

FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE

Mary and the Month of May

First Lady By: Mary Jane Grauso



The month of May is filled with many activities one in particular pays homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary “Queen of heaven and earth”. The “May Crowning” is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual that occurs in May of every year. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life.

The tradition of honoring Mary in a month-long May devotion is believed to have originated in Italy, but spread eventually around the Roman Catholic world in the 19th Century together with a month-long devotion to Jesus in June and the Rosary in October. In some countries, it takes place on or about **May 1**, however, in many United States Catholic parishes, it takes place on Mother's **Day**.

Today, May crowning's occur in many Roman Catholic parishes with the crowning of a statue of Mary. The ceremony traditionally takes as a procession after mass with young girls dressed in dresses carrying flowers (traditionally Hawthorn) to adorn the statue. One of the youngest girls carries a crown of flowers or an actual golden crown on a cushion for placement by one of the oldest girls (May Queen) on the statue. The flowers are replaced throughout the month to keep them fresh.



Pope Francis Prayer to Mary during the Pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the cross you participated in Jesus' pain with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows and bring us through the cross, to the joy of Resurrection. Amen

We seek refuge of your protection O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas—we who are put to the test—and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Mother's Day is another celebration during May where you can celebrate your wives and mothers and do something special for them to show how much they are truly appreciated for all that they do.

The Month of May closes with the celebration of Memorial Day-- to honor and remember all of the men and women who died fighting for our country and our freedom.

The tradition of celebrating Memorial Day started after the Civil War (1861-1865). Some towns honor the fallen with parades. Others place flags on the graves of soldiers or fly flags in honor of a fallen family member. Many families celebrate by getting together and barbequing. With the pandemic keeping everyone cloistered for the past year this will be the very first opportunity given that many have gotten vaccinated to gather with their families. I hope that everyone follows the CDC guidelines to keep themselves and everyone safe.

God Bless.

Mary Jane Grauso, First Lady