

Mother's Day

The Jewish people of the Scriptures judged right and wrong differently than we do. In large part this was because their social values, customs, and mores were different. The roles of men and women were highly defined. Judaism's roots were in tribal society, which was very patristic. Women were in a position of having little legal status and mostly had to depend upon men for just about everything whether the man was the woman's father, husband, or brother. A woman without one of these relationships was in very tough spot. This is why Jesus use "widow and orphan" to refer to the most defenseless in society..

This does not mean that women were unimportant in Jewish society. Far from it, they were extremely important. Aside from caring for the home—and extremely physical task as everything was done by hand—they were the chief promoters of their family.

The family (which included the extended family) was the most important unit in society. Status in society came from your family. A person's identity was so rooted in the family that it was impossible for anyone to conceive of themselves as an individual. Society's sense of right and wrong was based on a system of honor and shame. The more honor a family had, the more honor its members had.

The role of wife and mother was extremely important to the process of gaining honor. It was difficult for the man to promote himself, so the woman took care of this. A woman, be it a wife or mother, did everything she could to promote a husband or son. This is precisely what Mary was doing at the wedding feast at Cana. She sought to preserve and increase the honor of her son. Jesus acknowledged this as He responded to His mother with the highly respectful term, "Woman."

As we celebrate Mother's Day, we might use another term that today is perhaps more descriptive than that of "promoter," that being, "mentor." Our first reading and the Gospel for today clearly reveal the vital importance of the role of mentor.

One role of mothers has not changed all that much since the first century. We might see in mothers an example of mentoring in their ongoing role of being advocates for their children. For many of us, it was our mothers who, like Barnabas, introduced us to a Christian community and saw to our education. We cannot dismiss fathers, but mothers certainly have a special role.

Jesus makes clear the need to stay connected to the Christian community and to those who spiritually mentor us. A vine cannot bear fruit "on its own." Not only is there the need to be connected to the main vine, truly delicious grapes need the intervention of a gardener who knows where and how to prune and when to fertilize. By and large, mothers know their children better than anyone, and they know where to prune and where to fertilize.

We might believe deeply that Jesus rose from the dead, but Mother's Day and our readings make clear that without mentoring we cannot grow in our faith. We must also, in turn, become mentors in the faith, assisting others to grow in their belief. We must become Barnabas for others.

from "The Priest"

We pray today that all our mothers, living and dead, who have instructed and inspired us by their example of care and self-sacrificing love, be cared for and remembered this day and every day.

WELCOME BACK NON-PRACTICING CATHOLICS

Are you a Catholic who has been away from the Church? Or do you know someone who is? The Welcome Back Program recognizes that difficulties may arise among us as God's children because God can never be fully captured in human language or institutions. This program is designed to help pave the way for a return to the sacraments. The program continues each Wednesday through May 20, 2009, from 7:15pm to 9:00 pm in the Lower Level of the Cathedral. For more information without obligation, please contact Tim Longdon at (916) 359-5540 or Deacon Jorge Usi or Sr. Jenny Aldeghi at (916) 444-5364. E-mail to welcomeback@cathedralsacramento.org.

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

As many of you already know, Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Sacramento ("LECS") is a nonprofit organization that provides personal support to people in crisis. (See www.sacchaplains.com.) LECS has recently launched a new "school chaplain" program in partnership with local school districts. Through this program, trained volunteers will be available to students on school campuses. To learn more about this new ministry, contact our training coordinator Angela Kellogg at lectraining@sbcglobal.net.

DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTION MAY 24

The Second Collection this month will be taken up on May 24, Ascension Sunday. Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit but lacking in material resources to participate more fully in the life of the Church. Collection proceeds are used for training seminarians and religious men and women, providing pastoral care to the sick, providing formation training to pastoral ministers within parishes, strengthening family ministries, and developing ministries to youth and indigenous people. Over the past five years, the collection for the Church in Latin America has faithfully distributed 89% of its annual income as pastoral grants. Please be generous. For more information, please see www.usccb.org/latinamerica.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you."
John 15: 5-7

MOTHER'S DAY ROSE SALE



On May 9 and 10, the Sacramento Life Center is sponsoring its annual Mother's Day Rose Sale. Beautiful, long-stemmed roses, individually packaged, will be available for a \$5.00 donation after all services. Please consider honoring a mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, and/or friend and celebrating the sanctity of life by purchasing a rose on Mother's Day weekend. Thank You!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION (MAY 3)

Our collection last week was **\$10,163.27**. We wish to thank all those who made this collection possible. Because of the high upkeep costs at the Cathedral, our goal is to reach \$14,000 per week. To achieve this goal we encourage parishioners to donate one hour's pay per week to the parish or 3% of income. The motive for this generosity is thankfulness for God's goodness to us - an attitude of gratitude!

COMING EVENTS

May 17	Spanish First Communion at 1 p.m. Mass
May 23/24	Ascension Sunday. Celebration of Jazz Music with special Masses at 5 p.m. Saturday May 23, and 12 Noon and 5:00 pm Sunday May 24. Memorial Day weekend.
May 30	Diocesan Adult Confirmation at 5 p.m. Mass.
May 31	Pentecost Sunday. Celebration of Cathedral Confirmation at 11 a.m. Mass with Bishop Soto.

YES, IT IS SO!

We have sung the Great Amen, finished the Eucharistic Prayer, and are moving toward communion. What is happening at this time of Mass?

We begin with the Lord's Prayer, the prayer all Christians share, the prayer that marks all kinds of moments. Here, it is a sign of communion, words we all can say or sing by heart. From this point of the Mass onward, it is especially clear that what we are doing is our doing, and not simply the priest's. The words of the Lord's prayer belong to all of us. They sum up the basics of our life: praising God's holiness, praying for the reign of God, and asking for our daily bread.

THE MASS

From the Lord's Prayer, we move closer to communion. We exchange a sign of peace. This is far more than a "warm, fuzzy" moment among intimates. We say by this action that there are no walls, that the reign of God is among us now.

Our focus returns to the table. The Body of Christ is broken for all, the blood poured out for all. We sing the Lamb of God litany, praising Christ over and over for taking away our sins and begging

for mercy and peace. We begin to move to the table, our communion procession. Here, in a morsel of bread and a sip of wine is a feast to satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. Our deepest hunger and thirst; mine, yes, but my neighbors too, and indeed, the whole world.

When the minister places the piece of bread or the cup in our hands and says "The Body of Christ," and "The Blood of Christ," we say "Amen." That Amen means "**Yes, it is so; Yes I believe.**" St. Augustine told his congregation something else about the Amen: "It is your own mystery you receive. Say Amen to what you are!" What you are is—the body and blood of Christ. Our Amen sends us forth to live as Christ's body and blood in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and our world.



CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

MON 5/11/2009	EASTER WEEKDAY
12:10 p.m.:	Rayn Lumagui +
5:10 p.m.:	Gerardo Romo +
TUES 5/12/2009	ST. NEREUS & ACHILLEUS
12:10 p.m.:	Daisy Maciel, S.I.
5:10 p.m.:	Francis J. Elliott, S.I.
WED 5/13/2009	OUR LADY OF FATIMA
12:10 pm:	Michael Bibby, S.I.
5:10 p.m.:	Guardian Angel
THUR 5/14/2009	ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE
12:10 p.m.:	Wilma Herr +
5:10 p.m.:	David Rivera +
FRI 5/15/2009	ST. ISIDORE
12:10 pm:	Melissa Huckaby, S.I.
NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS	

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

DAILY 12:30-4:45 PM IN ONE-HOUR INCREMENTS
 TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES (916) 391-1760 OR (916) 833-1948,
 OR E-MAIL BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET

CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY

AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES

GIFT SHOP HOURS

MON-FRI 11AM-2PM (CLOSED SAT) SUN 10AM-2PM

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!