



A PRAYER FOR ALL MOTHERS

*Loving God, thank you
for all the mothers in the world.*

*Bless them so that they may always
give life and nourishment to their
children through their firm faith,
generous and selfless love, good
example and constant concern for
their bodily and spiritual health.*

*Grant that we, their children, may
honor them always with a spirit of
profound love, respect and
thanksgiving.*

*Grant this through Christ our
Lord. Amen.*



**HAPPY
MOTHER'S DAY!**

- Catholics striving for Holiness -



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Pope Francis at Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020
Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

FIRST PRAYER

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

SECOND PRAYER

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God".

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

THE GUEST HOUSE

This week the *Connections Resource* publication refers to a poem found in the book – *The Essential Rumi*. Rumi is an ancient mystical Persian poet. In his poem, *The Guest House*, Rumi presents the image of every human life as a kind of “*guest house*” – a guest house “*where every day new guests arrive*”. In Rumi’s way of seeing things, everything we encounter – joy, anguish, meanness, loneliness, confusion – all are visitors to be learned from. And so they are to be invited in – welcomed and entertained....

“Even if they’re a crowd of sorrows, who violently sweep your house empty of its furniture; still, treat each guest honorably. He may be clearing you out for some new delight.

“Be grateful for every visitor to your guest house. Turn no one away – welcome with laughter whatever joy or sorrow or fear comes to your door and invite them in – because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus promises that he “*goes to prepare a place for (us) in the dwelling place of God.*” But the *place* we have now – our life in this moment in time with all its circumstances – is our entry way to God’s house. *The guests who come to our house*, as the poet Rumi writes, *are encounters with the Holy*. And our ability to welcome them – whether they bring enlightenment or fear; happiness or grief – illuminates the way to our next *house* in the dwelling place of God.

When we take on the work of compassion; when we have the courage to ask “*How can I help?*” even if it is from a place of social distancing – when we choose to show more patience and forgiveness even if we are trying to home-school our children – our *guest houses* suddenly become more spacious and loving.

If we find that fear or loneliness are frequent visitors; we might call or touch base with a neighbor with whom we otherwise have little time to chat. Our guest houses become part of God’s house right here in our midst. We establish the reign of God in our time in history as we make our way to the time of God’s eternal guest house where, in truth – hospitality is extended to all!

SAINT ROCCO—PRAY FOR US

Saint Rocco (AKA "Saint Roch") was born in Montpellier, France in the 14th century to a noble family. Legend has it that his mother had been barren until she prayed to the Virgin Mary. Saint Rocco's birth was made all the more miraculous by a birthmark resembling a red cross on his chest.

His parents died when he was twenty years old, at which point he gave away all his worldly possessions and set out on a pilgrimage to Rome. At the time, Italy was suffering from a plague epidemic. Saint Rocco cared selflessly for the sick, effecting many miraculous cures by making the sign of the cross or laying his hands on them.

In Piacenza, however, he finally fell ill. He was driven out of town and into the forest, where he made a hut for himself out of leaves and branches. Miraculously, a spring arose near his hut to provide him with water and a local dog began bringing him bread to eat. The dog would also lick his wounds clean, eventually healing him.

He returned to Montpellier looking like a wild man with unkempt hair and a long beard. Unrecognized by the townspeople, he was thrown in prison as a spy. He remained there for five years before dying, unwilling to reveal his identity out of humility. The townspeople recognized the birthmark across his chest, and he was venerated as a folk saint almost immediately after his death. But he was not officially canonized until the 17th century. He is traditionally depicted in religious art with a wound on his thigh, a dog (often seen bringing him a loaf of bread), pilgrim's hat and staff. Saint Rocco is venerated in the Roman Catholic Church as the protector against the plague and all contagious diseases. Let us pray for St. Rocco's intercession for protection from the Coronavirus.



Saint Rocco Prayer for Healing and Protection

During your travels on earth,
God worked His miraculous healing
through your intercession.
Many were cured of the plague
from your prayers and the sign of the cross.
We implore you Saint Rocco
to intercede before the throne of God.
Send forth a blessing of protection from
Contagious diseases and the Coronavirus.
Bless us Heavenly Father with your healing grace.
We ask this in the name of your Divine Son, Jesus.

