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# family



MAY  
2022

Could there be a more beautiful month in the Northeast of the United States? May—flowers, in a glorious palette, burst from the cold, dark earth. The sound of birds compete with our alarms to waken us. The sun comes early and stays late. Could there be a more perfect month to honor our Blessed Mother—the one who bore the Light of the World? To honor our own mothers who have given their lives to our care and nurturing—our first teachers of the faith?

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary, came about in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. This month is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself. Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Devotion to Mary is an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed “Yes” to the will of God. Because of the devotion to her many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life as any child does with his mother. (Salt and Light Media)

**Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you.**

**Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen**

## Did you know?

To meet the "mother" of Mother's Day, you're going to have to travel all the way back in time to 1864—the year when Anna Jarvis was born. Anna was a determined activist, and to this day, she's credited with "inventing" Mother's Day in an attempt to honor her own mother, Ann Jarvis. Ann—that's Anna's mother—had spent much of her life raising awareness about the infant mortality rate. According to National Geographic, in the 1850s, she began hosting clubs for fellow mothers to teach them to better care for their children and curb those numbers.

When Ann passed away in 1905, Anna decided that a national "Mother's Day" would be a beautiful way to honor these noble efforts. She hosted the first-ever Mother's Day function on May 10, 1908 in her hometown of Grafton, West Virginia, and it was followed by a similar event in Philadelphia attended by "thousands of people."

As the story goes, President Woodrow Wilson's cabinet eventually got wind of Anna's work, and it was under his guidance that Mother's Day officially became a national holiday in 1914. At that time, it was also decided that the celebration would take place on the second Sunday in May (May 8, 2022) each year. (The Pioneer Woman.com)

## MAY 1ST—FEAST OF ST. 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 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.

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.”

Click on: [Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Franciscan Media](#)

Click on and scroll down: [Catholic Social Teaching: On the Dignity of Work and the Rights of the Worker](#)

[Prayer to St. Joseph for Work](#)

[Prayer to St. Joseph for Success in Work](#)



## May 13th Our Lady of Fatima



Perhaps the most well known utterance of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima was her confident declaration that “My Immaculate Heart will triumph”. Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) has interpreted this utterance as follows: “The Heart open to God, purified by contemplation of God, is stronger than guns and weapons of every kind. The fiat of Mary, the word of her heart, has changed the history of the world, because it brought the Savior into the world— because, thanks to her Yes, God could become man in our world and remains so for all time. The Evil One has power in this world, as we see and experience continually; he has power because our freedom continually lets itself be led away from God. But since God himself took a human heart and has thus steered human freedom towards what is good, the freedom to choose evil no longer has the last word. From that time forth, the word that prevails is this: “In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33). The message of Fatima invites us to trust in this promise.” (Catholic News Agency)

In her message given to the children of Fatima, Our Lady asked that Russia be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. Pope St. John Paul II completed this request during his years as our Holy Father. But with the news of Russia’s attack upon the Ukraine, Pope Francis once again placed Russia and the Ukraine under the care of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. [Pope Consecrates Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#)

Read: [Our Lady of Fatima - EWTN](#)

Read: [Our Lady of Fatima - Catholic News Agency](#)

Listen: [Our Lady of Fatima - Franciscan Media](#)

Watch: [Actual Footage: The Miracle of the Sun. 1917](#)

**May 26**

## **The Ascension of the Lord Into Heaven**

The Ascension is the event, where Jesus arose into heaven, at the end of his time on earth.

Jesus' time on earth began with his birth. It was interrupted for three days by His death on the Cross. During that time, He descended into the realm of the dead and preached the Gospel to the good people who died before Him. This allowed those good and holy souls--the righteous dead, as we call them--who accepted Christ as their Savior to proceed to heaven. On the third day after his death and burial, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, an event we call the Resurrection. He spent the next 40 days preaching and preparing His disciples to perform the work of preaching and baptizing all people.

At the end of this 40 day period, Jesus ascended into heaven. We call this the Ascension.

Read: [Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11](#)

Watch: [Ascension of the Lord](#)

For kids watch: [The Ascension of Jesus](#)



**Memorial Day—May 30**



Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2022 will occur on Monday, May 30.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. Read: [Memorial Day History](#)

## **May 31 - Mary Visits Her Cousin**

Like most feasts of Mary, the Visitation is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The more visible actors in the visitation drama are Mary and Elizabeth. However, Jesus and John the Baptist steal the scene in a hidden way. Jesus makes John leap with joy—the joy of messianic salvation. Elizabeth, in turn, is filled with the Holy Spirit and addresses words of praise to Mary—words that echo down through the ages.

Click and Scroll down to: [Luke 1:39 - 45](#)

Read and listen: [Franciscan Media - The Visitation](#)



## CATHOLIC PRAYERS AND PRACTICES

*Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life*  
The Response is: **Mary, pray for us.**

Mary, Mother of all Life,  
help us to respect human life from the moment of conception  
to the moment of natural death. **R.**

Mary, Mother of Compassion,  
You showed us how valuable a single life can be;  
Help us to guard and protect the lives of all people entrusted to our care.  
**R.**

Mary, Mother of the Child Jesus,  
with St. Joseph you formed the Holy Family.  
Guard and protect all families in this earthly life; **R.**

Mary, Mother Most Holy,  
You sanctified the vocation of motherhood;  
Pour out your heavenly aid on all mothers and help them to be holy. **R.**

Mary, Mother of Sorrows,  
Simeon's prophecy foretold that a sword of suffering would pierce your  
heart;  
Bring comfort and hope to all mothers who suffer over their children. **R.**

Mary, Full of Grace,  
You had a choice in responding to God's call;  
Help us always to say "Yes" to the will of God in our lives,  
And strive always to do whatever he tells us. **R.**

Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted,  
Pour forth your heavenly grace on all who are in need of God's healing,  
Especially those involved in abortion;  
Help them to experience the love and mercy of Christ, your Son. **R.**

Mary, Intercessor and Advocate,  
We lift up the poor, the displaced, the marginalized and vulnerable  
members of society;  
Help them to never abandon hope, but to place their trust in the God  
who gave them life. **R.**

Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate, you bore in your womb him  
whom the heavens cannot contain;  
Help us to bear witness to Christ by the example of our lives  
And show the world the extravagant love of God. **R.**

Remember, oh most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that  
anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your  
intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto  
you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you we come, before you we  
stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise  
not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer them. Amen.

Click on: [USCCB](#)



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**For more information  
about the Saints and  
Feast Days we honor this  
month, visit:**

[www.franciscanmedia.org/  
saint-of-the-day](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day)

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

### Movies:

[Our Lady of Fatima - 1952](#)

For children: [The Day The Sun  
Danced](#)

### Crafts:

[Mother's Day Crafts for Kids](#)

[10 Ways to Celebrate Mother's Day](#)