



Partners in Faith & Action

May 2017

MAY CELEBRATIONS

Please join, as a family, with the NDV faith community in one or more of our 8:30 a.m. School or Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

--May 7th, the eighth grade students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 12:15 p.m. Mass. A reception will follow in the Church Hall.

--May 14th, Family Mass at 9:00 a.m., a reception will follow in the Church Hall.

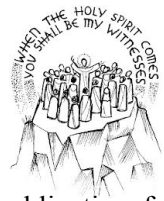
--May 12th, the first grade will lead our May Crowning Mass at 8:30 a.m. Full uniform.

--May 21st, the fifth grade will be the readers and gift bearers at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. A reception will follow in the Church Hall.

EASTER SEASON

We are still in the Easter Season until Pentecost, which is June 4th. The *Little White Book* has information about the Easter Season, traditions, customs, historical facts, saints, and focus on us as stewards of the earth on the left-hand page.

The right-hand page looks at Mark's resurrection narrative and excerpts from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.



ASCENSION

We celebrate Jesus' ascension into Heaven 40 days after Easter. This year the Ascension of Our Lord, a holy day of obligation, falls on Thursday, May 25th. In the San Francisco Archdiocese, it is celebrated on Sunday, May 28th.

The ascension is Jesus' return to the Father. As he leaves, he tells his followers to spread his message to all nations. Find more about Jesus' ascension and activities to do with children:

http://www.sermons4kids.com/up_up_and_away.htm

<http://www.catholicicing.com/?s=ascension>

MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY

We honor Mary, the Mother of God, during the month of May. She is our example of faith because she lived her life by faith. Mary is the model for the Marists' way of life.

Mary was extraordinary because she was specially chosen by God to be the Mother of Jesus. In addition, she lived her life of faith in a way that can only be described as remarkable. Yet, despite her uniqueness and her greatness, Mary was also down-to-earth, simple and very human. We can say that this extraordinary woman is also one of us. She was a real woman who lived in the first century in Nazareth. She experienced the joys, uncertainties, perils, hopes, dreams, fears and struggles of real human life, just as we do. Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical *Marialis Cultus*, wrote that Mary "is truly our sister who, as a poor and humble woman, fully shared our lot." (from *Mary: One of Us* by Melannie Svododa, SND)

On May 12th, we will honor Mary at our 8:30 a.m. School Mass in the Church. Each student is asked to bring a flower to make a class bouquet to be brought up at the beginning of Mass when the first grade will crown Mary.

OTHER MARY FEAST DAYS IN MAY

May 13 – Our Lady of Fatima – Mary appeared 6 times to 3 shepherd children; Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta; between May 13 and October 13, 1917. Read more at

<http://www.jclubcatholic.org/stories/SaintADay.aspx>.

May 31 – The Visitation – When Mary learned that her cousin Elizabeth was also expecting a child, she walked many miles to visit her.



THE ROSARY

One of Our Lady of Fatima's Central messages was to pray the Rosary every day for peace. As we honor Mary this month, it is a good time to bring out our

rosaries. While reciting the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be we think about Jesus and look at him through his mother's eyes to understand him with our hearts.

You can find coloring sheets at TheCatholicKid.com/tag/rosary. Learning the reason for the prayers can help bring more understanding to them. You can find details at RosaryWorkshop.com/HISTORY-OriginPrayers/html.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The sixty-fourth National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 4th. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

The theme this year is: For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us... Forgive Us...Heal Us! Taken from Daniel 9:19, which says, "*O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act! For Your Sake, O My God...*".

You can find the prayer at www.nationaldayofprayer.org/national-prayer.



MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14th. As we remember Mary during this month, we should also remember and honor our mothers.

Mother's Day began as an event to encourage peace and bring people together in the aftermath of the Civil War. Ann Jarvis lost four of her children in the Civil War. She organized a Mother's Friendship Day in Prunytown, West Virginia, to peacefully bring together soldiers and neighbors of all political beliefs.

Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" had seen the results of the war and was determined that women should join together to celebrate a day dedicated to the end of all war.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a resolution designating the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. It made no reference however to the theme of peace. (Information

from *The Little White Book*)

The following sites have thoughts about Mother's Day:

<http://loyolapress.com/if-god-were-in-charge-of-the-mothers-day-celebration-what-would-it-be-like.htm>

<http://loyolapress.com/mothers-day-inspiration.htm> -- poems

<https://www.care.com/a/27-mothers-day-gift-ideas-kids-can-make-1304300746> contains

several ideas for gifts that children can make for their mothers. Another idea is a coupon book for household chores that Mother can redeem whenever she wishes.

MISSION CARNIVAL

Mission Carnival will be Friday, May 26th from 12:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the school yard. Monies raised at the carnival will be sent to Marist and CSJ missions. Watch for more information in the Wednesday envelope.



CSJ & MARIST MISSIONS

Taller San Jose is the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange who opened Taller San Jose in 1995 in response to the prevalence of crime and gang violence in Santa Ana. Taller San Jose's Mission Statement is "Taller San Jose walks wounded young people out of poverty by offering the hope of a productive and self-reliant future." It offers job training programs in office, medical, and construction careers. Students participate in resume writing, mock interviews, and other job coaching activities, while personal development workshops on financial literacy, healthy relationships, and other topics reduce their barriers to building productive lives. www.tallersanjose.org.

One of the Marist mission projects we support is in the Diocese of Rarotonga in Fiji. They have rebuilt and refurbished St. Joseph's School which had been built of surplus World War II building materials.. Our monies helped with the rebuilding and presently funds are used for equipment, textbooks and supplies.