Amen

Stained glass window photographed inside Saint Francis Xavier
Catholic Church, Newark, NJ

**PLEASE HELP US KEEP
THESE LISTS UP TO DATE**

PRAY FOR THE ILL OF THE PARISH

Martin Coughlin, Loretta Stephens, Harry Marcoux, John Keane, Tris Windle, David Cousins, Lynne Scalia, Alex Podeszwa, Thomas Stone, Nick Bartick, Pam Hedlund, Len Hedlund, Greg Morongell, Nora Gould, Edan Pearl, Anne Caruso, John M. Pollard, Peter Cruckshank, Bill Hannon, Ivy Davis, Maddy Hayes, Clare Stevenson, Joseph Nosari, Vincent Lencvewski, Jeffrey Wolfgang, Joan Ouellette, Bev Sarazin, Tyler Benscoter, Agnes Wolfgang, Fr. Paul Smith, Marilyn Drewes, Ray Castriotta, Julianne Sullivan, Robert Grudzina, Marge LaGrassa, Jim Lewis, Joyce Loechner, Frank Salomone, Chad Larivee, Dick Wentworth, Nuvia Downs, Karen Mary McNulty, Olivia Hart, Alex Haas, Patrick Devine, Gerry Csaposs, Peggy Carson, Addie Priess, Frank McCarthy, Andree Yager, Loretta Reiter, Paul Kasczak, Patty Camarra, James Manley, Betty Babcock, Thomas Murphy, Chris Frazier, Melissa K., Baby Lillian Thoman, Jessica O., Fran McDonagh, Donna Hibbert, Margaret Royce, Beth Nixon, Anne O'Brien, Ben McMahan, Gerry Moynihan, Martha Moynihan, Richard Paskiewicz, Mary Rodrigues, Emily Sparks, Stephen Moreau, Paula Madeiro, Paul Brandon, Rita Folger, Gerri DiCristina, Kathleen Kilmer, Marguerite Forren, Mary Pickard, Deepthi Moola, Steve Novick, Ernie T., Eleanor Symecko, Susanne Albert, Joseph Wignot, Hector Pelletier, Bob Cunnane, Thomas McSparron

**PRAY FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE
MEN AND WOMEN**

Brandy Nelson, Timothy Horigan, Scott Doucette, Michael Wilson, David Lucas, Sean Lucas, Peter Civita Shayne, Peter Cabral, Gregory DeLuca, Joshua Schmitt, Joseph Long, Brad Howard, Thomas Scudder, Jeffrey Stebbins, Phillip McDonough, David Wilcox, John Amick, David McDonald, Lt. Edward J. Maloney, Andrew Kelley, William James Miller, David Orloski, Stephen Tamaro, Michael L. Hamilton, Thomas Crawford, Aaron Charette, Nicholas McGahey, Edward Prufer, Brandon Stubbs, Christian P. Goodman, Trevor Lafontaine, Connor Lafontaine, Colin Bracken, Michael Bracken

FR. BILL'S HOMILIES ON SJA WEBSITE

Fr. Bill has resumed recording his homilies. His homily for May 3, *The Good Shepherd*, is available on our website and homilies will be uploaded each week. Go to www.joanarc.org to find the audio link on our home page.

Please keep these deceased loved ones in your prayers.

THIS WEEK

Saturday	5:00	Val & Denise Plantier
Sunday	8:00	Eulalie Sullivan Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
	10:00	Jennifer Reiss
Monday	8:00	Elizabeth Dunn
Tuesday	8:00	Joseph T. Cicherio
Wed	8:00	David Hanson
Fri	8:00	John Dowman

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday	5:00	Alan Bowden, Bruce Burke
Sunday	8:00	Fr. Bob Kemmery, Parish Family
	10:00	Lew Carrington

PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

Eileen & John Ahle

COLLECTION RESULTS—THANK YOU!

This Week's Donations \$3,336.00

Your generosity to St. Joan of Arc is greatly appreciated.

GABRIEL SYSTEM—PLEASE REGISTER

We are so grateful to all who have donated through the envelope system or through Gabriel, our new on-line giving program. **Whether you choose to continue with the envelopes or donate on-line, we encourage everyone to register with Gabriel so we can build an up-to-date parish census including emails and mobile phone numbers to better handle situations like this going forward.** **Directions:** On the left-hand side of the SJA website home page scroll down beneath the photo of the church until you see the Online Giving Icon. Click the icon which gives you two options: one to register and one to donate. Once we establish a member portal — down the road — registered donors will have the ability to manage and track donations.