



With FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE:

*Celebrating all women
called to motherhood*

Mother's Day is a unique time to celebrate the fullness of motherhood, both physical and spiritual. It can also be a way to honor and comfort those for whom Mother's Day elicits sadness because of their own struggles with infertility, miscarriage or loss of a child, complications with adoptions or fostering, broken relationships with their own mothers or children, and more.

The Church recognizes that part of every woman's genius is her call to motherhood, expressed not only in conceiving and bearing children, but in the particular sensitivity of all women to the needs of others. St. John Paul II affirms this:

The Church gives thanks for each and every woman: for mothers, for sisters, for wives; for women consecrated to God in virginity; for women dedicated to the many human beings who await the gratuitous love of another person; for women who watch over the human persons in the family, which is the fundamental sign of the human community; for women who work professionally, and who at times are burdened by a great social responsibility; for "perfect" women and for "weak" women – for all women....

Our Springs in the Desert team has some pastoral resources here, and on our website, to help you honor mothers this weekend, while also recognizing the unique spiritual motherhood of those women carrying the burden of infertility and loss.

Springs in the Desert is a Catholic community dedicated to spiritually accompanying those experiencing infertility and loss, while sharing in the hope that God is transforming our suffering into fruitfulness.



WWW.SPRINGSINTHEDESERT.ORG



MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

Pastoral Resources

Bulletin Announcement

Please consider using the announcement below in your parish bulletin to support those struggling with infertility.

For women suffering with infertility, Mother's Day can be hard. There is hope and healing in community! Springs in the Desert is dedicated to spiritually and emotionally supporting women and couples navigating the frustration, pain and difficulty of infertility. For encouraging blog posts, resources, and a community of support, visit www.springsinthedesert.org.

Prayer of the Faithful

Below are some options from which to choose as additions to the Intercessions you are already using for Masses on Mother's Day:

For women who are bearing the cross of infertility, that they may know God's loving presence and trust in His plan for them...

For couples desiring to be parents who carry the cross of infertility, that they may trust in God's plan for fruitfulness in their marriages...

For mothers who have lost a child through miscarriage, in infancy or any time in their lives, that they may rest in the Lord's loving embrace and be comforted by His merciful plan for their loved ones...

For the women who are loving spiritual mothers to us, especially our godmothers, aunts, mentors and all women who positively impact our lives...

For couples experiencing infertility, that we as the Body of Christ may walk with them, support them and simply listen as they share their stories with us...

Special Blessing

On Mother's Day pastors often impart a special blessing on all mothers. Consider asking all women to stand, acknowledging mothers first, and then all women who live out different aspects of motherhood each day (such as godmothers, aunts, spiritual motherhood, mentorship, etc.). Another possibility is to impart the special blessing at the end of Mass when the entire congregation is already standing. This acknowledges mothers in the congregation without drawing attention to those who remain seated, grieving anew – and publicly – that they have no children. Either option can be an opportunity to honor the good of motherhood, acknowledge the struggle with infertility and the loss of a child, and affirm the spiritual motherhood to which all women are called.

This Mother's Day, we give thanks for all women who have been called to motherhood. Let us remember with gratitude and joy our own mothers and grandmothers, our godmothers and those women who have been spiritual mothers to us, as well as the poor and vulnerable through personal charity and service to the Church. We pray for hope and healing for mothers who have lost children and for those struggling to become mothers. We entrust all of these women to the hands of Mary, Blessed Virgin, and ask God's blessings upon them this day and always. Amen.



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A Tribute Honoring the Experience of Mothers

Adapted from "A Litany for Mother's Day" by Amy Young.

This tribute can help remind those celebrating and suffering that the Church is the place where we are to truly feel comforted, supported, encouraged, and cared for in our joys and sufferings.

Following the prayer After Communion:

Presider: St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Romans, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." On this day, when we acknowledge the importance of motherhood, we are grateful for all who have shown us a Mother's love, and grieve with those who are experiencing pain and loss.

To those who gave birth this year to their first child—**we celebrate with you.**

To those who lost a child this year—**we mourn with you.**

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions or running away—**we mourn with you.**

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears and disappointment – **we walk with you.** Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make things harder.

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms and spiritual moms – **we need you.**

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – **we celebrate with you.**

To those who have disappointment, heartache and distance with your children – **we sit with you.**

To those who lost their mothers this year – **we grieve with you.**

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother – **we acknowledge your experience.**

To those who have aborted children – **we remember them and you** on this day.

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children – **we await the fulfillment of God's plan in your life with you.**

To those who stepparent – **we walk with you** on these complex paths.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be, **we grieve with you.**

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year – **we grieve and rejoice with you.**

To those who placed children for adoption – **we commend you** for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart.

To those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising – **we anticipate with you.**

And to our Blessed Mother, **we thank you** for your example and motherly love, which leads us always to the divine love of your Son. Amen.

