

**May:**  
**Joseph and Mary: The Blessing of**  
**Fathers and Mothers**

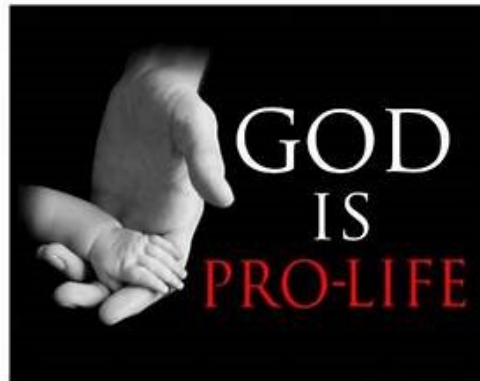
## Opening Prayer:

Let us pray...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



## **Spiritual Adoption: BEGINNING OF MAY: A Reflection- Your Baby is 8-months old!**

Thank you for praying for me this whole time! I am now 8 months old. My skin is so smooth and I have long fingernails. The pupils in my eyes respond to light. I don't have much room in here now. I am still growing each day! I wonder how big I will be when I am born. I can't wait to see my family when I am born. Thank you for your prayers. Please don't stop praying for me.

## **Spiritual Adoption: END OF MAY: Happy Birthday to Me!**

Thank you so much for each of your prayers! You are very special to me and I am so thankful that God sent your prayers to me. I have received the greatest of gift of all: LIFE! I can't wait to see what God has planned for me.

Thank you for spiritually adopting me. You are my angel on earth and I will always be thankful for prayers

## **Spiritual Adoption Prayer:**

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger."

- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

**Objective:** Honor your Father and Mother. Mary and Joseph were unsure and afraid, but Mary and Joseph both said "Yes" to God and were pro-life.

**Bible Verse:**

*"Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land the Lord your God is giving you." Exodus 20:12*



## Discussion:

Joseph and Mary play an important role in the Respect Life Movement in the following ways:

- Mary said "Yes" to the angel Gabriel. She was frightened when he appeared to her at such a young age and told her that she would be the Mother of God. Mary had many questions and wasn't sure what was happening at the time. However, Mary simply said, "Yes, let it be done to me according to Your word."
- Joseph was unsure about things. He didn't fully understand what was happening or why it was happening. He also said "Yes!" He chose to take Mary as his wife to love, protect and provide for her and Jesus. Joseph and Mary were not only Jesus' parents, but his teachers.
- Saying yes when we have doubts and fears about something is very hard to do. With hope in God, we can say yes to things we have fear of in our lives. Just as Mary said yes to God, each of our mothers say yes to being our moms every day. Also, just as Joseph said yes to God, our fathers say yes to being our dads every day. They have made a commitment to love and protect you.
- Mothers and fathers are gifts to our families as they provide for us and give us love and support. Let's pray for all children, that they will know that they always have God, the Father and Mary, our Mother in addition to their earthly parents.

# Questions?

## Write the answers in your journal.

- Read and discuss Luke 1:38.
- Why do you think Mary and Joseph made these choices?
- Where did we all grow and thrive before we are born?
- Why do you think God gave us parents?
- What are some things your parents do to help you? Think about the physical, spiritual, and emotional gifts your parents share with you.
- How can you show your parents how much you love and appreciate them?



## Activity: Cards and Kisses Activity

- Have each student put their Hershey Kisses in their bag.
- On their card, have them complete "I love giving hugs and kisses to my mom/dad when...."
- Have the students complete the Spiritual Bouquet Card and include that with the Mother's Day and Father's Day card.



## School Closing Activity: Rainbow of Life

- As Christians, we believe that the rainbow was God's Covenant Promise to Noah that the world would never have a great flood again.
- This is such an incredible promise by God.
- Assign each classroom/grade a specific color of the rainbow, so all the colors are represented.
- Sketch a large rainbow on a white bulletin board paper or cloth.
- Map out where each color should be placed.
- Have students paint their hands the specific color assigned to their class and place their hands on the rainbow.
- As they make handprints, have each student say "Thank you, God, for saving lives."
- This rainbow represents all of the lives saved by the students' prayers and actions throughout the year.
- When the rainbow is complete, display it in a place where everyone can see it. (TrendEnterprises.com)

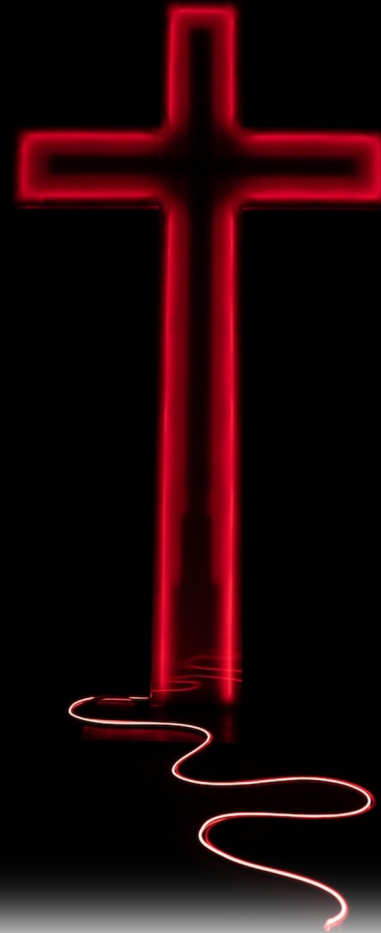




## Closing Prayer:

Glory be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning is now, and ever  
shall be, world without end.

Amen.



# Spiritual Works of Mercy Novena for May

Let us pray...

Dear Jesus, I am still a young child and cannot do many things on my own yet. Thank you for giving me important people in my life who take care of me as a child, especially parents, grandparents, teachers, and any other special people who care for me. Please bless them in the work that they do to keep me safe. May my prayers help them too! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

