
May 6th - St. Dominic Savio



- St. Dominic showed a deep devotion to the Catholic faith at a very young age and is known for his dedication to confession and communion as well as his great virtue. He died due to unknown illness at 14 and became the youngest non-martyr to be declared a saint.
- Patron saint of Choir boys and falsely accused people
- Canonized June 12, 1954

May 10th - St. Damien De Veuster

- St. Damien was a priest who chose to care for the abandoned lepers on the Island of Molokai in Hawaii despite the risk to his own health. After many years he eventually caught leprosy and died in 1889.
- Patron saint of Leprosy and outcasts
- Canonized October 11, 2009



May 26th - St. Philip Neri



- St. Philip Neri was sought after by many for his wise counsel and direction for living out the faith. He was known for his joyful attitude towards life and his ability to help others grow closer to God through his sense of humor.
- Patron saint of laughter and joy
- Canonized March 12, 1615

(Adapted from Saintsresource)

Upcoming Events:

Family Week Retreat
Benedictine College

May 22-28

50th Wedding
Anniversary
Celebration

June 12, 2022

Special Needs Family
Camp

June 17-19

Special Needs Totus
Tuus

June 25-29

Totus Tuus

**See website for all
available weeks**

Camp Tekakwitha

**See website for all
available weeks**

Weekend Immersion Retreat for Married Couples - Topeka
August 20-21

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Office Websites

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Catholic Schools Office

Marriage & Family Life Office

Children's Catechesis/Religious
Education Office

Bible in a Year Podcast

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you.

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes.

Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to three scripture readings
- a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible

Timeline® learning system, a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins.

Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word.

(Adapted from Ascension Press)



Holy Family School of Faith

Holy Family School of faith leads people to Jesus through friendship, good conversation, and the Rosary.

Every evening, Dr. Mike Scherschligt gathers with family and friends to say the rosary - and thousands of people throughout the world join him.

These Daily Rosary Meditations are perfect for your daily commute or morning coffee listening.

Visit <https://www.schooloffaith.com/> to learn more.



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL OF FAITH

(adapted from Holy Family School of Faith)

Out of town for the weekend? Find a Mass near you!

Masstimes.org helps Catholics find churches and worship times worldwide.

Visit [Masstimes.org](https://www.masstimes.org) or download the app today.

Magnificat

A spiritual guide to help you develop your prayer life, grow in your spiritual life, and participate in the holy Mass with greater fervor.

<https://us.magnificat.net/>