

Dear Friends,

The month of May is traditionally observed as the month dedicated to our Patroness, the Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary! This tradition in our Church emerged over time and across various cultures, and includes several different devotions.

There are two Marian feast days in this month: Our Lady of Fatima (May 13th) and the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin (May 31st). Additionally, the recently added feast for Mary, Mother of the Church is the day after Pentecost Sunday. This *sometimes* occurs in May (this year it will be on June 1st).

One of the beloved traditions of this month is the May Crowning, when a beautiful crown of flowers is placed on a statue of our Blessed Mother. This weekend we will crown the Blessed Mother, both in our Church Sanctuary, as well as in the Grotto behind the Church. You are encouraged to do the same with a statue of Mary in your own home! If you don't have a statue, or aren't able to make a crown for it, you can offer a "spiritual crown" to our Blessed Mother.

Another tradition that is appropriate for this time of year is to create a Marian garden in your home. This could be a full garden in your yard, or small corner of your garden, or even just a potted plant inside your home. You can place a statue or image of the Blessed Mother in or near this garden. As the garden grows and its beauty unfolds, this reminds us of the beauty of our Blessed Mother, and how she helps us in our own growth in beauty and goodness.

Finally, this year, Pope Francis has encouraged us "to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May." Especially during this time of pandemic, we have the opportunity to rediscover devotions in the home, such as praying the Rosary regularly. Please read more from Pope Francis, including some additional prayers at:

www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Fr. Chad Green