



ACTION GUIDE

MOTHER'S DAY: SECOND SUNDAY OF MAY

INTRODUCTION

Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the beautiful vocation of motherhood and the gift of human life. It calls us to cherish the gift of life that we receive from our mothers and to pray for all women to whom God has entrusted life in a very special way. As we pray in thanksgiving for the gift of mothers, we remember mothers experiencing difficult pregnancies and pray they may find support and encouragement in choosing life for their children.

While Mother's Day is not a liturgical or Catholic observance, many parishes still use this holiday to honor and pray for mothers. The month of May has traditionally been dedicated to Mary, Mother of Jesus. Mother's Day provides an opportunity to pray for mothers while honoring and seeking the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. It is a fitting day to ask God's special blessing on all mothers. (The *Book of Blessings* contains various options.) If expectant mothers are present in the congregation, Mother's Day is also an opportune time to make use of the *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*, which offers blessings for the mother and the child she is carrying. (See the action guide for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord for sample announcements and other ideas for using the rite. It is accessible at respectlife.org/action-guides.)

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In our efforts to celebrate the vocation of motherhood, it is also important to remember that Mother's Day can be a difficult holiday for many people: married couples struggling with infertility; parents who have lost a child; those who have lost their own mothers; couples longing to welcome a child through adoption; and women and men who are suffering because of their participation in abortion. The included homily notes provide considerations for honoring mothers while showing sensitivity and compassion to all who find this holiday particularly challenging.

Simple steps, a sample timeline, announcements, homily notes and an activity are provided to help you highlight the gift of human life in your celebration of Mother's Day. You are encouraged to adapt the following resources to fit the circumstances of your specific parish, school, or ministry. The resources referenced in this action guide can be found at respectlife.org/action-guides, unless otherwise noted.